

# NEWTOWN ROTARY CLUB

## 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT



### OFFICERS:

**President:** Bill Calderara.  
**President Elect:** Carrie Swan.  
**Vice President:** Pat Caruso.  
**Secretary:** Duane Giannini.  
**Treasurer:** Joe Tarshis.  
**Sergeant at Arms:** Mike Snyder.

### DIRECTORS:

**Membership:** Mary Griffin.  
**Public Relations:** Larry Gardner  
**Administration:** Mike Toll  
**Foundation:** Brian Amey  
**Director at Large:** Chris Hoeffel.  
**Past President:** Alan Clavette.



**The Club Board of Officers and Directors inducted  
at the June 2009 'Pass the Gavel',**

**Back Row: Pat Caruso, Vice President; Alan Clavette, Past President; Chris Hoeffel, Director at Large; Mike Toll, Club Administration Director; Bill Calderara, President 2009/2010; Brian Amey, Rotary Foundation Director;**  
**Front Row: Mike Snyder, Sergeant at Arms; Joe Tarshis, Treasurer; Carrie Swan, President Elect; Mary Griffin, Membership Director; Duane Giannini, Larry Gardner, Public Relations Director. The Board continued to operate under the Rotary Club Leadership Plan and has adopted the Future Vision principles developing a strategic Plan for the next five years.**

**Membership:  
Director: Mary Griffin.**



The 'brief' of the Membership Chair is to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the recruitment and retention of Members. During the year Mary has worked hard on all aspects of this brief. She reports; we had eight prospective members attend meetings during the year, resulting in four applications. Three of those applicants were approved and have been inducted: Tom McKirdy; Jonathan Greenfield and Aaron Coopersmith.

Recruitment activities included; prospective member invitation meetings; promotional table at the Pancake Breakfast and the Lions Club Duck Race! Membership information was made available at the Club events that interacted with the public; Labor Day Parade; the Annual Golf Outing; and the ten Students of the Month evenings. As a result of those evening we have developed a contact list of student's parents and families. At the time of going to press there are three prospective members that will be invited to attend the statutory three exploratory meetings. Membership was increased to 43 in total, plus we added two further Honorary Members:



President Bill Calderara inducted two Honorary Members during the year: Karen King (PHF) recognizing her cooperation with several projects, the latest being the Liberian New Sight Eye Clinic; and Tony Salvatore (PHF) who has been Project Leader for the Students of the Month Program. Tony is stepping up from Full Membership because of time constraints.



**The District Assembly held in April each year, usually in Meriden is a great opportunity for new members find their feet in Rotary. It is also a great source for ideas, hearing other clubs relate their successes and meeting District ‘Chairs’ who are always useful reference points when planning events, projects; programs or even the Rotary year! The 2010 team that attended from our Club all had good reason to make the trip: Back Row: Tom McKirdy; Mike Toll; Brian Amey; Larry Gardner. Front Row: Pat Caruso; Carrie Swan and Alan Clavette, who is one of those aforementioned District Chairs, he starts as District Vocational Service Chair on July 1!**



**Club Public Relations:  
Director: Larry Gardner.**

**The Club has shown that our image on our footprint has again strengthened. Media Coverage had been strong, in fact we received District recognition for this and we congratulate Larry Garner for this achievement. (See the appendices for our District Significant Achievement Award submission) The Club’s PR Team continued to strive to improve the communication level with members; District and the Community. Under the guidance of Larry the Website sub-editors have maintained the standard, and in fact enhanced the site. The Home page now has video excerpts. The Site is a great resource,**

with topics such as Club Schedule; links to other important sites; Membership and Club information, useful to potential members; archive of the NRC Bulletin which has evolved into the “Newspaper of record” rather like the Times of London and the Wall Street Journal – well that’s maybe a stretch, but it does record all club happenings!



Log in to [www.newtownctrotaryclub.org](http://www.newtownctrotaryclub.org)



**Service Projects;**

**The Four Avenues of Service.**

**Director: Vice President Pat Caruso.**

Service is what Rotary is really all about; we are a service club with a motto: ‘Service above Self’ and our year has been stuffed full of projects and programs that demonstrate that Newtown has stepped up to serve our community.

**VOCATIONAL SERVICE:**

As mentioned above Past President Alan Clavette has been recruited by District 7980 to a three year term as Vocational Service Chair. It would be nice to think that District recognized that we in Newtown have a strong Vocational Service program so they came calling for Alan who has been instrumental in so many of our projects.

Talking of District Recognition we received another Award this year for our long running Vocational Project; Student of the Month. (See the appendices for this Significant Achievement submission.) Project Chair Tony Salvatore has brought well over 500 students to the club over the 10 years of the program, to receive recognition for their wonderful work. Aply assisted by Judy Grabarz, and Mary Griffin who has expanded the connection between the Club and the parents by sending them copies of the relevant Bulletins.



June 2010 Winning Students with their Parents. January 2010 winners & Teachers at the Mona Lis

**LITERACY:** This is one of the major programs promoted by RI Presidents, along with Water; Health and Hunger. The Club again gained recognition for its work in this area, with the District Literacy Award because we have five projects under this theme: Dictionary Project; Speaker Book Project; School supplies in Costa Rica; Support to the Parent Connection for educating children and their parents about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and substance abuse; and finally for our support for “Dislecksia the Movie”, Harvey Hubble’s project to create awareness about dyslexia. (See the March 2010 Report in the appendices)



The Club’s support for Youth Activities was extended further this year; we recruited an excellent candidate for the Four Way Test Speech contest; Nicole Vournazos who got to the run off in January, but narrowly lost out to some amazing young orators. In addition we sent teams to the New Generations conference and RYLA,(Rotary Youth Leadership Association) both excellent leadership opportunities for talented High School Students. We continued our support for the Newtown Scholarship Association, with the Scholarship in the Clubs name circa \$5000 per year.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

During the year we have maintained several Community Service projects continuing the strong tradition of the Club to serve local needs: Ability Beyond Disability have a ‘house’ in Newtown and over the years we have developed a program serving the house in two specific areas; in the Spring we will carry out a yard clean up and planting session. Around the Holidays we visit the house to help decorate for the season, the traditional tree and join with the residents in a holiday supper. The Dorothy Day Hospitality House is another long standing project, lead by Jim Gulalo on a month with a fifth Saturday club members prepare and serve meals and bagged lunches, helped by the Reed Interact Club Members, for those less fortunate than ourselves. Jim has the actual numbers but each time we are on duty that number seems to increase, and is shocking to think that there are so many in the Danbury area who cannot afford to eat, they are jobless and often homeless.



January 31,2010 was the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday and this is the Club Team on that Day!

**COMMUNITY SERVICE continued:**

Started in President Alan Clavette's year we joined with other Clubs in the District for "Make a Difference Day", this year it formed part of our Green program for which we received yet more recognition from District Governor Colin Gershon. Cleaning up river banks was again the order of the day and surprisingly we collected a few hundredweight of garbage, duly take away by Pat Caruso's company. Community support takes various forms and one of the most significant is our support for Newtown Youth and Family Services who were the principle beneficiary from the Benefit Golf day. Thanks to the efforts of new member Aaron Coopersmith we restarted our support for Relay for Life although the day was somewhat devastated by a storm we did raise over \$2000 that was matched by the Club Foundation.



The Relay for Life local organizers visited the club in April to encourage our participation.



Make a Difference Day team gather before tackling the river banks!



Past President Alan Clavette presents the check to Newtown Youth and Family Services.

**Other Community activities include the Annual Pancake Breakfast; Participation in the Labor Day Parade; Support for the Newtown Fund's annual sponsor a family event, the project team lead by Mary Griffin put together a list of items needed but a local family, hard hit but the economic conditions. The annual Business of the Year sponsored jointly with the Newtown Chamber of Commerce again recognized two businesses in town for their contribution to the Community, both in terms of volunteer help and financial.**



**Business of the Year winners: Preferred Insurance and TR Paul Inc who both happen to be Rotarians! Show off their awards, flanked by Chamber president Ann Marie Deweese and our President Bill Calderara.**



**The Club's Labor Day float commemorated the tragic loss of Youth Exchange Students lives in Oregon earlier in the year but it also highlight the value of this program. We think at the moment of our last student Belek Toktosunov from the Kyrgyz Republic, where there is ethnic strife causing loss of life and a refugee problem.**

#### **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:**

**Chaired by Director at Large; Chris Hoeffel, we continued to be involved in a variety of International Projects: Our links with the Haitian Health Foundation proved useful following the devastating earthquake in that country. We collected over \$6000 for HHF to enable them to give aid to some of the many affected by this disaster. While we did not have a Youth Exchange Student this year we will be welcoming a student from Indonesia in August. We welcomed the South African, Group Study Exchange Team in May. This in fact will be the last such visit as the new Foundation Vision plans have altered the focus with**

**INTERNATIONAL SEVICE continued:**

teams having vocational emphasis – to be know as Vision Training Teams. We are working with Karen King to achieve a grant for the New Sight Eye Clinic in Monrovia Liberia. At the time of this report this application is bogged down as the Host Club and District have yet to be qualified to receive Global Vision grants from RI Foundation. Mike Toll is liaising with his old Club in Costa Rica to help them fund some equipment for a local hospital close the Rohrmoser Club in San Jose.



The South African GSE Team show off the banners after the traditional exchange.



Karen King tells the Club about the New Sight Eye Clinic Project in Liberia.

**Club Administration:  
Director: Mike Toll,  
Secretary: Duane Giannini,  
Treasurer: Joe Tarshis,  
Sergeant at Arms: Mike Snyder.**

The fourth Avenue of Service is Club Service and this aspect now comes under the Administration Banner with Director Mike Toll leading the Team that includes the Club Secretary and the Club Treasurer. You should also add the Program Chair Joe Hemingway and Club Historian; Paul Gehrett and the Fund Raising Chairs for Golf and the Annual Raffle; John Trentacosta and Dan Honan.

Club Secretary; Duane Giannini reports that our average attendance during the year has exceeded 70% which is a tribute to the Program Chair's sterling work with a great range of Speakers.

**Treasurer; Joe Tarshis keeps the Board advised as to how the money comes and goes: the highlight for the year is that we have raised over \$75,000 with our various events such as the Golf Day \$53000; The Raffle \$12,000. (gross figures – costs of setting up these events to be finalized) Even Sergeant at Arms Mike Snyder raised \$1600 with happy/sad dollars and those pesky fines! Without these funds we could not Serve as much as we do!**

**During the year the Club adopted the Club Visioning Program – it enables us to develop a strategic plan to insure we maintain the standards that we have established over the years and continue to grow and Serve.**



**President Bill brought us up to date with the Visioning Program and the plans being developed through the Vision council that comprises the current President and the immediate two past presidents plus the President Elect and the Vice President, all of whom are kept in line and prompted by the Club's Visioning Champion Mary Griffin. This group are 'thinking outside of the box' to insure we continue our successful years.**



**Family of Rotary is a Club Service heading and is exemplified with the Annual Club Picnic, this year the event attracted a full house or should that be shed at Dickinson Park, with 50 + members and their families. The menu a little different from last year, no lobsters, but plenty of steak and salmon etc. Well done the chefs; John Trentacosta; Tom Nipper; Alan Clavette and John Parille.**

**Fund Raising:  
Chair: President Elect Carrie Swan:**

The Club's fundraising strategy has not changed during this year, the principal event was the Jim Osborne Memorial Golf Benefit held in September at Tashua Knoll Golf Club, Chaired by John Trentacosta it again was a great success, with a maximum number of players turning out on a beautiful Fall day. Every club member contributed in some way to this events and it can be said that this really is a Club 'hands on' event. Next in line as an important fundraiser is the Annual Raffle staged to coincide with Super Bowl playoffs the winner takes away a 54" HDTV just in time for the Final! The remaining sources of funds could well be described as progressive fundraising; smaller contributions from a variety of sources; 50/50 raffles; Happy Dollars; Pancake Breakfast; Parade food stand; and the odd donation from non members.



President Elect Carrie Swan pulls the winner of the Annual Raffle watched by Raffle organizer Dan Honan and President Bill.

**The Rotary Foundation:  
Chair: Brian Amey:**

This is the source of all out grant funds and the source of funding for such things as GSE team; Youth Exchange Students; World Peace Scholarships; and Service above Self Scholarships. Our Club contributes in the form of 'Every Rotarian Every Year' donations; Paul Harris Fellowship contributions and donations to the Annual Fund. Last November we collected recognition banners and awards for our 2008/2009 contributions. We maintained our membership of the District White Knight Society (this recognizes all Clubs that contribute more that \$175 per member. As at the time of writing this report our 2009-2010 figures look equally good if not better, we should be a 100% Sustaining Members Club and 100% EREY club. We are awarding five Paul Harris Fellowships this year and we achieved over 188% of our Goal! This figure is set by incoming Presidents when they attend PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) at Nashua NH. Talking of Goals we also met our commitment to the Polio Plus Challenge; \$2050 has been collected and paid to match the Gates Challenge. (Bill Gates donated \$200million dollars to Polio Plus, but challenged Rotarians to match that figure, this works out at approximately \$2000 per Club)

**FOUNDATION Continued:**



**The team that represented the Club at the November 2009 District Foundation Dinner, happily display our awards for the recognition mentioned above.**



**Tom Nipper gets pinned by President Bill at the above dinner, just another sapphire on Tom's pin. Congratulations Tom!**

**FOOTNOTE:**

**ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!**

**2009-2010 has been by most measures another successful year, President Bill Calderara is to be congratulated. We gained new Members; we achieved our Foundation Goals; we received the RI Presidential Citation, and the District Governors Citation, in addition to the awards previously mentioned: Vocational Project; PR/Media Coverage Award; Literacy Award; and the Governor's Environmental Citation. Congratulations to every member for their service above self!**



**Out with the old in with the new – 2009 Gavel**



**PRIID Abe Gordon was our guest at the 2009 'Gavel' and will be again in 2010:  
We are one of his "favorite clubs" – Yes Abe we know you say it to every Club you visit!**



**In 2009 President Bill did it in style in a beautiful white Roller!**



**48 years ago Newtown Rotary Club were instrumental in starting the Labor Day Parade. Here the team is ready and waiting for the crowds and the Parade!**



**Not without good reason Newtown Rotary Club has become known as the best Party Club in the District. District Governor Colin Gershon seen her with our First Lady, Patti Calderara, certainly supports the view, I think the number of visits he made to our Club substantiates the title!! We need to recognize that the title was really earned by our star organizer; Jim Gulalo – well done Jim, for another year!**

**Please see attached appendices:  
Literacy Report,  
Foundation Report,  
Vocational Service Award Submission,  
PR/Media Relations Award Submission.**

**June 2010**

