



The Polio Post

The Voice of the Polio Survivors & Associates Fellowship

(A group of Rotarians dedicated to improving the health of polio survivors. This Fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not controlled by Rotary International.)

Editor: Jack Campbell. e-mail JackCampbell@cox.net

Issue # 6, October 2004

Happy Birthday PSA

Happy Birthday to the Polio Survivors Fellowship of Rotary International. Yes, only a few short months have passed since the Rotary International Board of Directors approved PSA as a recognized Fellowship. Our Fellowship is a little different from most of the other Rotary Fellowships in that we put a great deal of emphasis on “Associates”.

In writing the application documents we made it clear that our purpose was to form a “Connection” between individual Rotarians and individuals, institutions, organizations, etc. who are already active in the field of bringing hope and help to polio survivors throughout the world. Many Fellowships have as their most active members, the spouses and other family members of Rotarians. This situation existed long before there was any Family of Rotary program on the agenda. It is also very much in keeping with our heritage of working with non-Rotary organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, UNICEF and cooperation with governments in carrying out our the goal of eradicating polio completely.

The primary and only official program of Rotary International is the eradication of polio. We have sought and are seeking continuing help from all quarters to accomplish this task. We are down to the final one or two percent of the potential polio victims. To reach remote areas and populations fragmented by wars and civil and cultural strife is proving to be the most difficult part of the task. PSA is the natural outgrowth of the Rotary emphasis on polio and we are grateful for the individuals who have responded to our effort to form an information network to connect the polio community in the common cause of bringing hope, help and happiness to polio survivors and their interested friends.

It is far too early to congratulate ourselves on surviving for the first year. We have often reminded ourselves that this is a work in progress. As those of you who have ever started a new business or new organization know, only too well, progress comes slowly and often one step forward and two steps back.

On the plus side, we now have a method of publishing a regular Newsletter, circulated on the Internet. Its main purpose is to keep our members connected and to provide helpful information to those who many have no other source of information.

We have a website in operation;
www.rotarypoliosurvivors.org

that is a permanent repository for Newsletters, announcements, health information, how to join our organization, etc.

We have a Board of Directors primarily made up of senior Rotarian leaders who have committed themselves to the cause.

We have scheduled our first annual meeting for June 20, 2005 as a part of the Centennial Celebration of the founding of Rotary. We have applied for a float to participate in a parade as part of this celebration on Saturday June 18th.

What is most important in the coming months is for all of us to continue our efforts to make the world aware of our presence by telling our story at Rotary meetings, connecting with local and international Support Groups and organizations. The outcome depends upon individual action at the local level. Think local. Act local.

Ray Taylor