



March 2023

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Nechicagolandpassport.org

Club President Elect Dr. Robert Steinberg attends PETS – Presidents-Elect Training Seminar



Rotary District 6440 President Elects, Nominees, and Assistant Governors attended Midwest PETS that took place the first weekend of this month. For three days they learned, shared ideas, and planned for their year as club leaders. They were fortunate to have Rotary International President Elect, Gordon McNally who joined the event to share his vision for 2023-24, focusing on peace and mental health initiatives, with a theme that we can all embrace: Create Hope in the World! RI Director, Pat Merryweather-Arges, and TRF Trustee, Greg Podd joined as well, to remind everyone that we are 'this close' to ending Polio.

In This Issue

PETS

Participation ...
page 1

Membership
Orientation ...
page 1

Monthly
Meeting ... page 2

Rotarian at Work:
Meet Dessie ...
page 2

District 6440
Chairs ... page 2

Club Leaders

President:

Ellen Young

President Elect:

Dr. Robert Steinberg

Secretary:

Rebecca Tanaka

Treasurer:

Katherine Buggenhagen

Membership:

Dr. Robert Steinberg

Community Service

Steve Kutschat

International Service

Raman Grover

Rotary Foundation

Jenny Wojcik

Website Coordinator

Marianna Zeidler

District 6440 Membership Orientation



Club members Dr. Robert Steinberg, Dr. Zenobia Tantra, Dessie Panomitros & Marianna Zeidler attended and connected with Rotarians from across District 6440 at a New Member Orientation event held on February 24th at Rotary International headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. The day ended with a tour of the newly remodeled One Rotary Center.

Club March Meeting

Community Service Chair, **Steve Kutschat** brought up an issue that has been haunting not only our local communities, but the State of Illinois, and the whole world. Students are not meeting their grade level requirements nor expectations, and many parents are blaming the efficiency of the teachers while the public thinks that maybe the Boards of Education are to be blamed. Marianna pointed out that in Illinois, there are 2 million k-12 scholars; of which over 1 million belong to low income families. College enrollment is down by 8%. Everyone recognizes there is a problem. All of us at Rotary have been busy with Disaster Relief activities, Environmental Issues, Health, Hunger and Humanity projects, Disease Prevention and Medical Equipment Supply, Polio Eradication and other vaccination campaigns, Basic Literacy programs, Vocational Centers and Scholarships, Interact & Youth Exchange ... so the question is: can Rotary do anything or more towards the education crisis? What can be done? What has been causing this crisis? Suggestions are welcome. As a reference, a "State of Education in Illinois 2022-2023 Report can be downloaded from <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/State-of-Education-in-Illinois-updated.pdf>

Rotarian at Work

Not too many know our club member **Dessie Panomitros**. She hardly shows up at our club meetings; she has not shared much of what she is or does in this planet ... so this issue, opens an the opportunity to share a recent event that kept this mysterious lady busy. The flyer below is self explanatory. Planning for this event took over 20 hours of Dessie's life as a volunteer to finally see it bloom last February 19th at that Scholarship Award Presentation! This local chapter is part of the Pan-Lanconian Federation of the US and Canada that originally started in the 1940s to help immigrants assimilate to new countries and still maintain a bond to language and culture. They aim to pass on to the next generations the values of education. The organization gives yearly scholarships on local and national levels and also raise funds for various causes. Dessie's local chapter, for instance helped donate medical supplies to a hospital in Sparta, and donated seed money to build the Spartan Museum in Storrs, Connecticut at the University of Connecticut.



District 6440 Chairs

Our club has a couple of members that are among our D6440 Leadership.

PE Dr. Robert Steinberg is D6440 International Service Chair. He promotes, coordinates and shares all international service activities that our Rotary District supports and tries to keep abreast of other clubs' participation in Global Grant Projects. He can also provide information on Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Hands-On Project Trips and more ... !

Marianna Zeidler is D6440 Annual Fund Chair, Rotary International Conventions Chair, and District Directory Chair. Ask her about how the Rotary Foundation can match the funds your raise for a project. The Rotary International Convention will be this year in Melbourne, Australia. Next year, it will take place in Singapore, and in 2025, we will meet in Calgary, Canada. So ... start planning, and let's go and meet our Rotary Global Family!!!