

# District Governor's Monthly Letter

District 3850

December 2005

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RY 2005-2006  
District 3850

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
THEME 2005 - 2006

## Message from the District Governor



*District Governor Eric Laviña and spouse Georgie with Club and District Administrator Tony Quinn*

DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS:

It is said that the traditional Christmas holiday season in the Philippines is quite unique. The mixture of the cool air of December with the smell of imported apples and grapes, cheese, ham and wine, tends to lighten up people's minds. Problems and worries seem to vanish as they are replaced by the prospect of family reunions, class reunions and "get-togethers" of all sorts. Even financial problems take the back seat. Families in very tight financial situations, still manage to have something special for the Christmas eve dinner or Noche Buena and more often than not, they even manage to buy gifts for every member of the family. This is the holiday season. And therefore, giving and sharing is the order of the day.

It is also at this time of the year, that we usually prepare to throw away our old calendars and replace them with the new ones. Then we start to think about the Christmas messages and gifts that we will send to our friends and loved ones. This is also the time of the year when we start

formulating our New Year's resolutions which most of us will not be able to remember by Valentine's day. Over the years, these activities have collectively become the common holiday season routine.

How about Rotary Clubs? Well, there is also a perceived routine that has been observed. After club inductions during the months of July and August, we are all perked up, charged and ready to go. We go on this way and reach what we think is our "peak" during the gift giving month of December. Then by January, as we start the new year, everything is down. Perhaps, because of all the food and all the fun spawned by the phenomenon called "Christmas Spirit," plans get derailed and getting back on track is a bit difficult as many of us are having a hard time shaking off the Yuletide hangover. Attendance for weekly regular meetings drops down considerably, club activities grind to a slower pace and before we realize it, DISCON time is just around the

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# Governor's Monthly Letter

## President's Message

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar  
2005-06 Rotary International  
President



Dear fellow Rotarians,

It was Past RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe who emphasized the importance of the family of Rotary by creating the Family of Rotary Task Force, continued the following year by 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr. These two gentlemen also urged clubs and districts to start family of Rotary committees. This year, I have discontinued the task force because I feel it has achieved its mission – clubs and districts all over the world have created family of Rotary committees. For those that have not, it is never too late.

It may be worth giving some thought to the question: Just what is the family of Rotary? Of course, each Rotarian has a personal family. Some of these families are very heavily involved in Rotary service, while others are not. This may be for cultural or local reasons. The decision to support Rotary is really up to the individuals and is not something that Rotary International can force upon anybody.

But the family of Rotary can be more than a single family unit. It can represent many aspects of the organization. The RI Board is part of the family of Rotary International. So is each district as well as each club. Each Group Study Exchange team is part of the family of Rotary. So are our Rotaractors and Interactors and our Youth Exchange students studying abroad. Our RI training leaders and all our committees and resource groups form various parts of the family of Rotary. Finally, The Rotary Foundation is a large and important part of our family of Rotary.

It is important that we care about the family of Rotary. It helps us in our work and it creates fellowship and friendship – two of the cornerstones on which Rotary International has been built.

Even though the Family of Rotary Task Force no

longer exists, its spirit is very much alive and sound. I urge all those districts and clubs that have not created a family of Rotary committee to start one during the month of December, which is Family Month. By doing so, we honor our commitment to Service Above Self and continue to show the world the great leadership of Rotary International.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Carl W. Stenhammar".

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar  
President, Rotary International

## TRAINING FOR RRIMC

PDG David "Dave" M. Villanueva (Bacolod South, D-3850, Philippines) has been requested by RI Pres.-Elect William "Bill" Boyd to assume the very important role of Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator (RRIMC) for Zone 7B (Philippines) effective 1 July 2006. In view of his acceptance of this challenging assignment, he will attend a meeting called by PE Bill for the 2006-07 Regional RI Membership Coordinators that will start on 12 March, Sunday, and end on 15 March, Wednesday, at the North Shore Skokie Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, Skokie, Illinois, USA.

During the meeting, PDG DAVE and his fellows RRIMCs will undergo training on their specific duties and responsibilities in line with our organization's primary focus on membership and the thrusts to be announced by PE Bill during the 2006 International Assembly to be held on 16-23 February in San Diego, California, USA.

The RRIMC program was established by the RI Board of Directors in August 2000 to focus on the increased emphasis and communication on membership at both District and Club levels. The RRIMC will work closely with our District Governors in order to continue the work towards membership retention, growth and development; building stronger Clubs; and keeping Rotarians informed, connected and involved.

Upon his return from the RRIMC meeting, PDG Dave is expected to meet with and train PDG Roberto "Bobby" Viray (Cubao East, D-3780), the RY 2006-07 RI Membership Zone Coordinator (RIMZC) for Zone 7B. He will also meet with the ten (10) Philippine District Governors-Elect to lay down strategies and programs to be adopted that will promote membership growth and coordinate membership development efforts in our country for RY 2006-07.

## DISTRICT SECRETARY'S CORNER

My season's greetings to all!

The year is about to end and so is the first semester of the the Rotary year 2005-2006. Almost six months have past since the club officers have taken their oath of office. It is time for the club to review what they have done so far in the first semester.

To the club president or secretary, the end of the first semester may be seen in either perspective:

\* time is running out, there are still many projects to implement, or;

\* time is too slow, there are too many responsibilities to handle.

In which category do you belong?

Most often, many club officers belong to the second category. It is a sad fact but this is the case for many. This is the reason why many get burned out in Rotary by the time their term has ended especially the club president or the secretary. They either leave Rotary or become inactive members on the following year of their term. Has anyone ever done a study on this? I know that many have recognized this as a problem but have not addressed this issue.

I, too, am guilty of feeling that way when I was entering my second semester of my presidency. However, along the way on my second semester, my interest and enthusiasm was regained by the activities we have lined up for the centennial celebration. By the time my term ended, I felt drained. I thought I have had enough of Rotary. But that was not the case - in fact the responsibility given me has even expanded to the district level. And I am as enthusiastic as I ever was when I first joined Rotary.

Why was I able to bounce back?

First, I always looked back to my objective on why I joined Rotary - which is to serve. Rotary serves as my vehicle to be of service to others.

It may sound corny or too basic but it is true. I found the right organization that will allow me to share my time, talent and resources.

Second, I took every hardships and travails I faced along the way as challenges and opportunities for growth as a person. I know I have grown as a better person after facing all the challenges that came my way during my presidency.

Third, I knew I can count on the many individuals who are also dedicated Rotarians. All I needed to do was to tap them. They were just there waiting for me to seek their assistance. Sometimes, we get so overwhelmed and engrossed with our responsibilities as president or secretary that we forget that there are still many members who are willing to help. As Rotarians, we belong to one family.

Last, I knew that at the end of the day, it feels good to know that you have contributed something to your club, your community and mankind as a whole. Although often times our efforts are not recognized, it should not matter much at all. What should matter is that you have made someone happy -- a school which got a facelift, a barangay which was given a water system, a boy who can smile now after an harelip operation or an orphan who got attention from us.

Do you think you will be able to bounce back as I did? Will you look at the second semester as your chance to regain your enthusiasm in Rotary?

Reminder: Club secretaries must fill up the Club Update Form upon receipt and send it directly to Parramatta, Australia. If you failed to submit that the Form, please update through the Rotary website. If you do not update the information, the names of the current president and secretary will appear in the 2006-2007 directory. Also please submit your semi-annual report and remit your semi-annual dues as soon as you have received the SAR rom R.I.

# Governor's Monthly Letter

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850

November 2005

ROTARY CLUB	CLUB NUMBER	CHARTER YEAR	MEMBERS AS OF JULY 1, 2005	MEMBERS TO DATE	NET GAIN/ LOSS	NO. OF MEETINGS	ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE	Last Ranking	Current Ranking
ANTIQUE	17015	1975	22	20	-2	4	85.00%	22	12
BACOLOD	17016	1937	40	45	5	3	84.00%	6	14
BACOLOD CENTRAL	31518	1996	20	20	0	3	81.67%	14	17
BACOLOD EAST	17017	1983	24	24	0	3	56.00%	34	36
BACOLOD MARAPARA	29076	1992	17	17	0				
BACOLOD NORTH	17018	1973	63	61	-2	5	76.09%	16	21
BACOLOD SOUTH	17019	1969	26	26	0	4	84.00%	6	14
BACOLOD WEST	27374	1990	26	27	1	4	88.25%	4	9
BASILAN	17022	1959	17	20	3	4	68.75%	31	27
BONGAO TAWI TAWI	69302	2005	30	30	0				
BORACAY	50661	1997	33	33	0	4	79.50%	19	19
CAUAYAN	69720	2005	22	25	3				
CENTRAL ILOILO CITY	27338	1990	12	14	2	4	90.60%	25	8
DAPITAN	25485	1986	47	10	-37	3	50.00%	40	38
DIPOLOG	21409	1950	24	21	-3	4	56.00%	33	36
DUMANGAS	31821	1996	25	28	3	4	79.60%	11	18
ESCALANTE	17037	1976	25	26	1	4	82.50%	13	16
GUIMARAS	27277	1990	22	21	-1	4	41.00%	37	39
ILOILO	17045	1933	57	51	-6	5	64.68%	29	32
ILOILO CITY	17046	1974	23	26	3	3	66.60%	23	30
ILOILO SOUTH	17407	1971	29	30	1	4	94.00%		3
ILOILO WEST	28828	1992	22	23	1	4	65.21%	38	31
IPIL-SIBUGAY	59175	2002	28	28	0	4	72.31%	28	24
JARO CENTRALINE	29746	1993	18	19	1	4	86.00%	8	11
JARO ILOILO CITY	25131	1988	29	25	-4	3	92.00%	17	6
JARO NORTH	28741	1991	15	13	-2	4	83.00%	4	15
JARO SOUTH	31664	1996	10	10	0	3	70.00%	32	26
JIMENEZ	17050	1975	25	25	0	4	78.00%	20	20
KABANKALAN	17052	1974	36	36	0	4	63.00%	36	33
KALIBO	17053	1966	46	48	2	3	86.00%	12	11
LA CASTELLANA MIDTOWN	27424	1990	11	11	0				
LA PAZ	30821	1995	18	22	4	4	57.25%	35	34

METRO BACOLOD	25280	1988	15	15	0				
METRO ILOILO	17066	1979	74	77	3	4	84.29%	14	13
METRO KALIBO	54828	2001	25	11	-14	3	91.00%	7	7
METRO ROXAS	22518	1982	51	52	1	4	87.00%	12	10
METRO SAN CARLOS	51747	1999	12	10	-2	4	63.00%	24	33
METRO ZAMBOANGA	22275	1984	17	20	3	4	67.25%	27	29
MIDTOWN ILOILO	24383	1987	21	24	3	3	96.66%	1	2
MIAG-AO	58693	2002	17	17	0				
MOLO	27939	1991	12	12	0	3	68.00%		28
OROQUIETA	69314	2005	23	21	-2	4	85.00%	5	12
OZAMIS	17072	1954	16	13	-3	4	74.00%	39	23
OZAMIS NORTH	17073	1974	27	27	0	3	75.00%	9	22
PAGADIAN	17074	1974	30	30	0	3	52.00%	18	37
PAGADIAN WEST	17075	1977	26	26	0	5	85.00%	8	12
ROXAS	17080	1963	19	17	-2	4		26	
SILAY	17084	1973	18	15	-3	3	75.00%	15	22
VICTORIAS	17091	1966	13	13	0	4	57.00%	30	35
ZAMBOANGA CITY	17094	1948	52	44	-8	3	70.00%	12	26
ZAMBOANGA CITY CENTRAL	26956	1990	29	33	4	3	70.20%	21	25
ZAMBOANGA CITY EAST	17095	1974	15	15	0	3	93.00%	10	5
ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH	17096	1980	28	34	6	3	98.00%	2	1
ZAMBOANGA CITY WEST	17097	1971	40	45	5	3	93.97%	3	4
			1442	1406	-36		77.53%		

*(Continued from Governor's Message page 1)*

corner. Then we jump up and try not to be overwhelmed by the things that we neglected as we cram to beat deadlines.

This sort of routine is somewhat misplaced in an organization such as ours. But that is the reality here in our country. Let us get rid of this unproductive routine now. Let us not forget that the people we pledged to serve, are still out there waiting for us to touch their lives. Their need for healthcare, literacy, clean water and food, simply cannot wait. If we are to develop a Christmas season habit, let us just do the giving and sharing part because after all, that is what Christmas is all about. Extending this spirit beyond December through all the succeeding months, seems to be a great idea because giving and sharing are the two things that Rotarians do best.

While we dedicate the month of December to our own families and the family of Rotary, let us always remember that the families of the those who need our services, are the ones who need more of our dedication. Merry Christmas to all.



DG RICARDO "ERIC" A. LAVIÑA, JR.



# Viaje Zamboanga!

## GET READY TO ENJOY IN ZAMBOANGA

By: PDG Manuel P. Tatel



Rotarians around District 3850 should start making plans to cut a rug in the exciting and fascinating City of Zamboanga, April 28-30, 2006 for the DISCON '06. The conference of the new millennium offers Rotarians and other invited guests the opportunity to gather in an atmosphere of complete joy and fellowship and set the national tone toward a dynamic course for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Zamboanga city, rich in culture and history is dubbed as the City of Flowers. The Castilian heritage is 70% Spanish and 30% mixed of other languages. The Spanish culture influences the way of life of the Zamboangeños. The culture blends harmoniously with Moorish and western influence.

The City is situated on the southern most tip of the Zamboanga Peninsula, 460 nautical miles of Manila and 365 nautical miles northeast of Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. It is bounded to the west by Sulu Sea, to the east by the Moro Gulf and to the south by Basilan Straits and Celebes Sea. It has a total land area of 142,099.99 hectares with more than a half million inhabitants.

It is an hour and a half by jet from Manila and one hour from Cebu. It is one of the principal ports of call for cruise ships and inter island vessels on the Manila-Cebu-Davao-Cotabato-Jolo-Tawi-Tawi-General Santos-Cebu routes.

Tourist attractions and destinations include Pasonanca Park, Fort Pilar ( marine Museum, Geological exhibits, Galleon Artifacts); Plaza Pershing; Climaco Freedom Park (Christian Pool, Tomb of the unknown Soldier, Holy Hill, Ninoy Aquino Memorial Shrine); Yakan Weaving Village; Zamboanga Economic Zone, San Ramon Complex; Fishing factories in the west coast; Mount Pulumbato and the Lantawan Mountain Resort; Taluksangay Muslim Village; Sangali Fishing Port; Inland Resorts and Western Mindanao Power Corporation Complex.

One can shop at the famous BBC and Canelar Barter Trade Centers; Mindpro Citimall; Yubengco Star Mall; Shop-o-Rama; Shopper's Central; Chain of Plaza Malls; Golden Bells; Ukay-Ukay, Sta Cruz Market and San Luis Shell crafts.

The spark of excitement kindled at last years District Conference in Bacolod. The Host Organizing Committee has been eagerly preparing for and anticipating the arrival of Rotarians and guests from all over the island of Negros, Panay, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan & Tawi Tawi.

Zamboanga City lies at the heart of Mindanao region about which relatively lime is known or unknown for its peace and tranquility; generosity and hospitality of its people. Always a victim of arrogant and careless news-papering sending media messages with falsities and misconception of danger, Zamboanga City, will not soon be forgotten by those who will attend the Conference. The natural beauty of its surrounding and the peaceful and hospitable people who want to make your stay most enjoyable will no doubt entice you to return someday in this City, often called one of the most livable and lovable places in the country.

And of course, the eye of the District Conference whirlwind are the newly constructed 4 star Convention Center - The Regency at Pasonanca and Garden Orchid Convention Center will offer all the expected highlights, informative plenary sessions and stimulating fellowships.

The Host Organizing Committee sincerely hopes that you will have as much fun attending this conference as we are preparing for it, for you! We are delighted to hear you are coming and are confident that you will fall in love with Zamboanga. The song " Don't You Go, Don't You Go To Far Zamboanga, For You Will Forget Your Darling Far-Away, is not a myth. It's too real. Certainly, come - and you will fall in love with her!

