



Governor Richard's District News



Foundation Dinner A Success

My Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We had the great honor to have R.I. President John Germ and his wife Judy with us. We had great attendance with about 350 Rotarians, spouses and guests, Youth Exchange students, Rotaractors and Interactors. The day after, President John sent a note to me, saying, "Thank you for an excellent Foundation Dinner. Judy and I appreciated the opportunity to be with you. It was a grand event, well organized with purpose, fellowship and fun. It was great to see not only the Rotarians and spouses but the students that were there. Thank you again for a great event." He told me that it was his first time to be introduced in public with "Tennessee Waltz" since he became RI President. He was followed by the Youth Exchange students' Parade of Flags conducted by Vera Sosnowski, District YEP

Chairperson. DGN Jeff Smith gave the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem was sung by the Ithaca Singers. The Invocation was done by Jean Cadwallader, District Foundation Chairperson. Introduction of District Leaders was done by PDG and MC Mark Kriebel, including my DG

Classmates: DG Peter Cardamone and Denise (District 7150); DG John Mucha and Nina & PDG Milan Jackson and Sheila (District 7190). There were special Presentations before dinner. The Maine-Endwell Little League was honored as well as the Tree Peony Planting Project. Also honored were the newest Major Donors and all District 7170 Foundation donors. After a delicious dinner, there was a video presentation by PDG Lana Rouff and Jackie Sands, Public Image Chairperson, on District Grants and Global Grants 2015-2016. Club Foundation Recognition Awards were presented by Immediate Past District Governor Doug Larison.

The highlight of the night was R.I President John, who delivered his inspirational speech with great enthusiasm about how Rotary is Serving Humanity. We wished that every Rotarian in District 7170 was there to listen to his words of inspiration. DG-E Zoe Vandermuelen announced the results of the Silent Auction and Quilt raffle organized by Jean Cadwallader. We'd like to thank Darlynn Overbaugh (Trumansburg) and PDG Pat Kriebel who helped collect a record total \$4,476. Our special thanks should go to all Rotary Clubs who donated the most generous baskets for the auction. Our sincere thanks also goes to all Rotary Clubs and Rotarians who placed advertisements in "Celebrating 100 years of The Rotary Foundation" Booklet, which raised about \$2500 extra, thanks to Ted Wolf's idea (P-E Vestal Rotary) and DGN Jeff Smith's effort. We were so blessed to have Rick Pedro, our pianist and Vestal Rotarian as well as Bon Fed (John Federowicz) with caricatures.

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Most importantly, we'd like to thank you, the Foundation Dinner Committee for your great jobs: Registration well done by Tony Salerno (President Dryden Rotary) and Sheila Abbey, District Secretary, assisted by great greeters: Tracy & Evan Kurtz (Dryden) and Mike Mercincavage (Vestal). We can't thank enough Wendy Deis, Foundation Dinner Chairperson and Carolyn Wright, both Owego Rotarians, for their hard work and commitment to this event. We'll never forget PDG Mark Kriebel, our Grand MC, who professionally delivered everything in a very timely manner. Thanks to Dave Baker (Endicott), Press-release Coordinator, we were able to share that Rotary experience with public. If you missed the grand event, please make sure to sign for up next year's.

Challenging to Recruit 100 New Members

December is Family and Friendship Month. Winter gives us the best opportunity to make a difference. We can focus better on our goals and challenges. Rotary is the best well-kept secret in each community. We need to open our doors and let our community know what we Rotarians do locally, as well as internationally. The District is a one big Rotary family. Let's work together to build attractive Rotary Clubs. There are many people like us who'd like to help others and make a difference. To that end, I am encouraging each club to start creating a Rotary Community Core (RCC), just as the Edmeston Rotary Club has inspired me to start on a district-wide basis. The RCC members would assist with Club projects without being a club member. The District Membership Team would like to work with you together with your Club President and Assistant Governor to do the following:

Identify the Club Membership Chairperson. Your Club President could be acting Chair until you have one. At the same time, create a new Club Position as RCC Chair, who'll organize volunteers from your community.

Each Rotarian submits names of prospective members.

Invite them to your regular meeting

Set the date, time and place for an Open House. And, don't forget to invite us, District Membership Team. Matt Addler, Membership Chair, PDG Orv. Wright, Membership Mentor and myself.

Our goals by June 30, 2017:

Smaller Club (4 to 19 members) Two new members

Mid Size Club (20 - 40 members) Five new members

Large Club (Over 40 members) Eight new members

Please remember that we are now in the new Rotary era of flexibility and "Why Not" Attitude.

You and your Club will hear from us soon.

Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely Yours In Rotary Service,

Richard Matsushima, DG 7170

Gram, TX visits Los Chiles, Costa Rica

Grace, the Agua Viva Serves volunteer coordinator, welcomed the team of 9 from FUMC of Gram, TX, and 2 AVS Board members from Orlando, FL on Saturday evening. They took a Rio Frio boat tour Sunday after the church service and eagerly went to work on the 'casetas' for the chlorination treatment systems in Combate and La Trocha, completing most of the construction in 4 days before a bit of R&R on Friday and flights home on Saturday. Two retired teachers loved the INA English class (adult education) helping the 24 students with descriptive writing.

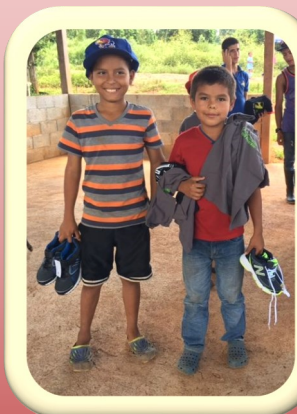
Whew! time seems to stand still while working, but the week passes faster than a zip line trip! Here are a few take-aways from the week...

Technical – access to electricity is a challenge because land ownership is required to have the ICE (Costa Rican electric & communications company) connection. Most of the families in remote communities do not own the land their homes are on. Having access from a landowner to connect the well pump and pay for the electricity is required of the community by AVS to install a water system. Additionally, development, including installing electricity, was prohibited in the 'biological zone' along the border with Nicaragua when it was created ~5 years ago (fact check this!)

For example: La Trocha straddles the border and a landowner agreed for this community water system to use part of the 240v cable to his home to provide 120v to the pump. However, the voltage drop from the meter on the pole to this well (~500 meters) seems to be the cause of the pump controller shutting off after pumping just a few minutes, so the tank is not filling up. Besides losses from the distance of the cable, there are ~10 splices on the cable also causing voltage losses. With this diagnosis of the poor pump performance, the AVS team is looking at possible solutions. Stand by for updates!

Educational – Elías, a local health care worker with EBAIS, has seen water-based illnesses

increase after potable water is available to families. The cause is typically thought to be the quality of the well water, so a negative water test leads to other factors, typically hygiene practices. Based on his and other local stake



holders' input, community education on personal and household hygiene is part of The Rotary Foundation Global Grant project. Elías, a well-known and respected nurse, is helping us plan workshops that reinforce healthy hygiene practices that children learn in school engage parents in supporting their children's hygiene behaviors address key areas of contamination in the home with the families

Relational – the degree of separation appears to be only 1 or 2 people deep here. Networks that aided Gram FUMC's offerings of shoes/t-shirts/caps were through: Elías à the local pastor à a spontaneous gathering of local



families, the van driver à a school director à the children who could use new shoes, and the AVS staff à visit families door-to-door. It is reassuring that wherever we go, we can find connectors that build relationships and strengthen communities. During reflection times with the group, there were oh so many ways we felt our lives enriched by new friendships and connections. This is a constant reminder that what happens in this part of the world is linked to our day-to-day lives...from how we use natural resources, such as water, to policies and practices of our government and transnational enterprises. *Think on these things!*

To read more about the project, check out Agua Viva Serves www.aguavivaserves.org

Please tell others that they can catch a glimpse of our VIM experiences weekly at www.StPaulsIthaca.org under the 'service' tab and, most importantly, hold these projects in your thoughts and prayers.

abrazos y bendiciones, Nancy Potter, Ithaca Rotary

Rotary Salutes

Rotary District 7170 Grant Committee

Rotary District 7170 Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Edmeston Central School FIRST Robotics team I would like to thank the **Rotary District** for your support. You may know, this is a small community oriented team with very few technically oriented businesses. So, your grant support has been essential as we develop this new team. More importantly the interest and support of the Rotary has instilled a great sense of community with the students. Their end of season demonstration has become a greatly anticipated part of their deliverables.

As adults, we have a wonderful opportunity to teach by example. The generosity of the Rotary is not lost on these students. This year they were eager to do a "give back" activity which was a charity shoe drive.

Thank you again for demonstrating to these students that FIRST is "More than a Robot".

Steve Davis
Lead Advisor
FIRST Robotics Team 5585
Edmeston Central School

Lana,
I heard from Marty Winsor that your recent Rotary video presentation had great representation of our Edmeston Robotics Team. I have been mentoring students for 4 years in this program so I am seeing several of them move on to technical college work. They all comment on the benefits of our program. One reason I enjoy working with the students is that there is a long-term payback. Thank you again for your support. It is having long range benefits.
Steve Davis
Technical Advisor, Edmeston Robotics Team



The **Groton Rotary Club** sent pens to Senegal and will stay in touch with this group via students from Groton, as pen pals.

Rotary Salutes cont,

Each year the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce holds a thanksgiving luncheon to honor service clubs. Several Rotary clubs were in attendance along with four exchange students. A new all-time attendance record was set at over 700 attendees.



DG Richard and members of the *Vestal Rotary Club*



Members of the *Endwell Rotary Club*.



What do you get when you assemble over 45 Rotarians from 18 different clubs on a rainy Saturday? A lot of inspiring ideas.

at Dryden High School.) Here we're going to continue the One Rotary conversation.

On Saturday, October 22, Rotarians from all over District 7170 came together for the One Rotary Summit to learn how membership, foundation giving, public relations, and service work together to strengthen clubs. The day started with presentations and a young leaders panel discussion and then continued with Club Spotlight discussions. Rotarians came up with new plans to try back in their individual clubs. Some highlights include a Rotarians for Hire weekend, a local BBQ with speakers discussing community needs, and much, much more!

Couldn't attend the One Rotary Summit? You don't have to wait until next October. Mark your calendars today for the District Training Assembly (April 1 at SUNY Oneonta or April 8





Are you aware of our Hand Washing project? It is following CDC, UNICEF, WHO etc Several of us are continuing this educational program but need an infusion of knowledgeable ways to reach sources of posters, videos, and Soap -bars--soap the size of hotel bars to give to k-6 kids as part of our school presentations (*maybe there is a Rotarian or two who have insights into how to go about reaching some helpers*) if so, please contact **Joseph Cassaniti** from the Ithaca Noon Rotary at cassanitijoe@gmail.com



For those of you who missed the Foundation Dinner, here is a video so you can see what you missed!!

[Foundation Dinner 2016](#)

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN ATLANTA, JUNE 10-14, 2017

Be a part of history! Celebrate 100 years of, "Doing Good in the World" in the city where it all began. The 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Foundation!

100 years ago at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Rotary International President, Arch Klumph, proposed creating an endowment fund "for the purpose of doing good in the world". The 1st donation was \$26.50. The Rotary Foundation has grown and now has spent over \$3 billion dollars on programs and projects.

Some special events include: 100th anniversary birthday party, book signing, centennial exhibit, film festival, special tours, entertainment, host hospitality night and a special zone 28-29 event. We are also planning a district event for those who are attending. Please help DG Richard achieve his goal of 100 attendees.

REGISTER NOW! Registration goes up again Dec. 15. There are 3 documents with information posted on the district website. REGISTER ONLINE at: riconvention.org. Hurry, the hotels are filling up fast! Please contact me with any questions: pkriebel@stny.rr.com

Let's have fun together in Atlanta!

PDG, Pat Kriebel, area zone 29 Atlanta promotional chair

Rotary Scholar Report

Dear Rotary,

Hope you are enjoying the autumn weather. I love this time of year. It is in the middle of the warm and exciting summer and the cold but festive winter. The leaves show their golden and red hue and really bring to life the landscape around us. Surprisingly it has not rained so much in London this autumn. Taking advantage of the rare glimpses of sunshine, I recently went on a hike to Epping Forest.

Epping Forest is an ancient woodland in the area above northeast London. The 6,000 acres of woodland used to be a royal forest, but currently is managed by the City of London Corporation. It is rich in woodland, grassland, trees, rivers and ponds. The scenery is truly magical. Most of the forest is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

It has an interesting historical aspect to it as well. When Queen Victoria visited it in 1882, she announced that, "It gives me the greatest satisfaction to dedicate this beautiful forest to the use and enjoyment of my people for all time." Today it is known as the "People's Forest."

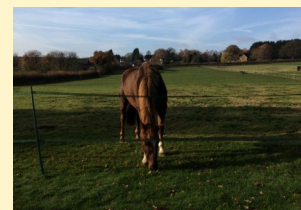
Epping Forest reminded me of Ithaca, my hometown where I have spent half of my life. I suppose we truly appreciate the magic and beauty of a place once we leave it. We have a saying that "Ithaca is Gorges" and indeed, with the parks, waterfalls, lakes, hills and all the natural beauty my hometown has, it is unique in a world that is rapidly urbanizing.

During our second year at LSE, we participate in a capstone project where we work with a client organization to provide possible solutions to a problem or challenge they have identified. I work with four other classmates as a group on a project on Intermediate Cities. We are working with an infrastructure development bank in Colombia that invests mainly in infrastructure projects around the country. Our task is to help our client analyze the Intermediate Cities Index they have built which tries to measure city development in terms of three dimensions: sustainability, competitiveness and innovation. This project has made me very thoughtful about city development and what exactly this means. There are statistics that show by 2050 most people in the world will be living in urban areas. This puts pressure on smaller cities and intermediate cities to develop. What I fear is that due to these pressures our "People's Forests" might soon be gone to make space for more people, more buildings, more roads.

What do you see happening? Will city development succeed to the detriment of "People's Forests" or will we find a way to preserve our natural habit and learn to "develop" in harmony?

Kind regards,

Lusiné Mehrabyan





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District Governor
2016-2017

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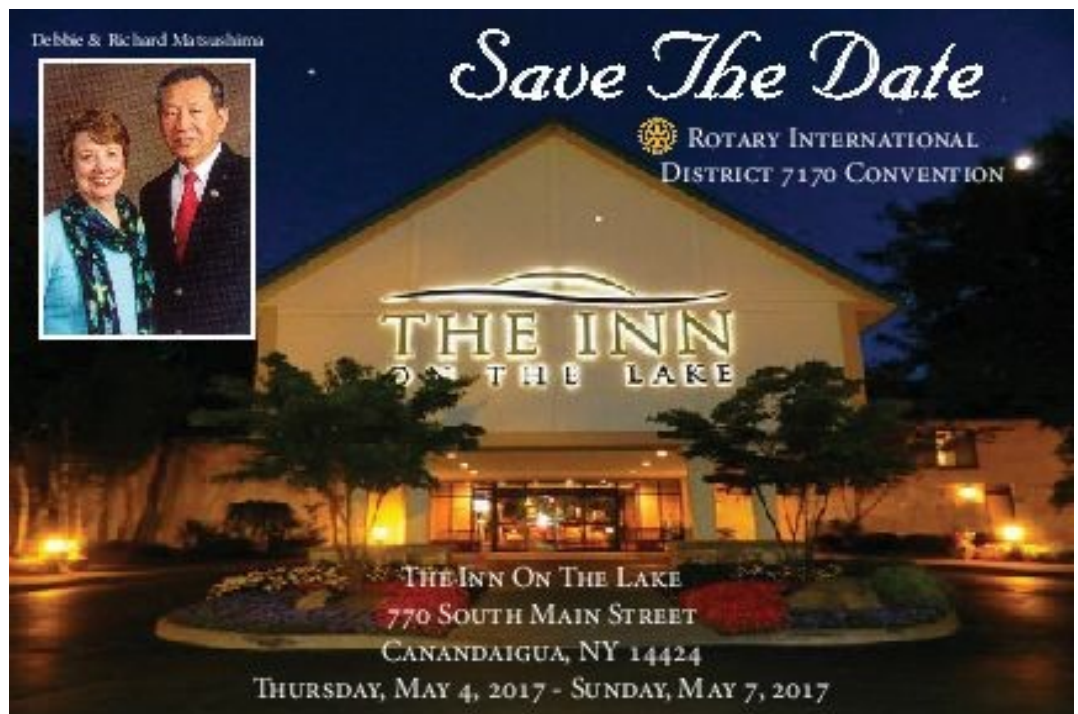
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Register for Atlanta
International Conven-
tion June 10-14, 2017

[Atlanta 2017](#)



SHERBURNE BIG M SHOPPING SPREE



Grand Prize
3 Minutes to grab up to
\$1,000 in groceries



1st Prize: \$100 Gas Card
2nd Prize: \$50 Big M Gift Card
3rd and 4th Prizes: \$25 Big M Gift Cards

Drawing: Valentine's Day (February 14, 2017)
Noon at Sherburne Big M
Do not need to be present to win

Shopping Spree will take place on
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 8:30 AM

Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased from
any Sherburne Rotarian

See official rules on back of tickets

Proceeds to benefit

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S
POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN
AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS**