

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

May-June, 2015



Above and top right – Members from 4 clubs met at a brewery to talk to prospective members about the Rochester AM, Rochester Deaf, Rochester Latino, and Rochester Northwest Rotary clubs. The idea for this event was the brainchild of Paul Minor, president of the RNRC.



Miriam Vázquez and Luisa Baars with two of the awards given to the RLRC during the District Conference

CONNECTING ROTARY AND THE COMMUNITY

Of all the undertakings of Rotary perhaps the most impacting to communities around the world is the eradication of polio. During the June Rotary Convention in Sao Paolo, Brazil, a lot of attention was given to polio. There was a congratulatory message from Bill and Melinda Gates, strong supporters of the effort to eradicate polio, about the progress made so far.

“Nigeria and the whole continent of Africa is on the cusp of being polio free”, said Dr. Hamid Jafari to the audience members at the Rotary Convention on June 8, 2015. He stated that between 2013 and 2014, the reported cases of polio dropped from 53 to just six in Nigeria. Jafari said the last case of polio in Nigeria was reported in July of last year and the last case in all of Africa was reported in Somalia in August.

“With a year of no polio cases in Nigeria tantalizingly close, and no cases in Somalia since August, the tireless work of so many people across the continent is paying off,” said Jafari, director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for the World Health Organization. “But it is incredibly important that Nigeria remains vigilant. As long as polio exists anywhere, it will continue to be a threat everywhere.”

Transmission of the wild poliovirus has also never been stopped in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2014, 85 percent of polio cases worldwide were in Pakistan, the country’s highest case count in over a decade. But progress has been made over the last few months to stem the spread of the virus. The focus for the government and all of the polio partners has shifted to missed children. Vaccinators have gained access to areas that have been out of reach for years, said Jafari.

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ROTARY IS NOT AN
OBLIGATION,
IT IS A PRIVILEGE



Rotary

TAKE ACTION: www.latinorotary.com

Rotary District 7120 Conference

This annual event was held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center on May 15-17. The well-attended event offered the opportunity to learn about Rotary, the projects funded by the District, as well as enjoy fellowship and lots of fun.

Clubs were recognized for attendance, literacy, website, newsletter, community projects, and a host of other accomplishments. Individuals were recognized for their service to Rotary, particularly to the District.

The RLRC obtained several recognition awards including the following: literacy, newsletter, vocational service, Presidential Citation, and Luisa Baars received an award for seven years of service as Assistant Governor.

During the free afternoon, attendees took a trip around Buffalo, including main points of interest.

The silent auction had many donations from the clubs with a vast array of items that satisfied the interest of Rotarians. It was a big success.

Rotary International Convention

The convention took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil on June 4-9. The annual Rotary International Convention offered the opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the Rotary world. There were many interesting presentations.

Of particular interest were the presentations from two young girls, 10 and 11 year old. One of them talked about Rotary Kids. These are groups of really young children who have an interest in doing community projects and raising money to do them. There are several of these groups, including a group in Brazil. What was impressive was the maturity and assertiveness shown by the girls.

The other girl talked about raising money to help the hospital where her sister was treated for cancer. She died, but the little sister continued the efforts that the older sister had started.

This girl soon realized her potential to raise money for a good cause and has promised to continue the effort. She had raised over \$75,000.00.

District 7120 change-over dinner

This event was held on June 29th at Ventosa Vineyard. It was a great opportunity to thank District Governor Scott MacDonnell for his year of service. Bill Gormont was installed as District Governor for the Rotary Year 2015-16. The ceremony of the "changing of the guard" is always an exciting one as pins and banners are passed from the Governor to Governor Elect and from Governor Elect to Governor Elect Nominee, and so on. The Governor's banner goes to the Governor Elect, who begins his or her term on July 1st.

Building Minds in South Sudan

Sebastian Maroundit and Mathon Noi have seen their dream of building a school complex in their village, Mathon Noi, in South Sudan fulfilled. After their village was destroyed during the war with the north, they became part of the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Eventually, they arrived in the United States where they obtained an education and decided to go back and make a difference in their village.

With donations from supporters of their project, today the school complex consists of eight classrooms, three sets of latrines — for girls, boys and teachers — and three small offices. One is the women's center, the second is a meeting room for the teachers and the third is a simple storage room.

Bonnie Lloyd, who accompanied Sebastian to the meeting of the RLRC, stated that South Sudan is a new country and its future lies with young people being educated. The school has allowed girls and women to get the education they need to get ahead in life.

Prior to the building of the school, children studied under trees since there were no school buildings. Otherwise, boys had to go to Kenya to study. The cost of one year studying there was \$40,000.00. When Sebastian first returned to his village, he wanted to do something for his younger brother. He sent the brother to Kenya. Other children in the village asked, "What about me?" This is when he realized that he needed to do something for these children. He determined that with \$30,000 he could build a school. His mother was skeptical about his ability to raise that money. He told her he had faith that in the United States there would be people who would donate to his cause.

When construction began, 340 children were attending. As more parents witnessed the school going up, they began sending their children to what has become Ajoung Primary School. Today, 817 children attend, with 50 students per classroom in double sessions. This includes 304 girls.

The school name is Ajoung Primary School. The need to build more schools continues, and so does Sebastian's commitment to the cause.

Board of Directors

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 Hernández

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Program Chair - Abraham Hernández

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Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

Gopher – Tim McGrath

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.

Focus on Rotary

RI President-elect K.R. Ravindran introduced a member benefits program at the closing session of the Rotary Convention on June 9, 2015, saying that many more hands are needed to continue Rotary's work around the world. The program, [Rotary Global Rewards](#), aims to boost membership and enhance member satisfaction. It will debut on 1 July.

"This innovative new program will allow Rotary members to connect with hundreds of businesses and service providers from around the world -- and that number is growing," said Ravindran. "These establishments will offer Rotarians discounts and concessions on the everyday business that you do. And, in many cases, not only will you benefit, but our Foundation will as well, by receiving a contribution with each transaction." The program will include discounts on car rentals, hotels, dining, and entertainment. Discounts on more products and services from companies worldwide are expected to be added throughout the year.

"It will be another way to benefit from being a Rotarian and being part of the Rotary network," said Ravindran, whose presidential theme for 2015-16 is *Be a Gift to the World*. "I urge all of you to become a part of that scheme."

Rotary Global Rewards is designed to help you get more good work done and build Rotary friendships. It's our way of giving back to those who give so much.

How to redeem offers

Anyone can view the offers and discounts on Rotary Global Rewards. But only Rotary club members who are signed in to their My Rotary accounts can redeem them. You can access and redeem rewards from your computer, smart phone, or tablet. Create a My Rotary account now to take advantage of the new member benefits program. If you need help creating an account, see the [How to Create a My Rotary Account quick guide \(PDF\)](#)

1. First go to www.rotary.org.
2. Then click on **My Rotary**.
3. Click on **Sign In/Register**.
5. You will be informed that an e-mail has been sent to you.