

## 6 Fabulous Lynn Scholars plus Dr. Wayne Burton, President of NSCC !



Our winning students, front row, left to right: Raphael Moreno, Breed Middle School; Branden Young, Ford School; Margarita Parissis, Pickering Middle School; Claudy Exama, Sacred Heart School; Edinson St. Claire, Marshall Middle School and Tahmina Najibullah, Marshall Middle School. Back row: Brendan Carr, Lynn Rotaract Club, Dr. Wayne Burton, Dr. Joanne Light both from NSCC, and Rotarians Patti Tarr and scholarship chair Michele Desmarais.

### Upcoming Programs:

**April 24**

Bill Cooksey  
Lynn Journal

**May 1**

Nicholas Kostan  
Superintendent of  
Schools

**Wed. May 7**

Special Games  
8:45 AM Lynn Tech Gym

**May 8**

Bob Olson  
Magician

EVERY ROTARIAN  
US \$100  
EVERY YEAR

### Our Room Was Packed

and the Porthole staff had to set up an additional table for the large crowd of families and guests!

Our featured speaker was Dr. Wayne Burton, president of North Shore Community



College who sponsored our 2008 Student Awards. Dr. Burton addressed our club and received warm applause for his comments and the college's support of our terrific student programs! Accompanying Dr. Burton was Dr. Joanne Light, also from NSCC.

Our final student presentations for 2008 will be May 15.

### President Mark

asked for a volunteer to ring the bell and Edinson was our volunteer emcee! Mark announced that the final total of our auction was \$19,200 !!

He urged that we sign up for the Special Games on Wednesday May 7. If you haven't yet,

contact chair Rich Cuffe!!

Mark has discovered why our raffle pot disappears so quickly! These new decks have 3 jokers in them!! Not any more they don't!! The \$20 pot this week was fought by Patti Tarr and Bob Dugas but the money is safe! **Whew!**



Our AG Wilson Lee, his dad and brother were guests this week - and Wilson announced that this was his last visit as AG as the AG assignments have been changed for 2008-2009. Thanks, Wilson!!



# Key Indian State Turns Tide Against Polio

By Dan Nixon  
Rotary International News

Executive members of Rotary's Ulema Committee for Polio Eradication meet in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, to analyze polio trends and plan strategy to end polio in the state. At center is RI Director Ashok Mahajan, committee chair. Photo courtesy of Ashok Mahajan

More than 5,000 people ran in Lucknow's 11-kilometer mini-marathon in February to promote public support for making Uttar Pradesh and India polio-free. Photo courtesy of UNICEF

Last year, Uttar Pradesh not only accounted for nearly 40 percent of India's 864 polio cases but more than a quarter of those worldwide.



If current trends continue, however, India's most populous state will no longer qualify as the "poliovirus capital of the world," as some health experts have called it.

Eighty percent of Uttar Pradesh's 339 polio cases occurred in the Muslim community in 2007. But a Rotary-led initiative helped drop that rate to 30

percent of 20 cases during the first three months of 2008.

Overseeing the state's effort to end polio is the Ulema Committee for Polio Eradication, established by Rotary International in July 2007. (Ulemas are leading Muslim legal experts in Islamic law.) Nearly 200 Muslim clerics and school representatives at the meeting received a booklet published by India's National Polio-Plus Committee, which linked polio immunization to the duties of parents as explained in the Quran. The booklet also listed the names and phone numbers of Ulema committee members who could be contacted to clear up any misconceptions about the polio vaccine.

Since that meeting, committee members have visited districts in Uttar Pradesh that reported large numbers of polio cases and convinced parents that the polio vaccine was safe and not contrary to Islam.

"The Ulemas have done a remarkable job in making the polio program acceptable to hitherto ignorant Muslim parents," said RI Director Ashok Mahajan, chair of the committee, at a meeting of the executive committee in January. "We want to spread the message of good health through the Ulemas, who are so much revered in the Muslim community."

"Misconceptions and rumors that were widespread in the community against polio have almost been removed, due to the efforts of the Ulema committee, and we will continue with our efforts until polio is eradicated," said committee member Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, president of the Ulema Council of India. "Our religion is not against immunization. Even the Saudi Arabian government has issued a directive that pilgrims visiting Mecca and Medina along with their children should carry polio vaccination certificates."

In February, The Rotary Foundation awarded \$5.65 million to the World Health Organization and UNICEF for social mo-

bilization activities and operational support focused on more than 4,300 high-risk communities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Foundation disbursed the funds from the \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication it had received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Rotary's Ulema committee is a very positive development," said Ananth Mishra, health minister for Uttar Pradesh. "Eradication of polio is possible due to the pioneering efforts of organizations like Rotary, and more NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] should pitch in to mobilize the masses to achieve such health goals."

## RYLA Clean Up Party !

Yes, it is nearly upon us! We need  
VOLUNTEERS for this fun event!

### WHEN?

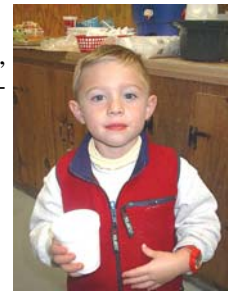
**SATURDAY MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 10 A.M.  
at Camp Rotary !!**

What is the clean up party? A bunch of volunteers who love camp and love the many RYLA youth programs get together to do a little raking and sweeping and then have a great cookout, usually outdoors in front of the dining hall!!



Please join us that morning, bring the kids, bring a rake or two and plan to have a wonderful time at Camp Rotary !!

**SEE YOU THERE !!**



## GREETERS' SCHEDULE

April 24 - Cindy Steger-Wilson & Virginia Doocy

May 1 - Patty Tarr & Adam Sherman

May 8 - Art Horgan & Dave Richardson

**Please remember, Greeters have to BREAK DOWN also !!**