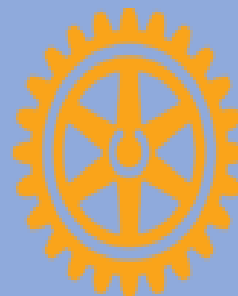




Rotary



La Rotariana

July – September 2023

New Board of Directors

The board members for the Rotary year 2023-2024 began their term at a reception at Miriam and Hugo’s home. As usual Miriam prided an excellent dinner, and many members brought their culinary creations to share.

Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion

In August, the club had the pleasure of welcoming Julio Jordán to speak about DEJI. Julio Jordan serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion at the Ibero-American Action League, where he partners with corporations, organizations, and health providers on their diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion journey. Julio has achieved certification in DEI from Cornell and the MUMA College of Business at the University of South Florida.

The organizations he has worked with include the Rochester City School district, the Urban League of Rochester, the YWCA, the Monroe County Criminal Justice Council, Climate Solutions Accelerator, the RASE Commission, the Latino Health Coalition, the United Way, Rochester Ecology partners, the R.E.A.L team and other organizations that directly impact and work with communities of color. Through his work with them, he has ensured that our voice is at the table and that measurable processes are in place to address the systemic and structural inequities we face as members of the BIPOC community.

Julio understands the dynamics of relationships and prides himself on being a leader, a listener, and a lover of life. Julio enjoys spending time with family and friends, being by the lake, and exploring the Finger Lakes region. Julio is proud to represent Ibero, the Latino community, and his family in all that he does. His goal is to be the change he wishes to see and to leave a positive impact within our community.

Take action: visit: www.latinorotary.com

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**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Rotary Poem

This is a poem written by George Mack on his diary. He was a charter member of Rotary Club of High River in Alberta. He was club president in 1935-36. The poem appeared in the Rotary magazine August issue.

Rotary Emblem

It's a little gold wheel with six little spokes,
And some cogs and some letters of blue;
And this is the symbol you wear on your coat
As a trust that is given to you.

The gold is the worth which fellowship bears,
And the wheel is the limit of might,
Turned by the strength we give to man
When he works for the things that are right.

The six little spokes are the virtues of life,
And of truth and of kindness unfurled,
Forged in the heart by the Maker of Man
Giving strength to the rims of the world.

The little old cogs are the deeds that we do,
Which mesh with the deeds of a friend;
And the whirr of the wheel is the Rotary song
Which carries a laugh to the end.

So here's to the wheel, and the six little spokes
And the cogs and the letters in blue;
For this is the symbol you wear on your coat
As a trust that is given to you.

End Polio Now

The campaign to eradicate polio continues. Two cases were discovered last year Malawi and United States.

"That was quite a shock," says Janell Routh, a medical officer at the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). "We never thought that we would see a case of paralytic polio in the United States." So how did health workers discover polio in two countries long considered polio-free? And how can they be sure it's gone now? This process of searching for a disease is known as surveillance, something that Rotary has supported with \$73.6 million in funding over the past five years. As the worldwide eradication of polio approaches, surveillance will play a pivotal role in ensuring that the world is truly polio-free.

District Governor Visit

In September, the club received the official visit of District Governor July Carney and Assistant Governor Kenn Van Dieren. Her inspiring message follows:

She indicated that there are 64 clubs in the district and 5 Rotaract club. The message for the current Rotary year is Create Hope in the world. This message means a lot to her. She was very involved with kids who were members of interact club, and she worked for 13 years with Rotary youths who she said are the future. Explaining the message for this year, she said that Hope is doing something with the expectation that some good is going to happen. We hope a lot for ourselves. People do things for others because that is what we do- the right thing. By observing her mother's marriage, she learned what she wanted for her own marriage. Her grandmother told her that things happen for a reason and that has taught her to be appreciative of life/hope.

She feels that at these times, it is important to get involved in meaningful conversations about things that are impacting communities around the world, particularly the mental health crisis. She recommended not to ask people how they are doing unless we are ready to listen to how they are really feeling.

Regarding the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, she recommended us to look around to identify youths who could benefit from this weeklong training. Last year, mental health professionals were brought in to talk about this. RYLA should also include a component on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The district is starting a Mental Health Committee, and people interested in becoming a member should contact Julie. She encouraged us to get out in the community and find out what people want. Be open to change and be sure to deliver what you promise.

Next Year District Conference

DG Julie announced that the 2024 District Conference will be held on May 3-5 in Ithaca. It will be a celebration of Rotarians and clubs. Further details will be provided as the date gets nearer.

Focus on Rotary

The following articles on service projects around the world appeared on the Rotary International website:

United States: The Indian River Lagoon along Florida's Atlantic coast is home to some 3,500 plant and animal species. In January, District 6970 and the Rotary clubs of New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater introduced a tide pool exhibit in the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach. The display is home to horseshoe crabs, sea stars, sea urchins, hermit crabs, marine snails, and other small oceanic creatures. "Having that opportunity to see the animals up close is a very engaging experience," says Chad Truxall, the center's executive director. "It's been fun for us to have this additional tool to share the story of the Indian River Lagoon." A district grant provided \$20,000, the New Smyrna Beach club devoted \$10,000, and the Edgewater club another \$5,000 toward the cost of the exhibit, representing just a portion of the financial and volunteer contributions Rotarians have made to the marine center over the past decade.

India: In Visakhapatnam, along the Bay of Bengal, Rotary members launched an innovative plastics recycling and youth employment project. Participants from the nonprofit India Youth for Society collect plastic bottles from drop-off locations and beaches and process the plastics into small chips that are sold to recyclers. The nonprofit's goal is to make the operation self-supporting. About eight young people were working on-site as the processing plant scaled up production in June, and as many as 25 people eventually could work at the facility. The roughly \$120,000 project is supported in part by a global grant sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Lake District Moinabad, India, and Naperville Sunrise, Illinois, with contributions from other Rotary clubs in the United States and India. Among its accolades is an award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientists. "I wanted to get the academy's feedback and make [the project] more robust using their suggestions," says Prakasam "Prakash" Tata, a retired environmental engineer and a member of the Rotary Club of Naperville, Illinois. "But lo and behold, I heard, 'You won the grand prize.'"

Canada: The pandemic's toll on older people struck especially close to home for the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise in southeastern Ontario. "Until COVID, our club met at a seniors residence, and the need for the residents to be able to get out was made clear to us," says club member Elizabeth "Bette" Miller, a past governor of District 7040. To ease the isolation of the town's older population, the Cornwall Sunrise club teamed up with the Rotary Club of Cornwall and their city government to introduce Seniors on Wheels tours on three-wheeled cycle rickshaws. Volunteers pedal seniors around on seasonal tours along the St. Lawrence River. "The trishaw is used primarily by local seniors who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the beautiful scenery," says Miller, whose club contributed an initial CA\$3,000 (US\$2,500) for the project. "The routes for the trishaws follow the bike paths with stops at points of interest, many of which are projects Rotary has partnered on with the city." Volunteers and their passengers covered a cumulative 300 miles last year. Local seniors who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the beautiful scenery," says Miller, whose club contributed an initial CA\$3,000 (US\$2,500) for the project. "The routes for the trishaws follow the bike paths with stops at points of interest, many of which are projects Rotary has partnered on with the city." Volunteers and their passengers covered a cumulative 300 miles last year.



Julio Jordán, the Director of Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion at the Ibero-American Action League.



DG Julie Carney and ADG Kenn Van Dieren enjoy a paella during their club visit.



Julio Vázquez, Luisa Baars, Aida Veras, Elba Williamson and granddaughter, Idalia Chang, Norma Heym, and Miriam Vázquez pose after visit to EL Camino where a club-sponsored literacy project will take place.

Literacy Project

The club will install large frames with pages from a children book so they can read as they walk the El Camino trail located in Conkey St. and Clifford Avenue in Rochester. The Landmark Society is assisting with this project.

Curious Data

Did you know that it is estimated that it will take 450 years for a plastic bottle to degrade?

Did you know that Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever?

Did you know that Rotary clubs can meet in person, via Zoom or other such platforms to conduct their business?

Several E-Clubs have been established. During the pandemic, many clubs opted to meet via zoom, and many have continued to do so. This option facilitates participation by individuals with limited mobility or remarkably busy schedules.

As it is said, where there is a will, there is a way.

Focus on Membership

As we begin a new Rotary year, the club is focused on increasing membership. An open invitation is extended to people who want to give back to the community. Even though the club's name may imply that it is open to just Latino individuals, this is far from reality. The focus is on projects to serve mainly the Latino community, but members do not have to be Latinos. In the past, we have had members from the USA, Holland, and the Philippines.

For information: visit our Facebook page at Rochester Latino Rotary Club or send a text message to Luisa Baars at 585-512-6394.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

"There is nothing impossible to they who will try."

— **Alexander the Great**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Luisa E. Baars

President Elect: Elba Williamson

Treasurer: Idalia Chang

Secretary: Aida Veras

Rotary Foundation Chair: Julio Vázquez

Membership/Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Chair: Elisa DeJesús

Community Service Chair: Norma Heym

Newsletter Editor: Luisa E. Baars



"Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

