



MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS

May 7, 2002

Office: 28 W. 44th St., Ste. 1508, NY, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 819-0809 Fax: (212) 819-0763

Web Site: www.NewYorkCityRotary.org

E-Mail: ny.rotary@verizon.net

Luncheons: Tuesdays, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

The Princeton Club – 15 W. 43rd Street



DICK MORRIS

VOTE.COM SM

Probably the most prominent American political consultant, Dick Morris is almost universally credited with piloting Bill Clinton to a stunning comeback re-election victory in 1996 after the President lost Congress to the Republicans two years before. Called "the most influential private citizen in America" by Time magazine, Morris helped steer Clinton to the center and away from the liberal policies he had pursued in his first two years in office. Morris is also credited with advising Clinton to sign the welfare reform bill of 1996 and getting him to back a balanced budget, both key centrist positions.

Morris began his relationship with Clinton in 1977, when he handled the Arkansas Attorney General's successful campaign to become the youngest Governor in the nation. Morris did not work on Clinton's re-election defeat in 1980 but did oversee his comeback victory in 1982 as well as his Arkansas re-election victories in 1984, 86, and 1990.

Morris has handled the winning campaigns of more than 30 Senators or Governors including Republican Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and former Governors Bill Weld of Massachusetts and Pete Wilson of California.

In recent years, Morris has turned to foreign campaigns and served as chief strategist for Mexico's reformer Vicente Fox in his upset victory in July 2000 over the PRI after the party had ruled the nation for 71 years. He also was the chief strategist for the winning campaign of Argentina's President Fernando de la Rúa in November 1999. He worked for Jorge Battle in his victory for President of Uruguay that same year.

In November 1999, Morris founded a Web site in the U.S. called Vote.com where people may log on to vote on the major issues of the day. Their opinions are then e-mailed to their Senator and Congressman and to other significant decision makers. In the 11 months of the site's operation, over 1 million voters have registered their e-mails and zip codes with Vote.com and have cast a total of more than 15 million votes. Vote.com is now rated by Media Metrics and PC Data as one of the most trafficked web sites in the world.

Morris has written four books. His 1997 best-selling memoir of the Clinton Administration was entitled "Behind the Oval Office, Winning the Presidency in the Nineties". In 1999, he wrote a guide to modern politics called "The New Prince": Machiavelli Updated for the 21st Century". In 2000, he wrote Vote.com a guide to the Internet-based politics of the future. His first book, Bum Rap on American Cities - The Real Causes of Urban Decay was published in 1977.

His new book, "Power Plays", came out last month. It sketches the careers of 20 of history's leading figures and the strategies they used to gain political power. It compares the successful and unsuccessful strategies of men like Churchill, Clinton, Reagan, Lincoln, de Gaulle, Truman, FDR, Tony Blair and many others.

As part of his work with Vote.com, Morris, along with his wife/lawyer, Eileen McGann, founded Legalvote.com, an online jury focus group service. They have conducted online focus groups in over 100 cases and their clients include two of the top insurance companies in the U.S. as well as many of the major plaintiff lawyers in the nation.

MEMBERS' COLUMN

A Memorable Rotary Experience

Last week, I traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to represent our club members, our foundation, and all the victims of 9/11 in New York City. I was invited by Larry Lunsford, the charismatic and well respected District Governor of # 6040, to be the Banquet Speaker. Larry flew into New York City last December, with Bill Schuck who is District Governor of # 6060 to present a generous donation to our Disaster Relief Fund.) Jerry Franklin, District Governor of # 6080 included checks from the clubs in his district even though he couldn't make the trip. This money was collected as a result of a massive fund raising by the three districts. It was my pleasure to say "Thank You" to these wonderful Rotarians.

Kansas City is a charming place to visit and the people are gracious and welcoming. I had the opportunity to breakfast at the Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club where I sat next to Doug Sotart who used to be with the New York Rangers. The Hospitality Suite Rooms that were set up afforded me a chance to meet the Group Study Exchange Team from Victoria, Australia, as well as eight youth exchange students from various countries.

The Governor's Banquet was most impressive, especially the opening ceremony when a group of people were chosen to walk in, individually, carrying the flag of the country they represented. I was given the honor of marching in with the American flag--what a thrill!!!

My speech recounted the events of 9/11 in New York City and our reactions to it. I also shared with the audience exactly how we were dispersing the monies from our Disaster Relief Fund. I was rewarded with a standing ovation and the knowledge that I had allayed their anxieties about the distribution of the fund to the appropriate recipients. It was a pleasure to present Larry, Bill, and Jerry with our "Thank You" plaques.

My experience in Kansas City, where I was given such a warm welcome, reminded me, once more, why I had become a Rotarian.

President Helen

International Service Division Breakfast at the UN

Twenty-five of us had a spirited discussion with the UN Social Integration Chief and Non-Governmental Committee on Aging rep. on a world society for all ages, report on the UN Second World Assembly in Madrid. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 22, at 8:30 on the world food crisis.

Rotary at the UN

Eighty VIP Rotarians attended the all-day lunch at the UN of the new Foundation Peace and Conflict Resolution Scholarship Program for 70 students at eight world-class universities in six countries....On May 7 to 10, Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation will participate and be honored at the special session of the UN General Assembly on "A World Fit for Children." *Rotarian Sylvan Barnet*

The New York Rotary Foundation has approved the following 9/11 grants:

Safe Horizon	\$150,000
Seedco	\$100,000
YMCA	\$40,000
Fraternite Notre Dame	\$7,808

REPORTER OF THE WEEK

April 30, 2002

This week's Rotary Club meeting began with the national anthem, sung by Scarlett Pildes. A visiting Rotarian from Brazil then gave the invocation. Bill Currie gave a brief overview of Rotary's involvement with the Gift of Life program. Unfortunately, Tatiana, who is from Russia, came late to this luncheon, since she got stuck in traffic. She arrived in the United States to undergo corrective spinal cord surgery. According to Bill she is doing well and recovering nicely.

The visiting Rotarians were introduced and greeted by President Helen Reisler. In attendance were guests from the Group Study Exchange Team from District 4490 in Brazil.

President Helen then reviewed her trip to Kansas City. She was warmly received by the club and relayed her gratitude to the members for their generous donation to our 9/11 fund. She recalled how proud she was to be able to describe the efforts of New York Rotarians in helping the victims of September 11th. The Kansas City club showed their continuing support by making an additional donation to the 9/11 fund. The President of the Barberton Rotary Club in Ohio (District 6630), Don Stryffeler also made a presentation and donation to President Helen. The donation will go to the 9/11 fund.

The members of the Brazilian Group Study Exchange Team then presented President Helen with a Rotary flag for District 4490 of Brazil. Club Secretary Greg Lynch presented each visitor with an inscribed plaque and Rotary ties.

The guest speaker was District Attorney Jeanine Ferris Pirro, who gave a compelling speech about her efforts as the chief law enforcement officer of Westchester County. She began her speech by detailing how law enforcement has changed since 9/11. She covered topics including the use of Compustat to track criminal activity and her efforts to stop identity theft, which has become a new priority given the use of false IDs by terrorists.

She closed her speech by outlining her efforts to combat pedophilia, particularly among users of the Internet. She has spent a great deal of time fighting this pernicious crime and continues to seek new methods and new laws to aid in her efforts.

-Rotarian Henry Kang

Read the May Rotarian

- Rotary in the Middle East
- Afghan Relief by RI
- Rotary World Peace Scholarships
- RI Presidential Peace Forums
- PolioPlus in India and Nigeria
- Blane Grants for US Immunization
- Rotary against Malaria
- RI Clean Water Sudanese Project

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

The Board of Directors has approved the following applicant. Any written objections must be received at the Club office by May 7, 2002.

Jones Kyazze

Company: UNESCO
Suggested Classification: International Civil Service
Sponsors: Sylvan Barnet & Rosemary Clemens