



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORLD PROGRAM



NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2010

Greetings from Evanston!

Over 20 Rotary clubs and districts prepared and executed exceptional programs to bring a successful close to the 2010 hosting year. This newsletter features a recent Accountable Governance program organized and hosted by the Harahan, LA Rotary Club.



N. Agafonov (OW del.), I. Borisov (OW del., Rot.), A. Artemenko (OW del.), G. Mahl (Rot.), N. Kunzer (RI), Y. Kiseleva (OW del.), P. Reichard (BGR), G. Kalugina (OW del.)

The program was a well-balanced combination of formal meetings and social activities. The Russian delegation met with Vice President, Rafael C. Goyeneche III, of Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC). They discussed how citizen-based organizations investigate crime within political organizations and the police department. Participants were impressed by the level of citizens' involvement and local support of the organization. While MCC is only six employees strong, they work hard to implement change.

Delegates were equally interested in MCC's position as well as relationships with local and state government. Visitors asked many questions; some of which included: "Who controls and regulates work of MCC?" "How is MCC funded?" and "Are employees afraid to take on some cases?"

During the meeting with Jerry Bologna, Director of Economic Development Services, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, delegates learned what the government of Jefferson Parish undertakes to foster economic growth. Through specific examples the presenters demonstrated how the Parish is rebuilding its economy after massive destructions brought on by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the financial crisis of 2008 and, most recently, the oil spill of 2010. Delegates were particularly interested in business incubators. However, there are significant differences in the way banks lend money to new businesses that it seems virtually impossible to adopt a similarly successful method of nurturing a new business to its mature state where they can function on their own. Russian delegates always smiled in disbelief when they heard that New Orleans is one of the most corrupt cities in the country, because of their belief that the corruption in Russia is far greater.



The delegation visited the Bureau of Governmental Research, a private research organization which produces recommendations to government agencies and legislatures to improve the operation of the government. Peter Reichard, Project Manager, discussed bureau's role in the community, how it is structured, regulated and funded.



OW delegates in a meeting with President of Jefferson Parish John Young, Harahan, LA

On the last day of formal programming, delegates met with the President of Jefferson Parish, John Young, to discuss the process of forming new government staff - specifically when a corrupt administration causes leaders to leave. It was an interesting discussion with direct questions and honest questions

At the Harahan Rotary Club lunch meeting, delegates received a warm welcome and were given the opportunity to share stories of their home culture, Rotary clubs' local projects and impressions from this visit with the members of the Harahan Rotary Club. Visiting Rotarians from the Angarsk-Center and Irkutsk-Eco Rotary clubs exchanged Rotary banners with the 2010-11 Harahan Rotary Club's President, Mike Babin.



The Harahan Rotary Club has been a continuous supporter of the Open World Program since its inception in 1999. Rotarians and local community members have always delivered an exceptional program and provided generous hosts for the Open World visitors. Rotarian George Mahl deserves to be highlighted for his extraordinary dedication to the program; Rotarian George also serves as a member of the Rotary Open World Advisory Group along with Harahan Rotarian Randy Martin. Both Rotarians were closely involved with planning and executing the program. They spent the duration of the program alongside the delegation.

The visit concluded with the tour of New Orleans City Park's holiday seasonal lighting display, "Celebration in the

Oaks". Delegates took pictures and filmed illuminated views of the park reminiscent of an evening fairy tale-like scene. One of the biggest trees in the park was covered with lights that created an illusion of light-drops. Russians named it the "Avatar Tree" after the tree of life from the mega blockbuster.

America has covered great distances introducing its culture through various outlets of mass media and, yet, nothing can replace actually being in the country one has read about, heard of and seen on TV. Face-to-face meetings with American counterparts benefit not only Open World delegates, but all parties involved.



Irkutsk-Eco RC President Igor Borisov and Harahan RC President Mike Babin exchange Rotary banners

Suggestion from the field

A great suggestion came from the Vincennes Rotary Club host, PDG Jim Gislason, "One thing that happened to us this year that has never happened before was this:

The delegates brought a slide show of their city, Irkutsk, which allowed us to learn more about our visitors. The slide show played during the reception and farewell dinner and was very well received by all of the guests. The delegates gave a presentation that evening of their jobs in Russia, and their families, and answered many questions about their city and the surprises that they had once they got to Vincennes.

I believe this added tremendously to the good will and understanding of many members of the Rotary Club of Vincennes that would not have come in contact with the delegates any other way."

We hope to see more feedback from local Rotary hosts in the future.

Local Open World Programs 2010

May

Ft. Collins RC, CO hosted an Accountable Governance delegation from Russia.

In September Rotary clubs hosted three delegations from Russia and one from Ukraine:

The Bailey's Crossroads RC, VA hosted an Accountable Governance delegation nominated by the **Ivanovo RC**. Delegates explored role of government, NGO & private sector in resolving social issues -related problem, especially aspects of child protection and growing crime rate among teenagers.

The Lynwood RC, WA hosted an Accountable Governance delegation nominated by the **Novosibirsk RC**. The program focused on relationships between government agencies, NGOs and commercial sector, practices and methods for social issues resolutions.

The Tahlequah RC, OK prepared a program focusing on rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities and hosted a delegation nominated by the **Novosibirsk-Initiative RC**.

The Lafayette & Carmel RCs, IN hosted a civic Rule of Law delegation from Ukraine.

Six delegations were hosted by RCs in October (4 from Russia and 2 from Ukraine):

The Westminster 7:10 RC, CO hosted a Social Services delegation nominated by the **Rossica RC**, Moscow. The program focused on child protection including teenagers, services and programs for troubled teens.

RI District 7950 (Boston area), MA welcomed a Social Services delegation nominated by the **Yekaterinburg, RC**.

The Frisco RC, TX hosted an Accountable Governance delegation from Chechnya. During their visit delegates examined the role of State Legislature, role of local government and citizen's initiatives.

RI D5100 (Vancouver, WA area) hosted an Accountable Governance delegation nominated by the **Kurgan RC**. The program focused on citizens' initiative, responsibility and participation in governance of a community.

The Parker RC, CO hosted Accountable Governance delegation nominated by the **Uzhgorod-Skala RC**, Ukraine.

The Seminole County RC, FL hosted a civic Rule of Law delegation nominated by the **Uzhgorod-Skala RC**, Ukraine.

The Vincennes RC, IN hosted a specialized group, nominated by the **Irkutsk Rotary Club**. The Russian club has been working on projects helping children with disabilities for several years now.

Paso Robles RC, CA, and **Lee's Summit Sunrise RC**, MO hosted Education delegations.

The **Hilton Head Island RC**, SC, hosted a delegation under the Social Issues theme focusing on Social Services.

The **Longmont RC**, CO hosted 11th OW delegation. The group was nominated by the **Ulan-Ude Rotary Club**. The program allowed visitors to examine Health Care system in the U.S.

Also, Rotary clubs of Las **Vegas Fremont and Southern Nevada**, NV, **Springfield**, IL and **Towsontowne**, MD hosted specialized Rule of Law judicial delegations from Tajikistan, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan.

Thank you, Rotary Hosts!

On behalf of Rotary International and Open World, we would like to thank all Rotary hosts and acknowledge your dedication and tireless enthusiasm for exchange programs like the Open World Program. It is terrific hosts like you that truly make this program a success!) Thank you, Rotary members! We wish you a wonderful and productive 2011!

On behalf of Rotary International and Open World, we would like to thank all Rotary hosts and acknowledge both your dedication and tireless enthusiasm for exchange programs like Open World. It is the terrific hosts that truly make this program a success! Thank you Rotarians, and best wishes for a wonderful and productive 2011!

Brief Overview of the program

The Open World Program, operated by the Open World Leadership Center (the Center), an independent U.S. federal agency, is a special program available to Rotary clubs in the United States through a grant secured by Rotary International.

The Open World Program was originally established as a Library of Congress-administered pilot project in 1999 to give emerging Russian leaders firsthand exposure to the American system of democracy through visits to local governments and communities in the United States. The congressionally sponsored program brings emerging leaders from Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian countries¹ to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise. The principles of accountability, transparency, and citizen involvement in government are among the concepts emphasized by the Open World Program. The program is administered by the Open World Leadership Center.

Rotary International serves as a local hosting organization, with Rotary clubs serving as local hosts for Open World delegations. The 2010 hosting year marks eleventh anniversary of Rotary's participation in the Open World Program. Rotary clubs have hosted over 15 percent of the total 15,500 Open World participants throughout these years. RI is able to reimburse Rotary clubs for many of their hosting expenses through Open World grants.

¹ Eurasia here means Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Objectives

Open World's goals are to build mutual understanding between the United States and participating countries, to create a network of emerging Eurasian leaders dedicated to effecting positive change in their home countries, and to connect these leaders with their American professional colleagues and hosts who are interested in post-visit cooperation and collaboration that will generate concrete results.

Online Resources:

http://www.rotary.org/programs/open_world/index.html (RI Website)

www.openworld.gov (Open World Leadership Center Website)

This communication and any files or attachments transmitted with it may contain information that is confidential, privileged and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. It is intended solely for the limited use of the individual or the entity to which it is addressed. You are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation

If you no longer wish you receive correspondence regarding the program, please reply with the word "remove" in the subject line.