

MESA Worldwide



A NEWSLETTER OF MESA, A DISTRICT 6600 PROJECT, #13

NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2006
Defiance College, 4 PM
World Community Workshop

Highlights of the March 21st Meeting

The Vantage Center Interact Club made a 40-minute slide presentation about their three-year sponsorship of a carpentry school in Haiti. This year the Club raised \$8700 for the purchase of tools, supplies and equipment for the program. Representatives from the Interact club are planning another trip to Haiti during spring break to deliver the greatly valued tools.

Jim Heinrich reported that revenues from clubs have increased this year leaving MESA with more available funds compared to past years.

Chuck Stocking reported that the **Planning Committee** is still working on finding appropriate warehouse space. MESA's mandatory annual membership meeting will be held Saturday morning at the District 6600 Conference. Ron Stoner will prepare a continuous power point presentation for the conference.

Operations Report: Ron Stoner reported no shipments since the last meeting except for the ambulance shipped to Honduras. The warehouse inventory is being thinned down by disposing of items least likely to be shipped. Ron needs helpful suggestions on how to dispose of approximately 300 bicycles, a large number of computer monitors and a surfeit of school furniture, all too good or too hazardous to throw away.

Andrew Timothy reported on the Hurricane-Relief project undertaken by the Owens Community College Rotaract Club (see article below).

Stan Kujawa reported that the March 4 Wishing Star fundraiser, featuring a visit by representatives from the Office of the First Lady of El Salvador, raised more than \$80,000 for Wishing Star. A check for over \$13,000 was presented to the El Salvador visitors to fund kitchen equipment for the Special Education orphanage in San Martin, El Salvador.

Bill Collins and Bob Ruehl presented a proposal from Carl Stuckey in California and PDG Jack Goodnight for community development in a Guatemalan village near Matzetenango. Informal proposal is for MESA/District 6600 to supply \$5,000 of the cost over three years. No action was taken at the meeting.

Tom Brumley recently returned from Zimba, Zambia, where he again performed a very large number of cataract surgeries, generally saving both sight and a life with each one.

Ron Stoner discussed the costs involved in sending hard copy of the **MESA Newsletter** to each of the District's Clubs. The cost of approximately \$300.00 to send a four-page newsletter to the clubs was not considered cost effective, and although not ruled out, the general sentiment was that we should investigate a more effective method of electronic circulation.

‘Mexico and its Southern Neighbors’ Topic of World Community Conference

The Defiance Rotary, District 6600, and the McMaster School for Advanced Humanity are sponsoring the upcoming World Community Conference from May 16 to May 18 at Defiance College. In conjunction with the conference, MESA will be holding its bimonthly meeting on the Defiance College Campus. It will be held in the Hubbard Banquet Room of the Serrick Campus Center from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

The purpose of the World Community Workshop is to promote the mission of the McMaster School, to educate students for responsible citizenship – to produce committed global citizens and leaders who understand the importance of improving the human condition worldwide and will take an active role in addressing those issues in whatever profession they may chose. For the last 20 years high school students have been attending the conference in an effort to further understand the ‘World Community’ we live in. This is also one of the mandatory meetings that all of our exchange students are required to attend.

The focus of this year's conference is ‘Mexico and Its Southern Neighbors. The conference will start with registration at 12 noon of the 16th of May. For the next 3 days students will then attend discussion groups, lectures and social groups in order gain a greater understanding of our neighbors to the south.

Rotarians are invited to attend the opening banquet (6 P.M. to 8 P.M.) on May 16th. Keynote speaker will be Richard Reid. Also speaking and working at the conference will be Sharon Palacio, Director of Student Services of the University of Belize. Sharon has also been a past Counselor in the Belmopan City Counselor, as well as an activist for children's rights. Mr. Reid has spent time studying in Spain and Mexico, has received an honorary Bachelor of Science and Letters Degree from the Instituto San Francisco of Tegucigalpa. While working for Zeller World Trade, he traveled extensively through Latin America. He has also lead more than 30 student groups on educational/mission tours in Europe and Latin America.

All Rotarians are encouraged to attend the **MESA** meeting, and the opening banquet. Please make reservations for the banquet by contacting Katie Litle at 419 783 2479, e-mail, klittle@defiance.edu. Applications for high school and exchange students are obtained by downloading from the Defiance Rotary site, www.defiancerotary.com.

Mel Honig, Editor

Rotaractors Take on Katrina Project

On March 4th a caravan of four vehicles, left Perrysburg for Louisiana. The multi-purpose trip was part of District's and MESA's continuing efforts was not only to supply relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina, but also to deliver emergency vehicles to Central America. The manpower for this mission included four Rotaractors from Owens Community College, Rotarian Andrew Timothy and Rotaractor alumnus from Lourdes College, Sam Mallette.

The four vehicles were specifically chosen to fulfill needs identified through networking with Rotary Clubs in areas affected. The bookmobile, supplied by the Findlay Rotary Club and the Hancock County Library was to go to Cameron (south of Lake Charles in western Louisiana near the Texas border) library. The van supplied by the Maumee Rotary Club was delivered to Slidell (35 miles northeast of New Orleans near the Mississippi border) Wheels-For-Meals program. The ambulance, to be sent to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, was donated by the Oak Harbor Rotary club. The fourth vehicle was a passenger van that returned the six volunteers safely back to Ohio.

Prior to leaving for Louisiana, Andrew made contact with Mike Rich, of the Slidell Northshore Rotary Club in order to find a project for to work on while in the area. This was spring break for the Rotaractors and they wanted to use every minute of it helping those adversely affected by Katrina. The project selected was helping rehab the badly damaged K-Bar-B Youth Ranch.

The K-Bar-B Youth ranch takes in abused children, who are not good candidates for foster care. Currently these children are scattered throughout Louisiana and the south waiting for the Ranch to become operational again. Working at the Ranch, our team replaced drywall, laid carpet, repaired exterior repairs and helped in general cleaning, and sorted through donated supplies. Andrew is planning a return trip to Slidell in May in order to continue efforts already begun.

Funding for the project came from several sources. In addition to the donated vehicles already mentioned, \$2,800 from MESA was to use for transportation, fuel and other incurred expenses. A grant of \$7500.00 was given, by MESA, to the Slidell Northshore Rotary Club for the purchase of supplies and equipment for the K-Bar-B Youth Ranch. The Rotaractors all gave their time and efforts on a totally volunteer basis, and MESA would like to thank them, Sam Mallette and Andrew Timothy for their help in maximizing the amount of positive help District 6600 can do to help Katrina victims.

Mel Honig, Newsletter Editor

District Governor	Abe Kuttothara	drabek@broght.net	419 474 8968
Chairman	Stan Kujawa	owner@findlayford.com	419 424 0979
Operations Director	Ron Stoner	ronstoner@dacor.net	419 352 5636
Newsletter Editor	Mel Honig	gaimel75@yahoo.com	419 843 4459