

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB

LA ROTARIANA

November, 2017



From left: President Miriam Vázquez, Sabrina Nudo, and Secretary Luisa Baars posed after induction of Sabrina as the newest member of the club.

Membership

Rotary International (RI) provides valuable information for the clubs, as for instance, how to create a positive experience for prospective members. “When your club is vibrant, innovative, and making a difference in your community, it will attract prospective members. Bringing in new, qualified members diversifies your club and increases its impact. Because this may be the first contact a prospective member has with a club, be sure to make it a positive one.”

RI recommends that clubs establish a process to meet with prospective members to identify their interests and determine if they are a good fit for the club. RI recommends the following steps:

Designate a member to connect with prospective members to talk about their interests and your club.

During this conversation:

- Get to know the prospective members. Explain what Rotary is to you and the benefits of membership, such as the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, develop skills that can be useful in your career, and form lasting friendships.

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New global grant requirement: community assessments

Starting 1 July, any club or district that applies for a global grant to support a humanitarian project or a vocational training team will need to conduct a community assessment first and include the results in their grant application. Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and assets of the community you’re helping is an essential first step in planning an effective project. Not only do assessments lead to projects that have the most meaningful impact. The process itself builds valuable relationships, involves residents in decisions that will shape their communities, and encourages them to participate in making lasting improvements. Most important, projects that are informed by community assessments are more sustainable. You can use district grant funds to conduct the assessment. Rotary’s [Community Assessment Tools](#) has ideas and proven methods for assessing a community’s assets and needs, including meetings, surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

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Helping the poor and those without shelter



Migrants ride on top of a train called La Bestia

According to RI website, in southern Mexico, migrant workers fleeing poverty, civil war, and gang violence are increasingly falling victim to beatings, kidnapping, and even murder. Measures designed to safeguard human rights and secure Mexico's southern border have made matters worse on these individuals and families trying to carve out a better life. Rotary scholar Levi Vonk spent time in migrant shelters learning their stories, and explains how Rotary's funding of scholars is helping shed light on the complex issues involved and equip people of action to pursue solutions.

Vonk indicates two elements of Southern Mexico that cannot be avoided are dust and violence. He goes on to write about a plan adopted under past Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto that was expected to create new economic zones and safeguard migrants' human rights by securing the country's historically volatile southern border. Instead, the number of migrants beaten, kidnapped, and murdered skyrocketed. Some have even been victims of the black-market trade in organs, he said.

In early 2015, he completed studies as a Rotary global grant scholar, earning a master's degree in the anthropology of development. He had studied how trade and development initiatives in Mexico could make people's lives more perilous, not less, thus, he decided to go to Southern Mexico to find out what was going wrong.

"I stayed in migrant shelters, which are not unlike homeless shelters or temporary refugee camps. They are often without reliable running water or electricity, but they do provide migrants with a warm meal and a place to rest before they continue north," he added.

He observed that sick or injured people arrived nearly each day. Severe dehydration was a big problem, and some people had literally walked the skin off the bottoms of their feet. He even witnessed when a gang member came in to kidnap someone but was stopped by the shelter directors.

"The things I learned were terrifying. Instead of shoring up Mexico's borders, the plan had splintered traditional migrant routes. Those routes had been dangerous, but they were also ordered and visible. Migrants knew approximately which areas of the train passage were plagued by gangs. They were prepared to pay protection fees – generally between \$5 and \$20. They traveled in groups for safety. And they were often close to aid – a shelter, a Red Cross clinic, even a police station," he wrote.

He indicated that the Southern Border Program changed that. Hunted by immigration officers, migrants traveled deep into the jungle, walking for days. Gangs, which had previously extorted money from migrants, now followed them into these isolated areas to rob, kidnap, or simply kill them.

The centers serving the migrants need clean water, better plumbing, and medical care as well as water purification, functional toilets, and access to hospitals. A shelter director told him that "Our ultimate goal is to not be needed at all – to solve this migration crisis and violence and go home."

Vonk concludes his article that appeared in RI website with the following thoughts:

"Rotary's six areas of focus mesh neatly with these goals. Such measures require money, but more than that, they require intense cultural collaboration to make them sustainable. Who better than Rotary, with its worldwide network of business and community leaders, to understand the challenges and respond effectively?" He added: "Rotarians understand that to have the most impact, we need to learn from other cultures. As global grant scholars, that's what we aim to do – during our studies, and afterward."



Top from left front row: Sabrina Nudo, Charol Ríos, Miriam Vázquez; back row: Abdiel DeJesús, Elisa DeJesús, Jazmin Ruiz pose after preparing baskets for families served by the El Nuevo Día Church.

Left: Miriam Vázquez and Jazmin Ruiz put finishing touches to baskets.

This is the second year that the RLRC joins efforts with parishioners of El Nuevo Día Church to help families in need in the southwest neighborhood of Rochester.

Future events

The Body, Mind and Soul event will take place on January 27th at the Salvation Army on North Clinton Avenue. This is the first time that the RLRC joins forces with the Salvation Army to provide an event that deals with health issues. The event is geared to individuals in the inner city who normally do not have access to an all encompassing program that addresses topics such as exercise, good nutrition, mental health, and a balanced lifestyle.

Membership (from page 1)

- Tell the prospective members about your club, what to expect at meetings, and the service projects the club has planned. With their interests in mind, explain how your club can help them pursue their passions.
- Be candid about your club's financial obligations and participation expectations or requirements.
- Be sure to keep this meeting friendly and somewhat brief, so you don't overwhelm prospective members. You can give them a **prospective member brochure** from Rotary International and a **club brochure** that includes details about your club's meetings and activities.

What does the club need to serve the community?

The volunteers who have chosen to become Rotarians donate of their time, talent, and treasure to help those who face difficulties in facing life challenges. But, they cannot do it alone. At this moment, one way the community can help the club carry out its mission is by donating children books and books in Spanish. These, in turn, would be donated to the bookshelf at the Clinton Avenue health clinic. Patients are encouraged to take the books home that are given free of charge. Donations can be made at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School, 1069 Joseph Avenue.

Another way to help is by supporting the annual dinner dance that will take place on April 21st at the Diplomat Banquet Center on Lyell Avenue. All proceeds of the event go directly to fund the club's service projects. Details can be found in the website: latino.rotary.com.

Most of all, we are always recruiting new members. Feel free to visit us at one of our meetings: first Wednesday and third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm at the charter school on Joseph Avenue.

Board of Directors

President – Miriam Vázquez
 Immediate Past President – Julio Vázquez
 President Elect – Dr. Jazsmin Ruiz
 Treasurer – Idalia Chang
 Secretaries – Wim Baars
 Luisa Baars
 Club Service Co-Chairs - Aida Veras
 Charol Ríos-Davis
 Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Constantino Fernández,
 Dr. Timothy Malia
 International Service Chair – Luisa Baars
 Membership Chair – Orlando Rivera
 Foundation Chair – Julio Vázquez
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Julio Vázquez
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera
 Tera Rivera
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera
 Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

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.