



District Conference – May 5 -7 – Skytop Lodge in the Poconos

This year's District Conference was held at the Skytop Lodge in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful resort. We attended the Plenary sessions, voted on some resolutions, but we also had a lot of fun. It was a joint conference with District 7475, and a lot of new friendships were made.

Friday evening we celebrated Cinco de Mayo with many Rotarians dressing to celebrate. On Saturday, we watched the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby, where the ladies wore beautiful hats and the men wore their best Derby tie. District Governor Ray Cywinski won for the most original tie. We also held a Kentucky Derby pool and raised \$2000.00 for the Rotary Foundation.

And as is tradition, on the final day of the Conference, we honored those Rotarians we lost this past year.















Rotary Day of Service

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, more than 500 Rotary clubs and 14,000 Rotarians across 6 states and 3 countries, from Connecticut to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey in the United States, plus the countries of Bermuda and Brazil, will volunteer in their communities for an unprecedented Rotary Day of Service, collecting clothing and food for the homeless and less fortunate, refurbishing parks, and much more.

The Secaucus Rotary Club, working with Mayor Mike Gonnelli and Kimberly McCleary of the Secaucus Environmental Department, chose to do a clean-up at the Mill Creek Marsh Trail for their Rotary Day of Service project. Due to Saturday's rain, the Club pushed the project to Sunday and had a perfect day. Kimberly provided all the necessary supplies, like gloves, bags, and the tools to pick up the trash.

Volunteers from the Club and students from the Secaucus High School Rotary Interact Club walked the trail, picking up trash and cleaning up the grounds to beautify this area for the enjoyment of all the residents of Secaucus, and anyone else who visits. Club President Rob Merlo, Project Chairs Rick Saltarelli and Diane Rich, and other Club members said that there really wasn't a lot of trash to pick up, saying that it shows what a great job the town already does in keeping this area beautiful for those who come here to take a stroll, jog, or take their dogs for a walk along the trail. Some of the members, even those residing in Secaucus, said they did not even know this area existed. But they all said it won't be their last visit.



The Club thanked Mayor Gonnelli and Kimberly, and said they would be available for similar projects should the Town need them. The Club also thanked Stacey Lee, the Interact Club Advisor, for sending four great young students to help. The Secaucus Rotary Club will be presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the students to add to their community service portfolios.

If you've never been to this area of Secaucus and the Meadowlands, take a ride over and check it out. The Mill Creek Marsh Trail is a 1.6 mile loop that takes an average of 28 minutes to complete. It's popular for running and walking, but you can also enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. The entrance to the Trail is behind Bob's Discount Furniture. You can search the location by putting in 3 Mill Creek Drive. The trail is open year-round.





Secaucus Rotarians Support Frank X. Schillari for Sheriff

On May 23, a fundraiser was held for Hudson County Sheriff Frank X. Schillari at The Venetian in Garfield. Members of the Secaucus Rotary Club, along with at least a thousand others, gathered to show their support for Frank as he runs for an unprecedented 5th term.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy was there to honor Frank, as well as the Mayors and dignitaries from every town in Hudson County to honor and thank Frank for his many years of service in law enforcement.

Frank's wife Terry and other family members were in attendance. Frank and Terry were extremely proud that their grand-daughters were there to honor him. Frank, Terry, and their daughter Kerianne are members of the Secaucus Rotary Club.



A Visit from Some Special Rotarians

At our My 30th meeting, we had the honor of greeting visitors from The Rotary Club of Dhanbad, India. Rajan Gandotra, PDG of District 3250 for 2020-2021, his wife Anju, Past President of their Club, and their daughter Charvi, graced us with their charm and wonderful stories.

Rajan and Anju were visiting for one month, coming here to spend time with their daughter and family. Charvi arranged this visit with the help of PDG Bonnie Sirower and Cindy Randina from our Club.

Club President Rob Merlo and Rajan exchanged Club banners, and Raj and Anju presented gifts to Rob, Club Foundation Chair Rick Saltarelli, and to Rob's mom, Diane Rich.

As Foundation Chair in his District, we asked Rajan to do the honor of presenting Phil Papa with his Paul Harris +6 pin. He thanked us for the honor to do the presentation.

The Club presented a tray of Indian desserts in honor of the Gandotra family for all to enjoy.

It was a joy to meet them, and all agreed to stay in touch and possibly work on a future project together.





Secaucus Rotary Club member attains PHF+6 level

At our May 30th meeting, we had the honor of greeting visitors from The Rotary Club of Dhanbad, India. Rajan Gandotra, PDG of District 3250 for 2020-2021, his wife Anju, Past President of their Club, and their daughter Charvi, joined us for lunch, camaraderie, and laughter as we all exchanged stories.

As Foundation Chair in his District, Rob asked Rajan to do the honor of presenting Phil Papa with his Paul Harris+6 pin. He thanked us for the honor of giving the presentation. Pictured with Rob, Rajan, and Anju are Club Foundation Chair Rick Saltarelli, Vice President Mike Milano, and Treasurer Bob Kilroy.

