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THE WATERFRONT

Club website: www.kuchingcentralrotary.org

THIS IS THE WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE *ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL*, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA; ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3310; CHARTERED ON 23RD DECEMBER 1986.

WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING AT 1PM EVERY SATURDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) AT THE RIVERSIDE MAJESTIC HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

13TH ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE



A district conference is held annually in each district and the purpose of the district conference is to further the program of Rotary through fellowship, inspirational addresses, and the discussion of matters relating to the affairs of clubs in the district and Rotary International (RI) generally.

The conference gives consideration to any special matters submitted to it by the RI Board or matters originating within the district. The district conference should showcase the programs of Rotary and successful district and club activities.

Recognizing that the district conference is an opportunity to sustain and grow the membership base within the district, the information should be presented in an inspirational fashion and in an atmosphere of fellowship.

Our District 3310 13th Conference is scheduled for 9-11 January 2004, at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore. For more information on the conference please visit the official website at <http://www.d3310conference.rotary.com.my/>.

11 of our members are contemplating of registering to participate in the said conference and each of them is going with their respective spouse. If you have not decided to attend, please give serious thoughts to it as it will be fun and enjoyable.

Don't forget to participate in the golf fellowship if you are a keen golfer. It will be played at the Singapore National Laguna Golf Club located not far from Changi International Airport. Don't worry about your miss shots!

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The Paul Harris Society

Is it the truth? Sure, you can handily recite this question and the rest of The Four-Way Test, Rotary's gold standard for ethical behavior. You don't lie on your tax return, and you never ever take pens home from the office. But what if being honest meant you'd be fired? That you'd lose your friends, your home, nearly all of your life savings?

Until 1990, Rotarian Jim Alderson lived a quiet life as a hospital administrator in ruggedly beautiful Whitefish, Mont., USA, the gateway to Glacier National Park. He'd worked at the same hospital for 17 years.

But then Alderson refused to submit to fraudulent accounting measures imposed by the conglomerate that took over his hospital. On the day he was fired in 1990, his daughter was a freshman in college and his son had just started high school.

His two cases against his former employers, filed in 1993, dragged on for a decade and nearly bankrupted him. His family worried about their safety. They moved 11 times. For five years, while the U.S. government debated whether to take the case or not, he couldn't talk to anyone about it. "That was brutal," he recalls. "I would run into people at the airport. It's a small town, and people would ask where I was headed." Ironically, he could not tell them the truth — that he was traveling to Washington to confer with federal attorneys, who eventually agreed to back his case.

And when he finally prevailed in court, saving U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars? After the first ruling in 1998, he became a Paul Harris Fellow by contributing \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. After the second, in July 2003, he joined the **Paul Harris Society**, meaning he will give \$1,000 a year for the rest of his life. "I could never afford to contribute before," he says. He feels fortunate, he adds. "A lot of people like me don't win their cases. They

become recluses and emotional wrecks. They are just flat ruined."

When we set out to explore the subject of business ethics, we agreed that the issue is, obviously, topical and extremely important. We also knew that Rotarians set a high standard for ethics in their communities and on the job. But we wondered how to convey this without subjecting readers to a stale debate over concepts. We wondered how to show that Rotarians can and do make a difference. When we heard that Alderson's case was finally settled, we knew that he was the example we were looking for.

In this issue

<http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/rotarian/0401/index.shtml>, Senior Editor Anthony Craine examines Rotary's role in the midst of so many corporate scandals and how clubs are working to promote ethics. We also turn to two non-Rotarians for their take on The Four-Way Test. *New York Times* ethics columnist Randy Cohen and Watergate figure John Dean may appear to have little in common, but both agree that the test is relevant and useful. Dean even ventures that it could have prevented the Watergate scandal.

As for Alderson, he says The Four-Way Test is now "very real and very meaningful." He dreaded risking his job and life's savings, he adds, but he feared losing the respect of his children far more. "That's something that cannot be replaced," he says. "I wanted to be able to look my kids in the eye and tell them that truth and honesty really do matter."

Janice S. Chambers
Managing Editor
Rotarian Magazine





This young man is trying to see without his glasses on

WHAT'S ON- IN THE ROTARY CALENDAR?

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	CONTACT
1	<i>1st day Hari Raya Open House</i>	<i>PP Odita's Residence</i>	<i>1st day Raya</i>	<i>PP. Odita Ibrahim HP:019-886 2034</i>
2	<i>2nd day Hari Raya Open House</i>	<i>PP Andre's Residence</i>	<i>2nd day Raya</i>	<i>PP. Andre HP:016-864 8889</i>
3	Rotary Foundation Seminar	Johor Bahru	6 Dec'03	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
4	PIBAKAT (Swak Society for Parents of Handicapped Children)	Jln. Ong Tiang Swee	14 Dec'03	PP. Patrick Yu
5	RYLA (Hosted by R.C. of Kuching)	Sarawak Cultural Village, Damai	12-15 Dec'03	PP. Bobby Chai
6	1 st Rotaract & Interact Conference	Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore	9-11 Jan'04	PP. Bobby Chai
7	Golf Fellowship at District Conference	Singapore	9 Jan'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
8	District 3310 Conference	Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore	10-11 Jan'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
9	14 th District Assembly (Hosted by R.C. of Melaka)	Melaka	April 2004	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
10	International Avoidable Blindness Conference (Hosted by R.C. Singapore East)	Suntec City, Convention Hall, Singapore	1-2 May'04	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
11	2004 Rotary International Convention	Osaka, Japan	23-26 May 2004	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
12	2005 Rotary International Convention	Chicago, Illinois, USA	19-22 June 2005	TBA
13	2005 Rotary International Convention	Copenhagen, Denmark & Malmo, Sweden	11-14 June 2006	TBA

Notes: Events printed in italic bold are new events which have just been included in this issue. TBA= To Be Announced.

2003-2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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