

# *Rotary Model United Nations Program*



*Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow - Today*

## **2013 ROTARY DISTRICT 5340 MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE**

The ninth annual Rotary District 5340 Model United Nations Conference will take place on the weekend of April 13 and 14, 2013, at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mission Valley. The Rotary Model United Nations is a reproduction of the United Nations General Assembly. A number of countries that have representation in the UN are each represented by a delegation of two students. These students are selected, sponsored, supported and advised by participating Rotary Clubs in District 5340. The advisor attends the Conference and may be a Rotarian, a teacher or other interested member of the community.

Prior to the Model UN Conference, two resolutions are distributed to the participants. The resolutions closely relate to currently pressing international issues before the real General Assembly of the United Nations. This year we will be addressing and debating the alarming transnational issue of human trafficking in persons, particularly women and children (which rates only next to arms and drug trafficking as the most prevalent international criminal activity today), and the increasing terrorist occupation and activities of Al-Qaeda affiliates in Northern Mali, Africa.

The students are given training in peaceful conflict resolution, diplomatic negotiating, and analytical thinking and speaking skills. As ambassadors of their particular country, students will research the political, economic and cultural aspects of their nation in order to develop that country's position on the resolutions. They will then weave those positions into sponsoring, supporting or opposing speeches directed to the resolutions.

During the two day Conference, the student delegates present their prepared and spontaneous speeches to the General Assembly. On Saturday afternoon, they also break into smaller caucus groups to forge alliances and propose, discuss and draft various amendments to the resolutions that will hopefully satisfy the positions of the various countries. On Saturday evening we will enjoy a banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley and be treated to a poignant keynote presentation by Dr. Hamid Al-Bayati, Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations, who will address "Iraq's Journey from Dictatorship to Democracy." We are also pleased to have Brad Barker, President and founder of the Halo Corporation, anti-terrorist experts, as our luncheon/keynote speaker on Saturday, who will give a poignant presentation about the gravity of human trafficking here in San Diego, the United States and the world.

On Sunday, the student ambassadors will present and debate each caucus group's amendments to the resolutions. After further collaborations and refinements of the various amendments, the students will then vote on the final amendments to the resolutions with the goal of reaching unanimity or majority consensus on a particular amendment to each resolution.

Please read the Message to Parents to learn about the immeasurable benefits the students will receive by participating in this tremendous experience. Rotary Model UN is not a competitive program; there are no winners or losers. We focus on inculcating into the students the Rotary spirit of "Service Above Self" and other essential tools to enable them to become effective negotiators, consensus builders and peace makers, skill sets they will use in whatever career they pursue, and hopefully they will become the next community leaders, diplomats or Rotarians of our world.

Our Conference is based on a program that the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Canada has been successfully sponsoring for over 50 years. Our District is the only Rotary District in the entire United States that operates a Model UN program. Our San Diego program presents different challenges and opportunities where we emphasize peaceful consensus building and diplomacy across a diverse spectrum of ethnic and socio-economic groups among our students. We are indebted to the Winnipeg Rotary Club for their encouragement and continued assistance with our program.