

The 213th District of Rotary International (Northern Illinois--and formerly the 147th District) has entered upon its sixth year as sponsor of an International Student Project.

So significant has been this International Service enterprise that it long since attracted the attention of Rotary International; this to the extent that the program of the 213th District has served somewhat as a pattern for the Rotary Foundation Fellowship Project, which now encompasses the world and promises to become Rotary's most practical and significant exemplification of its Fourth Object--"The advancement of International understanding, good will, and peace...."

This program of the 213th District should not be construed as supplanting nor in any sense competing with the Foundation Fellowship Project. Rather, it compliments the more extensive movement inaugurated a few years ago by Rotary International, and to which the clubs in this district are heartily contributing. The 213th District project does, however, give our clubs and the individual Rotarians a feeling of being "closer to the picture" in this phase of International Service, and the merit of this localized program has been recognized by Rotary International.

The International Student Project of the 213th District, moreover, has since been adopted in essence by other districts in Rotary International and has caused Rotarians in still other districts to become curious to learn more about how the project functions and the degree of success it has attained. This memorandum indicates some of the salient features of the plan so that others who may contemplate similar activity on a District level will have the benefit of these facts and suggestions.

It should be stated at the very outset that no other project ever devised in the 213th District has so effectively unified the interests of the 66 clubs in the district as this International Student Program. This common objective, as might well be expected, has effected a more closely-knit district organization and developed a splendid community of interest and spirit, the salutary consequences of which would be difficult to measure.

The project had its inception when the 213th District extended the first invitation to the district in South America having the largest membership in Rotary, which was Argentina. In successive years have followed invitations to send to this area student guests from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and England. The student guest for the 1949-50 Rotary year will come from Peru.

How does this plan work?

The Student Guest Project is financed by contributions from all the individual clubs in the district. The response in this regard from year to year has been increasingly more encouraging, a definite indication of the constantly growing popularity of the project with the clubs and individual Rotarians.

The cost of the project is about \$3,500 a year; the suggested contribution of one dollar a year per Rotarian amply covers the expense in this district. Under the plan an account is set up at the university the student attends (Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, in this instance), from which he can draw \$150 per month to cover his living expenses. All of the student's transportation costs from and to his own country are paid by our District.

At the inception of the program, and until this past year, the Student Guest was required, in addition to his graduate studies at the university, to visit and address each club in the district. However, when it became apparent early this past year that visits to every club in the district placed an unreasonable demand upon the student's time, this part of the program was altered to require visits to only half of the clubs in the district; however, this procedure was modified, with the result that the club visitations as scheduled actually became visits and talks at inter-city meetings. In most instances grouped-club meetings developed at the invitation of the originally scheduled club, with the net result that every club in the district has the opportunity, one way or another, to greet and hear the student guest.

The grouped-club idea became so popular, in fact, that it encouraged an unprecedented number of inter-city meetings in this district with what favorable re-

sults can well be appreciated. Thus, while the Student Guest now makes fewer visits in the course of his year at the university, he nevertheless continues to meet the large majority of the Rotarians in the district, and has more time for his program of graduate study, which is, of course, an important part of the project.

When the student guest makes his visits to the clubs in the district, his transportation, in most instances, is furnished by Rotarians in clubs located near the university. This is done on a volunteer basis at the call of the Student Project Committee. Interestingly enough, the number of such volunteers has increased each year, since we have found that our individual Rotarians have come to take a very personal interest in the student guest and, moreover, consider such activity as affording them an opportunity to render a personal service in the interest of the International Student Project.

Success of the International Student Project rests largely in the work of the District Committee assigned to that specific task by the District Governor. So detailed and pressing has this assignment become that, at the District Conference in May, 1949, it was voted by the delegates to increase the size of the Student Project Committee from seven to nine members.

The chairman of the District Committee, who naturally assumes the heaviest burden of responsibility, should be, our experience has dictated, a member of a club located in or near the city where the university to be attended is situated. There is much detail to be handled, particularly in arranging visits to the various clubs in the district; in consultations with the student on personal and academic problems; in assisting the student to become aware as speedily as possible of customs and procedures in his new surroundings, which are quite conceivably different from those of his homeland; and, above all, in making certain that the student guest develops such contacts as will help him to readily adjust himself as quickly as possible to a happy and profitable experience in his new environment.

The 213th District, based upon our experience over the past five years, owes a debt of gratitude to Northwestern University for its continued whole-hearted cooperation. No project of this nature could enjoy true success unless the cooperating institution which provides the educational

opportunity is in complete harmony with the movement. We feel certain that, like Northwestern University, other universities in the country will wish to be a part of this forward-looking International Service activity. Our student guests, to date, have come away from their studies at Northwestern with the feeling that they were really "alumni" of this great American institution of learning, and not merely "foreign" observers of the American educational scene. They have gained a real impression of American college and student life.

There are certain qualifications and responsibilities to be met by the Student Guest under the plan devised by the 213th District:

a) The student must be of the male sex, unmarried, and not over 25 years old. He must have an excellent reading and speaking knowledge of the English language.

b) He must meet eligibility requirements as a graduate student, having completed at least four years of undergraduate university work.

c) He must agree to live in one of the university dormitories, sharing a room with an American (U.S.A.) student.

d) His first semester at the university must include a course in public speaking.

e) He must visit 33 of the 66 clubs in this district and be prepared to tell the members of those clubs something about his country; if away on club visits for an extended period, he should be the guest, whenever possible, in the home of a Rotarian.

f) After returning to his own country, the student must visit the clubs in his home district and tell the Rotarians there about some of the things he has learned about the people in the United States.

We in the 213th District know of no district project that has brought so much satisfaction to so many Rotarians as has the International Student Program. We are convinced that this project is a practical application of the Fourth Object of Rotary. In commending it or a similar activity to other districts, we are further convinced that, as the idea gains momentum, it will develop limitless possibilities--along with the growing Rotary Fellowship Program--in the furtherance of Rotary's unceasing efforts to foster international understanding and good will among the peoples of all nations in the interest of enduring peace.