

Monday with Mikey: March 13, 2017

Opportunities for SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP!

Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE): RFE Chair Don Casey says we have openings for two more Rotarian couples to sign up for our Rotary Friendship Exchange this coming June. This is a great chance to host – and be hosted by – Rotarians from India. The return trip for us in in November, and the only cost associated with your trip to India will be airfare to New Delhi (and return). This is a savings of about \$6,000 per person! Everything else will be paid for by the New Delhi Delegation. **Please contact Don Casey at (727)580-3604.**

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Chair and Committee members: Our longtime RYE Chair, Doug Lobel, has accepted a leadership position in the RYE Florida organization. After many years as the chair of our District RYE team, it's time for Doug to move to an "emeritus" position here and help RYE programs throughout the state. So...

...we need a new chair – now. The 2017-18 "inbounds" and "outbounds" are almost ready to begin their RYE experiences. The RYE Chair is responsible for leading the RYE team in selecting outbound students, training host families, overseeing coordination with host clubs, and complying with both RYE and US State Department guidelines. There is a very experienced team in place, and the new chair needs to be a good coordinator and communicator. We need a chairperson who can "learn the ropes" from Doug this RY and lead the team next year and beyond. Please contact RYE Chair Doug Lobel or DGD Allen Collins – or your AG – for more information.

We also need team members! If you have an interest in helping the RYE team, please contact Doug, Allen, or your AG as well. There's lots of room for more people on this very important district committee!



For several years, my sons, Ted and Rick (who have names that are about as English as they come, by the way), have SWORN that our family is part Irish. First Mate Jocelyn gave me an ancestry.com DNA test for Christmas, and "faith & begorrah!" I learned that I have an 8% stake in the **Emerald Isle!** But let's not think your DG is "full o'the Blarney" just yet!

I looked up a few facts & beliefs about St. Patrick, his Day, Ireland, and the Irish – and I made up some of my own. Here they are:

- Every joke is 10% funnier if you tell it with an Irish Brogue.
- St. Patrick was probably actually from Scotland or Wales. He was kidnapped as a slave when he was a teenager, escaped, and then returned to Ireland to evangelize the native Irish people.
- We observe/celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th because it was on that day in 461 A.D. that he died in Saul, County Down.
- Franciscan Friar Luke Wadding (1558-1657) established the Feast Day of St. Patrick on March 17.
- Although St. Patrick is memorialized for "driving the snakes from Ireland," it's more probable that there were never actually any snakes there.
- The tradition of wearing green for St. Patrick's Day began in the **19th century**. The original color for the day was blue. Green was originally chosen in the 17th century to represent the Emerald Isle by Irish Catholics in opposition to the rule of William III of England, who as from the House of Orange in the Netherlands, and was a Protestant. William III was King from 1689 his death in 1702, and he was married to, and Co-Monarch with his first cousin, Mary II of England until her death in 1694. The College of William and Mary in Virginia is named for them. (Now you know why the Irish Tricolor includes both orange and Green!)
- My favorite Irish toast: "May you be in heaven ten minutes before the Devil knows you're dead!"

Until next week let's all keep on **"Doing Good, Having Fun!"**

Mikey

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Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
Florida's Nature Coast / Amecost



PS – Check out the "My Rotary Show" on You Tube!