

# PHS – Paul Harris Society – For those whose **PASSION** is Contributing to The Rotary Foundation

*A personal message from Bill Stramm, District Paul Harris Society Chair*

Dear District 7600 Rotarians:

Paul Harris once said, “Perhaps dreaming is not so bad if one dreams good dreams and makes them come true.” In Rotary, we make dreams a reality through extraordinary projects and activities here at home in District 7600 and around the world. These projects would not be possible without the generous support of Rotarians and friends of our Foundation. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) recognizes those individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. That recognition is being a Paul Harris Society (PHS) member.



Bill Stramm-District 7600  
Paul Harris Society Chair

Were you aware that fewer than 3 percent of Rotarians contribute at or above the Paul Harris Society level, yet those gifts represent over 35 percent of contributions to the Foundation's Annual Fund, which supports global grants, district grants, polio eradication, vocational exchanges, scholarships, and more. How does D7600 compare? For the 2014 – 2015 Rotary year D7600 Rotarians contributed \$549,188 to the Annual Fund. At the end of the Rotary year D7600 had 126 PHS members. If each member contributed just \$1,000, then PHS members contributed about 23% of the Annual Fund's total. Of course many PHS members contribute more than \$1,000 per year, so the percentage, in all likelihood, is higher.

The Paul Harris Society was created in 1999 by Past District Governor Wayne Cusick from District 5340. PDG Cusick realized that giving \$1,000 annually to the Foundation was not possible for every Rotarian, but many could be encouraged to contribute at this level or above. He introduced the PHS program to encourage and recognize these donors. The idea gained momentum and quickly spread to other districts throughout the world. The PHS was established in D7600 during Rotary year 2004 – 2005 by then PDG Randy Lickey. The PHS was administered by districts until the Paul Harris Society became an official Rotary Foundation recognition program in July 2013. The purpose of the Paul Harris Society is to identify, engage, and thank members who have the ability and desire to make substantial annual gifts that help communities around the world. Currently D7600 has 132 members representing 45 clubs, with the Rotary Club of James River having the most PHS members with 15. Last Rotary year, 2014 – 2015, the D7600 Foundation goal of 25 new PHS members was achieved. With this year's goal being the same as last year's we currently have 11 new members.

By joining the PHS, you are pledging to contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant each year. You can join the PHS without having any history of contributing \$1,000 or more to the approved funds. In fact, an immediate \$1,000 contribution is not even required at the time of enrollment. You can fulfill your Paul Harris

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Society commitment gradually over the Rotary year through any combination of giving to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant. For example, annual contributions of \$500 to PolioPlus and \$500 to the Annual Fund would fulfill your PHS commitment.

To join, you can:

- 1) Notify the D7600 Foundation chair, PHS coordinator, or other district leaders and let them know of your intent to donate each year that you are financially able
- 2) Complete the PHS enrollment form (publication 099), which is located on the D7600 website
- 3) Make your contribution at [www.rotary.org/give](http://www.rotary.org/give)
- 4) Email or call Rotary's Support Center (email: [contact.center@rotary.org](mailto:contact.center@rotary.org) , Phone: +1-866-976-8279), or the Rotary International office that serves your area, and ask to join

It is through the generosity of our PHS members and all supporters of The Rotary Foundation, that the work of the Foundation has made and will continue to make a difference in the lives of millions around the world. These gifts allow us to improve communities by promoting peace, advancing world understanding and goodwill, preventing disease, alleviating poverty, bolstering economic development, and providing clean water and sanitation.

Thank you to all D7600 PHS members for being a part of our Foundation's future and to your continued support of The Rotary Foundation. ALL of you truly exhibit this year's Presidential theme because you are providing ***"A Gift to the World."***