



# SUNBEAMS



## Sunshine Division Rotary Leadership Institute

Page 1 \* Summer 2009 Issue \* Florida, Georgia, and The Caribbean \* D.R. Maymon, Scribe

# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

WOW - What a year for the **Sunshine Division of the Rotary Leadership Institute!**

Our 2008-09 season brought **RLI** sessions to all of *Georgia* and even assisted the *Puerto Rico Division* in inaugurating **RLI** in *San Juan*. We passed 1,336 *Rotarians* through 30 **Institutes** this past year, our busiest season ever. Our *Graduate Membership Course* got off the ground, and we trained 49 new *Discussion Leaders*. We initiated our *Club Strategic Planning* sessions and assisted four clubs so far with making their vision for the future a reality. The **RLI-SD** played a vital role in the training of new *Club Presidents* at the *All Florida PETS* by redesigning their curriculum and coordinating the training sessions. We also hosted the **International RLI Curriculum** meeting in *Orlando*, and are assisting with some major revisions to the curriculum to improve **RLI** sessions worldwide. We produced a DVD that introduces what **RLI** is all about and has been used to promote **RLI** at club programs. We transitioned to a new registration system and have enhanced our accounting systems. And all of this without reducing the quality of our product - "the best *Rotary* training ever presented"!



I'm tired just writing about all we accomplished this year!

But none of that could have been accomplished without our dedicated team working together. Thanks to our *Division Registrar* making the transition to the new system less traumatic, and to our local *Registrars* proving a friendly greeting as *Rotarians* checked in for a new adventure. We appreciate all the fine facilities and fabulous food our local facilities chairs provided us. And our *Division Public Relations* chair has kept us informed with our annual brochure and our *Newsletters*. Our *Discussion Leaders* have continued to stay on top of their game, and have given much of their time, talent and treasures traveling far distances to bring **RLI** to *Districts* other than their home area. And our dedicated **District RLI Directors** have kept it all front and center within their local areas. Let's not forget our webmaster who kept our website a visible and useful tool, and of course, our *Treasurer* who paid our bills! There are soooooo many people who make what we do work, that I cannot mention them all. Much goes on behind the scenes that may not get public recognition, but every minute detail of our operation is essential to our success.

To EVERYONE who has played a part in producing even a single element of only one **RLI** session, to *Debbie Maymon* who has played a part in every one, and all those in between, including our vendors who supply the materials or the food or the facilities, a great big hearty THANK YOU!

But our work is not done. It is now time to begin the work of transitioning into the 2009-10 Season and that work has begun. The schedule is being posted, the website tweaked, curriculum updated, and our *Discussion Leaders* are reflecting on how to improve their skills. I look forward to serving as your *Chairman* one more year, and am anticipating an even better year than last!

*Tim Schuler*



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### THEY ARE A TRUE FAMILY OF ROTARY



Right to left—RLI SD Faculty Chair DGE Don Thomas, wife Sue, daughter Dawn, and D6960 PDG Margie Cypher.

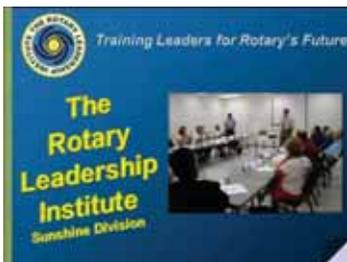
RLI Sunshine Division Faculty Chair DGE Don Thomas and his wife Sue recently honored their daughter Dawn by naming her a Paul Harris Fellow. At the same meeting Sue was made an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Cape Coral—Goldcoast. Now here’s the fun part; both Dawn and Sue thought they were attending the meeting to see the other one receive their respective presentation. It was all orchestrated by DGE Don of course. Our heartiest congratulations to Sue and Dawn.

### A PLEATHORA OF PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The newly revised RLI SD website at [www.RLITraining.org](http://www.RLITraining.org)



Well it is not often we are able to promote a fine product in a number of different ways. However, in the case of the **RLI Sunshine Division**, we have a multitude of vehicles by which to get the word out. Take a look at the various ways to share information regarding RLI with your districts and clubs.



The brand new RLI SD PowerPoint presentation.



The tried and true RLI SD brochure.



Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in RLI SD



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### EXPLOSION IN THE ISLANDS!

By D7020 Past RLI Director DGE Diana White

We've had an explosion and we want to shoot out the news!

Just three short years ago in January of 2006 one lone *Rotarian* from *District 7020*, at the suggestion of *PRID Barry Rassin*, ventured up to Oviedo, Florida to experience *Part 1* of the **RLI** course. This proved to be the start of a huge wave of enthusiasm throughout the *District* warmly supported by *Jim Henry* who agreed to arrange for the first of the two-day seminars in Florida in order to help cut the travel expenses of the *7020 Rotarians*.



The active promotion of the program within the *District* and the willingness of *District 6990* to hold two-day events led to 50 *Rotarians* taking one or more courses before the end of 2006. Before the end of that same year, 42 also completed *Part 2* and three hardy souls became our first proud **RLI Graduates**. By January 2007, we had our first three *Discussion Leaders*; *Barry Rassin*, *Patrick Strachan* and *Diana White*. The momentum continued well into 2007 and by September of that year, a further 28 members graduated from the program. By year end we were up to 32 qualified *Discussion Leaders* and we were ready to spread our wings.

It was clearly time to consider bringing the seminars closer to home so more of our members could be given the opportunity to experience the fellowship and the learning experience of this exciting and successful program. Montego Bay, Jamaica was selected as the first venue and the date was set for November 2007. The event proved to be more than just an **RLI** learning experience, *Discussion Leaders* came from far and wide (Florida, North Carolina, Cayman and Virgin Islands) to join us and to experience the unique Jamaican lifestyle and to participate in a hands-on project. Our first attempt was indeed an unforgettable weekend providing us with renewed enthusiasm for more.

As we drew to the close of 2008, we have held seminars in five separate locations, Charlotte Amalie, Kingston, Georgetown, Montego Bay, and Road Town and we now boast a total of 102 *Graduates* and 43 *Discussion Leaders*, 6 of whom are French-speakers. We are confident that the **RLI Program** has significantly contributed to raising the bar of *Rotary* awareness and participation in local and *RI* programs within our *District*. From the feedback we receive the results are extremely encouraging. Our only disappointment during this year has been that we were unable to fulfil our dream of holding our first French language **RLI** in Port au Prince. Hurricanes prevented this from happening in 2008 but we are committed to *Making This Dream Real* before this *Rotary* year is complete.

Moving into 2009 we will be expanding the *Steering Committee* to spread the responsibility throughout the *District* and to ensure we can provide the maximum availability of the program throughout the ten island nations which comprise *District 7020*. Two new locations are already in the planning stage and our existing locations are expecting to host another seminar in the coming year.

The support and encouragement from the **RLI Sunshine Division Leaders** has never waned and we are so grateful for their continued guidance, support and attendance at our events. Our expansion has also only been accomplished by increasing our **District RLI Leadership Team**; we have welcomed *Coordinators Hareesh Ramchandani* for *7020 West* and *Mary Finley* for *7020 East*, their support and hard work has been invaluable.

So if you have not already joined the **RLI In-Crowd**, it is never too late! Just sign up for the next convenient location by checking out the website at [www.rlitraining.org](http://www.rlitraining.org). Come and experience the energy of our team of dedicated *Discussion Leaders* who give of their time, talent and treasure to conduct the sessions for the benefit of all concerned. We look forward to seeing you there.



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### Scenes From Around The Sunshine Division



RyI down in the Caribbean on Grand Cayman Island.



The happy smiling graduates from Gainesville, Georgia. This session was one of the first Rotary Leadership Institutes held in D6910.



Cayman grads of the RLI Graduate Membership Class held on the Island.



Two groups of grinning grads from the Clearwater, Florida RLI. ↙



The Faculty debriefing session after a very successful RLI in Weston.



The difference between a 1 and a 9 is **Preparation, Concentration, Presentation, and Conversation Stimulation.**



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