



BERITA ROTARY

MUCH ROSTRUM ACTIVITY AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING

The rostrum is not only for the convener, president or the member who leads us in the singing of the national anthem and the loyal toast. No, reports and announcements are made here.... and plenty of these last week.

Membership Committee chairman Rtn Adenan informed members of the upcoming District membership training seminar to be held on 09 August and urged participation, not only by the board but also members....because the **future or our club is in our hands**. Cost is RM 35 per participant.

'Rotarian without Portfolio' Victor Lim reported about the recent installation night held by the Rotaract Club of Kuala Lumpur at the Vistana Hotel on 01 August, which he attended and where VP Nor Halim was the guest of honour. By all accounts it was a successful and lively event.



PP Low Bin Tick attended a function recently at which our Royal Patron, HRH Sultan Selangor, mentioned to him that he would like to offer his limited edition 'special coffee table book' to RCKL Rotarians, personally autographed by him. The price is RM 400 per copy and orders can be placed with PP Low Bin Tick.



Rtn Gerald Lee who is this year's **Rotary Foundation** chairman, reminded members that the drive for EREY contributions will start in earnest come September. He would like to see an improvement over previous years' contribution levels with (at least) US\$ 100 per member. This works out at about RM 1 per day. Should be quite affordable!

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BERITA ROTARY

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DIARY

COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT

DG Leslie Salehuddin will visit our club in **October**. Please note the following in your diary:

06 October:

*Club Assembly (our second) and Fellowship with DG
Venue and time TBA*

07 October:

DG's official visit to our club (luncheon meeting)

Further details will be announced in due course.

DISTRICT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The 75th District Conference will be held as follows:

Date:

08-10 January 2010

Venue:

*Holiday Villa Hotel & Suites
Subang, Selangor*

Host Club:

RC Gombak

Partner Clubs:

RC Sentul, RC Titiwangsa

PROGRAMME

HIGHLIGHTS

08 Jan:

*Golf Competition /
Registration / Fellowship
Dinner*

09 Jan:

*Opening Ceremony /
Plenary and Workshop
Sessions, Governor's
Banquet*

10 Jan:

*Plenary Sessions / Closing
Ceremony, Farewell Lunch*

Register online via District website or contact Hon. Secretary Mohd Ridza Abdullah



BERITA ROTARY WEEKLY PROCEEDINGS

05 August 2009

ATTENDANCE / ON DUTY

- RCKL Rotarians:** N/A
- RCKL Rotarian Make-Ups:** N/A
- Convenor:** Hon. Sec. Ridza Abdullah
- Sergeant-At-Arms:** --
- National Anthem and Loyal Toast:** PDG Beh Lye Huat
- Speaker:** PP Leslie Yeap (Chairman – District Membership Development and Retention Committee)
- Topic:** Membership Loss – Acknowledge the Problem, Take Responsibility, Take Action
- Introducing Speaker:** Pres. Rizal Sardon
- Thanking Speaker:** Pres. Adenan

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Rotarians

Rtn Francis Gopal
(RC Johor Bharu)

Invited Guests

- Dato' Jerry Ambunting - guest of Rtn Uwe Ahrens
- Mr Ajmal Khan - guest of Pres. Rizal Sardon
- Dr Ezlan Merican - guest of PP Kamarulzaman

BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

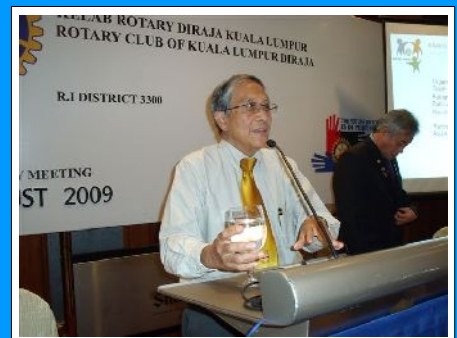
- PP Lam Peng Chong - 07 August
- PP Ramli Ibrahim - 11 August
- PP David Teh - 11 August

Wedding Anniversaries

PP G.S.Gill – 11 August



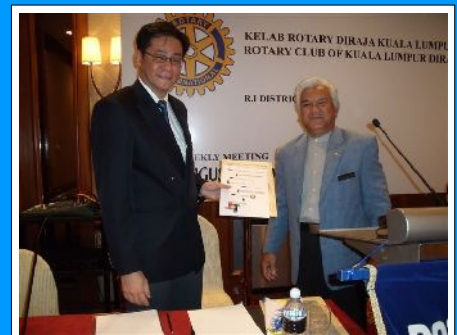
Convenor
Hon. Sec. Ridza Abdullah



PDG Beh Lye Huat
getting ready for loyal toast



A club banner for
visiting Rtn Francis Gopal



Rtn Adenan presenting certificate
of appreciation to PP Leslie Yeap



BERITA ROTARY GUEST CORNER

MEMBERSHIP LOSS:

Acknowledge the Problem, Take Responsibility, Take Action

(By PP Leslie Yeap - District Membership Chairman)

'Can you imagine what our clubs (including RCKL DiRaja) would be like, if every one of us successfully recruited one new member this year? Is it an impossible dream? Not if we are determined to make it a reality!' - These were PP Leslie's closing remarks of his speech last Wednesday.

He began by describing the difficulties and indifference encountered in getting Rotarians to attend the membership seminar planned for 09 August. It would seem that whilst many Rotarians worry about the 'over aging' of clubs, the lack of growth, very few are prepared to do their bit to turn this development around. And our club is no exception.

Ours has been the largest club in the District from time immemorial, and depending on whether you use start-up or charter dates, the oldest or second oldest club respectively. But judging from the amount of grey hair you see on a Wednesday, we are definitely in the top age bracket, whichever way you look at it. So have we grown or rejuvenate our club sufficiently? Just ask those who have brought new

members into the club or, for a contrasting impression, those who have not bothered to do so for many years.

PP Leslie stated that before we try to find solution(s), we have to **acknowledge that there is a problem**. If we do not believe that membership figures are a concern, then we will not act to solve it. Just five years ago, there were 64 clubs in the District with an average membership of 27. Today, 5 of those clubs no longer exist and the average club membership has dropped to just over 24. One can safely assume that this is largely due to loss of members. Yet the overall District membership has remained reasonably stable at between 1,700 and 1,750 members which is due to the creation of new Rotary clubs.

"I am all for chartering new clubs when their creation meets all the right criteria. But often in the zeal to form new clubs, we charter them before they are truly ready to stand on their own feet. I realise governors face pressure from many sources to form new clubs but I sincerely hope they will always hold as their paramount consideration



Louis Cheah
- always good for a question



PP Keow Hock Sneah
making a point



PE Jaya with PPs Chan Kam Fatt
and Low Kok Hwa, ex Hon.
Treasurer Wong Cham Mew

whether a provisional club is ready to face the many challenges it will encounter, including the challenge of keeping their members and

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BERITA ROTARY

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reaching out for more," said PP Leslie. A new club is ever chartered once but what happens in the following year when the membership begins to fall? Form yet another club?

With the recognition that a problem exists comes the worry that with the loss of membership our capacity to do what we want to do will be impaired. And in some cases that is a threat to our very own [Rotary] existence.

According to PP Leslie **Membership is Everyone's Responsibility** [our club being no exception] and if we recognise the problem, then the next step is to appreciate that solving it requires the effort of every one of us. Too often there is the perception that it's someone else's responsibility or perhaps it's the President's job to grow the club. Or it's the duty of the board of directors. Only partly so, because the answer lies in every one assuming responsibility for the health of the club [otherwise in a few years ours would be a club comprising mainly excused members and PPs - and what a horrible thought at that!].

But it's not good enough to just intend to do something, to intend to **Take Action**. Clubs should plan for the future, set goals and develop strategies to reach those goals. But if

they are not followed by action, then these plans are just valueless. And PP Leslie then quoted his own club's story when it had decided that annual goals were not sufficient but more long-term plans were required. Lengthy discussions followed, everything was documented on paper. And that was that. No further reference was ever made to those goals. Actually, not a good example to follow!

In his opinion if you invite a friend to a club meeting and he declines to come, or if thereafter he decides that Rotary is not for him, don't take it too much to heart. Whether someone accepts an invitation to become a Rotarian is ultimately beyond your control. Don't give up, invite someone else whom you consider 'Rotary material', keep up your efforts and you will contribute to grow (and hopefully rejuvenate) our club.

Rotarians alone cannot solve the world's problems, but we can make a difference. And it is this message that we should try to get across to friends and associates when we invite them to our meetings in the hope that they may be interested in becoming a Rotarian.



Who is PP Leslie Yeap

- Advocate and solicitor – (Commercial Law)
- Bachelor of Law – Warwick University, UK
- Barrister-at-law, Middle Temple
- Master of Law – University of London
- Member of Advocates & Solicitors Disciplinary Board, Malaysia, since 2005
- Joined RC Ipoh 1986 (resigned 1993 for professional reasons)
- Re-joined Rotary 1997 (RC Kelana Jaya)
- Club Service Director 1998/09
- President 2000/01
- Community Service Director 2004/05
- District General Secretary 2004/05
- Assistant Governor 2006/07
- Chairman District Community Service Committee 2007/08
- Married to Yuriko, two teenaged children

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?