



Past RI Vice President William T. Sergeant

William T. Sergeant honored for PolioPlus

September was a busy month for longtime RHHIF member William T. Sergeant, who retired as RI’s PolioPlus Chair last 30 June completing 12 years of tireless work on our global campaign to eradicate polio. September 4 he was at the United Nations headquarters in New York City where UNICEF honored him with a commemorative plaque for his “longstanding commitment in helping to create a polio-free world.” On September 14 he was at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters in Atlanta to receive the “Fries Prize for Improving Health.”

“Bill has served as the most influential individual to impact the polio eradication initiative by directing Rotary’s activities, advocating with partner organizations and governments, raising funds, creating innovative solutions, and inspiring his colleagues worldwide,” said Robert Keegan, CDC’s deputy director for global immunization; adding “As an octogenarian [Sergeant is 86-years-old] Bill has set a new standard for productivity in retirement.”

Now that the job of eradicating polio is almost done, the greatest danger is not from the virus itself but from people who might get discouraged or distracted, Bill told the RI News Bureau. “We must keep in mind how successful we have been, and there is no reason whatsoever why we cannot finish the work,” Sergeant said.

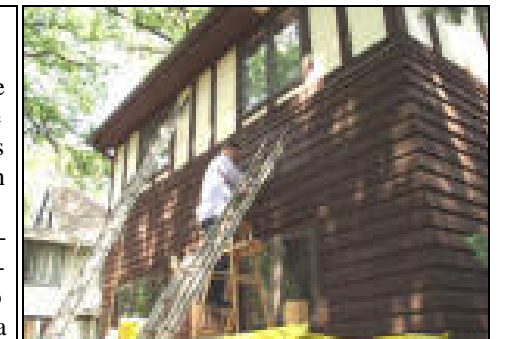
As a member of the Rotary Heritage and History International Fellowship, Bill advised and mentored fellowship leaders during our long campaign to save *Comely Bank*. We will seek his wise counsel as we try to save Smithsonian’s polio exhibit.

Let’s preserve Rotary’s polio eradication story

Add YOUR name to this list: Dave Groner, Jack Mayo, Dave Heagerty, Ann Lee Hussey, and many other Rotarians are supporting Ray Taylor’s suggestion that the presence of the Smithsonian exhibit and an interactive library coupled with FDR’s “Little White House” and other memorabilia would make Warm Springs Georgia an ideal place to begin to build a permanent memorial to global eradication of polio.

Polio Survivors & Associates (PSA) and the Rotary Heritage and History International Fellowship (RHHIF) believe we have the support of the RI Board of Directors, Rotary Foundation Trustees, Post-Polio Health International, and we hope to add the Roosevelt Institute for Rehabilitation, the National Park Service, the Georgia state university’s medical school, Georgia’s State Tourism Department, as well as civic leaders in the city of Warm Springs, Georgia.

Use the fellowship dues memorandum mailed with this newsletter to signal your support of this effort to preserve the story of Rotary’s efforts to eradicate polio.



Maintaining the home of Paul Harris

Restoration work continues at *Comely Bank*, the former home of Paul and Jean Harris. After years of effort this fellowship’s *Comely Bank* committee established by Don Knapp, chaired by Jim Alden, bought the home.

Comely Bank is now owned and maintained by the Paul and Jean Harris Foundation under the leadership of Robb Knuepfer, Past President of the original Rotary Club in Chicago.

We hope that when you are in the Chicago area you will have time to visit the Paul Harris Memorial at Mount Hope Cemetery. To visit *Comely Bank*, please call Fred Otto (847-698-1160) shown at the top of the ladder in the photo above. During renovation Fred carries the keys to the house. For additional info, go to:

www.paulharrishome.com



Known today as **Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation**, George Hall (shown above) was established by FDR as a polio treatment center. PDG Ray Taylor suggests RHHIF and PSA join forces to encourage the establishment of an interactive library of polio information covering all facets of the subject including the stories of Rotarians like RHHIF Chair Dave Groner who has led more than a dozen National Immunization Day (NID) teams.