

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

May-June, 2014



President Elect Orlando Rivera with family

CONNECTING ROTARY AND YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Plans are underway to recruit participants for the District Oratorical Contest. The target school is the Monroe High school in the city of Rochester. Diana Hernández has contacted the school principal and school counselor who have stated they are very interested in promoting participation among Latino students.

In the past, most of the students sponsored by the club have come from schools outside the Rochester City School District. There would be a concerted effort to attract students residing and attending school in the city.

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TAKE ACTION: www.latinorotary.com

ROTARY IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Rotary worldwide has been involved in an extended and concerted effort to eradicate polio.



Just in 2012, polio remained endemic in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Yet, recently, there seems to be a spread of the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in several countries. The chart below compares the number of cases YTD in 2013 with those of 2014 for the three countries.

Total cases	Year-to-date 2014	Year-to-date 2013	Total in 2013
Globally	77	33	416
- in endemic countries	68	32	160
- in non-endemic countries	9	1	256

The chart below indicates the rates by countries.

Countries	Year-to-date 2014				Year-to-date 2013				Total in 2013	Date of most recent case
	WPV1	WPV3	W1W3	Total	WPV1	WPV3	W1W3	Total		
Pakistan	61			61	8			8	93	20-Apr-
Nigeria	3			3	22			22	53	19-Apr-
Afghanistan	4			4	2			2	14	06-Apr-

Nine cases were reported for this period in these countries: Syria (1), Equatorial Guinea (3), Iraq (1), Cameroon (3), and Ethiopia (1). The fight is far from over!



Event Flier Templates Available

The fliers above indicate some of the many causes that Rotary clubs sponsor around the world.

Combating hunger, polio, and the suffering of homeless people are some of the causes that the Rochester Latino Rotary Club has espoused over the years.

Most recently, the club allocated \$500 to the House of Mercy to help purchase food for the homeless who go to the center for a hot meal and a place to get warm on cold winter days.

The club continues to raise funds to help eradicate the polio dreadful disease.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The RLRC continues its focus on literacy and education. Most recently, it authorized the purchase of 300 packets containing several books to be given to new mothers at two health centers in Rochester. It is believed that reading to young children has an enormous effect on language development and eventually school success.

The club is particularly concerned with the low graduation rate of students at the Rochester City School District, and particularly that of Latino students. This prompted President Abe and Diana to approach representatives of the charter schools scheduled to open in the fall and the RCSD to present their vision for improving the graduation rate among city students. There was a lively presentation and many questions from attendees to the evening club meeting.



President Abe and DG Ellen present award to Dr. Fernández

In the previous issue of La Rotariana it was briefly mention the celebration of the club’s fifth anniversary. This has always been the main fundraiser of the club. It is with great pleasure that the club can announce this was the most successful event so far. Miriam, who acted as Fund Raising Committee Chair, has informed the club got a net income of \$7,133.

Several club members participated in the event either by being part of the organizing committee, selling ads for the program booklet, obtaining raffle items and other donations, donating items for the raffle, selling tickets, manning the registration, selling raffle tickets at the event, and in many other ways. As usual, Abe brought in many ads, got Wegmans to donate the cake, and led his wonderful skills as leader and MC to make this a memorable night. Other members involved included Antonia, Idalia, Diana I. Orlando, Joe, Charol, Wim, Luisa, and Elisa. It was a great event!



Pals Joe and Abe enjoy a break. Joe was directing the ticket sale during the celebration; his connection with the banquet center saved the club many \$\$\$\$.

Club Meeting Information

First, third, and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 am – 400 East Avenue
 Second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm – Wegmans on East Avenue (no change in June)

Starting in June: First Wednesday at 7:30 am and third Wednesday at noon – 400 East Avenue

TRANSPLANTED HAWAIIAN SPEAKS AT THE MEETING

Mari Villa, a Latina who resided in Hawaii for many years, moved to Rochester to teach at St. John Fisher College. An expert in communications, journalism, and social media, Mari has called Rochester home for the last couple of years. Her journey to her current position has been one faced with obstacles with a good measure of trials and tribulations. Her indomitable spirit was able to overcome those and today she is an accomplished woman, teacher, and writer. She does not accept passivity and a defeating attitude when faced with challenges. She, particularly, encourages women to study, work hard, and forge ahead to make a fulfilling life for themselves and their families.



Visiting Rotarian David Boyer poses with Mari Villa on June 18 meeting

Vertus Charter School Representatives at the Club

Cory Johnson and Jamaal Perry from the Vertus Charter School spoke at a club meeting on June 4. The school will start a program for youth in grades 9th to 12th in the City of Rochester. Initially, the school will enroll 96 male students in the ninth grade. The present status is that many youngsters are not showing up at school, not graduating, and living marginalized lives, often in single parents' homes and in an environment of violence.

The school will divide students in groups of 12, provide one-on-one support, and allow them to learn at their own pace. The idea is to help students learn academics and also social skills. To that aim, the physical education class will include martial arts where they will learn discipline, courage, leadership skills, and responsibility. They intend to teach values and ask students to be responsible for themselves. They will also have preceptors who would work to supplement the teacher's efforts.

The curriculum will include woodworking, entrepreneurship, robotics, regent/college courses/internships.

PathStone Programs Highlighted

Hubert Van Tol, Rosa Martínez, and Bill Wagner spoke about PathStone programs that impact a large number of individuals in the states where the organization operates. Hubert, speaking for PathStone Enterprise Center, indicated that its mission is to enhance the economic self-sufficiency and quality of life of individuals and communities through entrepreneurial training, technical assistance and access to financing for new and expanding businesses throughout Upstate New York and Puerto Rico. It carries out its mission by making loans to small and micro businesses, and by accompanying those loans with a strong program of pre-loan and post-loan technical assistance and training programs designed to support the client's growth. The Enterprise Center's loans range in size from \$1,000 to \$500,000, although most loans are in the \$20,000 to \$50,000 range.

Rosa, speaking for the Housing Program, indicated they manage affordable housing for low-income and farm workers individuals and families. Rehabilitation of housing units is part of the services.

Bill, speaking for grants administration, indicated they manage 3 major program areas: Training and Employment, Housing, Health and Safety. One such program is employment for senior citizens in community services. Another is job training and readiness for migrant and farm workers. The program helps individuals obtain skills that would allow them increase their income and obtain year round jobs. The Housing component provides vouchers that allow individuals to have a choice when it comes to obtaining housing. There are classes that help individuals save and eventually own their own home. In terms of Health and Safety, the organization provides HIV prevention education, classes on pesticide safety, among others.

FUTURE EVENTS

July's theme as per Rotary International is Getting to Know Your New Leader. To help in this endeavor, Luisa will talk about the goals she has set for giving to the Rotary Foundation, the schedule for the following months, the District upcoming events, and service project goals. The schedules will be distributed to members, the meeting agenda will be posted in the latinorotary.com website, and members will know their assigned tasks ahead of time.

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