



La Rotariana

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In this issue

José María Cirujano 1

Hispanic Sm. Business 2

RYLA Participant 2

Foreclosure Prevention 3

The Plight of Farmworkers 3

Law Enforcement Latinos 4

Fidelis Care 4

Farm Workers 5

José María Cirujano main speaker at RLRC event

Jose Maria Cirujano, Vice-President of Operations, Iberdrola, USA, currently working at RG&E in Rochester is from Spain. He joined Iberdrola in 1975. The company, parent company of RG&E and NYSEG in NY, started in Spain in 1903. RG&E started in 1848. The energy company operates in Spain, United States, United Kingdom, Brazil and Mexico and many other countries (37 total) with 33,000 employees. Cirujano states that they are committed to share and spread innovative new technologies and are set to spend billions of dollars in NY to upgrade the electric grid to provide more power and increase safety and reliability.

Protection of the environment and improvement of the communities where the company operates are important goals of the company. They are the leading producers of wind energy with more than half of Iberdrola’s generation coming from renewable sources, like hydro, wind and biomass. They invest in sustainability research & development in areas like smart grid, command and control systems, energy storage, and offshore wind generation. For the efforts at sustainability, the company has been named best in the utilities sector by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for 2012, and have been on the list 12 other occasions.

Cirujano stated that Iberdrola is also about people dedicated to satisfying customers, concerned about the environment, and who give back to the communities where they work and live. RG&E has invested over \$90 million dollars in Rochester to increase efficiency and capacity of the 3 hydro stations on the Genesee River. RG&E is ready to invest \$254 millions dollars on the Rochester Area Reliability Project that represents a major expansion of the electric transmission system that serves the City of Rochester and the west side of Monroe County. Construction should start in 2014 with an expected completion date by 2016. This is a critical project. Cirujano stated, “if we cannot tap a new source of energy in the next few years, the Rochester region could experience large scale summer blackouts if there was an unexpected failure or shutdown of the Ginna nuclear plant”.

From 2003 to the end of 2013, RG&E and NYSEG will have invested \$200 million dollars in economic development assistance to grow jobs and attract new business and \$10 million in emergency funding to help victims of hurricanes Irene and Sandy, and tropical storm Lee, he added. The philanthropic work done by the company includes scholarships to students at the UR, RIT, and Binghamton University for graduate studies in the field of energy research. It also supports arts and cultural events. Support to the Hispanic community includes having informational materials in Spanish, bilingual staff, and support of various Hispanic organizations.



José María Cirujano

Engage Rotary Change Lives

Not only the lives of those served through Rotary, but your own. There is no greater pleasure than the one felt when one knows that the sharing of treasure, time, and talent when joined with that of others can have a very positive impact on lives and communities. Try it!

Hispanic small business entrepreneurs honored

Several Hispanic small business owners gathered at the Airport Holiday Inn on August 12 to receive a certificate of appreciation from the RLRC for their contributions to the community. Among those present were a hairdresser, translator, photographer, dance teacher, fitness center operator, Zumba instructor, store owner, public relations specialist, restaurant owner, and many more.

Many Hispanics establish their businesses in the Northeast part of the City of Rochester, but also in and around the city. There are several restaurants serving typical Latino food such as roast pork, rice and beans, and chicken (fried, baked, fricasee) as well as beef and delicious “empanadas”, “alcapurrias”, and “mangú”. Others specialize in pastries, pies, and cakes. The Puerto Rican Dominican, Mexican, and Argentinean cuisine can be found around town.

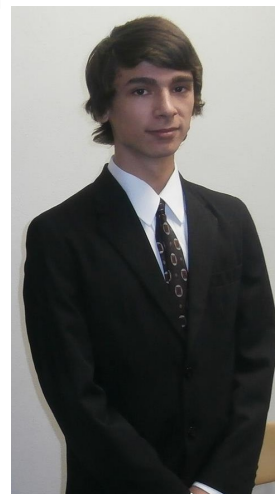
What motivates these entrepreneurs is the desire to provide a needed service and to better the economic situation for themselves and their families. It is not uncommon to find several members of the family working at the business. Also, several generations may have worked at the same type of business in the country of origin. Nevertheless, others start a new venture in a new country blazing a new trail leading to financial stability. Just a drive through Clinton Avenue North confirms the entrepreneurship of Latinos.

The RLRC salutes the small business owners who labor intensively to provide services, enhance the community, and improve the economic situation for the family.

RYLA participant spoke eloquently about his experience

Solomon Vázquez is a very outstanding young man. He participated in the 2013 District Oratorical Contest. When he joined the students preparing for the contest, Solomon presented as a shy, soft-spoken contestant. He was chosen and sponsored by our Club to participate in RYLA. Solomon spoke to Club members about his experiences with RYLA. He gave an impressive presentation about his week at the RIT campus with other students. Solomon described the three committees that participants could choose from for the week (Awards and T-Shirt Committee, Yearbook Committee, MC/Activities Committee), the three different kinds of leadership styles, and how content and group management affect groups working together.

The Solomon who spoke at the club meeting on the 28th of August was self-assured and he was able to describe blow by blow his experiences at RYLA and in his volunteer work. He thanked the Club for sponsoring him and he encouraged the Club to keep sending students to the Oratorical Contest and RYLA programs. He also shared with Club members his decision to join the Marines. His volunteer work with youths in the Ukraine during a trip with his church left a very profound feeling for the plight of others. We certainly wish well to Solomon.



Puerto Rican Festival sponsored 5K walk/race



As part of the Festival, the organizers have been sponsoring a 5K walk/race to encourage healthy activities among Latinos and the community at large. The RLRC has provided hands on assistance since its inception. It has been named in honor of Javier Ortiz who gave his life defending our freedoms.

The first 5K walk/run was done in 2009. Al Burgos, who was a member of our club, organized the event in order to help the club’s literacy projects. As a complement to this effort, the club had a float highlighting the importance of literacy. Children books were distributed to the Festival participants along with bilingual messages encouraging parents to read to their children.

Continuing the collaboration with the event, several club members help by doing pre-registration, distributing water along the route, filling the bags for the participants, and in many other capacities. Al Burgos had the right idea when he started the event!

Foreclosure Prevention

Leslie R. Harvey, Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Coordinator for the Housing Council, spoke at the September 4th meeting of the club. He is a 2011 graduate of United Way's AALDP (African-American Leadership Development Program). As an active member of the Rochester community, he also serves on the board of the National Academy Foundation and is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Aeon Missionary Baptist Church.



Foreclosures have affected many people in our community since the recession started in 2008. The goal of The Housing Council is to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. The Council serves borrowers of owner-occupied 1-4 unit homes in NYS who are at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. The service is free and confidential to anyone. There are no income guidelines. The process involves: assessment of each client's individual situation during a face to face or phone appointment; and gathering necessary information to determine what options will best suit each individual.

The Council handles all aspects of the loss mitigation process, acting as an advocate between the client and the lender/servicer. The counselor will be able to answer questions about loss mitigation options (workouts with lender/servicer) and the foreclosure process. They are determined to obtain the best resolution for their clients. Contact: 585-546-3700 x 3015 or toll free at: 866-669-1688

During the foreclosure prevention appointment, the counselor will discuss the situation including: 1. What caused (is causing) your hardship; 2. Help develop a budget to determine the best resolution; 3. Make suggestions of ways to increase income/decrease expenses; 4. Explain the New York State Foreclosure Process and explain the varying workout options to stay in your home or transition out, 5. Provide client action plan.

After the 3rd party authorization is set up with lender/servicer, counselor will contact lender/servicer to discuss the client situation and options. The counselor will assist in submitting the application; they will also follow up on the status of the application until a plan has been set up. The process of review can take from 60-90 days on average. The counselor will continue to keep client updated on the progress of the application.

The Housing Council's Foreclosure Prevention Dept. has been around for 20 years. In 2009, the department met with 1069 at-risk homeowners. Statistics show that 92% were able to avoid foreclosure. In 2010, 1100 households came through the department. Research showed that 97% still own their home or sold to someone else instead of being foreclosed on. They are partnered with [Clearpoint Credit Counseling Solutions](#). This allows the clients to receive on-the-spot intensive and detailed debt management counseling.

The plight of farm workers

A very interesting and educational meeting on the plight of farm workers was held at a regular club meeting. Our guests were William McKee a Sodus Rotarian and volunteer for the Migrant Ministries and Peter Maves from Catholic Charities a volunteer also with Migrant Ministries. They shared the many problems faced by these hard working individuals who provide the food on our tables with sometimes great hardship. For instance, the lack of transportation and lack of medical care greatly impact negatively the workers and their families. With no medical coverage and no sick days off, many workers who present serious medical conditions continue working without receiving the needed treatment. Going to the doctor would mean paying for someone to take them, paying for the medical visit and having to lose a day's pay plus having to pay for the medicines. These are things that we take for granted each day.

Bill thanked our club for partnering with Pathstone for an upcoming symposium, reception and dinner to raise awareness and funds for the Rural and Migrant Ministry. He provided members with an application for the Symposium, Reception and Dinner. He gave a brief history of how the Rural and Migrant Ministry was formed. He explained that the organization was started 30 years ago in the Hudson Valley. The organization is an interfaith ministry and is not focused on the church. The organization moved up from the Hudson Valley to western New York because of the influx of migrants, approximately 5,000 to 7,000, during the summer months. Bill is retired and he contributes 10 hours per week and Peter contributes 10 hours per week to the Rural and Migrant Ministry.



The Rural and Migrant Ministry is not a social organization. Its goal is to educate and build up leaders in local farm worker communities. The organization works toward giving groups of people the opportunity to stand on their own. Peter explained that he is the Program Director for the Rural and Migrant Ministry. He helps organize programs for the farm workers based upon the

Latinos in law enforcement honored

A very emotional and dignified event was held at the Holiday Inn Airport to honor Latinos in law enforcement. The event attended by Mayor Thomas s. Richards and Police Chief James Sheppard honored Latinos in New York State Police, Monroe County Sheriff Department and the Rochester Police Department. Norma Holland was the keynote speaker. She highlighted the many positive contributions of Latinos not only in the city, but also the state and the nation. Amusing the audience, Norma used "You know you are a Puerto Rican when...", proceeding to list a number of Puerto Rican customs. For instance, rubbing alcoholado (perfumed rubbing alcohol) for relieving muscle ache; applying Vicks to relief colds; serving rice with pigeon peas and roast pork for Christmas dinner; and many others.

Above all, Norma thanked the officers present, as well as those who could not attend due to work schedule, for making our city and state a safer place to live. Both the Mayor and the Police Chief expressed their gratitude and support to the officers. As many of the officers who spoke indicated, it was the first time that their work was publicly recognized. They felt very honored, humble, and appreciative for the recognition.

Among the officers present were:

New York State Police

Speaker: José M. Vázquez, Zone Sergeant, Supervisor State Police's "Operation IMPACT" - 30 years of service

Monroe County Sheriff Department

Speaker: Sergeant Patricio Rojas - Police Bureau - 18 years of service

Deputy John Crespo - Court Bureau - 18 years of service

Deputy Sonia Medina - Jail Bureau - 17 years of service

Deputy Tomas Vázquez -Jail Bureau - 14 years of service

Rochester Police Department

Speaker: Sgt. Nelson Soto, Special Operations Division-Youth Services Section - 21 years of service

Sgt. Fabián Rivera - Patrol Division East, 13 years of service

Officer Carlos Alvarado - Special Operations Division-Youth Services Section -15 years of service

Officer Carlos DeJesús- Special Operations Division-Youth Services Section -19 years of service

Officer Bernnie García - Patrol Division East - 20 years of service

Officer Augustín González - Patrol Division East -7 years of service

Officer José Muñoz - Patrol Division East - 21 years of service

Officer Manuel Ortiz - Patrol Division West -16 years of service

Officer Carlos Rodríguez - Special Operations Division-Tactical Unit -18 years of service

Officer Michael Santana - Special Operations Division- Youth Services Section - 18 years of service

Officer Albert Santiago - Special Operations Division, Tactical Unit - 14 years of service

Officer Danny Santiago -3rd Patrol - 3.5 years of service

Officer Ángel Vázquez - Patrol Division West (Downtown) - 20 years of service



Farm workers, Continued from page 3

farm workers expressed needs. One of the big issues for farm workers is transportation. Most farm workers do not know how to drive and they pay exorbitant amounts of money to have individuals transport them into town for doctor visits and other personal reasons. When the organization has a meeting, they have to pick up the farm workers. The organization has to pay for gasoline and other costs. Funding the programs is not easy. The organization has a steering committee for the purpose of socializing and networking. One of the main goals of the organization is to help migrant workers become leaders. Peter described the following activities that the organization has developed for farm workers and their children: 1. Peter helped start a Ladies Group. The women get together and knit and talk about many issues not related to knitting. The stitching group actually made about \$230.00 at a local garage sale. 2. The organization sponsored bringing children to a summer program and encouraged camp leadership roles.

Facts about Latino farm workers

More than 80% of farm workers are Latino and 70% of farm workers are immigrants, primarily from Mexico. At least half of the farm labor force lacks authorized immigration status, at least two thirds have fewer than 10 years of schooling, and two thirds speak little to no English. Farm work is dignified but hard work, and farm workers and their families live arduous lives. Data from the Department of Labor (DOL) shows that agriculture ranks as one of the most dangerous industries for both fatal and non-fatal injuries. In addition, most farm workers earn low annual incomes due to low wages and the seasonal nature of their work. Household incomes average less than \$20,000 per year. Most farm workers receive no fringe benefits. And while poor U.S. citizens and long-term lawful permanent resident immigrants may be eligible for public benefits like food stamps and Medicaid, undocumented workers and recently documented immigrants are ineligible for almost all public benefits.

Fidelis Care

Diane Santos who is an Outreach Specialist with Fidelis spoke at a club meeting. She handed out a Fidelis Care brochure. She explained that Fidelis is a not-for-profit health care company that is state wide and focuses on the individual and the family. Fidelis care does not offer commercial insurance.

Diane was very informative about the upcoming changes in health care due to "Obamacare". Commencing October 1, 2013, health care providers are required to hold a health benefit exchange that will allow individuals participating in a health care exchange to choose a medical provider. All medical providers will have to provide 10 basic benefits. The health care providers holding the exchange will have to remain neutral in explaining their respective plans. Consumers will have to do their own homework. Under the new law, Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the health care exchange will be the main ways of obtaining medical coverage if you do not have insurance. Individuals will be penalized if they do not obtain medical coverage, \$95.00 for the first year and \$695.00 for the second year. Tax credits will be available to individuals to subsidize the cost of medical coverage. Individuals who currently have medical coverage will not be affected by the changes in medical coverage, but individuals with no coverage who are self-employed or have no coverage will have to participate in a health care exchange. In order to participate, an individual will be required to have an e-mail.

Rotarians helped fill backpacks at Sojourner House

As part of a community service project, members of the RLRC met at Sojourner House at PathStone to help organize school supplies to fill backpacks for 100 children. Since 1982 Sojourner House, has assisted over 2000 women and their families obtain the necessary sobriety, education, employment, family stability, and financial independence to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Sojourner's transformative intervention strategy provides inspiration, hope and motivation for women who are at a crisis point in their lives. Participants learn essential life skills, which then give them strength, structure and stability to lead meaningful and productive lives.

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FUTURE EVENTS

1. **October 9—Annette Ramos, Meeting at PathStone, 7:30 am**
2. **October 19— PETS I, Mt. Morris High School/ Refresher Grant Management Seminar**
3. **November 2 – Rotary Leadership Institute, Canandaigua**
4. **November 3— Eastern Cities Dinner**
5. **November 10—Foundation Brunch, Belhurst**
- 5– **November 11— Honoring Veterans, Holiday Inn Airport**

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