



Perg, 10.1.2008

Liebe rotarische Freundinnen und Freunde,

in der Beilage übersende ich Ihnen namens unseres Länderausschusses die Broschüre

Rotary without Borders

eine Geschichte der Distrikte 1910, 1920 und 2240, die von den Berichterstattern Heinz Marchetti und Svatopluk Jedlička erstellt wurde. Der Anlass war die Presidents Conference Anfang Dezember 2008 in Wien. Dabei wurde speziell der Wiedergründung Rotary's in Mittel- und Osteuropa nach dem Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs vor 20 Jahren gedacht. Die Broschüre ist eine eindrucksvolle Zusammenstellung einer spannenden rotarischen Geschichte in Österreich, in Tschechien und in der Slowakei.

Nachdem Ihr Club, bzw. Sie persönlich am Aufbau des Distriktes 2240 mitgearbeitet haben, darf ich Ihnen die Broschüre übermitteln. Gleichzeitig darf ich Sie auch bitten, Ihren Club zu informieren.

Mit den besten Grüßen

Harald Marschner, PDG

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FROM ROTARY GOOD NEWS

RGN - Every spring since 2003, RC Trebič has organized fundraising concerts under the keynote "Kids to Kids". Every concert features a performance by students of the Fórum Primary Art School of Trebič and the P.J. Vejvanovský Conservatory of Music in Kroměříž, but there are always also guest performers from abroad. Led by Frank Spekhorst, a Dutch resident of Trebič, they always treat their audiences to perfect artistic and human sensations. The proceeds always go towards the purchase of equipment of the children's and infant wards of the Trebič Hospital. The project enjoys long-term support from German and Dutch Rotary Clubs. ICC CZ/SK-A has now become a partner of the project.

RGN - During RI President William Boyd's visit in autumn 2005, the Slovak capital Bratislava was one of the venues of discussions by representatives of Austria's District 1910 concerning the creation of another new Rotary District for Hungary. District 1911 was established on 1 July 2007.

RGN - Early in June 2005, the ICC CZ/SK-A organized a Youth Sailing Week Adria 2005. Its participants sailed under the expert guidance of Captains Horst Mayrhofer (RC Steyr), Horst Fickel (RC Feldbach) and Herbert Neumüller (RC Linz-South). The crews of three yachts were made up by young people from Austria (9), Czech Republic (9) and three different localities in Slovakia. Kateřina Dědková, a student from Český Krumlov told RGN after her return from Croatia: "It was my first sailing. We were three crews differing by the color of our t-shirts and hats - red, blue and yellow. On board every ship was an Austrian captain, his lieutenant and crew (two Austrians, three Czechs and one Slovak). We spoke mainly in English. But some Czechs' German was better, and they used it."

RGN - In 2005-2007, members of Rotary Club Znojmo pooled resources with their friends in partner RCs Geras/Waldviertel (Austria), Eichstätt Altmühltal (Germany) and Olten-West (Switzerland) to use a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant in order to procure a new bus for a social care institution in the nearby town of Břežany. The project was based on the proceeds from an annual fundraising ball organized by RC Znojmo in the beautiful historical ambience of the city's Louka Monastery. The total value of the project was about 65,000 euros. The specially adapted new bus has been plying Czech and European roads since mid-2007, making life easier and more rewarding for several dozen

seniors and handicapped people from the Znojmo area.

RGN - At the end of March 2007, RC Lungau (D-1920) organized a first annual "Week on the Snow" in Mauterndorf, Austria, inviting also young people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia through its youth service committee. Among them was a girl from Mexico, participating in a student exchange program hosted by RC Klatovy in the Czech Republic. It was her first encounter with snow usable for skiing. Sport, music and other activities which do not require considerable language skills helped to relax initial tensions. A week spent together proved that breaking not only language barriers, and creating conditions for mutual understanding among the young people of the world, are one of the priority tasks of the Rotary Clubs. A second annual "Week on the Snow" prepared in the middle of March 2008 our Austrian friends from RC Zell am See (D-1920).

RGN - Under the patronage of the Czech-Slovak-Austrian ICC, members of Slovakia's RC Nitra spent two days in June 2007 as the guests of their friends from Austria's RC Krems. The Wachau region surrounding Krems is noted for its scenic blend of characteristic rock slopes overlooking the river Danube and numerous historical monuments. Wachau is on the UNESCO list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The English king Richard the Lionheart was kept prisoner at Dürnstein Castle. But the region is also a culinary haven and the wines made there enjoy great international reputation. Both clubs crowned their meeting by a dinner attended also by representatives of all three districts in the Czech-Slovak-Austrian ICC.

RGN - In summer 2007, members of RC Uherský Brod were invited for a visit to Eferding (Austria, D-1920) to establish cooperation with the local Rotary Club. They presented their hosts with a Jan Amos Komenský-Comenius memorial medal.

RGN - Sixty-four friends from 20 clubs of four districts spent a weekend in mid-October 2007 in the Lednice-Valtice Area, a UNESCO-protected World Cultural Heritage. They visited the Valtice and Lednice chateaux, admiring the latter's newly accessible floor with princely suites and unique hothouse with a collection of tropical and subtropical plants. Saturday's evening at the La Veneria Chateau was spent savouring delicious food, listening to a traditional dulcimer band, and making new

friendships. Our Austrian friends were pleasantly surprised by the relaxed atmosphere of the event. A member of the hosting RC Valtice-Břeclav told us many visitors from abroad had not known what to expect from a trip to a former Eastern Bloc country. The organizers of the successful weekend received many grateful e-mail messages. In October next year, a regular meeting of Rotary neighbours will be held in the ancient bishopric city of Žilina, in Slovakia.

RGN - Similarly as in the previous years, the November 2007 social meeting of RC Brno over a dinner of venison specialties was attended by friends not only from the District 2240 clubs but also by guests from abroad. Many of them came from Austria's RC Weinviertel-Marchfeld. The guests relished game specialties prepared by the chef of the Hotel International, and listened to hunting chants and signals, as well as hunting poems in the rendition of actor Zdeněk Dvořák from the Mahen Theater. The net proceeds of about 10,000 euros were donated to RC Brno's Foundation, to pay the costs of a summerholiday camp for handicapped children and contributions to Brno's Klokánek Fund for Children at Risk, or the Betlém Center at Klobouky, which provides round-the-clock assistance care to immobile patients.

RGN - The working seminar on the activities of the Rotary Foundation, held late in 2007 in Kroměříž, was an example of interaction between present-day Czech and Slovak Rotarians and the people who helped establish their clubs in the 1990s. Officials of all the District 2240 clubs involved in organizing Rotary Foundation-supported projects had an opportunity to discuss their plans, learn how to properly file requests for financial contributions, and how to properly implement, document, evaluate and account projects. The seminar focused also on the general principles and rules of the Foundation that supports Rotary activities in all walks of life. Questions were taken also by a prominent guest, Dr. Thomas Watzböck from RC Kirchdorf, the Rotary Foundation's regional coordinator for Zone 14, who was D-1920 governor in 1998/99 and consequently stood at the cradle of District 2240.

RGN - Rotary Club Žilina, Austria's RC Bruck-Neusiedler and The Rotary Foundation joined forces in the Rotary year of 2007/2008 to assist the Private Special School for Autist. Children in Žilina-Bánová. Through a Matching Grant they raised about 20,000 euros to finance replacement windows for the school building.