



**District Governor  
Peter Wells**

# Governor's Newsletter

## District 7490

**Bergen, Hudson & Passaic Counties**

**New Jersey, USA**

**March, 2016**



### Governor's Message for March.

Dear Rotarians,

Just last week I made my last District Governor's Club Visit; it was a fitting end to a long run. My last club visit was to the Passaic Rotary Club. They started the year with only four members, our smallest club that was in desperate need of some more members. Well, they have since increased to 10! - a 250% increase - which unless another club hits this mark, they will become the recipient of this year's District Membership Cup; bragging rights included.

*(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)*



**District Governor Peter Wells addressing the Clifton Rotary Club during his official visit to that club.**

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### **Reminder of District Conference.**

**Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1  
at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court  
in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.**

## Governor's Message for March.

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**District Governor Peter Wells with members of the Clifton Rotary Club.**

The Passaic Club credits a meet and greet membership drive as the catalyst for their growth. I note the comradery of even the four, and now the 10 are enjoyable, serving and successful. They have accomplished much and wish to share. Club President Mario Gonzalez would love for you to visit their club. They meet at 12:15 on Tuesdays at Mario's Restaurant in Clifton. They are even open to cosponsoring a project or hosting a fund raiser with a neighboring club. Clifton, Rutherford, Garfield and the Meadowlands, this is a shout out to you!

In my DG visits I have discovered the Number-One strength in a Rotary club is the fellowship each member enjoys with each other. And for the clubs that have reached out to neighboring clubs or individual Rotarians that make visiting other clubs a regular, the fellowship is multiplied. Have you made friends with others in our District? Why not? It's easy with great reward, maybe even something that will help your business. Our District Directory includes Club information; the date, time and meeting place for each Club in the District.

In my DG visits I have also discovered much success and reasons to be proud. As we approach the victory lap of the Rotary year, may I remind each club president again of the Presidential Citation, almost every club is eligible, and if your club is, you as the club president owe this RI recognition to your hard working members. If you need help completing the online application please call PDG Bonnie Sirower.

A few dates for each to note include a Golf Outing and Spa Day hosted by our very own Walter D. Head Rotary Foundation on May 10, 2016. Next, the President's Ball on May 18, 2016. Visit our web site for details. And, it's the LAST CALL for the Conference, look for bulletin announcements or quick call District Conference Travel Coordinator Judy Messineo, or District conference Chair PDG Dominic Jengo, if you want to attend the April 28 to May 1 District Conference to Baltimore.

I hope you know, what I have again learned this year from my DG visits, you get back tenfold for everything you do for Rotary. I encourage you to fully participate.

Enjoy Rotary! Be a Gift to the World,

DG Peter Wells



### Newsletter Editor

Stephen Stamos is the editor of *The Governor's Newsletter*. He can be reached at 201-823-0247 or at [sstamos@optonline.net](mailto:sstamos@optonline.net).

## Minutes of the March 7 District Staff Meeting.

*By Pat LaRocco, Fair Lawn Rotary Club*

The flag salute was led by John Mitchell, the song by Ron Fraioli, and an invocation was offered by Aleta Frezzell. PDGs in attendance were Bill Rupp, Joe Dino, Gloria Counsellor, Joe Lauren, Dominic Jengo, Raj Bhatia, Emil Geering, Bonnie Sirower, and Len Agrusti. Also in attendance was DGND Nikki Mederos, DGN Jim Boyer, DGE Stephen Jarahian and DG Peter Wells.

COS Pat Gallagher opened the meeting with important reminders, AG REPORTS ARE NEEDED ASAP! The deadline for the Arthur Fenniman Service Above Self Award is March 17, 2016. The deadline for the Florie Scialla Service Award is March 30, 2016. The deadline for the Presidential Citation Application is April 1, 2016.

Zone 32 Membership Assistant Coordinator, PDG Bonnie Sirower, offered a report on RI resources for membership growth. Go to RI.org and My Rotary for iPhone apps, webinars and downloads.

DGE Stephen Jarahian reminded all Presidents-Elect to attend the Multi District PETS at the Hanover Marriott at 1401 Route 10 in Whippany March 18-19, 2016.

DGE Stephen Jarahian presented a WDH Plaque to David Catheart, Director of the VETS Center in Secaucus in honor of his service and works for VETS with physical and psychological wounds. DGE Stephen challenged all district clubs and Rotarians to please consider making someone special the recipient of a Walter D. Head Award.

WDH Chair PDG Emil Geering noted that a WDH Plaque cost \$300, and is typically given to outgoing Club Presidents at the President's Ball. This year's President's Ball will be at the Westmount Country Club from 6:30 to 10:30 on May 18, 2016.

WDH Chair PDG Emil Geering also announced the WDH Golf Outing at the Ballyowen Golf Course on May 10, 2016. And, Emil noted that for non-golfers, a Luxury Spa Day is offered. And for those wishing only to enjoy the dinner, a 50/50 and tricky tray event will be for all.

DGN Jim Boyer and DG Peter Wells reminded all of the deadlines for the Arthur Fenniman Service Above Self Award, March 17, 2016 and the Florie Scialla Service Award, March 30, 2016. Both awards will be presented at the District Conference.

PDG Dominic Jengo presented Conference plans and sign-up deadlines. Go to our District web site, the District Bulletin or the recently published Newsletter for the Conference Flyer and Bus Trip sign-up.

PDG Bill Rupp announced the deadline for Resolutions is no later than March 17, 2016. Three Resolutions have been submitted to date.

Fair Lawn Member SAG Lois Horowitz reported on her efforts to date to collect club donations for the Kenya Scholarship to be awarded by the Maywood Club. The \$2,400 scholarship will allow a young Kenya girl to go to High School for 4 years.

Paterson Great Falls Member GOL Member SAG Jack DeStefano presented a slide show of the committee's recent trip to Vietnam. Sixteen Cath Lab procedures and eight surgeries were successfully completed. The trip was a great success.

DG Peter Wells presented RI Foundation Major Donor Recognition to Dominic and Nancy Jengo.

DG Peter also presented the Service Above Self Award to Raj Bhatia. And PDG Raj then presented a Louisiana Proclamation from Former Governor Bobby Jindal to PRID Ray Wells.

DG Peter Wells' Governor's Message:

Typically our Rotary Clubs use the months of July and August as a soft start to organizing the Rotary year, then September and October for maybe a membership drive, new member orientation, training, and a focus on committees to prepare the logistics for fall Socials, winter Fund Raising and spring Service Projects.

If this be true every club should be in full swing and busy with a Fund Raiser or a Service Project. DG Peter encouraged each AG to visit their assigned clubs and confirm that Rotary business is at hand. He asked that each send COS Pat Gallagher a report for every club.

DG Peter was happy to announce that plans for an eClub hosted by the Bergen Community College is progressing. DGN Jim Boyer is working with RI, potential members and BCC members to make this happen as soon as possible.

Another new club might be a satellite club sponsored by the Teaneck Club, as an ElderAct Club at the 5 Star Premier Residence in Teaneck. AG Kathy Frost is working with Teaneck Club President Tamarha Ellerbe and Extension Chair PDG Joe Dino to start this club before the end of this Rotary year.

DGN (District Governor Nominee) Stephen Jarahian is busy putting together next year's staff and the necessary training. Presidents-elects recently attended Pre-PETS, next they need to attend the Multi District PETS on March 18 and 19, 2016, and then finally the District Assembly on May 21, 2016.

As we approach the end of the Rotary year, DG Peter spoke of the importance of Club Recognition and Rotarian Awards.

DG Peter noted the deadline for the Arthur Fenniman Service Above Self Award is March 17, 2016. The deadline for the Florie Scialla Service Award is March 30, 2016. And, the deadline for the Presidential Citation Application is April 1, 2016.

DG Peter finished his remarks with a personal invite to each Rotarian to attend the District Conference in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. Go to our District web site, the District Bulletin or the recently published Newsletter for the Conference Flyer and Bus Trip sign-up.

The next Staff Meeting will be on April 4, 2016 at the Biagio's Ristorante in Paramus.



### **Contributions from More than 32 Rotary Clubs Will Provide 2 Girls in Kenya a Full High School Education.**

Contributions from more than 33 Rotary clubs in District 7490 will enable two girls in Kenya to receive a full high school education, which they would not otherwise have received, with the largest contribution - \$2,400 - coming from the Pompton Lakes Rotary Club. The UN/Rotary Education Career Program is now in the process of raising \$2,800 to finance their college educations as well.

The South Bergen Rotary Club donated \$600 to the project while the Wayne PM and Ringwood/Wanaque clubs each gave \$150.00. More than 20 other clubs in the District each donated \$100.



Members of the Pompton Lakes Rotary Club presenting a check for \$2,400 to Lois Horowitz (third from left) for the UN/Rotary Education Career Program for a girl in Kenya. The club voted to sponsor the full high school education of a girl in Kenya after hearing Lois speak on the subject. This donation, in addition to contributions from 32 other Rotary clubs, will allow two girls to receive a full high school education.

In her talks with Rotary clubs throughout the District, Lois points out that in planning the education of their children, many families in Kenya focus on the education of their sons, with girls being considered as secondary.



At Rotary Day at the United Nations on Nov. 7, from left-to-right are Janet Lucas, a Rotarian from Canada, Assemblyman Timothy J. Eustace of the Maywood Rotary Club; and Lois Horowitz of the Fair Lawn Rotary Club. Janet, who heard Tim speak on the lack of educational opportunities for girls in Kenya last fall, is helping with the UN/Rotary Education/Career Program.



At Rotary Day at the United Nations on Nov. 7, Lois Horowitz of the Fair Lawn Rotary Club is flanked on her left by Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran and on her right by Frank Devlyn, who served as RI's 90th President in 2000 - 2001.



Members of the Ringwood /Wanaque Rotary marched in the town wide fair with their new Rotary banner including the two new members. The club is exploring a new program that will involve families in Appalachia needing medical needs. Ringwood /Wanaque was the first club to donate \$150.00 to the districtwide fund raiser to give a girl a high school education in Kenya plus a college education to have a career as a grown woman in the future.

## Paramus Rotary Hears from Cancer Survivor and Awards Paul Harris to Paul Lindner.

### *Bill Frasco Tells of Cancer Ordeal and Recovery.*

Billy Frasco spoke to us about his journey battling bone cancer and Leukemia. Hospitalized 2 years ago due to a sharp pain in his hip area he was diagnosed as having bone cancer. And, after blood tests Leukemia was additionally discovered. Billy spent 65 days at the Hackensack Hospital's Children's Cancer Institute. Billy spoke about how cancer affected him both physical and physiologically, with the mental anguish effecting him far worse than the physical effect (which was itself horrific). In addition to the usual treatment of chemotherapy Billy's condition required a bone marrow transplant – which is a procedure to replace damaged or destroyed bone marrow with healthy bone marrow stem cells.

How well the donor's and recipient's HLA tissue types match plays a large part in whether the transplant will work. Fortunately Billy's brother Frank was a match and a willing donor.

What Billy learned from his experience is to THINK POSITIVE. And to that end, he is an active supporter in the effort to find a cure for cancer... And the way he has chosen to do that is to speak to young people, to audiences like the members of Rotary, and other community organizations, and be active in events like the Relay For Life Paramus which holds an annual walk at Paramus High School, where last year cancer survivors, caregivers, and other supporters raised over \$150,000 for the American Cancer Society.

From all of us at the Paramus Rotary Club family – it was great to have Billy as our guest speaker. We are so very proud of you, and so very happy for your recovery.



**Billy Frasco seen here next to Paramus Rotarian and Paramus Children's Health Foundation Chair, Marty Diamond.**



**Brother Frank and Billy, seated together, and the Frasco Family: Dad, Frank, Billy Mom and Mom.**

### *Paul Lindner Awarded Paul Harris Fellowship.*

A Rotary Club member from Paramus was recently named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Peter M. Lindner was presented with a certificate signed by the Rotary International President and the Chairman of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, as well as a lapel pin and medallion.

Lindner was recognized as exhibiting the club motto of "service above self" as evidenced by his active involvement in many club projects and initiatives.

He has been involved in the Paramus Rotary Club for two years and owns a maintenance cleaning company in the Paramus area.

"We have a young active member here that has really been a role model for what you can do when you join the Rotary," Public Relations Chair Fred Rohdieck told Daily Voice.



**Paramus Rotary Club President (1987-1988) Daniel J. Holdefehr presenting the Paul Harris Fellow pin to fairly new Paramus Rotary Club member Peter M. Lindner.**



### Bayonne Rotary Club Teams Up with Students for Clean Water.

Clean water is a basic need for human beings. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives. However, at least 3,000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Rotary Club of Bayonne has entered into a partnership with the Bayonne Public Schools to raise money to build water wells in countries where the need for clean, safe water is most needed. Dr. Patricia McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools addresses every school yearly, stressing the need for clean water. She asks students to imagine what it would feel like to wake up one morning and find that there is no running water to take a shower and brush your teeth. The Student Council in each school, under the direction of the building principal and Student Council Advisor, raise funds through penny wars, bucket wars, t-shirt day, jeans day, etc. The school system has raised over \$54,000 over the past 10 years. This year they raised an all-time high of \$7,461.40.

Rotarian Rev. Dorothy Patterson has been involved in a water well project in Guyana for the past seven years. She goes there several times a year to assess the needs. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Rotary Club hosted a Water Well Recognition Breakfast for each Student Council President and the Student Council Advisors.



Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Bayonne Superintendent of Schools, on March 22 at the Bayonne Rotary Club's Water Well Recognition Breakfast with Danielle Raslowsky, Student Council Coordinator of the Bayonne Public Schools; a student council member; and Chester R. Banks, the Club President.

At this breakfast, Rev. Patterson informed everyone that the people in Guyana use pond water for drinking, bathing, washing clothes. She stated "people come from 20-30 miles away from the well for clean water." There are plans to run a system 250 feet off both sides of the current well so people do not have to walk so far. Rev. Patterson thanked each and every one for their time and resources to make this happen.

President Chester Banks thanked Superintendent McGeehan, Principals, Student Council Coordinator Danielle Raslowsky and all students and advisors for their hard work in helping others.



People working on a water well in Guyana. In the photograph below, the Rev. Dorothy Patterson (in the black and purple outfit, can be seen testing the water.



### **Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club Distributes Dictionaries to Third Graders.**

Each year, the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club distributes free dictionaries to third grade students throughout its service area, and recently completed the program for this school year.

The BH/R Rotary Club started this program 10 years ago, and has since distributed dictionaries annually to third grade students in the elementary schools in Mahwah, Ramsey, Upper Saddle River and Allendale, distributing about 700 dictionaries annually. This year they will visit third grade classes in seven local elementary schools.

The idea for this project started in Savannah, Georgia in 1992. A non-profit organization was formed in South Carolina to manage the project, and, in 2002, the Dictionary Project expanded its mission to include students in the 50 United States.

Last year alone they distributed over 1.2 million dictionaries. The program is typically implemented in the third grade each year, since this is the age at which dictionary skills are usually taught. Educators describe third grade as the time when a student transitions from learning-to-read to reading-to-learn.

Literacy is one of six areas of service that are very important to Rotary International, and many clubs around the country have adopted this program. Since adopting this program, the BH/R Rotary club has distributed over 7,000 dictionaries, paid for by the Club through its fundraising efforts.

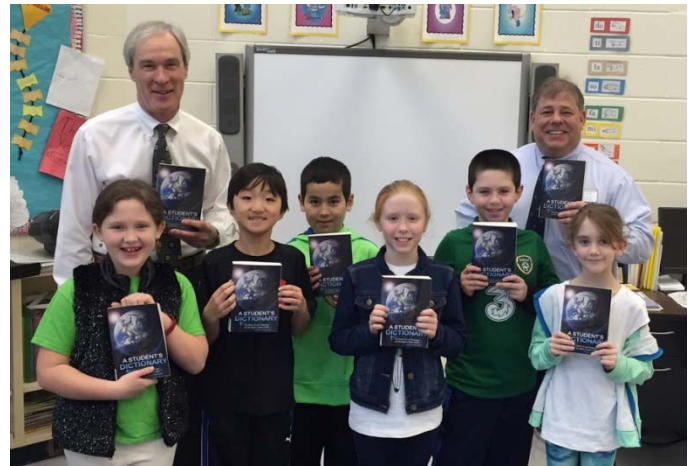
Want to make a difference in people's lives?

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club is an energetic and enthusiastic group of citizens working hands-on to improve our local communities and the world. Interested parties are invited to join the Club at one of its weekly luncheon meetings, held on Mondays at 12:15pm at Houlihan's in Ramsey.

For more about Club activities and membership, please call Bob Baron, Membership Chair, at 201-934-1222, email him at [bob@baronpoolservice.com](mailto:bob@baronpoolservice.com) or visit the Club's website at [www.bergenhighlandsrotary.org](http://www.bergenhighlandsrotary.org).

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club has been supporting educational and charitable needs in Allendale, Mahwah, Ramsey, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River since 1952. The Club provides college scholarships for local students and funding for local causes such as the Center for Food Action, Table to Table, the DACCKS Group, the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, MEVO, and Habitat for Humanity.

The Club recently established a working partnership with Ramapo College, following the earthquake in Nepal, to fund assistance for Ramapo students impacted by disasters. As part of Rotary International, the Club also raises funds to support educational, medical and sanitary facilities in Nicaragua and Haiti, as well as cornea transplant and dialysis facilities in India.



**Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotarians Jim Jaworski (l) and Tim Shaffer (r) were delighted to distribute free dictionaries to third grade students at Hubbard School recently. The Club will visit other local grade schools in the coming weeks to distribute more of these great learning tools.**

### **Englewood Rotary Honors Three at Dinner.**



**Rotary Club of Englewood held its annual Community Awards Beefsteak Dinner at First Presbyterian Church on St. Patrick's Day. Club President Eileen O'Driscoll with honorees left to right: Robert Rey, President and CEO of NVE Bank; Joyce Dudley Hamilton, President, Dudley Hamilton Associates; Inc. and Jewel Spiegel, Owner of Jewel Spiegel Gallery.**



### **Lucy Aranda of the Rotary Club of the Palisades, to Serve in Peace Corps.**

Lucy Aranda (Leonia High School graduate 2011) will be serving in the Peace Corp as a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Volunteer in the Western Highlands region of Guatemala. Lucy will be departing March 29, 2016. For the next 27 months she will work with community organizations to help address their needs with a special focus on Maternal and Child Health.

The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health project is to support national efforts to ensure that mothers and children of rural Guatemala live healthy lives.

Lucy attended The University of South Carolina Columbia Arnold School Of Public Health where she graduated in May 2015. An avid traveler, she has travelled the world volunteering in Southeast Asia, Africa and Central America.

She is currently an EMT at the Fort Lee Ambulance Corp and is an active member of the Rotary Club of the Palisades. Upon her return from The Peace Corp, Lucy plans on attending graduate school with the goal of working in public policy in the public health field.

The Peace Corps sends the best and brightest Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to address the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work with their community members at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions to challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development.



**Lucy Aranda at her graduation in May, 2015 from the University of South Carolina.**

### **Rotary Club of The Palisades Supports 'Books for All' at Leonia's ACS Elementary School.**

The Rotary Club of The Palisades presented a check for \$500 to Jill Miller and Lisa Badalamenti-Compel, two Anna C Scott Elementary School teachers, in support of ACS's "Books For All" program at the Rotary Club meeting on April 1.

Jill Miller and Lisa Badalamenti-Compel have been actively engaged in working with the ACS Student Council in driving the "Books For All" program (also known as the "Snackpack for the Mind"). Under their direction, the grades 3-5 student council representatives have launched this effort and a letter writing campaign to generate new book donations for distribution. The students have already received responses from well-known author J.K. Rowling and Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie and enthusiastic support from the community.

Sadly, not all Leonia elementary school children or their families can always afford new books. Numerous research studies have found a direct correlation between children who regularly read and academic/professional success later in life. The "Books For All" campaign is designed to help narrow the gap between the haves and have-nots by putting new books in the hands of some students who might not otherwise receive them. Nearly 11% of Leonians are living on incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Level. While a new book in the hands of an elementary student might not be the first thing which comes to mind when we think about how many families are struggling economically, it is without a doubt one of the most impactful gifts a child can get.

The books are being distributed along with the Weekend SnackPacks of healthy food that each Friday are discretely put in the backpacks of ACS children who receive free or reduced priced school meals during the week and are registered in the Rotary's SnackPack program by their parents. The recipients are totally anonymous. However, the teachers report that "one particular student hugged her snack pack and inquired about when she would receive her next book".

The Rotary Club of The Palisades applauds the ACS students and Jill Miller and Lisa Compel, ACS Student Council Moderators and Literacy Library Educators, for their initiative in spearheading the "Books For All" program.



**Rotarian Bill Ziegler presents a \$500 check to ACS teachers Lisa Compel and Jill Miller.**



## Jersey City Rotary Club Members Participate in Two Service Projects On the Same Day.

Members of the Jersey City Rotary club participated in two service projects on March 19.

In the first project, members of the club assisted in a neighborhood association's trade show-style fair in which representatives of colleges and trade schools met with young people in the hope of offering them educational and career opportunities. The fair was staged by the I Love Greenville Community Partnership, a neighborhood association administered by the Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corp., which provides affordable housing and food supplies for those in need.

In the second, members participated in the GSECDC's monthly distribution of food to those in need, a distribution which takes place on the third Saturday of every month, with the food supplies having been organized for distribution the previous Friday.



Representatives of colleges, trade schools and employers meeting with young people on March 19 at the first annual *I Love Greenville College and Career Enrichment Fair* at the Mary McLeod Bethune Community Life Center in Jersey City.



Members of the Jersey City Rotary Club and students of New Jersey City University at the Church of the Incarnation in Jersey City as they prepared food packages for those in need on March 19. Among the Rotarians are Cynthia Vazquez, to the extreme left and Anthony Chinni, fifth from the left. The program is held on the third Friday and Saturday of every month by the Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corp.

## PDG Raj Bhatia Named as Regional Promotional Coordinator for 2017 RI Convention in Atlanta.

Past District Governor Suraj P. Bhatia was named this month as one of six Regional Promotional Coordinators of Zone 32 for next year's Rotary International convention in Atlanta.

Zone 32 is made up of 1,041 Rotary clubs with 33,800 members in Bermuda, Canada and six states in the northeastern United States. As a Regional Promotional Coordinator, Raj will be responsible for encouraging Rotarians to participate in the conference. He is expected to work with clubs in all five Rotary districts in New Jersey.

He will be responsible for working with members of RI's Board of Directors, Zone, and Regional officers and with officers of the more than 1,000 clubs in the Zone in promoting attendance at the convention.

Raj, a member of the Northern Valley Rotary Club, served as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Governor of District 7490 in 2009 – 2010. He is now serving as the Chairman of Rotary District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee and is an Associate Representative of Rotary International to the United Nations.

In the private sector, Raj has served as the President of Technology Services Consultants International, Inc., for more than 25 years, having begun in 1994. TSCI provides consulting and software development services in both the public and private sectors.

Before that, he served for 25 years as the Manager for External Relations in IBM's Latin America division.



Past District Governor Suraj P. Bhatia, one of six Zone 32 Regional Promotional Coordinators for next year's Rotary International convention, shown here on May 12, 2014 with Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran (then RI's President-nominee) at a dinner in New York in a bid to raise \$1-million to support service programs funded by the Rotary Foundation.

### **The Rotary Foundation: An Update.**

*By Raj Bhatia, Foundation Committee, Chair*

As we approach the final quarter of this Rotary year, I would like to remind my fellow Rotarians that this year was the 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Rotary and next year we will be celebrating 100 years of the start of the Endowment Fund established by then RI President Arch Klumph, for the purpose of doing good in the world.

From the first donation of \$26.50 to the new fund we have grown to over one billion dollars in total assets. It is all because of the efforts of the Rotarians like you, throughout the world, who have worked with the Rotary Foundation for over a century.

Your contributions to the Annual Fund has made it possible for twelve clubs to receive the District Grant e.g. the Fair Lawn Rotary Club provided Helmets to children, the Jersey City and Northern Valley Rotary Club provided warm jackets to the needy in our communities and the West Milford club established electronic message boards. Similarly through the seven Global Grants we have supported include Heart Surgeries for children in Ukraine and Water Projects in Myanmar after the floods destruction.

In addition to your contributions to the Annual Fund, many Rotarians have supported the Endowment Fund by joining the Paul Harris Society, The Bequest Society and or becoming Major Donors.

In the spirit of giving, as we approach the last three months of this Rotary year, on behalf of Governor Peter Wells and me, I would encourage you to join your fellow Rotarians in contributing to the Annual Fund, recognize your fellow club members for the extra effort they have shown with a PHF and look into the possibility of supporting the Endowment Fund.

With Warm Regards

Raj Bhatia

District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair (2015-18)



**Past District Governor Suraj P. Bhatia, Chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee, speaking at the July 13 District Staff Meeting.**

**Membership Corner – 30 March, 2016.***By Governor-elect Stephen V. Jarahian***92****What is 92?****How Can You Assess Your Club's Membership Viability and Growth?**

Did you know that even if your club membership numbers are constant from year to year, you could still have a retention problem? When a club continually gains and loses members, the resulting revolving-door effect makes it difficult for the club to operate effectively, carry out successful projects, and attract potential members.

To get a true picture of the state of your club's membership, look at information from the past three to five years. You can see membership patterns by going to Rotary Club Central to look at data and reports from several years.

You can obtain more detail by completing the member viability and growth model in Membership Assessment Tools. The model looks at your club's membership activity within a specific time frame to help you identify any significant turnover.

**HOW Can You Create a Member Termination Profile?**

Knowing how long members stay in your club can help you identify strengths and weaknesses in your membership development plan. The termination profile in Membership Assessment Tools groups members according to the length of their membership. For example, you might discover that the majority of your club's former members left within their first two years. With this in mind, you can focus on keeping newer members by offering education and encouraging early involvement in club programs and projects.

After a club leader has completed the initial assessment, the membership committee should evaluate the results and discuss them at a club meeting or assembly. Ask members to suggest specific strategies and activities to improve retention.

**Is Your Club Innovative and Flexible?**

In a changing world, your club's success depends on its ability to be innovative and flexible. Surveys and focus groups consistently show that prospective members and younger members are more likely to stay with Rotary if they believe that their club is willing to accommodate their interests, as well as their work, family, and personal needs.

Ask yourself if your activities and traditions reflect current interests and what could be changed to make your club more relevant to prospective members. Consider changing meeting times and locations, lowering fees, undertaking a variety of service projects, and planning different kinds of programs for club meetings.

**Is There a Strong Awareness of Your Club in Your Community?**

Public awareness is an important part of your club's continued growth and success. Is your club widely known in your community? Do your members identify themselves as Rotary club members to their friends, neighbors, and colleagues? When your community thinks about your Rotary club, what do they think? Consider inviting Rotary prospects to a project to interact with your members and learn more about your club and its work in the community.

Research indicates that people are more likely to give time and money to an organization with a proven record of tangible results. Make sure your club regularly communicates with the public about its community service projects to attract both donations and new members. Visit the Public Relations page at [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) for resources and tools to ensure that your club and its projects receive the recognition they deserve.

More to come next month! Plan your next Meet 'n Greet!

**I will help you in any way I can!**

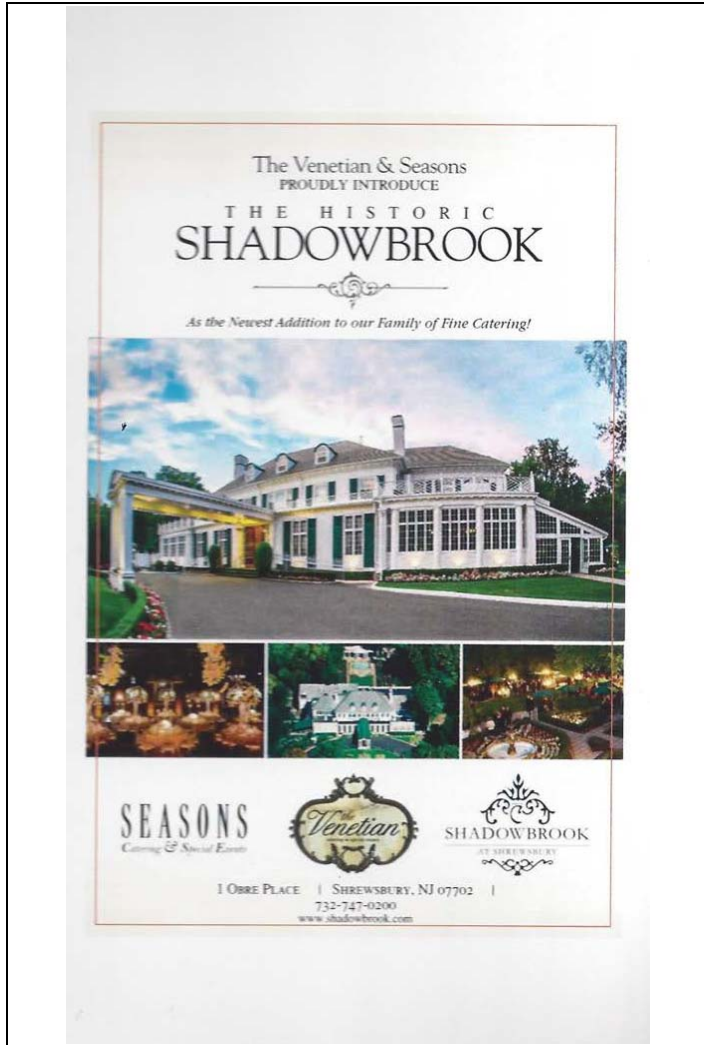
D.G.E. Stephen V. Jarahian, [svjarahian@aol.com](mailto:svjarahian@aol.com), (201) 390-1561

**If not you . . . Who?  
If not now . . . When?**



### Some of the Firms Advertising in the 2015 - 2016 District 7490 Directory.

The advertisements of the six firms shown here are in Rotary District 7490's 2015 - 2016 District Directory. Copies of all advertisements placed in the District Directory will appear in succeeding issues of The Governor's Newsletter.



St. Joseph's  
Healthcare System  
"New Jersey's Premier Catholic Healthcare System"

# Powerful Medicine.

## Compassionate Care.

www.StJosephsHealth.org  
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