



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.)

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Hello and Goodbye

Today, as with all days, presents another challenge and opportunity. June 30, 2005 marks the end of the Rotary year and introduces another year. For me, 2004/05 has been a watershed in my Rotary career. For the first time in over twenty years I am not the Director, or Chairman, or President of any Rotary Committee or Organization; – club, district, zone, international. This is altogether fitting and pleasant. My enthusiasm for Service to others is still high, but my motivation and energy say, “it is time”. I have met the future through some of the leaders of Rotary and our associates in the polio survivor field, and I take my bows happy in the knowledge that they are there and that we and they will prevail.

During my DG year (1992-93) my focus was on **Friendship – Fellowship – Fellowships**. This has continued ever since. During these years we have helped Fellowships grow in stature and in numbers, and in the June meeting of the RI Board of Directors we saw the culmination of efforts to redefine the role of service oriented Fellowships into a whole new program category – Rotary Action Groups. It is now up to the new, the young and the strong to take up the challenge and move Rotarians with common interests into the forefront of Service to the people of the world.

How does this affect Polio Survivors and Associates?

1. Our name will change.
2. Dave Heagerty will be the new Chairman and the core group of PSA will expand with new people with new ideas and energy.
3. Our Mission Statement will change; however, the Vision Statement and Objectives that created PSA two years ago will remain basically the same – to find the way to help polio survivors. These people may be in their nineties or as new as one month. They may be in any part of the world. The help may be anything from new information, or an encouraging word to orthopedic surgery. We believed we could build on the legacy of the Rotary Polio Plus eradication program to create Awareness and Take Action to help those for whom the polio vaccines came too late or who were missed. We envisioned a network of Rotarians working in their own communities with survivors, organizations and institutions, support groups, caregivers and anyone interested in polio and related disability issues to bring hope, health and happiness.
4. Our structure and relationship with Rotary will change as Dave reorganizes our group. I will act as Secretary to assist Dave and the group with these changes, and begin the search for an enthusiastic replacement. Jack Campbell will continue as Editor/Publisher of our Newsletter and Website. Our goal will be to improve our product and presentation and we welcome suggestions for improving what and how we do things.

And so, as PSA Chairman I say goodbye and thank you to those who have helped and encouraged us in any way – from simply joining the network to funding our ideas and pulling an oar. And hello to our new organization and leaders and to the opportunities the future will bring.

Ray Taylor, Founder/Chairman Polio Survivors Fellowship

Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA) at the Rotary International convention

PSA was at the RI convention.

- 1) We passed out flyers at a booth in the Fellowship Hall.
- 2) We had our first face-to-face meeting, and elected Dave Heagerty, PDG, as our new President. We also decided to try to survey some clubs to see how many Rotarians had polio. (More on this meeting in a later issue.)
- 3) We had a float in the Centennial Parade. The amount of applause from the tens of thousands of people lining the street was very gratifying.



This photo shows our PSA Float with its Theme “Celebrating Rotary – Serving Survivors” and its happy passengers rolling through Grant Park in Chicago as part of the Rotary 100th Anniversary Celebration Parade. Reading L to R Evelyn and Dave Heagerty (Incoming Chairman, Red Coat PDG), Linda Bieniek (Chicago, PSA BdDir), Shirley Pozzuoli (Diamond Bar Rotary, PSA BdDir), Joan Headley, Director Post-Polio Health Intl. PSA BdDir), Jill Campbell (in the hat looking left), Jack Campbell, Polio Post Editor, Elizabeth (Betty) Taylor (holding sign) and Ray Taylor, (very happy PSA Founder & Red Coat PDG).

POLIO ERADICATION STATUS

At the Rotary International convention there was a session on the progress of Rotary and the World Health Organization and the other partners have been making toward the objective of eliminating polio by the end of the year. The report suggested that it was still possible to see the last case this year. There have been about 800 cases so far this year. If you are interested in following the current battle to wipe out polio this year you can check this World Health Organization website for the latest information on the polio eradication efforts worldwide - www.polioeradication.org