



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

March 3
Director Program
*Pat Frawley, CEO of
Community and Southern
Bank*

Upcoming Meetings:

March 10
Sherwood Jones, III

March 17
Kelly Jones
*Hamilton NICU / March of
Dimes - Jessica
Truelove, Dr. Liz
Kennedy & Dr. Vic
Thomas*

March 24
David Aft
Rotary Dinner Event

We are "this close" in the Eradication of Polio Worldwide

By: Kathryn Sellers



Dr. Steven Wassilak of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta enlightened Rotary about the successes in the fight against polio worldwide. Dr. Wassilak, who has worked on vaccines since 1980, and worked with the World Health Organization from 1996 to 2004, is now working toward polio eradication full time. He shared that the goal for Rotary volunteers and the World Health Organization (WHO) was set in 1988 to complete the eradication in 2000. We are close, but not quite there. There is only one disease that has been eliminated for people – small pox (1979). He thanked Rotary for providing millions of dollars and volunteers to this project along with WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Polio causes a devastating paralysis of the limbs and the diaphragm. Five to ten percent of children die with the disease but it is even more serious in adults as it is a common infection in the developing world. Polio is only one virus of many that causes paralysis so the patient has to be tested to diagnose polio. It is eliminated with routine immunization of every child and supplementary immunizations.

Polio was eliminated in the Americas in 1991, in the western Pacific in 1997 and in Europe in 1998, but it was still in circulation in 125 countries in 1988 with 350,000 cases. By 2000 the world was 99% free of polio. By 2006 it was in only four countries and, unfortunately, was shared and reestablished from India to Angola, Pakistan, and the Arab countries. By 2009 there were only about 900 cases and those were centered in fewer places.

In 2012 WHO declared a programmatic emergency and had a full strategy to attack with emergency operation centers in strategic places spending one billion dollars a year.

The last case of Type 2 polio was in 1999, the last Type 3 was in 2012 and almost all Type 1 cases were in Pakistan and Nigeria. In 2013 there was a set back as it was transmitted to Syria, Israel, the West Bank, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Guinea and Iraq from Pakistan – much of this stemming from Taliban war areas. Countries were encouraged to immunize travelers. Other countries have done this half way or with little effort. The unstable countries were challenges because of lack of access and danger and inefficiencies and resistance to organizers. But these programs have become more accountable and have made serious progress in immunizations. The new risks are the program's safety and security, getting Islamic support and containing the disease in small areas. The good result of the developed infrastructure for immunizations has helped in the fight of Ebola because they could track the disease better and avoid transmissions.

Club Officers:

David Aft

President

Jason Parker

President-Elect

Frank M. Hogshead

Secretary, Treasurer

Chuck Dobbins

Immediate Past President

Bruce Satterfield

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Community Service Chair

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Kevin Brunson

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Archana Srivastava

International Service

Chair

Foundation Chair

Now 80% of the world's population lives in polio free areas. It is hoped that the outbreaks will be stopped in 2015 and the world will be free of the disease by 2018.

Rotarians, congratulate yourselves for assisting in this very successful worldwide project!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Bethel, Charles (CHARLES)

Murfin, Paul (PAUL)

Birthday

3-Mar

5-Mar

Partner Birthdays

Wright, Joanne

Bowen, Ann

Pierce, Lamar

Member Name

Wright, Thomas L

Bowen, William C.
III

Pierce, Sara C.

Birthday

3-Mar

5-Mar

5-Mar

Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

Start Date

Years

Wedding Anniversaries

No anniversaries this period.

Partner's Name

Anniversary

Years

Four Way Test

