

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

October, 2016

## Official visit by District Governor Tom Rogers



DG Tom Rogers accompanied by his wife Sandy attended the RLRC meeting for the official visit. He began his talk by congratulating the club for its involvement in Literacy, polio eradication, and international programs. He highlighted the fact that the club has received monies from simplified grants as well as from the Rotary Foundation.

Then, he proceeded to highlight the work done by the Rotary foundation, particularly on the eradication of polio. Every dollar given to the Polio Plus Campaign is being matched at \$2 X \$1. So far this year there have been 26 new cases. Tom emphasized the need to complete the task of eradicating polio and remain vigilant to avoid what happened with malaria. The WHO had eradicated malaria by 1969, and then let it go. The

reality is that malaria came back. Rotary will not give up on polio eradication to prevent the same fate.

The Rotary Foundation will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year in Atlanta during the convention. It is hoped that each member will donate \$26.50 (at least) to the Rotary Foundation to commemorate the first donation that amounted to that amount. Of the money donated to the RF for the share account, half is used for global grant and half is returned to the District for simplified grants. This year the District had \$55,000 for grants.

The president of RI sets goals for granting a Presidential Citation. It is expected that each club increases membership by at least one net new member. It was emphasized the need to recruit younger members in order to guarantee there will be members to take over when the older generation of the baby boomers cannot continue in Rotary.

It is important for members to create an account in My Rotary by going to [rotary.org](http://rotary.org). Besides the membership goal for the PC, there are goals in terms of social media, service to young individuals through Rotaract and Interact. The October District Newsletter will include an article on how to attract younger members. Clubs can make use of the District Newsletter to publicize new members, PH Awards, events, etc.

He announced that the District Conference will take place on May 19-21 in Erie, PA. He urged members to attend the conference that will have very interesting breakout sessions as well as opportunity to see what other clubs are doing in service to the local and international communities.

There are five other clubs in the Rochester area and DG Tom urged members to visit those clubs. AG Paul Minor who also attended the meeting mentioned he would like to have a spring project including a meeting of the six clubs in the Rochester area.

It was a pleasure to welcome the DG, AG, and Sandy to the meeting of the club at its new location at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School on Joseph Avenue.

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## Luis Ormaechea

Luis was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Luis focuses his practice on intellectual property matters, including patent, trademark, copyright and trade dress infringement actions, as well as on patent prosecution and related litigation. He has a strong science and technology background and experience in corporate transactions, including assignments and licensing of intellectual property.

Luis received his undergraduate degree in biological sciences and his master's in science education. Prior to law school, he served as a curriculum coordinator and science teacher at a high school in the Finger Lakes region.

Previously, Luis served as an attorney and legal consultant with Patent Technologies, LLC in the Rochester area, attorney and legal consultant with Blue Highway, LLC in Syracuse, and assistant director at the New York State Science & Technology Law Center in Syracuse.

Luis has extensive involvement in the community including the Rochester Hispanic Business Association, La Cumbre, The Hispanic Coalition NY, Inc, and several Bar Associations.

His topic today was the certification as MBE or MWBE with the state or other organizations. He helps businesses seeking these certifications navigate the system in order to be certified.

He stated that during the 2013-14 fiscal year, more than one fourth of the state spending went to businesses certified as MBE or MWBE. The first step in the process is to make sure the application is correct. Sometimes, once the application is submitted, a lawyer must accompany the applicant to Albany for hearings.

There are benefits associated with the certification since government contracts, as well as companies that receive government funding, often ask for certified businesses to apply to do business with them. Many municipalities have their own application system. For instance, Buffalo has its own system that has some overlap with the state system.

Private authorities have their own certification process. It is very important to submit the correct information. Although individuals may be able to prepare the application by themselves, consultation with a lawyer may be in order given that if there are inconsistencies with the information supplied, the process will be delayed.

## Getting to know the club members

**Club President Julio Vázquez Sr.** retired as the Commissioner of Community Development of the city of Rochester in 2009, a position he held for three and a half years. He is the leader co-founder of Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School in 2000 and serves as the volunteer CEO/Chairman of the board of trustees. He also serves on five other boards in the community. Julio was President and CEO of Ibero-American Action League from 1993 to 2006. From 1971 to 1984, he also worked in various positions at this agency, including community organizing. From 1987 to 1990, he owned and operated a Super Duper supermarket in the city, and worked briefly with the CSD as a Spanish teacher. Julio has a Bachelor of Science degree in social services administration from SUNY Empire State College and a Master degree in education from SUNY College at Brockport. He is the author of Journey of a Puerto Rican Jíbaro, a memoir. Julio is also co-chair of the Literacy Committee.

**Club Treasurer Idalia Chang** was born in Arroyo, Puerto Rico. At the age of 9, she moved to Rochester with her family. She attended some city schools as well as a catholic school. She attended the Albany State University where she attained a bachelor's degree in teaching, and later master's degree in social work. Soon after she completed her master's degree, she began to work at the Rochester Psychiatric center. She worked there for 30 years as a social worker and primary therapist. She also worked at the Steven Schwarzkopf Community Mental Health Center as a therapist. She retired in 2015. Since retirement, she has enjoyed doing volunteer work at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School and at Ibero American Action League helping teach English as a second language. During her free time, she enjoys traveling, biking, arts and crafts, drawing, going to the beach and parks, and participating as a member of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club.

## Photos



Julio Vázquez, Club President



Luis Ormaechea, Lawyer and Club Speaker

## Focus on Rotary

According to the Rotary International website, a public and private partnership has succeeded in reducing polio cases by 99.9% over the last 30 years.

Fewer than 40 children have been paralyzed by polio so far in 2016, the lowest number in history. This is a dramatic decrease from the estimated 350,000 cases per year in 125 countries that the world saw in 1985 - the year that Rotary International initiated a worldwide effort to eradicate this terrible disease.

In 1988, Rotary was joined in the effort by WHO, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF (and more recently the Gates Foundation) to create the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Today the virus is limited to a few areas in just three countries - Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. In response, Nigeria intensified surveillance activities to pinpoint where the virus is circulating. In Pakistan, innovative tactics are being used to focus polio immunization drives.

Health workers are trained in the use of cell phone data reporting, which allows real-time recording of immunization coverage and public health surveys of populations. In Afghanistan, the program continues to adapt in order to reach the maximum number of children possible despite a volatile security situation.

There are 155 countries involved in the largest coordinated vaccine switch in history. There are three different strains of the poliovirus. Once a strain is eliminated (type 2 was officially eradicated in September 2015), the vaccines need to match the remaining strains to protect children globally. This transition is a massive undertaking, requiring significant funding and coordination to accomplish global health feats that have never been attempted. To give you a sense of scale, the largest and fastest globally coordinated vaccine switch in history (to target poliovirus types 1 and 3) was successfully conducted over two weeks in April 2016, with 155 countries taking part.

20 million volunteers have participated since the GPEI was launched in 1988. Rotary and other volunteers have raised funds, built awareness, and advocated for their national governments to support polio eradication. \$1.5 billion is the amount needed to eradicate polio. This may sound expensive, but, in the words of Dr. Jonas Salk, who invented the first effective polio vaccine, "which is more important, the human value of the dollar, or the dollar value of the human?"

The Rochester Latino Rotary Club has responded to the call to support Polio Plus, the campaign of the Rotary Foundation designed to eradicate polio. The club has undertaken several activities including bake sales, garage sales, and the collection of money for polio from members at each club meeting. In addition, members have taken jars to their place of work and/or homes to collect change for polio. The club dedicates part of the fund raising events to the effort as well.

## Board of Directors

President – Julio Vázquez  
 Immediate Past President – Orlando Rivera  
 President Elect – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 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 - Elisa DeJesús  
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera  
     Tera Rivera  
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera  
     Julio 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.

## Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians.

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

