

Monday with Mikey: April 3, 2017

I am very excited about our district conference – which is just over 2 months from today!



We will be entertained and inspired on the evening of Thursday, June 8th, by Bill “The Sauce Boss” Wharton. Bill is a blues guitarist, expert gumbo chef, teller of tales, and leader/servant in the quest to quell hunger and end homelessness. The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg West recently made him an Honorary Rotarian, and I am *certain* other honors will be bestowed upon him when he visits us!



Our RI President’s Representative is my good friend, Zone 34 Rotary Coordinator PDG Art MacQueen from District 6970 (Jacksonville to Live Oak to Ocala and all those beaches on the east coast). Art will share with us his insights and deliver RI President John Germ’s message to us at the conference.



Our keynote speaker at lunch on Friday, June 9th is PDG Marcy Ullom from District 6990 (Southeast Florida and Grand Bahama island). Marcy will help us celebrate “Thirty Years of Women in Rotary.”



And last- but certainly not least – Zone 34 Assistant Rotary Coordinator PDG George Robertson-Burnett from District 6890 (our neighbor to the immediate east) will be there to “share a wee dram wi’ us” and officially introduce Coordinator Art as the keynote speaker at dinner.

The Conference Committee: Chair Amanda Fisher, D6950 Trainer PDG Jamie Mick, Becky Bennett, DGD Allen Collins, Kris Gray, RCDN President Allen Monello, DGN Eloy Nunez, D6950 Administrator Brenda Wendt, DSAA Fin Vargas, and DSAA-Select Kelly Mothershead, have been “busy as beavers” in their efforts to stage an entertaining, informative, and inspirational District Conference – which will precede our trip to “Hotlanta GA” for the Rotary International Convention and Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration!

The capstone event of the conference will be the Awards Banquet and “Governor’s Ball” on Friday evening, June 9th. It will be a time to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions and accomplishments of Rotary Clubs, Presidents, and Club Rotarians in our District. PLUS: after dinner, we will “dance the night away” (think “Uptown Funk” here) to get ourselves in the mood for RIC ’17!

tar-tan¹: *tärtn/ 1. noun: a woolen cloth woven in one of several patterns of plaid, especially of a design associated with a particular Scottish clan. 2. adjective: used allusively in reference to Scotland or the Scots.*

Why a definition of “tartan?” In my Rotary Club (Dunedin North) there’s a tradition (this is the second time we’re doing it – so that makes it a tradition, right?) that our “bagpiper in residence,” Pat Snair, “pipes in” the Governor and the Official Party at the beginning of the banquet. As I have recently identified my Scottish roots (remember 81% UK from the St. Pat’s Day issue of MWM?), I will be wearing the Clan McPherson “modern dress” tartan – shown in the “tray” below. Marcy (it was her idea), George, and Art have all agreed to join in the fun. *OBTW* – your DGE, Perry, is a member of Clan MacBain.

HERE’S THE CHALLENGE FROM YOUR GOVERNOR: Please consider wearing your clan’s tartan to the Awards Dinner and Governor’s Ball. There are many resources to help you find your tartan on the internet. If you are not comfortable wearing a kilt, there are “trews” – pants made with your clan’s tartan. If “trews” don’t work for you, think about wearing a scarf, rosette, cummerbund, or something that “represents.” Finally, if you aren’t Scottish, not even a little bit, there is an *officially sanctioned Rotary Tartan* which you can acquire and wear at the Ball. Here are some “swatches” for your consideration:



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 / Annapolis



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