



**District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos**

## **Governor's Newsletter**

### **District 7490**

**Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties**

**New Jersey, USA**

**July, 2018**



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

### **Governor's Message for July.**

Welcome Rotarians to a New Year, a Fresh Start with New Opportunities...

At the Rotary International Convention a few weeks ago in Toronto, I learned a great deal of insight that I intend to share with every club in the District as I make my rounds and as we share concepts at our District Staff Meetings.

In the last couple of weeks, my journey through our District has brought many new experiences, especially the pleasure and privilege of getting to know one another. Goals are being shared, ideas to strengthen our clubs and District are being discussed and new projects are being shared with all our fellow Rotarians. So far, the clubs that I have had the pleasure of visiting, have given me a truly warm welcome and I'm truly humbled.

I also want you to know, that I admire the independence and strength of our clubs, and the ability of our clubs to coalesce and work alongside one another in the pursuit of something great. It is this unique blend of qualities, talents, and drive that makes our District something truly remarkable.

I appreciate the candid nature of all of our Rotarians and I encourage that in the future as I invite you all to send me an email at my dedicated Rotary email address ([nikkimederos7490@gmail.com](mailto:nikkimederos7490@gmail.com)). Like many of us, I share the responsibilities and work of a full-time job and teach for my university, so please take that in mind when waiting for a reply.

I want to talk to each Rotarian in our district and get as much of an insight as possible of the wants and needs within 7490. I intend to make informed decisions and I intend to make these decisions with all your input in mind.

From the energy and excitement in my conversations with many of you, I know that we have an incredible year ahead of us and I know for a fact that many of you are truly ready to "Be the Inspiration."

As I have said before, "Service is "heart woven" into our DNA and the possibilities are endless.

Yours in Service,  
Nikki Mederos, DG  
District 7490

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### **At Her First District Staff Meeting, Governor Nikki Outlines District Goals for 2018 - 2019.**

Speaking for the first time as the Governor of Rotary District 7490, Niurka “Nikki” Mederos told her listeners in July that “we are here because we have a vision.” – a vision of service and giving to others.

Speaking at her first District Staff Meeting on July 9, Governor Nikki said that the service project “Halloween Against Hunger” will be revived this fall. After being held for four years beginning in 2012, the program, in which food was prepared and distributed to food banks and similar venues, was suspended last fall.

She also announced that Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, where she serves as its Director of External Affairs/Outreach Community, has donated \$10,000 to the District. She called upon Rotarians to offer up suggestions as to how that money should be used.

Governor Nikki said that in an effort to maintain an up-to-date website, she has appointed Alex Daoud, a member of the Rotaract Club of Saint Petr’s University, as the District’s Webmaster. The activities of three clubs, she said, will be highlighted on the website every week.

Governor Nikki also said that she hopes to involve the families of Rotarians in District activities.

To that end, she said, the District was planning to hold a Family Picnic on Sunday, July 22 in Van Saun Park in Paramus. However, forecasts of heavy rain and gale force winds projected for that day caused the committee planning the event to postpone the picnic until either August 12 or September 15.

Noting that in 2015 – 2016, then District Governor Peter Wells had formed “strike teams” to assist clubs that asked for it, Governor Nikki said that she would form similar teams, which she called “special forces” teams to render assistance whenever asked. She also called on assistant governors to be more active on the District level.

Governor Nikki also laid out goals for the 2018 – 2019 year, which began on July 1: such as enhancing Rotary’s image and Rotaract; engaging in partnerships with other service-oriented groups, an increase in service projects, both on the club and District levels, scholarship recognition and greater family involvement in Rotary on the District level, as she had outlined moments earlier.

Finally, Governor Nikki also told her audience that the five previous Rotary Districts in New Jersey have been reduced to three – Districts 7490, 7475 and a newly created District 7505. The former District 7510, she said, has been absorbed by District 7475 and the former Districts 7500 and 7610 have been reorganized as District 7505.



**District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos addressing her first District Staff Meeting on July 9. In her remarks, she announced the revival of the “Halloween Against Hunger” service project and of special teams to assist clubs that ask for it.**



**Goals for 2018 – 2019 which District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos outlined in her remarks at the July 9 District Staff Meeting.**

- #### Goals for 2018-2019
- Enhancing Public Image/Rotaract
  - Collaborating Partnerships/Corporate Sponsorships
  - Increase Service Projects/District Project
  - Scholarship Recognition/Special Needs Applicant \$2,000
  - Membership/Family Membership



## Report of Activities of the First District Staff Meeting of 2018 - 2019.

### *PRID Colasurdo Urges District Interaction with Club Members.*

Delivering the keynote address at this month's (July) District Staff Meeting, Past Rotary International Director Michael Colasurdo spoke of a *Constant and Never-ending Improvement* as a means to increase Rotary's membership and effectiveness.

Speaking on July 9, Mike quoted St. Teresa of Calcutta's definition of vocation. Her vocation, Mother Teresa had said, was her love of Jesus, not what she did. Paraphrasing her, Mike said that his vocation was a love of humanity. And that love, he said, impels him to work for Rotary's expansion and an increase in its dedication to service.

Speaking of Rotary's membership, Mr. Colasurdo said that 30-percent of Rotary clubs in District 7490 are made up of less than 20 members. "We are not growing," he added, saying that "we are dying" unless Rotary increases its overall membership.

Addressing Rotary's accomplishments over the last 113 years, Mr. Colasurdo said that those accomplishments, in the grand scheme of things, "mean nothing." What matters, he declared is "what we are doing tomorrow."

Noting the titles denoting various Rotary offices or of previous positions held, those titles, he said, pale in comparison to the title of Rotarian. The title of District Governor, or of Past International Director, Mr. Colasurdo said, should not be of more significance than that of the title "Rotarian".

Addressing officers of District 7490, Mr. Colasurdo said that they should speak to various officers of the clubs they represent, rather than only to the club president. Club presidents, he noted, serve for a term of one year, while lower-ranking officers will themselves assume the leadership of their respective clubs. Interactions with these people, he suggested, would provide a cohesive and longstanding relationship between the clubs and the District that represents them.

Noting the passing in August last year of Past Rotary International Director Raymond R. Wells, Mr. Colasurdo spoke of his inspiration and encouragement of up-and-coming leaders of Rotary. He noted, for example, that Mr. Wells had invited governors-elect to his home.

Mr. Colasurdo served as a member of RI's Board of Directors in 2008 – 2009 and in the second year of his term, in 2009 – 2010, served as the Treasurer of Rotary International. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Brick Township in New Jersey.



**Past Rotary International Director Michael Colasurdo on July 9 as he urged officers of District 7490 to interact with club members such as committee chairs, etc. in addition to the presidents.**

### *PDG Joe Dino Speaks of Vocational Service Awards.*

At Rotary District 7490 first District Staff Meeting of the Year, Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. spoke in July of the Vocational Service Award, which he called the most prestigious of all awards presented in the District.

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**Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. speaking at the District Staff Meeting on July 9 of the Vocational Service Award, which each of the three Rotary districts in New Jersey will present this fall to one of their number.**



## Report of Activities of the First District Staff Meeting of 2018 - 2019.

### ***PDG Joe Dino Speaks of Vocational Service Awards.***

*(Continued from Page 3, Col. 2)*

In his remarks on July 9, Joe noted that the award is presented to the person in District 7490 who is viewed as having best honored his or her vocation. The three Rotary Districts in New Jersey, he said, (reduced from five to three at the beginning of the new Rotary year) will present the awards at the 38<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Vocational Assembly in October.

He urged all clubs in the District to submit a nomination for that award, noting that the deadline for submissions is August 15.

### ***PDG Bill Rupp Talks of 2019 Joint Conference in Gettysburg.***

Past District Governor William F. Rupp announced at the District Staff Meeting on July 9 that Rotary District 7490 will join with District 7475 in a multi-district conference next spring. The conference will take place in Gettysburg, Pa., Bill said, from Thursday, May 2, through Saturday, May 4, 2019. District 7475, led by District Governor John Wilson, is made up of 87 clubs with approximately 2,100 members.

The price for each of two people in a double occupancy room during a stay that will end on Sunday, May 5, Bill said will be \$1,100. A single-room occupancy will cost \$800.00. The price for both accommodations will include breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, (May 3 – 5) a cocktail reception on Thursday, May 2 and a banquet on Saturday, May 4. A bus will be chartered for people who do not wish to drive to the conference, he said.



**Past District Governor William F. Rupp speaking at the July 9 District Staff Meeting of next spring's joint District 7490 and District 7475 Conference in Gettysburg, Pa., set for May 2 – 5, 2019. To Bill's right is John C. "Jay" Fowler, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos' Chief of Staff.**

### ***Sharon Chambers-Smith Honored by Walter D. Head Foundation.***

Speaking now as Chairman of the Walter D. Head Foundation, Bill noted that its By-Laws limit service on its Board of Trustees to two consecutive terms of three years. This term-limit, he said, requires Sharon Chambers-Smith to leave the Board, with Sharon having served for six years beginning in 2012.

During her two terms, Bill said, Sharon spearheaded applications for Walter D. Head scholarships. Calling her a "tireless" and "hard worker" Bill said that the Board would miss her service. In recognition of her service, and acting on the Board's behalf, he presented Sharon with a second Walter D. Head Fellowship.



**Past District Governor William F. Rupp presenting an emotional Sharon Chambers-Smith with a Walter D. Head Fellowship at the District Staff Meeting on July 9 in recognition for her service as a member of its Board of Trustees.**

### ***'Servant Leaders' Tell of Last Month's RYLA Program.***

Speaking of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program which was held late last month, (in late June) Geoffrey Garlick and David Z. Edelstein, two of 18 people who served as "Servant Leaders" during the five-day program showed a two-minute video highlighting some of the events which took place at Hands for Youth (previously known as Camp Vacamas) in West Milford, N.J.

The two Servant Leaders reported that 98 high school students participated in the five-day program, which began on Sunday, June 24 and ended later in the week, on Thursday, June 28. In response to a question, Geoffrey said that of the 98 juniors who are 16 and 17 years old, 75 were girls while the remaining 23 were boys.

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## Report of Activities of the First District Staff Meeting of 2018 - 2019.

### *'Servant Leaders' Tell of Last Month's RYLA Program.*

*(Continued from Page 4, Col. 1)*

In selecting candidates for the program David said, RYLA looks for students who show latent, not necessarily obvious, leadership traits. They asked that clubs supporting RYLA approach school guidance counselors who can help in guiding the selection of candidates.

Speaking of their own role as "Servant Leaders", Geoffrey and David said that that title encourages leaders to think of themselves as "serving" and not necessarily "directing" the high school students. Following last month's program David said he travelled to California to observe a RYLA program in a Rotary district of that state.



**Geoffrey Garlick and David Z. Edelstein who served last month as "Servant Leaders" of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program in West Milford, N.J.**

### *PDG Joe Laurenzi Asks for Help in Forming New Clubs.*



**Past District Governor on July 9 Joseph Laurenzi urging Rotarians of District 7490 to assist in the forming of new Rotary clubs in the three counties of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties which make up the District.**

Speaking as Chairman of the District Extension Committee, Past District Governor Joseph Laurenzi appealed at this month's District Staff Meeting on July 9 for Rotarians to join him in forming new Rotary clubs in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties. The District, he noted is now composed of 50 clubs with slightly more than 1,200 members.

### *PDG Peter Lefkowitz Speaks of Rotary Peace Fellowships.*

Speaking at the July District Staff Meeting, Past District Governor Peter F. Lefkowitz said on July 9 that the District's Rotary Foundation Fundraising Committee, which he chairs, has recommended that a person sponsored by the North Hudson Rotary Club be selected to receive one of 100 Peace Fellowships, which will be awarded to candidates from around the world.

The Peace Fellowships are divided into two groups, with 50 Peace Scholars entering Master's programs that range from 15 to 24 months and 50 others who receive professional development program certificates which entail three-month periods of study. This three-month program includes field study periods of from two to three weeks during academic breaks.

On behalf of the Committee, he also honored Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus Rotary Club for becoming a member of the Paul Harris Society. Members of the Society, Peter explained, commit themselves to contributing at least \$1,000 a year to the Foundation for the next 10 years. Rick will do this, he said, by contributing \$84.00 a month to the Foundation.



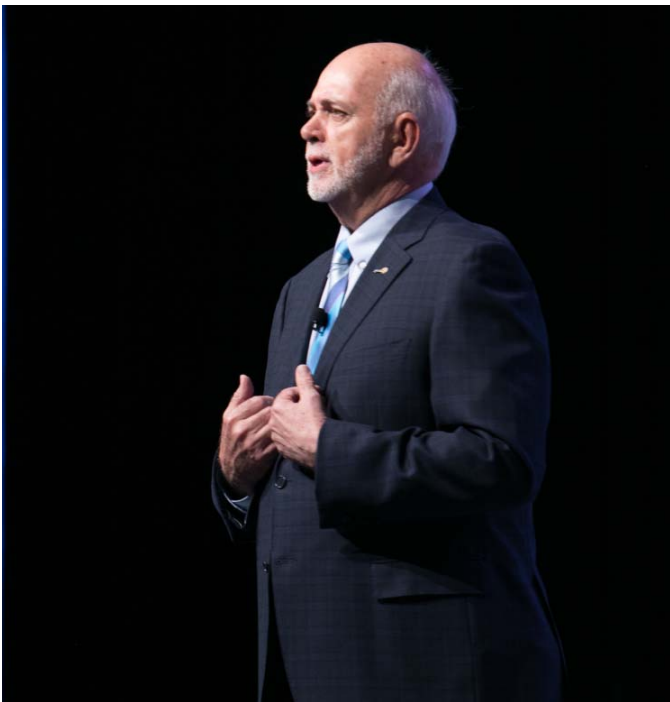
**Past District Governor Peter F. Lefkowitz presenting Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus Rotary Club with membership in the Paul Harris Society. Members pledge themselves to contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the Rotary Foundation for a period of 10 years.**

## Rotary International President Barry Rassin Declares '*Be the Inspiration*' as RI's Theme for 2018 - 19.

*Be the Inspiration* is the theme of Rotary International for the Year 2018 – 2019 which began this month.

At RI's annual International Assembly in January, Rotary International President-elect (now President) Barry Rassin urged governors-elect to "Be the Inspiration" to their clubs, their communities and their countries. "I'm asking you," he said: "to be inspired by our motto of Service Above Self, and to inspire others to action with your words, with your deeds: to inspire those to know that what we need today is to make Rotary stronger."

Speaking on January 14 to the approximately 550 district governors-elect from around the world, Mr. Rassin, a member of the Rotary Club of East Nassau in the Bahamas, told them that rather than solve the problems or challenges facing the clubs they will represent next year, they should *inspire* their fellow Rotarians to address those challenges.



Photograph by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

**Rotary International President-elect (now President) Barry Rassin, a member of the Rotary Club of East Nassau in the Bahamas, announcing his theme for Rotary International – *Be an Inspiration* - at its International Assembly on January 14.**

Quoting Antoine de Saint-Exupéry as saying: "If you want to build a boat, don't start by collecting wood, cutting boards, and assigning tasks. Start by awakening in the soul of your workers the longing for the vast and boundless sea." Expanding on that theme, Mr. Rassin exhorted his audience "to waken in the souls of your Rotarians — their abilities, their potential, the longing that they have that's inside each one of us."

"Your job" Mr. Rassin said, "isn't to fix every problem, for your clubs, on your own." Rather, he said. "You're here to inspire your clubs. To inspire your Rotarians to *want* to do more. To *want* to change, to want to reach their potential." Adding: "Your job is to motivate them — to help them move forward."

Saying that he might be asked how does one inspire his or her fellow Rotarians, Mr. Rassin replied: "I ask you to take the radical leap to leadership" which he said combines "four elements" which include "love, caring, empathy" as well as energy and enthusiasm. "You need," he said, "to show that love to yourself, to your family, and to Rotarians."

Mr. Rassin then said that his listeners must be energized, to be enthusiastic in approaching their year of service. "When you go home and talk to your Rotarians," he said, "they've got to feel your passion for Rotary" asking his audience: "Can you do that?"

He also called upon his audience to be "audacious".

"Challenge yourself" Mr. Rassin urged "with goals you didn't ever think you could do, but you probably can." And, he declared, "show proof, proof being that you lead by example." One cannot, he warned, "stand before your Rotarians and ask them to do things that you have not done or would not do" admonishing his audience to "Lead by example."

Mr. Rassin began his address to the governors-elect by speaking of "an incredible moment" he had experienced the day before as he witnessed governors-elect arriving at the hotel in San Diego where they would begin a week of training in preparation to serve for one year as the governors of their respective districts in more than 200 countries around the world.

Standing in the hotel lobby with John Hewko, the General Secretary of Rotary International, Mr. Rassin said, he remarked, "here we go" to which Mr. Hewko replied that the arrival of the governors-elect reminded him of a video he had seen on the YouTube media platform.

The video, Mr. Hewko had said, showed a scene in which a bass player walks onto a plaza playing the opening strains of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. "then, a cellist comes and joins in" he continued "then the strings, the rest of the woodwinds."

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## Rotary International President Barry Rassin Declares *'Be the Inspiration'* as RI's Theme for 2018 - 19.

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The musicians, Mr. Rassin said, were all “wearing street clothes, they’re ordinary people” who join together “transforming the plaza” with “their beautiful music”. As the governors-elect arrived at the hotel singly or in small groups, Mr. Rassin said, he imagined them as being an orchestra, saying “I could almost hear the music begin as you’re coming together to join for our year.”

“You’ve come” the President-elect said “from every corner of the Rotary world. You’ve come to begin our journey together, which I could not have imagined just six months ago.”

He then paid tribute to the late Samuel F. Owori, a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala in Uganda who would have become the 108<sup>th</sup> President of RI this summer. Mr. Owori died on July 13, 2017 – 13 days after he had become RI’s President-elect after having undergone what should have been a routine surgery in the United States.

“July first of this Rotary year” Mr. Rassin said: “you and I and all of Rotary thought someone else would be standing here tonight - President-elect Sam.” Mr. Owori “was a friend” he continued: “a hero to the Rotarians in Africa” whose “brilliant smile, his gentle spirit was known and loved by everyone.”

Mr. Owori, Mr. Rassin continued: “called himself an incorrigible optimist who believed in the goodness of the world and the power of Rotary to make it (the world) great.” We are here, Mr. Rassin said, “to carry forward Sam’s work, the work of Rotary, to carry forward the lessons that we’ve learned over the last few months” lessons, he said, “that the work of Rotary doesn’t begin or end with any one of us.”

Mr. Rassin then laid out the challenge facing his audience in particular, and Rotary in general.

The governors-elect to whom he was speaking, Mr. Rassin said, have “been given the responsibility to build from those who went before us” and those, he said who “will come in the future.” They can do this, he said, by “serving effectively, by serving efficiently, keeping accountability, keeping our transparency and changing lives in as many ways as possible in significant and lasting ways.”

His audience, Mr. Rassin said, must also assure that Rotary remains a relevant arm of service, making certain “that we are being useful to the world, not only this year and next, but beyond our time in Rotary, and beyond our time on earth.”

Mr. Rassin also spoke of the need to increase Rotary’s membership - not just to maintain a stable membership base. “We all know,” he said, “that our membership has hovered around 1.2 million members for the last 20 years.” But while Rotary’s membership has remained stable during that time, Mr. Rassin said, “our members are getting older.”

Many clubs, he added, “have no knowledge or no motivation to have an impact” in the world of service, “we have clubs that don’t know the global level of work that Rotary does” and, he said, “we have clubs that don’t know about our programs or our Foundation, they don’t even know how to get involved.”

His job, and that of the governors-elect, Mr. Rassin said, “is to ensure that Rotary continues to provide the best experience to our members. We must continue to make sure our organization is growing.”

The need to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of Rotary, and to ensure its relevancy, Mr. Rassin said, are “ideas that have inspired our new vision statement that describes the Rotary that we want to be.”

This new vision, he said is one in which “we see a world where people unite to take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

Emphasizing the need for unity of purpose and action, Mr. Rassin said, “We unite because we know that together we can do so much more than we can by ourselves” continuing: “We take action because we’re not just dreamers, but we’re doers, we’re people of action.”

He then discussed a need for change.

“We create lasting change for the good of the world” Mr. Rassin said. Change “that will endure long after our involvement has ended.” In Rotary, he said, “We create change across the globe and in our communities as we’re reaching out to those who we will never meet, and those who are closest to our hearts.”

We also, he said, “make change in ourselves” change that “perhaps (is) the most important of all.”

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Photograph Rotary International

**Rotary International President-elect Samuel F. Owori, who died after surgery on July 13, 2017. Mr. Owori had been a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala in Uganda, and was to have served as RI's 108<sup>th</sup> President beginning this month.**

## Rotary International President Barry Rassin Declares '*Be the Inspiration*' as RI's Theme for 2018 - 19.

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But change, Mr. Rassin said, can also mean that one does the most basic things, quoting Mother Teresa as saying “that if you want to change the world, go home and love your family” saying: “because change starts within ourselves and then moves outward.” This is powerful,” he said. “We need to take this to heart, because we want to be taking care of our organization, our family.”

As a “membership organization,” Mr. Rassin said, “if we want to be able to serve, if we want to be able to succeed, then we have to take care of our members”

Mr. Rassin then turned to the purpose of his theme for 2018 – 2019 - *Be the Inspiration*.

Noting that he is a native of the Bahamas, Mr. Rassin said, “the sea has always been something very special to me.” The sea, he said, “represents distance and represents connection.”

“When I stand on the edge of my island, looking out over the sea,” he said, “I imagine somebody in another island, another country on the edge of their island looking out over the sea.” People may be of “different nations, different cultures, different languages” he said, “but the sea is the same.”

Explaining his vision for the coming year this July, Mr. Rassin said, “I want to see Rotary *Be the Inspiration* for our communities, to have transformational impact — to do research on the real needs, to involve all of our participants.”

To do this, he said Rotary must “do a better job telling our communities who we are, what we do, leveraging our social media so we can get our message out there to all those who want to hear it.” He urged Rotary “to help our members to develop the skills that they need and develop the leadership ability so that we truly have long-term leadership and strong clubs.”



Photograph by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

**With an image of the sea in the background, Rotary International President-elect (now President) Barry Rassin on Jan. 14 tells governors-elect from around the world how as a Bahamian “the sea has always been something very special to me.” To Mr. Rassin’s right is the logo image for what is now Rotary International’s theme for the Year 2018 – 2019 – *Be the Inspiration*.**

And he urged his listeners “to make sure that our Rotaract becomes a vital force in the world of Rotary. I want to see Rotaract double in size next year,” he said, asking, “You think we can do that?” He urged the governors-elect to join in efforts to help members of Rotaract clubs to create new Rotary clubs saying that young Rotaract members “want their friends, their generation to be together.” If former Rotaract members can create their own clubs, Mr. Rassin said, “then they’re going to transition to Rotary.”

But, Mr. Rassin also said that Rotary clubs themselves must meet the needs of *their* members. “What are they looking for?” he asked of potential applicants for membership. “What do they want from Rotary?” urging his listeners to “Let’s make sure the clubs find out what that is and then give it to them.”

But while people may seek to become Rotarians for different reasons, Mr. Rassin said, one objective that has united Rotarians over the years “the one thing that has inspired us all” is the battle to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth.

Describing the present time as a “truly an exciting time to be part of Rotary” Mr. Rassin contrasted the rampage of polio in 1987 when Rotary began its campaign, to the status of polio today, 30 years later.

In 1987, Mr. Rassin said, approximately 350,000 people, mainly children, he pointed out, would contract polio every year – that is, almost 1,000 people every day. “Four years ago” he continued, “359 children were paralyzed” and “three years ago, 74 children.” Continuing his progression, Mr. Rassin said that in 2016, 37 children contracted polio and last year – in 2017 – 21 children were stricken.

In simple terms, 350,000 people stricken by polio in 1987 as opposed to 21 people afflicted last year.

So far this year, he said, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the new year, “how many cases of polio have we had this year?” Mr. Rassin asked. “Zero!” he exclaimed to loud applause from his listeners.

“But it’s not over” Mr. Rassin cautioned. “We have to be sure,” he warned, “that the wild polio virus is no longer with us.” During the next three years, Mr. Rassin said, “We have to be sure that that there is no wild polio virus in any river, any sewer, or in any paralyzed child.”

In order to guarantee that polio has been eradicated, Mr. Rassin said, Rotary and its partners must continue to wage its campaign against the disease as if the disease were still with us, because he warned, if we become complacent, “We risk losing it all.”

“We have to continue,” Mr. Rassin said, “to immunize 450 million children every year.” Rotary must, he added “continue the surveillance of any children who are paralyzed, we have to continue the surveillance of our water supplies we have to maintain our labs in place, we have to maintain our staff, and our infrastructure” warning “If we don’t do that, we risk it all.”

Mr. Rassin then turned to the subject of sustainability, which he termed “the watchword of Rotary”.

Rotary service programs, Mr. Rassin said, must be long-lasting “because we want the good to last. We want our world to be better. Not just here, not just for us” he said, but “for everyone, for generations.”

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## Rotary International President Barry Rassin Declares '*Be the Inspiration*' as RI's Theme for 2018 - 19.

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"If we really care about what the world looks like in 10, 20, 50, 100 years" Mr. Rassin said "then we have to take the difficulties in our world, and the realities of our world seriously."

"Pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change" he continued "have had serious impact on our six areas of focus."

Every year, he said, 1.7 million children around the world die from the effects of environmental pollution. Four billion people Mr. Rassin said, "have water scarcity at least one month out of every year" warning that that water scarcity will "only get worse as the world gets warmer."

But even as people may have less access to clean water than they do now, Mr. Rassin said, climate change is causing sea levels to rise.

"I live in a country where 80 percent of our land is within one meter of sea level" he said. But over the next 70 years, he added, "It's projected that by the year 2100 the sea levels will rise by *two* meters" declaring "That means my country will be gone in 50 years." It means also, Mr. Rassin continued that "countries in the Caribbean and coastal areas around the world will be gone in 50 years."

"So I'm asking you" he declared "to *Be the Inspiration* to help Rotary move from reaction, to action - to take a hard look at the environmental issues that affect our health and welfare, to do what we can to make a difference."

The concept of sustainable service, Mr. Rassin said, "means looking at everything as part of a larger system, as part of a larger global ecology."

"It means helping to build stronger and more resilient communities," he added. "It means doing everything that we can to make sure that the good we do now is leading to better lives tomorrow, and beyond."



Photograph by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

During the Presentation of Flags on Jan. 15, Past RI Director John C. Smarge, aide to Rotary International President-elect Barry Rassin, holds the flag of the Bahamas, Mr. Rassin's native land. From left-to-right are Esther Rassin and her husband, RI President-elect (now President) Barry Rassin, Cindy Smarge, Mr. Smarge's wife, and Mr. Smarge.



## BE THE INSPIRATION

The logo for Rotary's theme of 2018 – 2019 – *Be the Inspiration* – which was unveiled by RI President-elect Barry Rassin during Rotary's International Assembly in which Rotary district governors-elect were trained for their year of service which began on July 1.



Photograph by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

RI President-elect (now President) Barry Rassin announcing his theme for Rotary International – *Be the Inspiration* – at Rotary's International Assembly on January 14. The logo's image is depicted in 13 of the languages spoken by Rotarians from more than 200 nations and territories around the world.



### **Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club and MEVO Tree Planting Restores Local Habitat.**

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club, in partnership with the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO), recently planted reforestation saplings to support a sustainable environment.

The tree planting area on Lakeview Drive in Mahwah is owned by the Township and was previously filled with illegal dumping, which MEVO first fully removed.

Vegetation in this area has been growing back and recovering from the pollution that was there. This planting of native black cherry trees is the start of reforestation and restoring the area to provide habitat for native species.

"We are delighted to have been able to work together with the BH/R Rotary Club on such a vital reforestation project. The native trees that were planted will provide a much-needed habitat and food source for the species in this area," said Allie Grinkevich, Executive Assistant at MEVO.

"Rotary International has set a goal of planting a tree for every member world-wide, and the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club enthusiastically supports this worthwhile environmental goal. With this planting, we're off to a good start here in northern New Jersey," said Rotarian Tom Grisom.

Many thanks to the diligent team of BH/R Rotary and MEVO volunteers who put their backs and best efforts into this fun and worthy project.



In this and the accompanying photographs, Rotarians from the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club recently joined with MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization) volunteers in a tree planting in Mahwah. The project begins returning a blighted area of Mahwah into a sustainable native habitat.



## Paramus Rotary Club Hears from After School All Stars (ASAS) and from Laganella Scholar.

### *Dax-Devlon Ross Tells of After School Program.*

The guest speaker for the July 12 Paramus Rotary Club meeting was Dax-Devlon Ross from After School All Stars.

After-School All-Stars provides comprehensive after-school programs that keep children safe and help them succeed in school and life. Their vision is for the All-Stars to be safe and healthy, to graduate high school and go on to college, to find careers they love and then give back to their communities.

ASAS serves 73,706 low-income, at-risk youths at 351 Title I schools in 19 major cities across the country — from New York to Hawaii.

Ninety-one-percent of ASAS students are youth of color, 86% qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program and 62% are in the middle school grades.

The students do not have to pay to be members of ASAS, nor are they charged any annual dues or fees to receive any of the eligible programs and services. All-Star programs only take place at Title I schools where more than 50-percent of students qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, a proxy for poverty. They currently operate on 353 school sites across the United States. ASAS does not incur costs for daily transportation to and from their facilities or put students in position where they have to travel to programs alone. Middle school is an age group that is historically under-served by after-school program providers.

There are many programs for elementary school students in the form of structured day care. High schools offer numerous clubs, teams and extra-curricular activities. However, middle school students are often left with few safe and structured opportunities between 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Often middle school students are big enough to travel home alone after school and many parents become less concerned with where their children are and what they are doing after school. Sadly, studies show that 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. is the prime time when unsupervised students are most likely to become involved with gangs, crime, drugs and unsafe sex.

ASAS has moved from being a “National Program Provider” to being a “National Solution Provider” to severe crises facing America’s youth. In response to America’s youth obesity crisis, they created the “Sports as a Hook” program. In response to America’s high school dropout crisis, they have launched “We Are Ready” and “CampUs.” In response to America’s Civic Engagement Crisis, they have launched “Life. Service Action.” In response to America’s economic crisis, they have recently created “CEO: Career Exploration Opportunities” programs.



Dax-Devlon Ross speaking at the Paramus Rotary Club's meeting on July 12 of the *After School All Stars (ASAS)* program.

### *Laganella Scholar Shannon O'Brien Visits Club.*

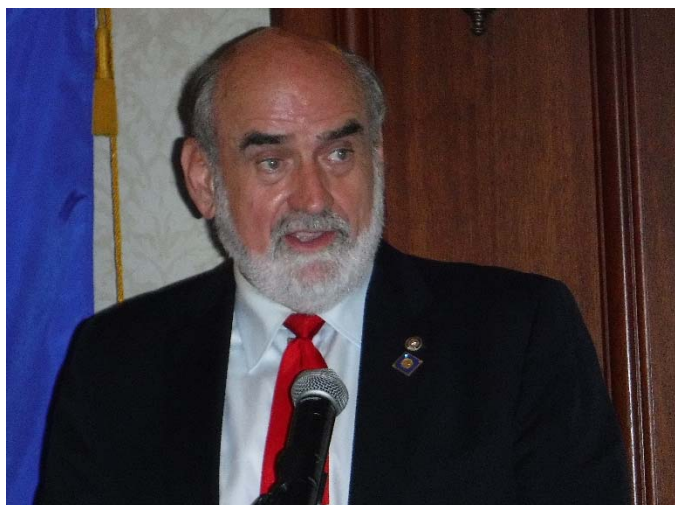


Shannon graduated from Paramus High school last year and is currently attending Seton Hall University. She is in an accelerated program to become a speech pathologist. She is currently working at the Paramus Branch library for summer credits.



## Report on the Rotary Foundation.

*By John C. "Jay" Fowler  
Chairman, District Rotary Foundation*



**John C. "Jay" Fowler**  
Chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee.

### *Club Donations to the Rotary Foundation.*

During the 2017-2018 Rotary Year, 36 of our clubs contributed almost \$65,000 to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation. This is an important number because our District's ability to offer DDF (District-designated Fund) grants in two years is based on that number.

The more money we donate to the Annual Fund, the more money we will have available for DDF Grants for our clubs.

The top five clubs in the District last year were:

Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$9,078.85
Park Ridge Rotary Club	\$4,420.00
Palisades Rotary Club	\$4,200.00
Bergen Highlands/Ramsey	\$3,952.78
Mid-Bergen Rotary Club	\$3,600.00

In addition, the District contributed \$4,000.00 from the proceeds from the Foundation's Brunch.

### *Peace Scholar Nominee Selected.*

The District has endorsed the candidacy of Amanda Gehle for a Peace Scholarship. She was sponsored by the North Hudson Club.

Her application is now in the hands of the Rotary International Committee.

Each year, 100 candidates are selected worldwide for this award. We wish Amanda Good Luck. To learn more about the Foundation's Peace Scholar Program, please contact PDG Bob Tedesco, chairman of the District's Peace Scholar program, at [Robert.tedesco@outlook.com](mailto:Robert.tedesco@outlook.com).

### *Rotary Foundation Training Program to be Revived.*

We are pleased to announce that the Committee will be bringing back the Fall training program. PDG Jim Boyer, assisted by PDG Emil Geering and DGE John Mitchell will be putting the program together. More information to follow.

### *DDF Grant Applications Being Accepted.*

Once again, the Committee is accepting applications for Club DDF Grants. The deadline for submission has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Application are available on the District Website as well as from your club's AG. Questions about the grants should be addressed to Lisa Beohm, [lbeohm@webild.com](mailto:lbeohm@webild.com), our Grants Chairperson.

### *Rick Saltarelli to Chair Paul Harris Society Committee.*

Rick Saltarelli has agreed to Chair the Paul Harris Society Committee. For more information about this wonderful opportunity, contact Rick at [ricksaltnj@aol.com](mailto:ricksaltnj@aol.com).

### *'Miracle on the Hudson' to be Commemorated.*

This January the District's Rotary Foundation Committee will be commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miracle on the Hudson. The Event will be held at Waterside Restaurant on January 15, 2019. Our keynote speaker will be Dave Sanderson, the last passenger off the plane. Watch for more information on this exciting event.

### *Clubs Urged to Conduct at Least One Foundation Program.*

As always, the Committee encourages each club to have at least one program on the Foundation during the year. To book a program, contact Paul Platek at [paul.platek@ubs.com](mailto:paul.platek@ubs.com) or Committee Chairperson, Jay Fowler at [jaycfowler@aol.com](mailto:jaycfowler@aol.com).

## Membership Corner.

*By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee*



**Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti, Chairman of District 7490's Membership Committee.**

This past month Rotary International has already sent our district the names of nine prospective members.

Rotary could not have made it any easier for us to get new members. All we have to do is follow up by inviting these prospective members to our club and show them why we are so proud to be Rotarians.

The nine clubs were Clifton, Passaic Valley, Hackensack, Ridgewood AM, Ridgewood, North Hudson, Hawthorne, Bayonne, and Secaucus. I personally reached out to the presidents of these clubs asking them to send me what progress they have made with these contacts.

It would be great if the AGs' would follow up on all these prospects. No one can sell their club better than the members themselves. They are the only ones who know what an impact they have made in their community.

Many of the clubs have reached out beyond their community and helped those outside of their community, near and far. Our District does this with our Gift of Life Program, as well as other projects beyond our borders.

Some Rotarians never see the equal value in reaching across borders or oceans to meet humanitarian needs of the world. Yes, we do a great deal of humanitarian service but for an organization to survive in this century, it is essential that a strong, viable public image be portrayed in the community.

When people see the Rotary wheel, it should mean Rotarians provide service for our youth, help build a better community, serve the needs of the aged, help those with special needs, the poor and unfortunate. This is an organization that the bright, busy and committed young people will want to be part of.

Each club has a number of Rotarians who enjoy their club meetings, pay their dues, enjoy the activities of the club and take part in every service project, but sadly, they have never proposed a single member to become part of their club. These are members who enjoy the benefits of Rotary but have never given the same pleasure to their friends or associates.

If they recall, someone invited them to join Rotary, but they have never reached out to other leaders in the community to join Rotary. Take a survey in your club and ask how many have proposed a member to the club. You will be shocked that about 80% of the club has never proposed a member to the club. There are so many potential members out there who just "MUST BE ASKED".

Good Luck to you all.

Lenny

**Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG**  
**District Membership Chair**



**District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos**

## **Governor's Newsletter**

### **District 7490**

**Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties**

**New Jersey, USA**

**August, 2018**



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

### **Governor's Message for August.**

Dear Rotarians,

Hoping that everyone has been enjoying the last few days of summer.

Today, as I write this column, I would like to concentrate on membership and give you all the real aspect of where we stand. On June 30<sup>th</sup> District 7490 had 1,208 members; on July 15<sup>th</sup> we had 1,179 members and at last count we are at 1,164. As many know, at 1,100 we are warned by Rotary International of the possibility of a merger with another district and our district 7490 will cease to exist. I tell you all this, because we all need to be responsible for our membership. If we induct a new member, please make sure that you report the new member on rotary.org as soon as possible.

As most of you know, every service organization across our country is having the same issues. Membership is declining; engaging and retaining members is becoming a very difficult task, but we are not alone...times change, goals change, communities change, but people still want to do good for the community they serve and the good that's done around the world. We need to make changes within our clubs and look for new avenues that will attract new members. We need to study the communities we serve and reach out to potential community partners that are likeminded and explore what their vision is for serving the community.

Our problem is very well defined in the following three paragraphs by Rotary International Director, Jeffrey Cadorette. These excerpts are shared from the Beyond Border newsletter.

*(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)*

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### **Newsletter Editor**

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## Governor's Message Focuses on Need to Increase Rotary Membership in District 7490.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)

*"Once thriving, engaged, and relevant clubs who got below a viable critical mass of members and with a couple of unpredicted circumstances, are gone.*

*Districts who were once strong and had full and vibrant committee structures, insidiously slipping toward that threshold of membership that crosses the breakeven point from an economic viability standpoint. You've seen it, or heard of it, or been a part of it. These districts are split apart into pieces and combined with neighboring districts or merged in their entirety with the district next door.*

*We have a problem and we need your help. One of our goals for the next two years for Zones 24 and 32 is to stop that trend. Stop the bleeding. Stop the continued and insidious decline in our membership. On June 30 of 2020 it is our hope and our plan that membership in our two zones will be on the rise. It is an opportunity, not a problem. It will only happen with the help of everyone who is reading these words right now. Each of you. Everyone. All of us. How? A two-pronged attack:*

*1. Our "legacy" clubs need to be stronger and more relevant. Not all of them, but many have slipped into a place where they are comfortable and welcoming to their current members and are not very welcoming or attractive to folks who might want to become a part of our organization. It's a fixable problem. Use the Club Health Check (find it at [rotary.org](http://rotary.org)) to see where the opportunities for improvement are and set a plan in place to accomplish them. Take advantage of the new flexibility offered up by the 2016 Council on Legislation. Use the Rotary Citation as a blueprint, a road map, for your success.*

*2. New Club Development. Not just a club that looks like the one you started in. New models. New prototypes. Models and methods of engagement that are attractive to folks of any age who can't fit into our legacy club model. E-clubs. Passport clubs, Satellite clubs and others we haven't even invented yet."*

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, our District will welcome, PDG Barry Kroll, D7475, who will present on the leadership and accountability aspect of membership. This will lead to a very promising Membership Seminar, led by PDG Bonnie Sirower and PDG Lenny Agrusti concentrating on the *"Best-kept Secrets of Attracting New Members"* on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at CarePlus, 610 Valley Health Plaza, Paramus, NJ.

I invite everyone to attend these two very special events and if you can't attend, please send a representative.

Come to both the District Staff Meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Crown Plaza in Saddle Brook and the Membership Seminar - ***Be the Inspiration!***

Yours in Service,  
Nikki Mederos  
District Governor, 7490



Rotary International Director Jeffrey Cadorette, who, in Governor Nikki's message, outlines how Rotary districts can "stop the bleeding" of falling memberships. The challenge to increase membership, he writes, "is an opportunity" for growth, and "not a problem."

## District Staff Meeting Q & A on Membership, Gift of Life, Rotary Foundation and Walter D. Head.

In a question-and-answer session on Aug. 6, Past District Governors William F. Rupp and Bonnie F. Sirower spoke of the Walter D. Head Foundation and on club membership, while Jennifer Padolina spoke on the Gift of Life and John C. "Jay" Fowler spoke of the Rotary Foundation.

### *PDG Bonnie Sirower on Membership 'Leads' and Seminar.*

Speaking on Aug. 6, Bonnie said that the District had distributed membership "leads," that is, indications of interest in joining Rotary to 14 clubs, with the District receiving responses from nine of those clubs. She urged her listeners to attend a seminar on membership, which will be held on Oct. 4 at a Care Plus facility, located at 610 Valley Health Plaza in Paramus.

### *PDG Bill Rupp Speaks on Walter D. Head Foundation.*

In his comments on the Walter D. Head Foundation, Bill announced that Past District Governor Adele E. Miller will chair the Foundation's Board of Trustees for the next three years. He also announced that the Foundation has raised \$13,000 with which to award scholarships to people in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties.

Bill also reminded his audience that the Foundation will provide a "pass-through" service for Rotary clubs that do not have their own foundations. This will allow the clubs, he said, to solicit tax-deductible contributions with which to finance their service projects.

The Walter Head Foundation, Bill added, also provides funding to the District's Military Family Assistance Center.

### *Jennifer Padolina Discusses Gift of Life Surgeries and Missions.*

Jennifer, chairwoman of the District's Gift of Life Committee, said that this year, the Committee expects to finance the heart surgeries of three patients, two of which will be performed at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Paterson and one at the Westchester Medical Center's Children's Hospital in Valhalla, N.Y.

Two adult patients, Jennifer said, underwent heart surgeries in February while a third was too ill to undergo the procedure. She hopes, Jennifer said, that the third patient will be able to undergo the operation later this year.

In her review of the Gift of Life, Jennifer said that six patients will undergo surgeries this year at the two above-mentioned hospitals, with one surgeon operating in both. She also spoke of two medical missions in the Philippines planned for January, and missions planned also for Kosovo in Europe and in Bolivia in South America.

### *'Jay' Fowler Talks of Rotary (International) Foundation.*

Jay, who also serves as District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos' Chief of Staff, said that District 7490 has received \$18,000 in funding from the Rotary Foundation - contributions, he noted which had been made by clubs and Rotarians of the District three years ago and which had been invested by the Foundation. Half of all District contributions, he noted, are returned to the districts upon completion of the three-year investment period.

The funds the District received, he said, will enable clubs in the three counties of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic that make up District 7490 to perhaps plan more ambitious service projects.

He reminded his listeners that all Rotary clubs throughout the world are, by virtue of their Rotary status, members of the Foundation.

Speaking also of the Foundation, Past District Governor James Boyer said that a seminar on the Foundation will be held sometime this fall. He also said that a brunch celebrating the Foundation will be held in January.

The brunch, he said, will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary of the *Miracle on the Hudson*, in which a US Airways passenger plane made an emergency landing in the Hudson River on Jan. 15, 2009. Dave Sanderson, a motivational speaker who was the last passenger to evacuate the plane, will deliver the brunch's keynote speech, Jim said.



Participants in a question-and-answer session at this month's District Staff Meeting on Aug. 6. From left-to-right are Jennifer Padolina, chairwoman of the Gift of Life Committee; John C. "Jay" Fowler, chairman of the District's Rotary Foundation Committee; Past District Governor William F. Rupp, outgoing chairman of the Walter D. Head Foundation; and Past District Governor Bonnie F. Sirower, who spoke on membership.

## Report of Activities of the Second District Staff Meeting on August 6.

### *Governor Nikki Speaks of Club Visits at Staff Meeting.*

At the August District Staff Meeting this month, District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos announced that Past District 7470 Governor Barry Kroll would deliver the keynote speech at the District’s Staff Meeting on October 1. Barry, a member of the Madison Rotary Club, served as District 7470’s Governor in 2013 – 2014.

Noting that her immediate predecessor, James Boyer, had characterized his official visits to clubs as the most enjoyable part of his service, Governor Nikki said that he was “on target” agreeing that her visits are the most exciting feature of her service as District Governor. She is humbled, Governor Nikki said, by the welcomes she receives.



District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos speaking on Aug. 6 of her visits to Rotary clubs in District 7490. The welcomes she receives at those visits, she said, are humbling.

### *PDG Joe Dino on Naming of N.J. Vocational Service Awards.*

Speaking at the Aug. 6 District Staff Meeting, Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr., chairman of the District’s Vocational Assembly Committee, announced that the New Jersey Vocational Service Awards would be named in honor of Past District Governor Carmine L. Torsiello and the then District 7470 Governor- Robert H. Pityo. Carmine who served as District Governor in 1974 – 1975 and Bob, who served as District 7470’s Governor in 1982 – 1983, launched the annual New Jersey Vocational Assembly in 1981.

The annual observance, in which all three Rotary districts in New Jersey take part, is generally held in October in order to emphasize the “commitment to high ethical standards” by Rotarians in their chosen vocations.



Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. speaking on Aug. 6 on the naming of the New Jersey Vocational Service Awards in honor of Past District Governor Carmine L. Torsiello and Past District 7470 Governor Robert H. Pityo. Both men launched the annual New Jersey Vocational Assembly in 1981.

### *‘Halloween Against Hunger’ Set for Oct. 27 in Paterson.’*



Past District Governors Dan Shiver and Bonnie F. Sirower discussing District 7490’s Halloween Against Hunger service project, which set for Oct. 27 in Paterson.

*(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)*



## Report of Activities of the Second District Staff Meeting on August 6.

### *'Halloween Against Hunger' Set for Oct. 27 in Paterson.'*

*(Continued from Page 4, Col. 2)*

Past District Governors Bonnie F. Sirower and Dan Shiver announced this month that the District's *Halloween Against Hunger* service project will take place on Saturday, October 27 in Paterson at the Christopher Hope Community Center, located at 60 Temple Street. Speaking at the District Staff Meeting on Aug. 6, Dan and Bonnie said that the goal of the project is to prepare and distribute 20,000 meals to food banks and the like.

They asked their listeners to participate in the preparation and of the foodstuffs and urged clubs of District 7490 to each donate at least \$250.00 to the project. A donation of \$250.00, they said, would provide for 1,000 meals.

### *Jennifer Aitken of Jersey City Discusses Rotary's Public Image.*

Jennifer R. Aitken, the District's Public Image Coordinator, spoke this month of the District's website, showing he listeners how to navigate it and promising that it will be continually updated. Jennifer, a member of the Jersey City Rotary Club, said that Alex Daoud, a member of Saint Peter's University's Rotaract Club, will continually update the website with Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus Rotary Club providing photographs.

She also noted that the District maintains pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, urging her listeners to access all three segments of the social media, and to comment on the items they see posted. In order for club accounts to be accessible, she said, they must be "public" rather than "private", since public accounts are the only ones widely accessible.



Jennifer R. Aitken, District 7490's Public Image Coordinator, showing Rotarians at the Aug. 6 District Staff Meeting how to navigate the District's website.

### *PDG James Boyer Honored for Service as District Governor.*

Past District Governor Emil Geering presented his fellow PDG, James Boyer, with a plaque this month denoting his service as the District's 62<sup>nd</sup> Governor. A plaque that he had received at the Presidents' Ball on May 17, Emil said on Aug. 6, had been borrowed since the one Jim received at this meeting had not yet been prepared.



Past District Governor James Boyer receiving a plaque from PDG Emil J. Geering in appreciation of his service last years as District 7490's 61<sup>st</sup> Governor at the Aug. 6 District Staff Meeting.

### *Wendy Paul Announces April 6 RLI Training Session at SPU.*



Wendy S. Paul, the Coordinator of District 7490's Rotary Leadership Institute, (RLI) announcing on Aug. 6 that an RLI training session will be held next year on Saturday, April 6 at Saint Peter's University.

## District 7490 to Hold 'Halloween Against Hunger' Family Picnic and Membership Seminar.

### *Family Picnic Scheduled for Sept. 22.*

Rotary District 7490 has re-scheduled its Family Picnic for Sunday, Sept. 22 at Woodland Park, at 2 Cleveland Avenue, in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. The cost of the picnic will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children who are 10-years old and older, with children under 10 being admitted for free.



### Rotary District 7490

(Bergen/Passaic and Hudson Counties, NJ)

Re-invites you to bring yourself, your kids, your Interact and Ectaract members your grandkids, your nieces and nephews, your Interact and Ectaract groups and and your friends to our...

### Family Picnic

Sunday, September 30, 22, 2018

(weather permitting)

Woodland Park

2 Cleveland Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

#### Still featuring:

- All the usual barbecue fare — hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, watermelon and non-alcoholic beverages, plus muffins and coffee in the morning
- Inter-club tug-of-war
- Games for kids and adults—sack races, watermelon-eating race, three-legged race, balloon games, face painting
- Music and entertainment
- Great kids' playground

Cost: \$10 each adult; \$5 children 10 and over; kids under 10 free;

(Maximum \$25 family or Interact/Ectaract groups)

You may bring a special dish to share with your group.

You can register through your club, or send checks and the attached form to: EUGenie Mrower, 69 Geddes Terrace, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. Please register by September 24. If you already registered for our July 22, no need to re-register. Anyone who cannot attend and who has paid previously will receive a refund.

A flyer announcing District 7490's Family Picnic which is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 22 in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

### *'Halloween Against Hunger' Oct. 27.*

The District will also hold its fifth *Halloween Against Hunger* service project on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Hope Community Center, located at 60 Temple Street in Paterson. The project hopes to prepare 40,000 meals for distribution to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and the like.

The project will begin at 10:00 a.m. that morning, with volunteers being asked to serve two-hour shifts, which will end at 4:00 p.m. that afternoon.

The project was held initially on January, 20, 2014 as a tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the day celebrated as a Federal holiday in his honor.








### Sponsorship Opportunities

Will you help "Treat" those who are hungry in Bergen Passaic and Hudson Counties? On October 27, 2018 Rotary District 7490 (a local and international volunteer service organization) is sponsoring its fifth annual **Food Drive**. We plan to pack at least 40,000 meals of minestrone soup and oatmeal, as well as collect canned goods and other non-perishable items. This time, meals and collected food will once again be donated to Center for Food Action in both Englewood and Ringwood, as well as to Rotary District 7490's Military Family Assistance Center.

Booster	– \$25 – purchase – 100 meals
Bronze	– \$150 – purchase – 600 meals
Silver	– \$375 – purchase – 1500 meals
Gold	– \$500 – purchase – 2000 meals
Platinum	– \$1000 – purchase – 4000 meals

*"Bronze & Higher Sponsors Will Be Announced and Receive Special Certificates"*

Donate and register by October 24, 2018

### The Specifics

**Date:** October 27, 2018

**Time:** 10 am – 4 pm (Groups wishing to help set up can come at 9:00 am)

**Place:** Christopher Hope Community Center, 60 Temple Street, Paterson, NJ 07522

**Parking:** Onsite – Car-pooling recommended

**Entertainment while you work** – DJ Dan (Dan Shiver). Come in Halloween costumes! "Treats" will be provided for children under 10.

**To register:** go to: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=81q67cab&oeidk=a07efmk0t182e93e5g> or email: [Botzie@aol.com](mailto:Botzie@aol.com)

**To donate:** go to: [www.Outreachprogram.org](http://www.Outreachprogram.org) and click on the PayPal button. Mention Food Packaging Project #12 Rotary 7490 in special instructions. Major credit cards are accepted. Send checks payable to Outreach, Inc. to The Outreach Program, 301 Center St., PO Box 361, Union, Iowa USA 50258. Mention that you are with Rotary District 7490.

**Rotary Clubs ONLY:** Please send sponsorship checks payable to Rotary District 7490, to Lou Knaub (District Treasurer), 799 Summit Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601

A flyer announcing this fall's *Halloween Against Hunger* service project on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Hope Community Center, located at 60 Temple Street in Paterson

### *Membership Seminar Scheduled for Oct. 4.*

The District will hold a membership seminar this fall, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, at Care Plus, located at 2 Valley Health Way in Paramus.

The seminar will focus on how Rotarians can use social media to attract potential members. Almost as important, the seminar will offer insights as to how clubs can engage the members they do have.

Among the most common complaints of new members is that they are not given enough responsible assignments, and that their main activity is to attend club luncheons.

## Paramus Rotary Hears of Securites Fraud and Pancreatic Cancer Walk in Two Meetings in August.

### *Club Hears of Efforts to Warn of Securities Fraud.*

The Bureau of Securities, within the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, wants to alert consumers about the potential for fraud in the securities industry. Information is your best defense. The Bureau offers a free service to check the background of financial professionals. Are they registered? Licensed?

What types of licenses and what firms have they last worked with? The agency is responsible for registering investment adviser representatives, broker dealers and investment advisory firms. In addition, they examine to make sure they are compliant with securities law and regulation. They also handle complaints and investigations.

Investing should be a positive experience. Take advantage of the free service.

The Bureau of Securities can be reached at:

Arlene Ferris-Waks  
*Director of Investor Outreach*  
 Bureau of Securities  
 973-504-3627  
 arlene.ferris-waks@lps.state.nj.us  
 www.njsecurities.gov

### *Club Participants in Aug. 7 National Night Out.*



At the National Night Out evening on Aug. 7, our information on the table included vintage Radians and our own Rotary coloring books for the children. Let's not forget to mention the crayons and the lollipops. Thank you to our volunteers that showed up to help with the table.

### *Lustgarten Walk for Pancreatic Cancer Research.*

Jeanne Weber was here to inform us about the upcoming Pancreatic Cancer Walk on Sunday, September 23 at Bergen Community College at 400 Paramus Road in Paramus. 100% of every dollar raised goes directly to Pancreatic Cancer Research. Jeanne and her family have been directly impacted by this disease and this is why they have teamed up with the Lustgarten Foundation, the largest private funder of this specific research.

Over the last year, researchers have made incredible breakthroughs, including the first FDA approval of an immunotherapy treatment for patients. A few months ago, John Hopkins University announced that they had developed a blood test that would detect eight different cancers such as pancreatic, lung, colon, ovarian and a few others at an early stage. Lustgarten funded this research project and has funded many others.

Come help raise awareness and funds. The 12th Annual Walk will be on 9/23. Registrations begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be bagels, Starbucks coffee, water, hot dogs & hamburgers from Applebee's and custard from Shake Shack. There will be many activities for the kids and the Doo-Wop Group will be there to entertain from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.



Jeanne Weber with Paramus Rotary Club Past President Jay Leone at the Club's Aug. 9 meeting.



### **Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club Receives Donation for Back-to-School Backpack Program.**

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club recently received a welcome contribution to their CFA back-to-school backpack campaign from the Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Club. Heidi Gross, president of the Allendale Club, presented a check and school supplies to BH/R Rotary in support of the effort.

BH/R Rotary is collecting backpacks and school supplies for needy children served by the Center for Food Action, to help the students get ready for the new school year. This year's goal is 200 backpacks filled with many of the things the youngsters will need. Additional contributions are always welcome.

"This annual campaign really helps many needy students in our area, and the Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Club is proud to participate in this worthwhile endeavor along with Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary," said Ms. Gross.



Heidi Gross, president of the Allendale Rotary Club, recently presented a check and school supplies to the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club's back-to-school backpack campaign in support of the Center for Food.

### **Mid-Bergen rotary Donates Supplies to MFAC.**

Recently the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club collected and packaged items for our current serving military with the MFAC (Military Family Assistance Council) paying the postage to have the packages shipped to Afghanistan.



At the Wood-Ridge Post Office mailing twenty packages are Bob Kilroy, Chairman of the MFAC Committee, Sonia Lauren, President of the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club and two members of the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club, Forrest Elliot and PDG-Calisto Bertin.



Packages awaiting shipment to American military forces in Afghanistan.

## Membership Corner.

*By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee*



**Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti, Chairman of District 7490's Membership Committee.**

This past month Rotary International has sent our District the names of five prospective members. The five leads that were received were sent to Jersey City (two), Fort Lee, Wyckoff and Hawthorne.

I am happy to say that a number of these leads have been from potential members under the age of 40. According to the market research done by Rotary International, 90percent of Rotary is over 40. It appears that the young professionals hold the belief that Rotary is for older people and uninviting.

The research also found that the Rotary message is unclear and our value proposition is unclear. Even when the message was understood, the interest in joining was low.

We must take a good look at our clubs and ask ourselves, "How can we make our club inviting to the young professional?"

What appeals to the above 40 crowd is distinctly different from what appeals to the below 40 crowd.

What can we do to engage this younger generation to attract and keep them interested in our club? The clubs that are attracting and keeping the younger crowd are those that do good work in the community and the world.

Involvement gives the members the sense that they are making a real difference. Giving back makes people feel good.

We *inspire* people to make a difference. Research also found that the young professionals who join Rotary get involved to learn new or expand existing skills.

Leadership opportunities that individual might not be getting in their own careers, they get in Rotary. They also make contacts through Rotary that can allow them to progress in their own professional life by Networking and making connections to a local and worldwide network of professionals.

Rotarians are recognized in industry around the world. Rotarians have the ability to connect with people through events, and initiatives of Rotary.

We must get the new member excited about Rotary by educating them on the benefit of being in Rotary. Recruiting the prospective member is the first step; next we must build a relationship with this member.

With the new member it is extremely important to get them engaged, it really does not matter what the age is. We see what the research has shown and what people are looking for.

We should provide new Rotarians with a project or a leadership position right away. Involving young members in committee leadership positions, or leadership over individual service projects will help them to meet the Rotarians' need to gain skills or to develop leadership opportunities.

Identify their skill or the skills they desire to have and assign tasks that give them the opportunity to learn that skill. Pair them with a seasoned professional who can help them learn. Let's give these ideas a shot and let me know how you make out.

Good Luck to you all.

Lenny

***Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG, District Membership Chair***



**District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos**

## **Governor's Newsletter**

### **District 7490**

**Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties**

**New Jersey, USA**

**September, 2018**



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

### **Past District 7070 Governor Barry Kroll Speaks on Recruiting New Members and Keeping Those on Board.**

In a presentation this month, Past Rotary District 7070 Governor Barry G. Kroll spoke on Rotary and membership.

Addressing listeners at the District Meeting on Oct. 1, Barry said that contrary to assumptions by Americans that America is the driving force of Rotary, Rotarians of North America and the Caribbean make up "only a small portion" of Rotary throughout the world.

For example, he said, of the more than 1.2-million Rotarians throughout the world, Rotarians in North America and the Caribbean make up only 360,000 of those members. Rotary, he emphasized, is international in scope, with more than 35,600 clubs in more than 200 nations and territories throughout the globe.

A slide presentation that Barry included in his remarks showed that as of July 1, Rotary International recorded 1,234,491 members in 35,656 clubs in 535 districts around the world.

Some 359,667 of those members, his presentation showed, were in North America and the Caribbean, while 310,916 were in Europe; 197,390 in south and southeast Asia, including India; 147,446 in north Asia, including in Japan and South Korea; 95,997 in South and Central America; 61,910 in Australia, the Philippines, and what he called the Pacific Realm; 36,445 in Africa and southwest Asia; with the remaining 25,000 being scattered elsewhere.

But rather than speak of the size of Rotary in the United States as compared to the rest of the world, he spoke of the accomplishments of Rotary, citing as one example the fact that Rotary has immunized more than 2.1-billion children against polio since it began its campaign to eradicate that disease in 1987.

To gauge the effectiveness of this campaign: whereas in 1987 more than 350,000 people would contract polio every year – for an average of 1,000 new cases every day – 17 new cases throughout the world were reported in 2017. Seventeen new cases in 2017 as opposed to more than 350,000 in 1987.

Speaking then to the recruitment of new members, Barry said that while all Rotarians are "responsible" for attracting new members, "nobody is doing it." In order to attract new members, Barry said, Rotarians must be "passionate" in their zeal to expand the size of their clubs. As an example, he cited the Madison Rotary Club of which he is a member, which Barry said, installed 21 new members in a single year.

*(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)*

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#### **Newsletter Editor**

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## Past District 7070 Governor Barry Kroll Talks on Recruiting New Members and Keeping Those on Board.

*(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)*

This happened, he explained, because the president of the Madison club was an “SOB”, that is, he said “She’s On Board” for the recruitment of new members. Indeed, he said, one member of the Club has recruited 15 new members in his own 30-years of club membership, meaning that he has recruited an average of two new members every year.

But Barry also said that Rotarians should be realistic in their expectations. He suggested that each Rotarian set for him or herself a goal of attracting at least one new member every two or three years. If all Rotarians throughout the world managed to do that, he said, RI’s membership would at least double.

In asking people to join Rotary, however, Barry said, one must be prepared to hear the word “no” spoken again and again and yet again. The average Rotarian, he said, will have said “no” at least seven times before agreeing to even consider seeking Rotary membership.

He emphasized again that one must not be afraid to hear the word “no” from those they are trying to recruit. In recruiting, he continued, there is “no finish line.” One should seek new members wherever one can.

People will join Rotary, Barry said, in order to “give back” to their community. They will not be looking to perform service projects on an international scale. To that end, Barry continued, they will consider the Rotary club they are joining as a local institution, and not as being part of an international organization. That, he said, will come later.

How should clubs attract new members, Barry asked? Answering his own question, he said that clubs must emphasize their strong points; such as: what are their service projects? how much money do they raise and distribute to worthy causes? how big is the club? does it have what he called “movers and shakers”?

The club’s public image, he continued, can also be a recruiting tool. He suggested that in order to remain in the public eye, five articles on Rotary should appear in the local press every week.

New members can be attracted, he added, from among people who donate to Rotary, from public officials and from people who have been invited to address the club. Moreover, Barry suggested, the parents of high school and college students who are members of Interact and Rotaract clubs can also be recruited as Rotarians.

But while recruiting new members, Barry said, clubs must not neglect the members they *do* have. In order to retain these members, he said, clubs must see to it that every member is “engaged” – that is, that every member has a job to do. One of the main reason people leave Rotary clubs, is because all too often they are not given assignments so as to belong.

Speaking now of the 1.2-million members of Rotary, Barry said that that number – 1.2-million – has remained constant for at least 20 years. But while Rotary’s membership is stable, he cautioned, its members are growing older.

Twenty-percent of Rotarians, Barry said are under the age of 45. While some may regard that as a hopeful number, the flip side, he continued, is that 80-percent of Rotary’s members are *older* than 45. Speaking again of the Madison Rotary Club, he said that 18 of its 91 members are under the age of 30.

*(Continued on page 3, Col. 1)*

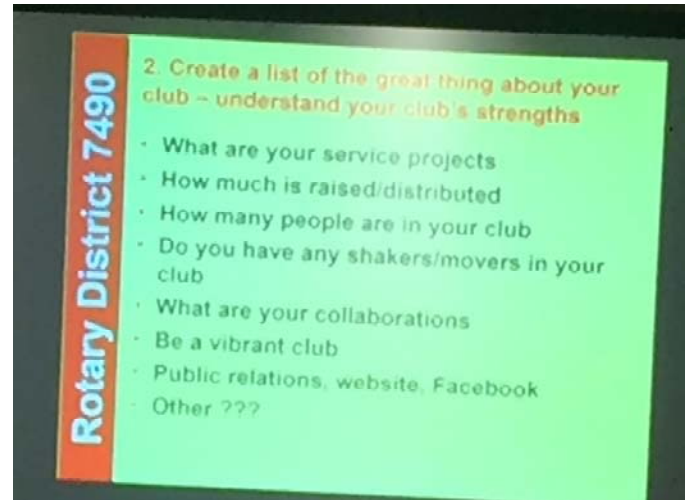
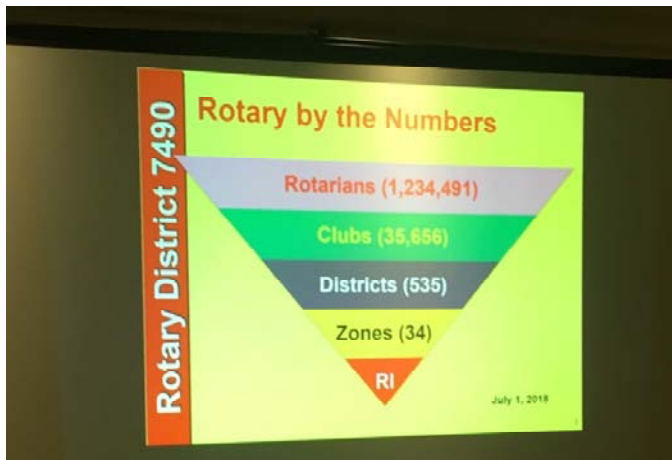


**Past District 7070 Governor Barry G. Kroll speaking at the District Meeting on Oct. 1 on attracting new member as well as retaining those members clubs already have.**

## Past District 7070 Governor Barry Kroll Talks on Recruiting New Members and Keeping Those on Board.

*(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)*

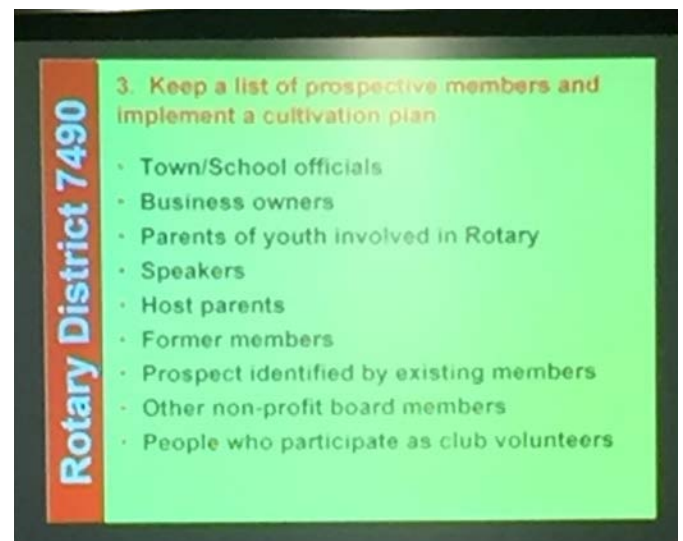
In beginning his presentation, Barry noted the relatively large number of Past District Governors at this meeting, and in doing so, opened his remarks with a joke. Noting that he himself is a past district governor, Barry said that past district governors can be compared to worn out tennis shoes. "All worn out except the tongue."



The slide above offers pointers on discussing a Rotary club's strong points.



The status of Rotary throughout the world is illustrated in the two slide presentations shown above.



Some of the people, Past Rotary District 7070 Governor Barry Kroll suggests, who can be asked to become Rotarians. Among prospects, he suggested, are the parents of high school and college students who are members of Interact and Rotaract clubs.

## Membership Corner.

By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee



We all recently received a report from Governor Nikki which read as follows, *“On June 30<sup>th</sup> District 7490 had 1,208 members; on July 15<sup>th</sup> we had 1,179 members and at last count we are at 1,164. As many know, if our membership falls below 1,100 there is a real possibility that Rotary International will force us to merge with another district and our district 7490, as we know it, will cease to exist. I tell you this, because we all need to be responsible for our membership. If we induct a new member, please make sure that you report the new member on rotary.org as soon as possible.”*

We have been reporting new members to the district who have joined our clubs but our records show we have a problem. It appears the problem is not getting new members, our problem is reporting new members to Rotary International while we deleted members who are no longer with the club or we have made active members honorary members. Honorary member do not count in the membership role because they pay no dues to RI.

There is no doubt that we have a major problem in retention. What can we do to alleviate this problem?

Let us look at a few of the questions we should look at and find a solution to these important questions. Take a good hard look at your club.

1. What happens when you lose 3 or 4 members?
2. We must ask why?
3. When members leave we should send a survey on membership assessment to find the answers.
4. Before this happens look for yellow flags (caution).
  - a. You have not seen them for a while.
  - b. The dues are late or not received.
  - c. No interest in projects.
5. Are your seasoned members and new members mixing?
6. Find out what projects the new members are interested in.

7. Put the new member on a committee immediately
8. Use seasoned members as mentors.
9. When your members stop coming to meetings?
10. Make a courtesy phone call to show your members that we care.
11. A Sunshine committee can give a report at each meeting or the president can ask if any of the members has heard or seen the missing member.
12. When your club activities no longer reflect your members interest.
13. Ask the members what projects they would like to do.
14. Get new ideas - change is good. When you realize your club members are unwilling to try something new, do a pilot project and see what results you get.

Discover how your club can use the new club flexibility policies of Rotary International to adapt your club experience to fit the needs of your members and attract new ones. The policies allow clubs great latitude in deciding when, where and how you meet.

Research and members experience have shown that when clubs have more freedom to decide how and when they hold their meetings, who they'll invite to become member, and what member engagement means, their ability to attract new members and keep current members motivated increases.

Here are some ways your club can apply the new flexibility options:

1. **Change your meeting schedule.** Your club can vary its meeting days, times, and frequency. For example you can hold a noon meeting and one evening meeting a month. RI only requires 2 meetings a month.
2. **Vary your format.** You can have one meeting online and another in-person meeting.
3. **Relax attendance requirements.** You can ask members to participate in other ways, such as taking a leadership role, running a meeting a few times a year, planning and event. If your club is dynamic and offers a good experience to members, attendance will not be a problem nor will be retention.
4. **Offer multiple membership types.** Your club can offer family memberships, junior memberships to young professionals with leadership potential, or corporate memberships to people whose employers want to be represented in the club. Each type of members can have its own policies on dues, attendance, and service expectations. Rotary will count these people in your club membership and will consider them active members if they pay RI dues.

Good Luck to you all.

Lenny

**Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG, District Membership Chair**



### **Governor Nikki to Receive District's Vocational Service Award at Combined Gala on Oct. 20.**

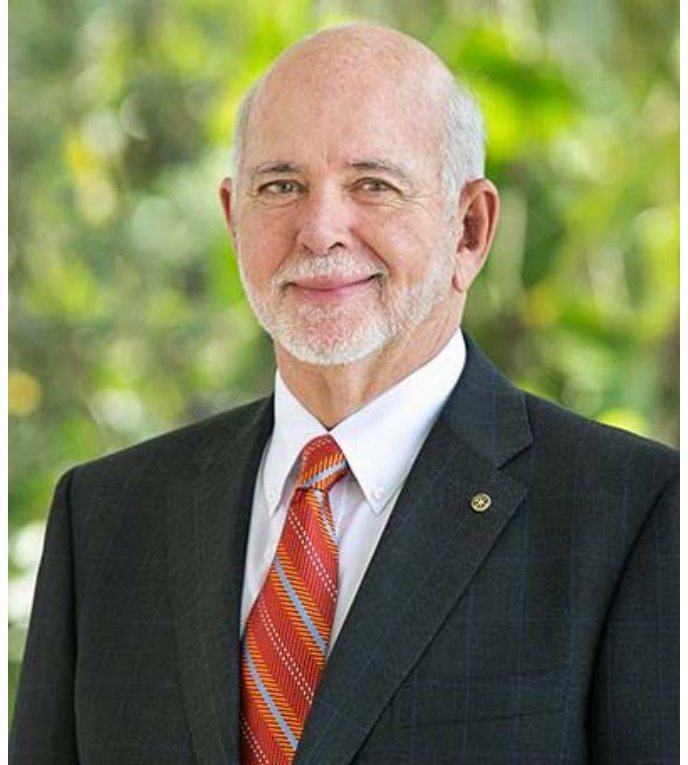
District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos will be presented with District 7490's Vocational Service Award - now known as the Carmine Torsiello Vocational Service Award – next month.

Rotary International President Barry Rassin and Jorge DeArmas, President of the North Hudson Rotary Club of which Governor Nikki is a member, will present the award.

The award will be presented at a combined PolioPlus Gala and the 38<sup>th</sup> annual New Jersey Vocational Assembly at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at Mayfair Farms, located at 481 Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Tickets for the event will be \$90.00 per person.

Speaking of the award, Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. last week wrote of Governor Nikki:

“Her tireless efforts and devotion to benefit and enhance women's and children's health in Northern New Jersey has not gone unnoticed. She has been honored by mayors, politicians, healthcare administrators and the like for many years.” The District, he added: “now recognizes her as well.”



Photograph from Rotary International

Rotary International President Barry Rassin, who will join in presenting a Vocational Award to District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos on October 20.



Part of a flyer announcing the 38<sup>th</sup> annual New Jersey Rotary Club's Assembly, to be held on Saturday, Oct. 20 at Mayfair Farms, located at 481 Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange, N.J.



Photograph from Rotary District 7490 Website

**District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos, who will be presented District 7490's Vocational Service Award – now known as the Carmine Torsiello Vocation Award – at a PolioPlus Gala to be hosted by the West Orange Rotary Foundation on Saturday, Oct. 20.**

### PDG Joe Dino Honored as Facilitator of the Year by RLI of Northeast America.



**Past District Governors Joseph Laureni and Joseph Dino Jr. at the Park Ridge Marriott Hotel on Sept. 7 as Joe Dino was honored as the Rotary Leadership Institute of North America's Facilitator of 2017 – 2018.**

Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. was honored in September by the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) of Northeast America.

At its annual meeting at the Park Ridge Marriott Hotel on Sept. 7, the RLI named Joe as its Facilitator of the Year, saying "there are very few people who are better prepared or more knowledgeable about Rotary than Joe."

In its presentation, Past District Governor Joseph Laureni described the honoree as being a "natural-born facilitator" who is "very good at getting everyone involved in the discussions" which, he said, "are lively." Saying that Joe Dino is "engaging and appropriately humorous in his approach" during RLI training sessions, Joe Laureni added "You can't fall asleep on Joe. His voice commands attention."

Speaking of his attention to detail in preparing to lead RLI training sessions, Joe Laureni said "Anyone who attends an RLI session facilitated by Joe(Dino) can tell that he puts real time and effort into the preparation." Joe Dino, Joe Laureni said, "selects his questions and guides the discussion in a way that makes people feel that they are part of the conversation and the networking."

Moreover, Joe Laureni said, the "insights" that Joe Dino brings to these training sessions "are indicative of his preparation and experience." In order to drive home his point, Joe Laureni said, Joe Dino illustrates his subject matter with "short stories and (his) Rotary experience."

His 30 years of teaching RLI students, Joe Laureni said, allows Joe Dino "to focus on the main objectives and allows for ample coverage" of all of the session's objectives. Speaking of his (Joe Dino's) approach, Joe Laureni said: "He is totally comfortable in front of a group. His questions make you think. Joe keeps everyone focused on the topic at hand."

Speaking of Joe Dino's interactions with fellow facilitators, Joe Laureni said that he is always "ready to lend a hand – whether it is picking up a session at the last minute, rearranging the classroom, giving someone aid, helping fellow facilitators improve, or providing attendees a way to acquire additional information – including reaching out to Joe for a follow-up."

Joe Dino, who served as District 7490's 48<sup>th</sup> Governor in 2004 – 2005 has participated in every RLI training program since 1988.



**Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. on Sept. 7 as he received the Rotary Leadership Institute of Northeast America's Facilitator of the Year award at the Park Ridge Marriot Hotel.**



## Friendship Exchange Visit to England May 15-24.

Rotary District 7490's Friendship Exchange Committee is organizing a Friendship Exchange visit to England for next spring.

During a nine-day visit beginning on May 15, Rotarians from Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties will be able to visit the cities and towns of Bakewell, Chesterfield, Derby, Nottingham, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and the Peak District National Park in central England.

Bakewell is famous for its UK (United Kingdom) Bakewell Tart while Chesterfield is known for its 14<sup>th</sup>-century church – the Church of St. Mary and All Saints - with its twisted spire. Derby, meanwhile, is famous for its Crown Derby Porcelain, and home to Rolls Royce, which in addition to producing cars for wealthy clients, also makes airplane engines.

Nottingham boasts the oldest pub in England, "Ye Old Trip to Jerusalem" where local knights gathered before joining the Crusades in Europe. It is near Sherwood Forest, from which Robin Hood and his merry band were said to operate.

Like Rome, the city of Sheffield is built on seven steep hills; an interesting city known for its stainless steel and cutlery.

The Peak District hosts Chatsworth House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and one of the finest stately homes in England.

Rotarians will stay at the homes British Rotarians, and will visit historic sites, enjoy Rotary club meetings and see England through the eyes of your English host families. While Rotarians will pay for their own airfare, they will not have any hotel, automobile or meal costs.

You should, however, budget \$100.00 a day for any special events and shopping that you may wish to do.

Please send your biographical profile to Keith Jones, the District 1220 Friendship Exchange Coordinator through Lois Horowitz at [loismodeling@gmail.com](mailto:loismodeling@gmail.com). She can also be reached at 201-796-5618.

When arriving in England, you will be picked up at the airport by a fellow Rotarian and driven back to the airport when the Friendship Exchange visit is completed. After the Friendship Exchange, you can travel to the Rotary International Convention which begins on June 1 in Hamburg, Germany.

You would not need to host families from District 1220 when they visit New Jersey in August or September of next year in order to participate in next spring's Friendship Exchange.

WE will, however, set up host families here when we receive data on the FE team coming here.

## Wayne Rotary Donates to Wayne First Aid Squad.

At a recent Wayne Rotary luncheon, David Spera, President of the Wayne First Aid Squad, enthusiastically described the fine work done by the organization's 130 members. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this all-volunteer organization. He reported the excellent equipment the Squad has, including five ambulances, a bus that holds up to 22 patients, two towing vehicles, a trailer, inflatable tents, and lots more. The Squad is ready, whether the need be for a single patient, house fire, or some sort of disaster.

Born out of necessity, the Wayne Township Memorial First Aid Squad has grown over the past seven decades to become an efficient, well-operated organization that responds to over four thousand five hundred calls each year. Back in 1942, Wayne Township suffered the loss of eight lives during the bitterly cold week of February 8-14. At that time, there was no local first aid squad, and ambulance services were provided by neighboring units in Pompton Lakes, Little Falls, and Cedar Grove, as well as by Paterson hospitals. Seeing the need to have a squad within the township, a group of concerned citizens took it upon themselves to establish a local ambulance corps, which became a reality one year later.

The Squad has come a long way in the more than sixty five years since the original "hearse" responded to its first call. Modern equipment, consisting of five modular ambulances and a state of the art rescue truck, highly-trained volunteers, and efficient communication systems, provide Wayne with the finest service by the men and women who give much time and effort to serve others.

Today, the First Aid Squad operates 5 ambulances, 1 heavy rescue and 3 boats.



**David Spera (right) accepts a donation check from Wayne Rotary President Peter Sherwood. This is just one of many contributions Wayne Rotary makes to local organizations that help the public.**



## **Paramus Bandshell Named in Honor of Ray Wells in July and in Sept., Club Hears from Legal Expert.**

### ***Band Shell was Donated by Ray Wells 49 Years Ago.***

A Dedication Ceremony took place on July 24 and again on July 30, for the newly refurbished RAYMOND R. WELLS BAND SHELL. Through the hard work and donations of many Paramus Rotary Club members, the band shell has been completely updated and remodeled including the addition of a professional sign and Rotary Club logo.

Fred Rohdieck, Ed Lang, Phil Wells and Paramus Rotary Club Past President and Past District Governor Peter Wells, and Mayor Richard LaBarbiera were all involved in the rededication of the Band Shell some 49 years after it was first conceived by Ray Wells and constructed by the hard work of Paramus Rotary Club members of a previous generation.

The Band Shell will serve as a permanent tribute to Ray Wells and the Paramus Rotary Club, and for all the good deeds that have been accomplished over Ray's 53 years as a Paramus Rotarian. A special thanks to all those who served on the committee and were involved in this restoration project.



The newly renovated Paramus Band Shell named in honor of the late Raymond R. Wells of the Paramus Rotary Club. (Note Ray Wells' name and the Rotary logo.) Ray had also served as the 19<sup>th</sup> Governor of District 7490 in 1975 – 1976 and as a member of Rotary International's Board of Directors in 1984 – 1986.

### ***Legal Expert Talks on Estate Planning and Other Matters.***

Colleen Gaedcke of the law firm Andora & Romano, LLC, has been practicing law since 2010. She consults with clients and their families on issues regarding Estate Planning, Asset Preservation & Medicaid, Powers of Attorney, Special Needs Trusts and Guardianships.

There are different scenarios for different families. The firm has legal services for the elderly, disabled, their families and health providers. In representing individuals and their families, they emphasize planning techniques which assist with the preservation of assets and supplementation of monthly income by accessing various government benefits, including those provided through Medicaid and the Veterans Home for the State of New Jersey.

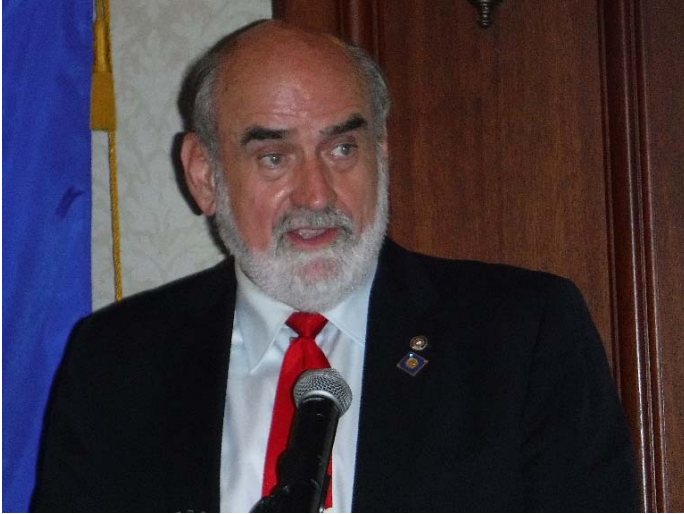
Their goal is to confront the individual's long-term care needs while avoiding financial impoverishment.



Colleen Gaedcke (right) of the law firm Andora & Romano, LLC with Club President Diane Vasile-Falcone at the Paramus Rotary Club's meeting of Sept. 20.

## Report on the Rotary Foundation.

*By John C. "Jay" Fowler  
Chairman, District Rotary Foundation*



**John C. "Jay" Fowler**  
Chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee.

### ***Club Donations to the Rotary Foundation.***

Through the first three months of the 2018-2019 Rotary Year, 21 of our clubs contributed to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation. The Committee encourages all clubs to support the Annual Fund of the Foundation. As you know, contributions to the Annual fund allows our District to offer DDF grants. The more money that we donate to the Annual Fund, the more money we will have available for DDF Grants for our clubs.

The top five clubs in the District this year are:

Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$1,075.00
Park Ridge Rotary Club	\$1,075.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$953.00
Northern Valley Rotary Club	\$914.95
Paramus Rotary Club	\$725.00

Clubs are also encouraged to enter their Rotary Foundation Donation Goal for the year at Rotary Club Central on the RI Website. Currently only eight clubs have done so.

### ***DDF Grant Applications Being Accepted.***

The deadline for clubs to submit their application for a Club DDF Grants is September 30th. The Committee will review the applications in October and make their awards by the end of that month. It is anticipated that the District will have approximately \$18,000.00 to award.

### ***'Miracle on the Hudson' to be Commemorated.***

This January the District's Rotary Foundation Committee will be commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miracle on the Hudson. The Event will be held at Waterside Restaurant on January 15, 2019.

The "Miracle on the Hudson" occurred on January 15, 2009 when US Airways Flight 1549 was forced to make an emergency landing on the Hudson River after it struck a flock of geese just north of the George Washington Bridge. Despite the forced water-borne landing, no one was seriously injured.

Our keynote speaker will be Dave Sanderson, the last passenger off the plane.

The cost will be \$150.00 per person which includes a \$50.00 donation to the Rotary Foundation. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets will be available soon. This is an event that you will not want to miss.

### ***Clubs Urged to Conduct at Least One Foundation Program.***

As always, the Committee encourages each club to have at least one program on the Foundation during the year. To book a program, contact Paul Platek at [paul.platek@ubs.com](mailto:paul.platek@ubs.com) or Committee Chairperson, Jay Fowler at [jaycfowler@aol.com](mailto:jaycfowler@aol.com).



**District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos**

## **Governor's Newsletter**

### **District 7490**

**Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties**

**New Jersey, USA**

**October, 2018**



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

### **Governor Speaks on Receiving Vocational Award.**

Thank you so much for this wonderful honor. Thank you to those on the selection committee, fellow recipients and nominees from our district 7490. Carmine Torsiello was a key factor for this award, which started over 37 years ago and his RI Theme was "Renew the Spirit of Rotary" which is so suited to this year's theme "Be The Inspiration" I'm honored.

I have been in the healthcare field for over 35 years...and the past 20 years have been solely dedicated to meeting the needs of the community we serve. Many of whom are uninsured, underserved, undocumented, scared, yet willing to grasp at any resources that are offered, especially free health screenings. Many have never even seen a physician and many are afraid of the ramifications if they do seek medical help. Last year alone, after screening over 1,200 community members for diabetes, more than half were pre-diabetes and didn't even know it. Education, resources and follow-up treatments are essential for a healthy vibrant community, yet so many lack this educational and resources - right here in our backyards.

I'm so grateful to work in a field with compassionate individuals who are also excellent collaborating partners within the communities we serve. Every time there is a need for a community member, they find a way to accommodate. Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center has been one of those partners, serving our communities and helping our Rotary District 7490 family in any way possible, both looking for ways to have sustainable projects that will be reflective in the future.

Thank you again for the Carmine Torsiello Vocational Award, I am truly grateful.

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### **Newsletter Editor**

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## RI President Barry Rassin Talks on Vocational Service, Polio and Membership at Oct. 20 Dinner.



**Rotary International President Barry Rassin speaking at a dinner on October 20 in the three Rotary districts in New Jersey emphasized the need for ethics in one's vocation, supported Rotary's PolioPlus campaign and the West Orange Rotary Club celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup>-anniversary.**

Rotary International President Barry Rassin in October spoke on a wide range of issues at a dinner that celebrated three events: the West Orange Rotary Club's 90<sup>th</sup>-anniversary, a fundraiser for Rotary International's campaign against polio, and the celebration of ethics in vocational service.

Speaking on Oct. 20, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, Mr. Rassin began by paying tribute to Past District 7470 Governor Karen Zeigler, a member of the West Orange Rotary Club who died this summer. Noting that the evening's fundraising effort on behalf of RI's campaign against polio was Karen's idea, Mr. Rassin said that "on her behalf, I am here."

As chairwoman of District 7470's PolioPlus Committee, Mr. Rassin said, Karen had participated in RI's polio immunization drives, traveling to disadvantaged countries around the world immunizing children against the disease.

With high school and college students who are members of Interact and Rotaract clubs going from table-to-table during the dinner collecting donations for PolioPlus, Mr. Rassin noted that many people now do not know what polio is. But if polio is to be eradicated, he said, people *must* learn what it is. (Karen's efforts, and the money raised during the dinner, participants were later told, raised \$70,000.)

Mr. Rassin then contrasted the status of polio today as opposed to 1987, when Rotary International launched its campaign to rid the world of this paralytic disease.

In 1987, he said, polio was endemic in more than 120 countries around the world, with 1,000 new cases being reported every day, for an average of 350,000 new cases a year. Today, in 2018, Mr. Rassin said, 20 cases of polio have been reported so far, with 16 cases in Pakistan, and four in Afghanistan. Nigeria, he added, has not reported any new cases in the last two years, meaning that in the next 11 months, that nation may be officially declared polio-free.

But efforts to eradicate polio in war-ravaged nations, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said, have been endangered, with Taliban gunmen murdering people who were participating in immunization drives. He spoke of one instance, in which a Rotarian in Pakistan reached out to the Taliban in an effort to enlist its support to eradicate polio.

The man, Mr. Rassin said, was taken by Taliban gunmen from his office to a clandestine meeting, driven in car with a hood draped over his head, not knowing if he would return home alive. As he arrived at the meeting, Mr. Rassin said, the Taliban demanded to know why the Rotarian wanted to see them.

The man then explained, Mr. Rassin said, Rotary's effort to immunize children – "your children" he told them – against polio. As a result of that conversation, Mr. Rassin continued, the Taliban said that they would lay down their weapons during that year's National Immunization Day when volunteers would vaccinate children against the disease.

Turing to the annual Vocational Assembly, which the Rotary districts of New Jersey celebrate every year, Mr. Rassin spoke of the unique status of these multi-district assemblies, emphasizing that the promotion of ethical behavior in one's vocation was one of the factors in the founding of Rotary.

Noting that the winners of the Vocational Service Awards this year – District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos of District 7490, Elizabeth Parker of District 7475 and Sr. Donna Minster of District 7505 are all women – Mr. Rassin spoke of the need for greater diversity in Rotary, especially as it applies to women.

While noting that the three districts in New Jersey "are better than many" Mr. Rassin said that Rotary still has "work to do" to increase the number of women in Rotary, suggesting that there be an equal balance between men and women.

In speaking of vocations, Mr. Rassin spoke of Rotary's classification system, emphasizing the various professions represented within Rotary, saying "and that's important to who we are." He then alluded to matters pending before Rotary International's Council on Legislation next year that may pertain to the system of classifications, urging his listeners "to don't let the Council on Legislation change that." Adding for emphasis: "they're talking about it".

Mr. Rassin then paid tribute to the West Orange Rotary Club on the occasion of its 90<sup>th</sup>-anniversary.

Think of the service projects the West Orange club has performed over the last nine decades, he said. Think of the other clubs the West Orange Rotary Club has helped form, and the people it has helped, he continued. Over the years, Mr. Rassin said, the West Orange club has touched the lives of thousands of people, many of whom its members have never known – and will never know.

Speaking of Rotary clubs in general, Mr. Rassin said that "we (sometimes) get lost" in "our clubs", but he said, Rotarians must remember that they are members of a worldwide service organization, one that provides service on the international, national and local levels, and not just on the local level.

He urged his listeners to never forget the worldwide impact that Rotary has, with more than 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and territories around the globe.

*(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)*

## RI President Barry Rassin Talks on Vocational Service, Polio and Membership at Oct. 20 Dinner.

*(Continued from Page 2, Col. 2)*

To emphasize his point, he spoke of an effort to provide midwives in Haiti transportation as they provide prenatal care to pregnant women who have no access to doctors. Rotary, Mr. Rassin said, provided the midwives with a jeep – a “pink” jeep – he said, enabling them to visit women about to give birth. The use of that jeep, Mr. Rassin said, may have reduced infant mortality by 50-percent in the area they serve.

Of all the projects Rotary performs in Haiti, he said, getting the jeep for these midwives is the one people most often mention.

In another case also involving Haiti, Mr. Rassin spoke of his chance conversation with a member of Rotary International’s investment committee during a meeting in Evanston, where RI’s headquarters are located. The man, Mr. Rassin said, told him of a boy named Daniel whom he knew was in need of heart surgery.

The investment committee member seemed at a loss as to how Rotary could help that boy, Mr. Rassin said, but he told the investment committee member, Mr. Rassin continued, that Rotary was about to launch a Gift of Life medical mission in that country.

With the conversation taking place on a Wednesday, Mr. Rassin said, the boy’s medical records were obtained the following day, in order to determine if the patient could safely undergo the surgery. With him cleared for surgery, Mr. Rassin continued, the operation was performed on Friday, two days after he learned of the issue. This conversation was providential, however, because had Rotary not been planning a medical mission at that time, the boy might have been lost. These two incidents, Mr. Rassin emphasized, are proof that “Rotary saves lives.”

Mr. Rassin also spoke on a topic of great concern to Rotary: how to increase its membership.

RI, Mr. Rassin said, is at a crossroads in its 113-year history. Rotary, he said, must persuade younger people that it is an organization worth joining. Rotary clubs, he said, must make themselves “more relevant” to “our young professionals”, while at the same time making use of the experience of more seasoned Rotarians. “Are we relevant to our entire community?” he asked. Is Rotary relevant to all segments of that community, he continued, asking are we relevant to all races and ethnic groups in that community.

He then asked those Rotarians in the room who are younger than 30, and college students who are members of Rotaract clubs, to stand, thanking them for their desire to be of service. But, Mr. Rassin continued, noting the relatively small number of people who stood, Rotary districts in countries abroad have an average of from 30 to 100 Rotaract clubs while districts in the United States have an average of only 18 college-level clubs.

Over the last two years, Mr. Rassin said, Rotary clubs throughout the world lost 300,000 members due to death or resignations. Yet he said, its worldwide membership remained at 1.2-million people, because while those 300,000 people left Rotary, 300,000 others *joined* Rotary.

The challenge to Rotary, Mr. Rassin said, is to find a way to keep the members it has, while attracting new members. In order to retain the members it has, he continued, Rotarians must be “given a value” to stay, that is, he explained, they must know that the service they provide is indeed necessary for the common good.

To this point, Mr. Rassin suggested that his listeners ponder what he called his favorite quote – a quote from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry who said: “If you want to build a boat, don’t start by collecting wood, cutting boards, and assigning tasks. Start by awakening in the soul of your workers the longing for the vast and boundless sea.” If Rotary is to grow, he said, Rotarians must inspire themselves as well as the people around them.

As an example of such inspiration, he cited the cover of the July issue of *The Rotarian* magazine. The two people in the photograph, he said, (the two people are Mr. Rassin and his wife Esther) are “insignificant”. What is important, he said, are the seven flamingoes in front of them, six of whom he said, are pointed in one direction while the seventh was “going in a different direction.”

Ultimately, Mr. Rassin said, the six flamingoes followed the seventh. Rotary, he said, must be like those six flamingos, willing to change direction if it is going to remain relevant to today’s world.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Rassin spoke of a gathering of former prime ministers in Madrid, who told him that they love working with Rotary, because they said, it does what it says it will do.

He also spoke of a school in a disadvantaged nation in which 1,000 children were being taught by only four teachers. He and his party were depressed, he said, because of the privations they saw. But, Mr. Rassin concluded, the children were happy because of what they *did* have.



The Rotarian/July, 2018

The cover of the July issue of *The Rotarian*, showing Rotary International President Barry Rassin and his wife Esther and seven flamingoes, six of whom are facing left while the seventh is facing right.



## Governor Nikki Receives District's Vocational Service Award, Named for the Late PDG Carmine Torsiello.

District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos was presented in October with the District's Vocational Service Award – recently named in honor of the late Past District Governor Carmine L. Torsiello.

At a dinner on October 20, Governor Nikki was one of three women honored with their respective district's Vocational awards, with Elizabeth Parker being honored by District 7475 and Sr. Donna Minster by District 7505.

The citation accompanying Governor Nikki's award, reads as follows:

*A life-long resident of Hudson and Bergen Counties, Niurka “Nikki” Mederos is the Director of External Affairs/Outreach Community at Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, N.J. During her 35-year tenure at the medical facility, Ms. Mederos has worked within local communities to promote the hospital's services, build community partnerships and provide healthcare outreach programs to local residents. Receiving her MBA with a dual concentration in the Marketing and Health Care Management field from Saint Peter's University, she served as President of their Alumni Board, now their Regent Board, as well as (being) an adjunct professor.*

*Nikki joined the North Hudson Rotary Club in 2010. She served as Club President from 2010 – 2014; receiving the Presidential Citation for both terms and becoming a Walter D. Head Foundation (fellowship) recipient in 2014 during her (two) Presidential terms.*

*Nikki served as an Assistant Governor for our District, a Walter D. Head Foundation Committee Trustee, and the Rotary Leadership Institute Site Chair for District 7490. Nikki completed her RLI courses and is currently a faculty member for the Rotary Leadership Institute.*

*She received an official proclamation as one of “Union City's Best” by Senator (and Mayor of Union City) Brian P. Stack for her achievements in the field of health care and for helping local residents in need of adequate health care and education. Her numerous recognitions include United Way of Hudson County's “Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award,” induction into the National Association of Cuban American Women, receiving the Dr. Elena Mederos” (no relation) award for outstanding quality healthcare, honored by the Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce as a leading woman in business, named Cuban Woman of the Year for 2017 by a local newspaper and most recently honored by Save Latin America as the Cuban Community Leader for her dedication and commitment to the Hispanic Community.*

*Nikki and her husband Manuel have been married for 35 years and have two children. Manny is the Assistant Director of Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center's Physical Plant division. Nikki's eldest son, Manny, Jr., is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York in the Cartooning field and is currently working for Disney/Pixar Productions in Los Angeles; her youngest son, Nicholas, also a graduate of Saint Peter's University, now works for the Archdiocese of New York. Having her family's love and support has always been the encouraging influence in her very busy and active life.*



District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos on October 20 as she received the District's Vocational Service Award (named in honor of Past District Governor Carmine L. Torsiello) from Rotary International President Barry Rassin. Standing to their left is Jorge De Armas, President of the North Hudson Rotary Club, of which Governor Nikki is a member.



Jorge De Armas, President of the North Hudson Rotary Club, on October 20 reading the citation accompanying District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos' Vocational Service Award.



## Reports and Activities of October 1 District 7490 Meeting.

### *Governor Nikki Renames Sessions 'District Meetings'.*

In brief remarks at the Oct. 1 District Staff Meeting, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos said that henceforth, these meetings will be called "District Meetings" rather than "District Staff Meetings". In renaming these monthly gatherings, Governor Nikki said, she is emphasizing that all Rotarians of District 7490 are invited – indeed encouraged – to attend these meetings, whereas the connotation of "District Staff Meeting" conveys the impression that only members of the District staff should attend.

In her remarks, she encouraged Rotarians to attend these gatherings in part to gain exposure to Rotary beyond the club level. In meeting with fellow Rotarians from other clubs, Governor Nikki said, members can learn how other clubs operate, and also give pointers on how their own clubs function.

### *Governor Nikki Warns of Reduced Membership in District.*

Governor Nikki then spoke of membership, noting, as she has before, that at the end of the 2017 – 2018 Rotary year in June, the 50 clubs of District 7490 reported having 1,209 members. Since then, however, she continued, that number has declined to 1,160, a decline of 44 members.

While acknowledging that this decline has resulted from the resignation of some members, she suggested that it may also result from the failure to report in a timely manner the installation of new members to Rotary International. Explaining this point, Governor Nikki said that while some clubs have told her that they have a given number of members, their membership reports to RI show numbers that are lower.

In order to correct any possible omissions, she urged all clubs to submit timely reports to RI. She cautioned that if Rotary membership in District 7490 falls below 1,100, RI will admonish the District that it faces the possibility of being absorbed by another district. Of the five districts that existed in New Jersey in June, she said, four have been reorganized into two new districts, with New Jersey now having only three districts.

### *Jennifer Aitken Urges Clubs to Take Advantage of Social Media.*

Jennifer R. Aitken, a member of the Jersey City Rotary Club and the District's Public Image Coordinator, urged clubs in District 7490 to publicize their upcoming events on social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

In a presentation during the District 7490 Meeting on October 1 (previously known as District Staff Meetings) Jennifer demonstrated how clubs can navigate social media outlets, including the District's website. She also urged clubs to include photographs or videos of their events.



District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos speaking on Oct. 1 at the newly-renamed District 7490 Meeting, previously known as District Staff Meetings. In her remarks, she also warned also of a decline in membership within the District.



Jennifer R. Aitken of the Jersey City Rotary Club, the District's Public Image Coordinator, with Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus club, urging clubs to use social media in publicizing their service programs.

## Reports and Activities of District 7490 Meetings.

### *'Halloween Against Hunger Postponed Until Nov. 17.'*

Rotary District 7490's fourth annual "Halloween Against Hunger" service project, originally scheduled for Oct. 27, was postponed last month until Saturday, Nov. 17, due to forecasts of heavy winds and rain.

Prior to its postponement, Past District Governor Bonnie Sirower spoke on October 1 of the project's goal to package and distribute 40,000 meals to food banks, soup kitchens, shelters, and the like.

At the District 7490 Meeting on Nov. 5, Bonnie said that the project would entail two two-hour shifts; with the first being from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and the second from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. The project will take place in Paterson, at the Hope Community Center, located at 60 Temple Street.

At the same Nov. 5 meeting, Past District Governor Dan Shiver said that project donations had assured that at least 25,000 meals would be packaged, saying that an additional \$1,500 would assure the preparation of at least 30,000 meals.



Past District Governor Bonnie F. Sirower speaking on Nov. 5 of the "Halloween Against Hunger" service project, which was postponed from Oct. 27 to Saturday, Nov. 17.

### *Gift of Life Child at the District 7490 Meeting.*

Frechel Eira Toletino Abina, a two-year old girl from the Philippines who underwent heart surgery in September through the Gift of Life program, attended the District 7490 Meeting on Oct. 1.

In a two-day journey from the Philippines, the child arrived in New Jersey on Sept. 6 under the sponsorship of the Allendale/Saddle River and Mahwah Rotary Club, traveling first by boat for three hours, 13-hours by bus and then 21-hours by plane.

The child underwent surgery at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center University Hospital in Valhalla, N.Y. on Sept. 24, where, during a six-hour operation, she underwent five repair/corrections to her heart. In a recovery that was faster than anticipated, the child was able to be released from the hospital after four days.

During the child's surgery and convalescence, her mother was hosted by Bob and Charlene Klingen of the Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Club.

The child returned home on Oct. 25.



Frechel Eira Tolentino Abina, a two-year old girl from the Philippines, and her mother Catherine, are flanked on their left by Jennifer Padolina, chairwoman of District 7490's Gift of Life Committee and on their right by District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos at the District 7490 Meeting on Oct. 1. The girl underwent heart surgery on Sept. 6 through the District's Gift of Life program.

### Governor Nikki Holds Her Official Visit at the Paramus Rotary Club's Meeting of October 4.

President Diane shared information on a number of topics – current and prospective membership, major club events and programs, scholarships, Career Day, Shop Rite Food Drive, Gift of Life and San Salvador missions, Myanmar Clean Water Project, and other fundraising efforts. A significant amount of conversation revolved around the issue of Rotary being one of the “best kept secrets” and how to educate members of the community about all the great works of Rotarians.

After meeting with President Diane and the members of the club's Board of Directors, Governor Nikki was introduced to all our attending members. After a delicious Seasons lunch, Governor Nikki spoke to all in attendance.

Governor Nikki shared much of her conversation with President Diane and our board members. Governor Nikki shared that it was the Rotary Gift of Life program that attracted her to Rotary. She was very impressed with our long array of service projects, especially the over-220 Gift of Life children the club has sponsored, our support of the Heart Scan screening of Paramus High School incoming freshman, and our Career Day and Scholarship programs in support of Paramus students.

Governor Nikki was most impressed with how we engage our members and welcome and involve our newest members – example, having a greeter as members and guests arrive – providing new members with a new member badge so that all our member could seek them out and help mentor them into all that is the Paramus Rotary Club.

On the larger District level, Governor Nikki spoke about stemming the decline in the district's membership and the need for a focused approach on attracting new members into Rotary, and working on marketing and corporate development activities. Governor Nikki is going to bring together past District Governors to aid her in this endeavor. The ending of Human Trafficking is also high on the list of Rotary objectives.

Governor Nikki announced the next *District Conference* will be held in *Gettysburg PA* from *May 2-5*. Lastly, Club President Diane and Governor Nikki exchanged Paramus Rotary Club and District 7490 Governor's banners.



District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos addressing members of the Paramus Rotary Club during her official visit to the Club on October 4.



Paramus Rotary Club President Diane Vasile-Falcone and District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos exchange banners during Governor Nikki's visit to the Club on October 4.



## **Police Chief Troy Oswald, Capt. Pat Murray and Pastor Alan Boyer Visit Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club.**

The Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club welcomed Paterson Chief of Police Troy Oswald, Capt. Patrick B. Murray and the Rev. Alan Boyer to its meeting on Oct. 11, where they discussed initiatives to reduce crime and to reach out to the people of Paterson.

Police Chief Troy Oswald had three goals when he took office. Reduce violent crimes in Paterson, help spark building economic development through increased safety in the city and to make the thousands of tourists visiting Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park feel welcome and safe. These three goals would improve the city's public safety image overall.

Chief Oswald re-initiated walking patrols. Police officers walk 11 hours a day, seven days a week. He negotiated with Trenton in order to hire more police officers, which he has done, and the police force has gone from 300+ officers to 418.

Police officers have been assigned to three walking posts – one unit around the Great Falls, another in the downtown business district and a third along Main Street in South Paterson.

Chief Oswald has also been reaching out to the community to lower the crime rate: "see something, say something" completely anonymous."

The Chief stated that liability for the drug problem should be shared with other communities. The communities around Paterson do not want the Methadone Clinics in their neighborhoods.

Those addicted to opioids come to Paterson clinics and when the program ends, they relapse and stay in Paterson.

Unfortunately, Paterson is also known for the purity of the heroin. There are pilot programs in place now to help with in-patient treatments, which have a 37-percent success rate of getting the addict clean.

Captain Pat Murray spoke to us about the extra officers that have been assigned to units that work on the front lines against crime, like the Cease Fire Unit, which investigates nonfatal shootings, and the narcotics division. Patrol units have also been instructed to pay extra attention to Paterson's crime hot spots.

Paterson has a population of approximately 150,000 and one-percent of them are committing 70-percent of the crime within the city. Last year, violent crime in Paterson was down 65-percent.

The police department is asking for community involvement especially in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward; they would like to hear ideas from community leaders in resolving some of the problems in their community.

On Wednesday October 17 the police department gathered known violent crime group leaders on parole or probation to speak to them about, societal reentry programs, including job training, housing, etc. They also spoke about Paterson's zero tolerance violent crimes enforcement.

Pastor Boyers is the Community President of Cease Fire and his involvement is more educational. He is going from ward to ward listening to the community and helping defuse the "snitches get stitches" mentality, informing the community about its ability to make anonymous calls in reporting on criminal activity.

He offers counseling to the parolees, addicts, those on probation, and the community in general.

If anyone has ideas to help our community and our police department, reach out to any of our speakers.



**From left-to-right are Chief of Police Troy Oswald, Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club President Olutope Daniels, the Rev. Alan Boyer, and Capt. Patrick B. Murray during the Club's meeting on Oct. 11.**



**A child flanked by his mother to his left and Chief of Police Troy Oswald to his right at the Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club's meeting on Oct. 11.**

## Report on the Rotary Foundation.

*By John C. "Jay" Fowler*  
Chairman, District Rotary Foundation



**John C. "Jay" Fowler**  
Chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee.

### *Club Donations to the Rotary Foundation.*

November is Rotary Foundation Month. A great time to have a special Rotary Foundation Program at your club and to contribute to the Foundation. "Every Rotarian, Every Year" is still a goal of the Foundation. Think of all the good we could do if every Rotarian donated just \$100.00 each year. With almost 1,250,000 members worldwide, we would raise \$125,000,000. Think of the impact that kind of money would have in the world.

To date our clubs have donated \$12,900.06 to the Foundation this year. The top five clubs are:

Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$1,860.00
Park Ridge Rotary Club	\$1,440.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$1,038.00
Bergenfield/Dumont Rotary	\$1,030.00
West Milford Rotary Club	\$1,000.00

### *Highest Per Capital Donations to Foundation.*

At the District Meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, PDG Jim Boyer recognized the top three clubs in per capita donations to the Foundation during his year. They are:

Mid-Bergen Rotary Club	\$257.15 per member
Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$211.14 per member
Fair Lawn Rotary Club	\$155.56 per member

### *District Designated Fund (DDF) Grants Awards.*

Our Grants Committee was busy this month reviewing the club applications for District Designated Funds grants. The District awarded 12 Rotary Foundation DDF Grants totaling \$17,748.00 to the following clubs:

Englewood	Skating Scholars
Fair Lawn	Little Free Libraries
Hoboken	Monthly Shelter Night
Jersey City	Operation Warm Coats
Jersey City	Joy of Reading (Haiti)
Oakland/Franklin Lakes	Meal Packing Event
Park Ridge	Haiti Community Center
Paterson	Weekend Food Boost
South Bergen	Enhanced Pre-School Curriculum
Teaneck/Rotaract of FDU	Round Up for Lupus
Wyckoff/Midland Park	Billy's Buddies
District 7490	Health Initiative with Hackensack Meridian Health

### *Gala Celebrating 'Miracle on the Hudson'.*

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, we are sponsoring a Gala Evening commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson". Our keynote speaker will be Dave Sanderson, the last passenger off the plane. The event will be held at the Waterside Restaurant, which overlooks the actual landing site of the plane. The cost of \$150/person includes a donation to the Rotary Foundation. Seating is limited, so people and clubs interested should get their reservations in early. Information has been sent to the clubs and can be found on the District Website.

## Membership Corner.

By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee



I received the latest membership report from Brian King, Director of Membership Development. He shows that our District membership as of October 31, 2018 is 1,173 members. In July it shows that we were at 1,175. In my last membership letter the report showed 1,164. I would consider Brian's report accurate. Last year we were at 1,207. We do have our work cut out for us to get back to over 1,200.

As indicated on Face book, we see a number of clubs bringing in new members; that is all well and good but it is vital to report the new members to RI through Club Runner or Rotary.org.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> we had our Membership Seminar which was well attended. I want to thank all the clubs who attended. We had over 50 members there who received a wealth of information. Phil Wells gave a simple PowerPoint presentation on how to add new members to your roster.

We had a discussion on how to handle membership leads by contacting the prospective member and to have a personal contact with them to see if they fit into your club. Email alone will not cut it. A phone call is a start. We then invite them to come to a meeting and see what they wish to get out of Rotary. The most important aspect that new members are looking for is ***Friendship*** and next is the ***Positive impact that Rotary makes in the community.***

Concern was brought up on how to handle ***cliques*** that may develop in our clubs. Some of the suggestions included having different seating arrangements. Get feedback from senior members. Make the meeting fun by having games. Create new projects. Some of the old projects may have gone stale. Share the ideas of the members.

We spoke about ***corporate memberships***. A corporate membership is collecting one dues from a representative of the corporation and have members of the corporation attend meetings and participate in projects. The corporation will have one vote. The importance of social media and getting the Rotary name out so people know who we are was also discussed. Having meet and greets and getting the Rotarian magazines into professional offices. Corporate supports were also discussed by reaching out to corporations and informing them how Rotary can train employees in leadership programs, public speaking, facilitating skills and planning to achieve goals.

***Retention*** was discussed at length. We discussed the importance of being a ***vibrant*** club. It is most important to keep the members busy by having a number of projects and keep the members engaged. It is also important to have interesting speakers. We should take note of signs given when we haven't seen a member for a period of time. We must call them and see what is going on. The member may be ill, but at least this shows that we are interested in our most important commodity (***our member***). Ask the members what they like about the club and what needs work in the club.

Reach out to the ***young professionals*** and see what appeals to them. They are interested in networking, career mentoring and leadership training, they want to bring new ideas to the club, and they would like business mixers meeting with professionals who are not Rotarians but who can become members. They would also like to bring their young friends to the meetings. A schedule can be set so the dues would be less for members under the age of 35 to attract new young members.

When we have a young member join our club we can give them a ***young professional survey*** which we can ask them to answer honestly and completely as possible.

### ***Here are 10 questions we should ask.***

1. How were you first introduced to Rotary? Were you active in or considering other civic or charitable organizations at the time you joined Rotary? If so, which?
2. Are you currently active in other civic or charitable organizations?
3. If so which?
4. What was it about Rotary that drew you in and caused you to join?
5. Would you consider yourself active in your club? Have you joined any committees or taken any leadership roles?
6. If so, which one and why those?
7. If asked by a friend or acquaintance, "What is Rotary" do you have a brief elevator pitch you use? If so, what is it?
8. What is Rotary? What Value Proposition for you, personally and/or professionally, that keeps you involved given the financial and time commitment required?
9. Where do you see yourself in five years, with regard to your Rotary Club?
10. What could your Club/District do more or less of to make Rotary more appealing to young professional like yourself?

As you can see I just touched on a few topics that we covered at our Membership Seminar. We are dedicated to bring the Rotary Story to the public to show that we are people of action who are making a difference in our community and across the world.

We talked about one additional source of materials: [www.greatid-eastoshare.com](http://www.greatid-eastoshare.com). This site is managed by the dual combination of Rotary Zones 32 (ours) and Zone 24 (now 28) in Canada and along the northern border of the U.S. You will find tons of material there that you can use.

Good Luck to you all.

Lenny

***Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG, District Membership Chair***





District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos

## Governor's Newsletter

### District 7490

Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties

New Jersey, USA

November, 2018



BE THE INSPIRATION

### Governor's Message for November.

#### Congratulations...we did it!!!

We are now the fastest growing District in New Jersey!  
But we can't afford to rest on our laurels.

As the holiday season approaches, and the end of the year closes in, we start to reflect on this year's accomplishments. New programs have been implemented, service projects continued to expand and fellowship among neighboring clubs flourished. But we are currently at 1,200 members, and in danger of dropping our numbers, once more. We need to continue our efforts in growing membership.

- Review membership reports and crosscheck your current list with that of both Club Runner and Rotary International to account for each member.
- Document the club's goals and objectives; in fact, we currently have the lowest reporting percentage in the state.

Please remember that we are down to three districts in New Jersey, when only a couple of years ago, we had five districts. If numbers continue to deteriorate, we will be re-districted, which means we will lose our identity, hard work and recognition. Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties will no longer be connected, but most likely re-districted to a New York sector. Please don't let this happen, remember that accuracy and accountability are key factors.

If you need any assistance, let us know, we are here to help and guide you. Please don't ignore the importance of these issues, but let's work together to accomplish our goals.

We are talented, driven and passionate about being Rotarians with a mission of doing good in the world. Let's focus our efforts and together we will ascend.

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#### Newsletter Editor

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## Rotary District 7490 Prepares More than 25,000 Food Packets for Delivery to Those in Need.

Rotarians and other volunteers in November packaged more than 25,000 meals for distribution to those in need in Rotary District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project.

The project, originally called "Halloween Against Hunger" had been planned for October 27, but forecasts of heavy weather forced a postponement until Saturday, Nov. 17. Working at the New Hope Community Center in Paterson, members of Rotary clubs in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties, joined by Interact club members and other volunteers prepared 25,074 meals for distribution to food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and the like.

Two days later, on Monday, Nov. 19, Governor Nominee Carl Hassett and staff members of the Fair Lawn Department of Public Works collected the food for distribution to the various venues. Some of the supplies, 87 boxes of food, according to Past District Governor Bonnie Sirower who organized the event, was destined to areas struck by hurricanes and possibly also to California where wildfires have killed at least 85 people and destroyed thousands of homes.



Volunteers at Rotary District 7490's 'Gobble Up Hunger' service project on November 17, with more than 25,000 meals being packaged for distribution to food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and the like.



Volunteers on November 17 packaging food in Rotary District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project at the New Hope Community Center in Paterson. More than 25,000 packets of food were prepared for distribution to people in need.



From left to right are Sonia Lauren, President of the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club; Jennifer R. Aitken of the Jersey City Rotary Club, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos, Patricia Gallagher of the Garfield Rotary Club and Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus Rotary Club at District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project, which took place on November 17 at the New Hope Community Center in Paterson. The project, originally scheduled for Oct. 27, had been postponed due to forecasts of heavy weather.



District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos and Governor-elect John Mitchell flank members of the Ramapo High School Interact Club at the Nov. 17 "Gobble Up Hunger" service project in Paterson.



## Rotary District 7490 Prepares More than 25,000 Food Packets for Delivery to Those in Need.



Past District Governor Dan Shiver on November 17 as he provided music for District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project in Paterson.



Past District Governor Bonnie F. Sirower, who organized this year's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project, on November 19 as more than 25,000 meals that had been packaged two days before were delivered to various areas of need.



District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos, Governor-elect John Mitchell and Jennifer R. Aitken at District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project on November 17. Patricia Gallagher of the Garfield Rotary Club stands behind Governor Nikki.



Governor-elect John Mitchell and Governor Nominee Carl Hassett work on November 19 with members of the Fair Lawn Department of Public Works as they deliver food supplies to food banks and the like. More than 25,000 packages of food were prepared two days earlier, on Nov. 17, at the New Hope Community Center in Paterson in District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project.



## Past District 7450 Governor Russell P. de Furia Speaks of the Rotary (Internatoinal) Foundation.



**Past District 7450 Governor Russell P. de Furia speaking on Nov. 5 at District 7490's monthly meeting of the Rotary Foundation.**

In a presentation on the Rotary Foundation, Past District 7450 Governor Russell P. de Furia said that 91-percent of all donations are directed toward service programs, with some, (those earmarked for Annual Fund donations) being invested for three years before being directed toward service programs, and the rest for administrative purposes. The \$17,000 in grants awarded to the clubs in District 7490, he said, had been invested prior to being released to the District.

He spoke of the four-star rating – its highest rating - given by the Charity Navigator to the Rotary Foundation for 11 consecutive years, noting the careful oversight by Rotarians of how the money is spent. He noted, for example, the requirement that a Rotary club be involved on the receiving end of Global Grant funds.

Global Grants, in which at least two Rotary clubs in different nations must collaborate, Russell, said, can be awarded to service programs in the United States. Although most Global Grant funds are awarded for projects abroad, some have also been, he emphasized awarded to programs in the United States.

Using a slide presentation to illustrate his remarks, Russell then discussed the requirements for a Global Grant: with the project needing to have “a long-term sustainable impact,” the requirement that the grant serve one of the Six Areas of Focus to which the Foundation awards grants: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, maternal and infant care, supporting education and “growing local economies.”

In 2016 – 2017, his slide presentation showed, Rotarians donated \$140.1-million to the Foundation's Annual Fund, with the Foundation awarding 1,260 Global Grants and investing \$115-million in humanitarian grants.

Global Grant are contingent upon the results of a “community assessment” undertaken in order to determine if the grant would serve the needs of a given community, with the size of the grant being at least \$30,000.

The projects need to be “sustainable”, which he defined as being able to “strengthen the community's capacity to meet its own needs.”

He also spoke of the need for an efficient system for the distribution of Global Grant funds, citing as an example the need to conduct a “community assessment” of which he spoke moments earlier.

Russell then spoke of the requests made in grant applications. He urged his audience not to be too conservative in their requests, saying for example that if one asks for \$100.00, he or she will receive \$100.00, but not anymore than the sum requested.

Finally, he spoke of District 7490's contribution to the Foundation. The \$66,000 donated to the Foundation from within the District last year, Russell said, was the second lowest in Zone 32, with comprises 20 districts. As an example, he said that members of Rotary clubs in District 7490 contribute an average of \$54.00 to the Foundation, as opposed to an average of \$109.00 on the Zone level.

With 50 clubs in District 7490, he added, 14 – or 28-percent – of those clubs do not contribute any money to the Foundation, as opposed to 97 clubs in all of Zone 32, which is made up of 1,041 clubs.

In an effort to persuade clubs to increase their donations to the Foundation, Russell urged them to set goals as to how much they would contribute. He reminded his listeners that after having been invested for three years, the districts receive half of what they contributed to the Foundation. As an example, with the District having contributed \$34,000 to the Foundation in 2015 – 2016, it received \$17,000 back from the Foundation this year.

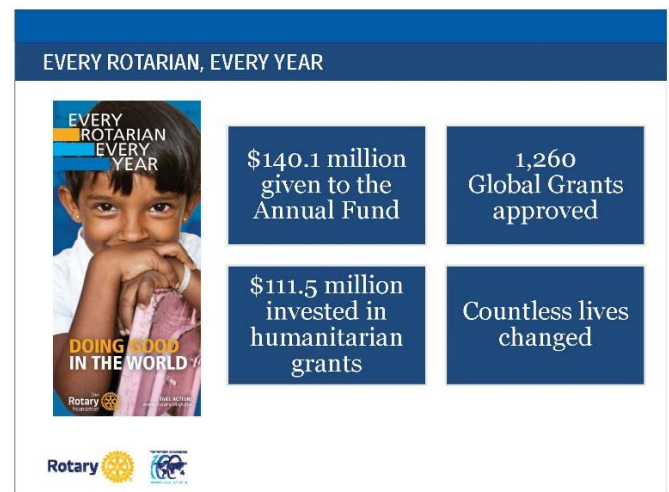


Image from Russell de Furia Slide Presentation

**An illustration of moneys donated to the Rotary Foundation's “Every Rotarian Every Year” program for donations to the Foundation's Annual Fund.**

## Reports and Activities of Rotary District 7490's Monthly Meeting on Nov. 5.

### *Jennifer Aitken to Clubs: Use Social Media to Highlight Events.*



**Jennifer R. Aitken of the Jersey City Rotary Club, District 7490's Public Image Coordinator, on Nov. 5 as she encouraged Rotary clubs to engage in social media in publicizing their events.**

Speaking at the November 5 District 7490 Meeting, Jennifer R. Aitken, the District's Image Coordinator, said that the calendar on its (the District's) website is updated "in real time", that is, as entries are posted. Clubs in District 7490, she said, can enter calendar updates whenever they need to.

Jennifer also said that the option to register online for next spring's joint District conference will soon be available.

She again encouraged clubs to post information on their activities on social media including the District's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts, as well as on the District's own website. She also urged them to post photographs and videos highlighting their activities. Rotarians, Jennifer said, might also share information on Rotary via their own personal social media accounts.

### *Amani Mohsen on RYLA, Education Materials and Ramadan*

Amani Mohsen, District 7490's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) coordinator, spoke at the Nov. 5 District 7490 Meeting of educational materials that she had seen discarded. Rather than discard such materials, however, she urged her listeners to donate materials they can no longer use to non-profit groups that could distribute them to children who could make use of them. She noted that some materials that we might consider excess might be considered luxuries to people without.

On another topic, noting the expertise of high school students in the use of internet platforms, Amani suggested that Rotary clubs enlist the support of RYLA students in the setting up of social media accounts for their own clubs.

Speaking of the District's holiday party which will take place on Thursday, December 6, Amani spoke of outreach to various religious faiths. Noting that she is a Muslim, she suggested, for instance that clubs might host dinners celebrating Ramadan, which in 2019 will be observed from Sunday May 5 through Tuesday, June 4.



**Amani Mohsen speaking on Nov. 5 at District 7490's meeting on the donation of educational materials to non-profit groups, on how RYLA students can help Rotary clubs set up social media programs, and dinners that highlight the ethnic diversity in Rotary.**

### *PDG Joe Dino on Dec. 6 Holiday Party.*

Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. spoke on November 5 of the District's holiday party, which, as Amani Mohsen noted a few moments earlier, will take place on Dec. 6. The cost of the party, he said, will be \$45.00 per person. The relatively high price, he explained, will be compensated for by the evening's bill of fare.

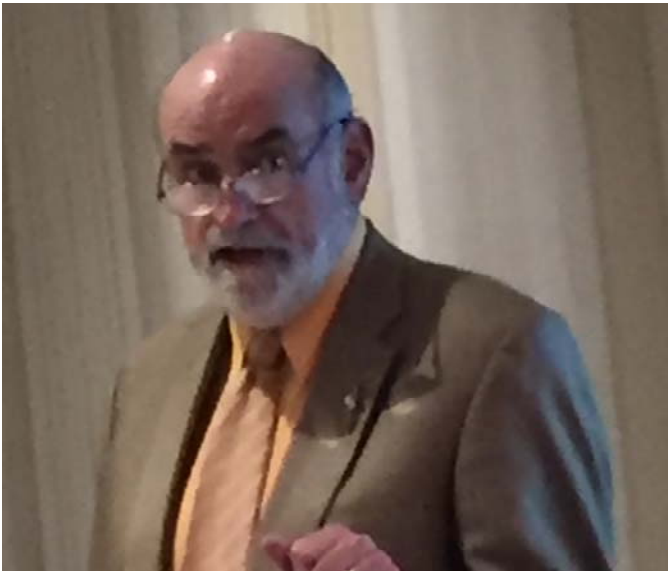


**Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. speaking on Nov. 5 of the District's Holiday Party which took place on Thursday, Dec. 6.**

## Reports and Activities of Rotary District 7490's Monthly Meeting on Nov. 5.

### *Jay Fowler on 'Miracle on the Hudson' Event on Jan. 15.*

John C. "Jay" Fowler, chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee, spoke of the Foundation Committee's event in January, when it will highlight the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson", when US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing on January 15, 2009 in the Hudson River. Although the plane landed on water in frigid temperatures after having struck a flock of geese, no one onboard the plane was killed or seriously injured. The last passenger to leave the plane – David Sanderson – will speak at the event.



**John C. "Jay" Fowler, speaking on Nov. 5 of the Rotary Foundation at District 7490's monthly meeting.**

### *PDG Jim Boyer Recognizes Three Per Capita Club Donations.*

Past District Governor James Boyer recognized the three clubs in District 7490 whose members, on an average per capita basis, donated the most money to the Foundation last year. Members of the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club, he said, donated an average of \$257.15 to the Foundation, while members of the Ridgewood AM Rotary Club donated \$211.14 and members of the Fair Lawn club donated \$155.56.

Donations from three years ago, Jim continued, allowed the District's Foundation Committee to award \$17,000 in 11 District Designated Fund (DDF) grants to 10 clubs and one to the District itself.



**Past District Governor James Boyer recognizing the Mid-Bergen Rotary Club, the Fair Lawn Rotary Club, and the Ridgewood AM Rotary Club for their donations to the Rotary Foundation last year. From-left-to-right are Dr. Patricia C. LaRocco of the Fair Lawn Rotary Club, Jim Boyer, Mia Villon of Mid-Bergen Rotary and Mike Tizoli, President of the Ridgewood AM Rotary Club.**

### *PDG Joe Laurenzi on Efforts to Rid the World of Polio.*

Highlighting Rotary International's 30-year campaign to rid the world of polio, Past District Governor Joseph Laurenzi on Nov. 5 showed a video which discussed the origins of the disease. Although symptoms of the disease have been known to exist at least since the days of the Egyptian Pharaohs, the video explains, it was first documented in 1773.

The film traced the progress of the disease in Nigeria from 2009 through 2016, when the last new case of polio was recorded in that West African nation. If no new cases are discovered in Nigeria the video noted, that nation can be declared free of polio sometime in 2019.

Speaking after the video presentation, Joe said that although polio is on the verge of extinction, the potential for new outbreaks and thus new epidemics, are serious. As if to emphasize his point, he spoke of traces of polio found in Israel and Brazil.

Joe noted that traces of polio were detected in 2013 in waters of the sewer systems in Israel. Immediately, he said the Israeli Government launched a campaign in which more than 900,000 children were inoculated against the disease in seven months. As a result, he continued, no cases of polio in that Mideast nation have been recorded.

*(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)*

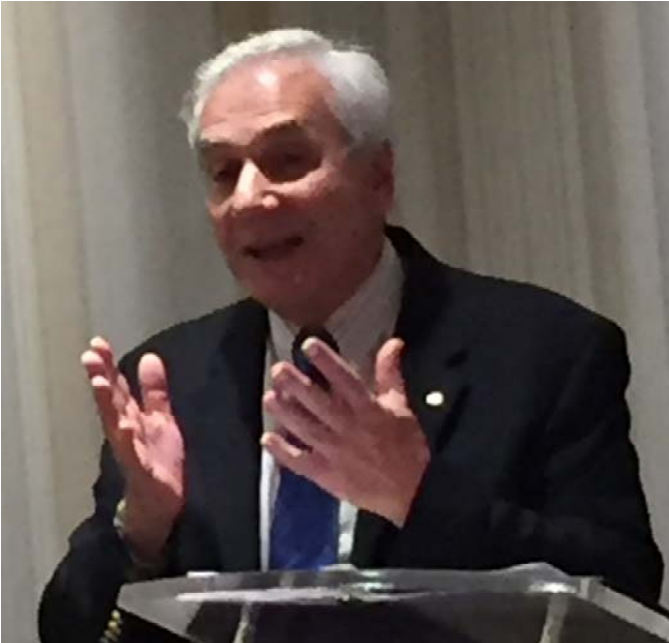


## Reports and Activities of Rotary District 7490's Monthly Meeting on Nov. 5.

### ***PDG Joe Laurenì on Efforts to Rid the World of Polio.***

*(Continued from Page 6, Col. 2)*

Surveillance programs that can detect the disease, Joe said, are crucial if polio is to be eradicated. In addition to the discovery of polio in Israel, he noted, traces of polio were also detected in fecal matter in Brazilian waters, leading to similar vaccination in that nation which have prevented any outbreaks there as well.



**Past District Governor Joseph Laurenì speaking on Nov. 5 at District 7490's monthly meeting on the need for constant vigilance if polio is to be finally eradicated from the Earth.**

### ***Governor Nikki Speaks of Service and Possible New Clubs.***

In brief remarks at the Nov. 5 District 7490 Meeting, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos spoke of how impressed she is by the service projects Rotary clubs in District 7490 are performing. Since July, Governor Nikki said, she has visited 34 of the District's 49 clubs. Three prospective clubs, she said, including the Jersey City Golden Door Rotary Club, might be chartered, with the Golden Door club possibly being chartered in December.



**District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos, guesting as she spoke at District 7490's monthly meeting on Nov. 5.**

### ***PDG Bonnie Sirower On 'Gobble Up Hunger' Service Project.***



**Past District Governor Bonnie F. Sirower speaking on Nov. 5 of the "Gobble Up Hunger" service project which took place 12 days later on Nov. 17.**

## Rotary Foundation Committee to Commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary of 'Miracle on the Hudson on Jan. 15.

District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee will host a dinner on Tuesday, January 15, commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson" in which a passenger plane crash-landed in the Hudson River without any loss of life to any of the 155 passengers and crew.

The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Waterside Restaurant & Catering, located at 7800 B River Road in North Bergen, with the venue overlooking the site of the crash.

The dinner will cost \$150.00 per person, with all proceeds going to the Rotary (International) Foundation.

Dave Sanderson, a motivational speaker who was the last passenger to leave the plane, will speak at the event.

On Jan. 15, 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 crash-landed on the Hudson River when a flock of geese struck the plane disabling its engines.



Photograph from NJ.com

Dave Sanderson, a motivational speaker who was the last passenger to leave US Airways Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009 after it crash-landed in the Hudson River. Behind Mr. Sanderson is an image of the plane as it sits on the river after the crash.



VOL. CXLVIII, No. 54,587 NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009 \$1.10



Passengers on the wings waited to shuffle onto a New York Waterway ferry, the first to arrive at the crash site, between Midtown Manhattan and Weehawken, N.J.

### All 155 Aboard Safe as Crippled Jet Crash-Lands in Hudson River

For Terrified Survivors, a Miracle

By MICHAEL WILSON and ALAN RAY  
A US Airways jet with 155 people aboard had grown so shaky, it began to rock on its landing gear, after taking off from New York City's LaGuardia Airport on Thursday. The plane, a Boeing 737, was carrying 155 people, including 154 passengers and one pilot. The plane was flying at a low altitude, and the passengers were told to brace for impact. The plane crashed into the Hudson River, and the passengers were rescued by a ferry. The plane was damaged, but all 155 people were safe. The crash was a miracle, and the passengers were grateful to be alive. The plane was flying at a low altitude, and the passengers were told to brace for impact. The plane crashed into the Hudson River, and the passengers were rescued by a ferry. The plane was damaged, but all 155 people were safe. The crash was a miracle, and the passengers were grateful to be alive.

### Israel Shells U.N. Site in Gaza, Drawing Fresh Condemnation

By JAMES KENNEDY  
Israel's military launched a series of attacks on Thursday, drawing fresh condemnation from the United Nations and other international organizations. The attacks were aimed at a U.N. site in Gaza, and the Israeli military said it was targeting the site because it was a target of Hamas. The attacks were condemned by the U.N. and other international organizations, and the Israeli military said it was targeting the site because it was a target of Hamas. The attacks were condemned by the U.N. and other international organizations, and the Israeli military said it was targeting the site because it was a target of Hamas.

### Nationalizing U.S. Bank

U.S. Bank is being nationalized by the U.S. government, and the bank is being taken over by the U.S. government. The bank is being nationalized by the U.S. government, and the bank is being taken over by the U.S. government. The bank is being nationalized by the U.S. government, and the bank is being taken over by the U.S. government.

### A President's Boring Words

President Obama's words were boring, and the words were boring. The words were boring, and the words were boring. The words were boring, and the words were boring. The words were boring, and the words were boring.

### New York State's 2012

New York State's 2012 was a year of change, and the year was a year of change. The year was a year of change, and the year was a year of change. The year was a year of change, and the year was a year of change.

### Metropolitan Opera Plans Cuts

The Metropolitan Opera is planning cuts, and the opera is planning cuts. The opera is planning cuts, and the opera is planning cuts. The opera is planning cuts, and the opera is planning cuts.

### Editorial of 12-12-09

The editorial of 12-12-09 was a year of change, and the year was a year of change. The year was a year of change, and the year was a year of change. The year was a year of change, and the year was a year of change.

## The Rotary Foundation

commemorating the

# 10th Anniversary

of

## "The Miracle on the Hudson"

**Tuesday, January 15, 2019**  
**6:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Inspirational speaker and author,  
and the last passenger off Flight 1549  
**Dave Sanderson**

**Waterside Restaurant & Catering**  
**7800 B River Road**  
**North Bergen, NJ**

**LIMITED SEATING**  
For more info see back

A flyer announcing District 7490 Rotary Foundation Committee's dinner on Jan. 15 commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson" in which US Airways Flight 1549 crash-landed in the Hudson River with all 155 passengers and crew surviving the crash.

The New York Times/Jan. 16, 2009

The front page of the *New York Times* reporting on the crash-landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on Jan. 15, 2009.



### Mid Berge Rotary and Interact Clubs Move to Reduce Plastics from the World's Oceans.

The Mid-Bergen Interact Club, chaired by Yvonne Hassett, has launched an effort to reduce the amount of plastics and similar objects that pollute the nation's waterways.

In a message on her Facebook page, Yvonne writes that Kathy Gaspar will chair a "mission to save 500-pounds" of plastic grocery bags, bubble wrap, plastic laundry and dry-cleaning bags "and more" according to her message from polluting "our oceans by turning what we collect over to a company that makes outdoor furniture and decks from plastic."

In her message, Kathy also asked people willing to join her effort to "contact me via my Facebook page to make arrangements for pickup and delivery info."

This project might serve as an apt metaphor of one man's trash being another man's treasure, or on a more prosaic level, of turning one person's discards into something useful.



District Governor Nominee Carl Hassett and wife, Yvonne Hassett, chairwoman of the Mid-Bergen Interact Club, with recycling bags and a container that would be used to salvage plastic discards.



A blowup of one of the containers used to collect plastic items such as grocery bags, bubble wrap and similar items that would otherwise be discarded as trash. The items will be provided to a company, Kathy Hassett wrote on her Facebook page, to a company that will convert this material to plastic outdoor furniture.



### **Jersey City Rotary Club Provides Winter Clothing for More than 400 People in Operation Warm Coats.**

Working with members of the Interact Club and Zeta Phi Beta Women's Fraternity, both of New Jersey City University, the Jersey City Rotary Club in November sorted, packaged and distributed winter clothing to four non-profit groups in Jersey City.

Working out of the offices of LogMeIn at 10 Exchange Place, the Club, in its fifth annual Operation Warm Coats service project, provided enough winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to help more than 400 families. Members of the Rotary and Interact clubs and the women's fraternity gathered at 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 17 and began sorting clothing to provide for the needs of people in lists that were prepared beforehand.

After the clothing was packaged, it was delivered to the four groups later that same afternoon, with the groups planning to distribute them to their clients as early as the afternoon of Nov. 19.

The Club was supported in the project with donations of \$1,000 each from LogMeIn and from US Tech Solutions, both of which maintain offices at 10 Exchange Place. District 7490 also provided a District Designated Fund (DDF) grant of \$2,000.

The nonprofit groups that received the clothing were CASA, (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) the HoneyBees, a group of youngsters who engage in Double Dutch jump-rope competitions, Peace Care St. Ann's Adult Medical Day Care and WomenRising.



**Michelle Ricot-Nandkumar on Nov. 17 sorting winter clothing for distribution at the Jersey City Rotary Club's Operation Warm Coats project at LogMeIn's offices at 10 Exchange Place in Jersey City.**



**As part of the Jersey City Rotary Club's Operation Warm Coats clothing drive, David Javadian and Francisco Guzmán on Nov. 17 carry a box of winter clothing for distribution to one of four non-profit groups that were to receive them. Francisco, a Past Member of the Club, is a member of the North Hudson Rotary Club.**



**Cynthia Vazquez, Marianne Costello, Keely Respass, Michelle Ricot-Nandkumar and Jennifer Aitken at the Jersey City Rotary Club's Operation Warm Coats service project on Nov. 17, in which winter clothing was distributed to more than 400 families. Among the Rotarians not pictured, but who participated in the project were Lisa M. Beohm, Stephen Stamos and Gina Verdibello.**



*Photograph by Adrienne Romero/The Jersey Journal*

**Jeannette Josue – Ms. World Elite – with members of Zeta Phi Beta Women's Fraternity of New Jersey City University at the Jersey City Rotary Club's Operation Warm Coats project.**

### Jersey City Rotary Club Provides Winter Clothing for More than 400 People in Operation Warm Coats.



Sudhakar Bhagavatula of US Tech Solutions, Keely Respass and Barry L. Dempsey, the Club's President, at the Jersey City Rotary Club Operation Warm Coats service project on Nov. 17. US Tech Solutions donated \$1,000 to the project, as did LogMeln, at whose offices the winter clothing was sorted and packaged.



Beverly Savage, the Executive Director of Hudson County CASA, (Court Appointed Special Advocates) on Nov. 17 is flanked on her left by Herminio Mendoza and on her right by Joseph E. Branco, who, with Stephen Stamos, delivered winter coats, hats and scarves to CASA's offices on Hoboken Avenue in Jersey City.



Members of New Jersey City University's Rotaract Club Chris, Meli, Victoire, Alan and Allisa. In the forefront are Jersey City Rotarians Jennifer R. Aitken and Cynthia Vazquez. Jennifer had just returned from District 7490's "Gobble Up Hunger" service project in Paterson, which took place earlier that morning.



Marianne E. Costello and Gina Verdibello at LogMeln's offices on Nov. 17, packaging winter clothing as part of the Jersey City Rotary Club's Operation Warm Coats clothing drive.



## Gregory Floyd of Eva's Kitchen Explains Mission and Paramus Club Donates \$3,600 to Health Care Group.

### *Eva's Kitchen Helps Addicts, Homeless and Others.*

There is no wrong door at Eva's...

Eva's and Rotary are connected by 1) fighting disease, 2) serving mothers and children so they can heal and have a happy, healthy life and 3) by growing the local economy. The village has helped thousands of individuals through their Recovery, Medical, Food, Housing and Education Training programs.

Eva's Kitchen served 523,000 meals last year. They serve 1,300 daily meals (breakfast and lunch). Its "Mommy and Me" program has 30 moms and 52 kids.

Clients of Eva's Kitchen are assigned a caseworker, and receive medical, food, babysitter help and help with job searches. Some 103 men are in recovery. Drug addicts and homeless people are served by 3,500 volunteers.

They do not need to get up and get their food. Being served helps Eva's Kitchen's clients keep their dignity.



Gregory Floyd, the Executive Vice President of Eva's Kitchen, speaking of its mission at the Paramus Rotary Club's Nov. 8 meeting.

Three-hundred twenty clients are given assistance with preparation of résumés, taught how to for a job, and job searches through Eva's Kitchen's Workforce Development Program.

One way Eva's helps build the economy is with its culinary school. The school has trained over 147 chefs over the last four years.

Free medical and dental clinics are also available to clients of Eva's Kitchen. But Eva's Kitchen also helps its clients to be self-supportive, with half of its (Eva's) staff of 200 being recovering addicts or people who are homeless.

Volunteers are always welcomed. Free tours are available.

### *Maternal and Infant Care Group Receives \$3,600 Donation.*

Past President, Sam Stone presented a \$3,600 check to Rabbi Yossi Ives, President of Technical International Development. It is a 10-year old mission organization that specializes in better healthcare for mothers and babies. This project is a part of a Global Grant. The money will be used to purchase a prenatal monitoring machine. We look forward to having the Rabbi return at a later date to hear more about this great program.



Past President Sam Stone presenting a check for \$3,600 to Rabbi Yosi Ives at the Paramus Rotary Club's Nov. 8 meeting.



## **Paterson Great Falls Hears from Dr. George Molteni, Educators Assisting Puerto Rico, and Does Clothing Drive.**

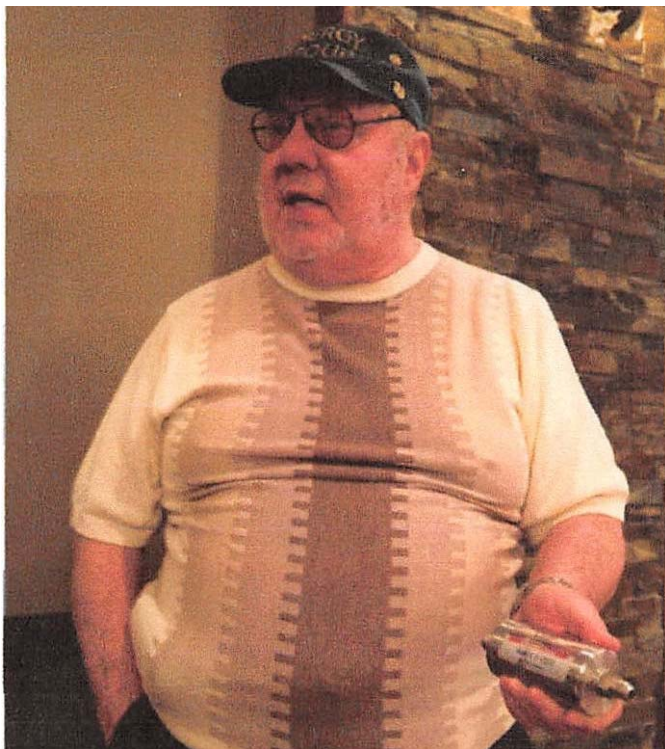
### ***Energy Expert George Molteni Talks to the Club.***

George J. Molteni, with doctorates in law, industrial psychology and metaphysical science, spoke at the Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club during its meeting of Nov. 1.

He has an extensive management/financial background, working as a corporate comptroller for more than 20 years and also for an audit recovery firm specializing in operating cost reductions. He is presently involved in energy efficiency reductions with two unique technologies: reducing fuel consumption (any equipment – any fossil fuel) and AC/refrigeration Consumptions – (Blue Qadditive). He is presently, chairman of the Energy Group/Little Falls, NJ, a position he assumed 1989.

The Energy Group offers a “unique” emissions and fuel solutions device that reduces usage without any loss of performance, probably being the “only” pre-combustion fuel technology that has ever passed Federal Aviation Administration’s stringent testing protocol. FAA tested and approved the devices for installation on aircraft.

Dr. George installed these devices in his cars, motorcycles and boats saving money on fuel consumption and eliminating exhaust emissions, thus helping with the environment.



**George J. Molteni speaking at the Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club's meeting on Nov. 1.**

### ***Educators to Assist Schools in Puerto Rico.***

Although our Nov. 8 meeting was a fellowship meeting, we had two impromptu speakers: Taina Pou and Lourdes Garcia. Paterson educators, who are members of Paterson Partners for Puerto Rico, our Club will be partnering with them in one of our international projects, following on one of President Tope's themes for this year – that of literacy.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico's critical infrastructure, including the island's 1,110 schools. Only 400 of these schools were able to welcome students by October 2017, with Paterson Partners for Puerto Rico adopting a high school in Barranca, P.R. Since their involvement, they have visited the school and have been able to see first-hand how their donations have made a huge impact not only on the students, but also the school and the community. Much work remain to be done before the school can offer all of the courses that were available prior to Sept., 2017.

We look forward to working with our partner, Paterson Partners for Puerto Rico and will have more information on our projects with them in the future.

### ***Club Assists in Clothing Drive for Veterans.***

Our club was invited to attend a roller derby game by the owner of the team, Sandra Oblinger, as her guests. Ms. Oblinger shared that many of the players were veterans and they wanted to do a project to help other veterans and our Military Assistance Pantry was the only Military Food Pantry she could find when she searched online.

The last game of the season was Saturday, Nov. 10, and it was decided that they would ask their fans to bring new and gently used clothing to be distributed to veterans and seniors at the pantry on Saturday, Nov. 17 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.



**Some of the clothing that was collected for veterans by the Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club and a roller derby team.**

## Membership Corner.

*By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee*



***Congratulations***, I received the latest membership report from Brian King, Director of Membership Development of Rotary International. ***Membership in District 7490 increased from 1,175 to 1,201 in one month.*** A number of the new members are under the age of 40. ***We are on the roll, let's keep the momentum going.***

On November 29th we had the New Member Orientation/Fireside Chat which was a great success. We had 50 Rotarians present and 25 were new members who joined after March. We also noticed that some these new members have not been reported to RI.

An important observation that I noted was that these new members' knowledge of Rotary was limited to their club. They really did not know the big picture of Rotary.

This was where the New Member Orientation came in. The new members were very impressed when they heard the speakers from the various District committees. They actually got bombarded with information.

I am sure some of them were overwhelmed and we only touched on 11 of the 25 committees that the District has. These committees are a great opportunity to get one or more speakers a month to come to your club and speak. The committee chairs will give your club ways they can use their committee to provide a project for your club.

They also give the clubs an opportunity to provide service to the community. Rotarians, when applying the ideal of service, generally find that working collectively with other Rotarians (in their club, other clubs, or RI) helps them make the world better, starting in their own community.

This is only one way to keep your club Vibrant. The more interest your members have in Rotary the longer you will keep them.

You have used the prospective members that RI has sent to us. By following up on these leads we have gotten new members. You have proven that we can get new members, now we must to keep them. We must find ways to engage your members at all stages of their membership to help them maximize their Rotary experience.

This can only be done by keeping them engaged. When they see the results that each club does by providing for those in need, they will stay, especially if they are part of the project.

Governor Nominee Carl Hassett went around the room and asked the new members "Why did you join Rotary?" All the answers were similar, "I want to help the less fortunate".

They also desired to make contact with new people through networking. It is proven that Rotarians hire Rotarians because they trust them. We all live by the 4 Way Test, what more can a customer asks for.

Please keep updating your membership profile on My Rotary.org and report the progress you are making in achieving your goals.



Good Luck to you all.

Lenny

***Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG, District Membership Chair***





District Governor  
Niurka "Nikki" Mederos

## Governor's Newsletter

### District 7490

Serving Bergen, Hudson  
& Passaic Counties

New Jersey, USA

December, 2018



**BE THE INSPIRATION**

### Governor's Message for December.

Happy and healthy 2019!

New Year and new beginnings... 2018 brought District 7490 many inspirational new programs and reactivated some dormant ones. Now, just because our year is half way over, we cannot just sit back and enjoy the ride.

We must focus our efforts in continually cultivating our clubs, increasing membership and of course continuing and updating our collaborative partnerships, in order to grow and succeed.

At this stage, we now take our valued experience and begin the journey of "mentoring" our imminent leaders, successors and teams. We need to focus on the future and what our next Rotary year brings. What new challenges await us to make a difference in the communities we serve and around the world is yet to be seen.

If you are remaining as club President next year or continuing a leadership role in our District, I congratulate you! You have made a wise choice, but remember, mentorship is key no matter how many years at the helm.

We need to welcome new clubs/Rotarians to our fold and help them become active members to help and support our communities. Finally, we are all professionals in our chosen career field, so use that knowledge and "teach" your fellow Rotarian how to continue the mission and be the inspiration.

I wanted to share with all of you the **10 Rotary Resolutions for 2019** – by PDG Ken Jaskot, Rotary club of Barboursville, West Virginia.

I think it's a great vision for our upcoming year...  
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

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### Newsletter Editor

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**Governor's Message Looks to Challenges of the Next Six Months and Offers 10 Resolutions for 2019.**

*((Continued from Page 1, Col. 2))*

**10 Rotary Resolutions For 2019**

- Have fun in Rotary! Enjoy the other Rotarians who share in many of your beliefs about what is important in life.
- Help retain other Club Members. Help them see what Rotary really all is about.
- Look at your acquaintances to see who will benefit from being a Rotarian and will benefit Rotary by joining.
- Be more vocal about your own involvement with Rotary. Tell others why it is important to you.
- Learn more about the work Rotary does, both locally and worldwide. Share these works as a source of pride in the movement you support.
- Take on the obligation of meeting and sharing all aspects of Rotary. Mentor *Interactors* and *Rotaractors* and other Rotary alumni so they become more fully engaged.
- Embrace PolioPlus as a personal mission. Help make this amazing, world-changing goal an important part of what you care about and support.
- Realize the great benefit of Rotary to make you a part of communities both close to home and afar. Touching lives for the better is a great personal accomplishment.
- Realize that there are many ways to support Rotary, from Club projects to supporting our charity, The Rotary Foundation. Give your time and/or your talent and/or your treasure. Remember that giving of yourself is why you are a Rotarian.
- Look at your fellow Rotarians and think about who they are and why they come to spend an hour or so with you. Is there a better group of people/friends? Find strength and motivation from this worldwide organization of people who share so much of your heart and mind!



**Past District 7550 Governor Kenneth T. Jaskot, who offered 10 resolutions for 2019.**

We are going to have an Amazing New Year! Yours in service

Yours in Service Always,

Nikki Mederos, DG  
District 7490





### Scenes from Rotary District 7490's Holiday Party on December 6.



A conga line dance at District 7490's annual holiday party on Dec. 6 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Saddle River.



Clockwise at Rotary District 7490's holiday party are Patricia Gallagher of the Garfield Rotary Club, Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus club, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos and her husband Manny, and Past District Governor Peter F. Lefkowitz.



Rick Saltarelli of the Secaucus Rotary Club overseeing the dance at District 7490's Dec. 6 holiday party.



Nancy Jengo and her husband, Past District Governor Dominic L. Jengo at the Dec. 6 holiday party hosted by Rotary District 7490.

*(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)*



### Scenes from Rotary District 7490's Holiday Party on December 6.

*(Continued from Page 4, Col. 2)*



Angela Mattina of the Clifton Rotary Club and Past District Governor William F. Rupp at the District 7490's annual holiday party.



Rotarians and their guests dancing on Dec. 6 at District 7490's holiday party at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Saddle Brook.



District Secretary Dr. Patricia LaRocco of the Fair Lawn Rotary Club, Past District Governor Bonnie F. Sirower and Sherry Wilson of the Bergen Community College Rotary Club on Dec. 6.



Manny Mederos and his wife, District Governor Niurka "Nikki" Mederos at the holiday party hosted on Dec. 6 by District 7490.

## Paramus Rotary Club's Ed Lang Presents Dictionaries to Third Graders, Club Hears Consumer Warmings.

### *Dictionaries Presented to Children at Visitation Academy.*

Past President of the Paramus Rotary Club Ed Lang and his wife Irma visited Visitation Academy in Paramus, NJ. They made a presentation to the third grade class on the many resources the Rotary Dictionary offers and to provide each student their own personal dictionary.

In order to spark the students' interest in the Rotary Dictionary, Ed asked the students various questions about information that is contained in the Rotary Dictionary. These questions included topics such as: the past and present U.S. President(s), New Jersey's capital, it's official tree, it's official bird, how many stars and stripes are on the U.S. flag and what each one represented, the number of planets and the longest word in the English language. The students were so excited raising their hands to answer the various questions.

At the end of the presentation Ed performed a magic trick which the students enjoyed. The students were then given their own copies of the Rotary Dictionaries which they were excited to receive.



Past Paramus Rotary club President Ed Lang and his wife Irma present dictionaries to third-grade children at Visitation Academy in Paramus.

The students, Ed and Irma had a wonderful time during their visit and hopefully the dictionaries will make a positive impact in their lives.

Visitation Academy is Ed's grammar school alma mater which made the visit extra special to him and Irma.

### *Joint County Consumer Division Warns of Fraud at Club Visit.*

Investigators Denis Niland and Melissa Carroll, of the joint Bergen County & Passaic County Division of Consumer Affairs spoke at the Paramus Rotary Club's meeting of December 6.

The two investigators, who work with the Outreach and Education Program, came to inform us about the ways to protect ourselves in the retail world. Other services include Investigations, Enforcement, Public Records and NJ Business License & Registration verification.

They enlightened us on *Professional Boards, Home Improvement Contractors, Furniture Purchasing, Refund Policy Disclosures, Gift Cards, Pet Purchasing, Towing Motor Vehicles, Health Clubs, Identity Theft, Robo Calls, Lemon Law, State of Emergency, Movers & Storage, Legalized Game of Chance* and much more. Please visit their website to find detailed information on each of these subjects and more.



The logo of the joint Bergen County & Passaic County Division of Consumer Affairs, whose investigators, Dennis Niland and Melissa Carrol, spoke on Dec. 6 to the Paramus Rotary Club.



## Paterson Great Falls Rotary Hosts Breakfast and Thanksgiving Events for Military and Senior Citizens.

In the film, "Mr. Holland's Opus", Glenn Holland is a musician and composer who takes a teaching job to pay the rent, but in his time off, he strives to achieve his true goal – his "Opus" – he wants to compose a memorable piece of music to leave his mark on the world. Little did he know, along life's journey he did leave his mark on the world.

Paterson Great Falls Rotary Members are achieving their Rotarian "Opus" in the City of Paterson through their many community service projects which not only leave a great memory to the people they serve, but also gain great memories from the people they serve and the people they serve with.

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Paterson Great Falls hosted a continental breakfast to the Military families currently being served and to a group of senior citizens. After the breakfast, everyone was invited to "shop" for themselves and their family members at the Grand Opening of The Closet, where new and gently used clothing that had been donated was on display for the families to take, at no charge to them.

Turkeys with all the trimmings were also given to the families for their Thanksgiving dinners as well as a bag of other groceries, including paper goods donated by Marcal Paper Mills Inc. At the end of the day, over 65 Thanksgiving turkey dinners were distributed, along with hundreds of pieces of clothing and many bags of other groceries. Three donated turkeys were given to Eva's Family Shelter.

Special shout out to the Inserra Family who donated 15 turkeys from their Paterson Price Rite store and gave a discount on the additional 50 turkeys purchased at their Shop Rite store in Fair Lawn. Sandra was able to make an arrangement with Starbucks in Fair Lawn who donated the coffee and pastries for the breakfast and has offered to assist with future events. Irma brought three cases of pumpkin-shaped cookies donated by a cookie manufacturer in Paterson.

Sweet Potato Pie Man in Paterson on Auburn Street donated 72 individual assorted pies, the sweet potato pie appeared to be the most popular joined by Peach Cobbler and then Coconut Custard. School 19 came through in a big way with the teachers donating brand new tee shirts and underwear for our veterans along with gently worn shirts and over 800 pounds of food collected and donated by the students. The class that collected the most food will be treated to a pizza party. The Passaic County Realtors also held a food drive and collected a truckload of items needed.

Thank you to Woodland Park American Legion, Jerzey Derby, John Walters, and Paula Cano, both Realtors. Thank you as well to all those who donated clothing, Nancy Jengo, Tony Sabbatino, Judy Mizzone of the Passaic County Realtors, Edee Leahey, Karen Andounian and Glenda Florizel. A personal thank you to Rich Scillieri who even though recently going through surgery volunteered to use his truck for the pickup of the food and clothing items and assisted me in unpacking and delivering to the pantry.

Thank you to non-Rotarian volunteers Yolanda DeStefano, Greg, Pau; Cano, Carol Van Savage, Regina, Sandy Obringer, staff of the Paterson Housing Authority and Seniors of the Canfield Building. Without your help on the day of the event, none of this would have been possible.



In the photographs above and below, military veterans and senior citizens shop at "The Closet" hosted by the Paterson Great Falls Rotary Club, where "new and gently used" donated clothing was made available to them, free of charge.



In the four pictures above, clothing is available without cost and Thanksgiving turkeys are prepared for distribution to military families and to senior citizens, and refreshments are ready for serving to patrons of the Great Falls Rotary Club's breakfast on Nov. 17.

### **Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club Donates Sports Equipment to Jersey City Rotary Drive in Vialba.**

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey (BH/R) Rotary Club this month donated a pickup truck full of sports equipment for use by children in a hurricane-battered city in Puerto Rico.

The donations were provided on Dec. 9 as Joseph E. Branco spoke at the BH/R club's meeting at Houlihan's Restaurant in Ramsey, N.J., at which one of its members, TJ Spizzo, organized the donation. The donations were in conjunction with the Jersey City Rotary Club's effort, which Joe is leading, to provide used sports equipment to children in Vialba, Puerto Rico, which in September, 2017, was struck by Hurricane Maria.

Working with the Club, officials in Hoboken are also donating three police cars to the City of Vialba.



Joseph E. Branco of the Jersey City Rotary Club exchanges banners on Dec. 9 with Tim Shaffer, President of the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club during the BH/R club's meeting.



Joseph E. Branco on Dec. 9 with members of the Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club at their meeting at Houlihan's Restaurant in Ramsey, N.J. From left-to-right are Tom Dunn, Joe Branco, Tom Grissom, Tim Shaffer, the BH/R club's President; Aaron Isaacson, Howard Schreiber and Brent Edmonds.



Joseph E. Branco of the Jersey City Rotary Club speaking on December 9 at a meeting of the Bergen Highlands Rotary Club of the Jersey City club's donation of sports equipment to youngsters in the city of Vialba, P.R.



TJ Spizzo of the Bergen Highlands Ramsey Rotary Club with Joseph E. Branco of the Jersey City Rotary Club with sports equipment the Bergen Highlands club donated for children in Vialba, P.R.



### Members of the Jersey City Rotary Club Present Cookie Tins to School Crossing Guards.



Joseph E. Branco with two Jersey City School Crossing Guards on Dec. 20 as he presented them with cookie tins in appreciation for their work in guiding children on their way to and from school in all kinds of weather.



Lisa M. Beohm on Dec. 20 during the Jersey City Rotary Club's presentation of cookie tins to Jersey City crossing guards in appreciation for their safeguarding children on their way to and from school in all kinds of weather.



Gina Verdibello with a school crossing guard on Dec. 20 during the Jersey City Rotary Club's presentation of cookie tins to the crossing guards as they safeguard children on their way to and from school at more than 150 crossing guard posts throughout Jersey City.



A Jersey City school crossing guard is flanked on Dec. 20 by Cynthia Vazquez on her left and by Jennifer R. Aitken on her right as the Jersey City Rotary Club presented cookie tins to crossing guards at more than 150 crossing points in the City's public, charter and parochial schools.



### Governor and Mayor Join Bayonne Rotary in Breakfast for Prekindergarten Children.

On December 11th, we hosted our Annual Holiday Luncheon. Every year we invite a Prekindergarten class from one of our schools in Bayonne to the luncheon. The students sing a few songs. Santa makes an appearance for photos with each child. Each child receives a gift from Santa. After Santa leaves, the children are treated to milk and cookies.

At this meeting, our students were from the Midtown Community School. We had Governor Murphy stop by. He took a photo with the students, teachers, principal and our club President, Rosemary Kellner. Shortly after the Governor left, Mayor James Davis stopped by. He also took photos.



Governor Murphy with members of the Bayonne Rotary Club at their meeting on Dec. 11 at the Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne. The club held its holiday party there with pre-kindergarten children.



Mayor James Davis of Bayonne (to Santa Claus' left) also joined the meeting, after having met with Governor Murphy.

### BH/Ramsey Rotary Club Welcomes Ramapo College Educational Opportunity Fund Program.

The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club recently welcomed a visit by members of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at Ramapo College.

The EOF program was started in New Jersey 50 years ago, right after the Newark riots of 1967, to give inner-city students the opportunity to attend college. At Ramapo College, where most of the EOF students are first generation college students, it has been tremendously successful with a high graduation rate.

The program is financed by the College and the State of New Jersey.



From left, Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club president Tim Shaffer and Ramapo College Assistant VP of Student Success Joseph Connell with students and EOF leaders Deirdre Foreman and Andre Turner.

### Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club Serving Allendale, Ramsey, Mahwah, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River.

#### Want to make a difference in people's lives?

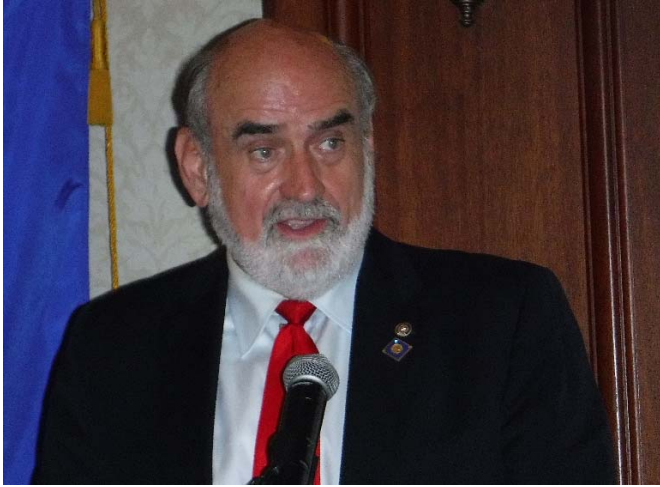
The Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary Club is an energetic and enthusiastic group of citizens working hands-on to improve our local communities and the world. Interested parties are invited to join the Club at one of its weekly luncheon meetings, held on Mondays at 12:15pm at Houlihan's in Ramsey.

For more about Club activities and membership, please call Bob Baron, Membership Chair, at 201-934-1222, email him at [bob@baronpoolservice.com](mailto:bob@baronpoolservice.com) or go to our website: [www.bergenhighlandsrotary.org](http://www.bergenhighlandsrotary.org).



## Report on the Rotary Foundation.

*By John C. "Jay" Fowler*  
*Chairman, District Rotary Foundation*



**John C. "Jay" Fowler**  
**Chairman of District 7490's Rotary Foundation Committee.**

### ***Rotary Foundation Overview.***

The Rotary Foundation is the Charitable Foundation of Rotary International. It enables Rotarians throughout the world to advance World Understanding, Good Will and Peace through the improvement of Health, Support of Education and Alleviation of Poverty.

Over the last 100 years the Foundation has spent over Three Billion Dollars on life changing, sustainable projects.

This is accomplished through projects and programs that fall within the Foundation's six areas of focus.

Listed below are the Areas of Focus:

- Promote Peace
- Fight Disease
- Provide Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Save Mothers & Children
- Support Education
- Grow Local Economies

### ***Rotary's Polio-Plus Campaign.***

Currently, The Rotary Foundation is best known for its Polio-Plus Campaign, where in partnership with the World Health Organization and others, Polio is being eradicated from the world. To date the Foundation has spent more than \$850 Million in this effort.

### ***Global and District Designated Grants.***

Two of the programs of the Rotary Foundation are Global and District Grants. Below is a brief explanation of the distinction between Global Grants and District Grants.

GLOBAL GRANTS support large International projects with long-term, sustainable outcomes in one or more of Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. They range from \$15,000 to \$200,000. Clubs in our District are currently involved in sixteen Global Grants, either as an International Partner or by providing resources to other District's Global Grants.

District Grants fund smaller-scale short-term projects that address immediate needs in the community or abroad. During the past two Rotary years, our District has provided 21 grants to clubs in our District

### ***Club Donations to the Rotary Foundation.***

Clubs in the District have donated \$23,924.00 so far this year. The top five clubs are:

Paramus Rotary Club	\$4,128.00
Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$2,160.00
Park Ridge Rotary Club	\$2,055.00
Northern Valley Rotary Club	\$1,295.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$1,293.00

### ***For More Information on the Foundation....***

If you would like more information about the Rotary Foundation, please contact Jay Fowler, at [jaycfowler@aol.com](mailto:jaycfowler@aol.com).

## Membership Corner.

*By Past District Governor Leonard A. Agrusti  
Chairman, District Membership Committee*



Let's go back a few years and think about the history of the Four Way Test.

The Rotary "4-Way Test" has become an important fixture in Rotary- guiding Rotarians in their personal lives as well as in their professional lives. From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives.

One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as RI president) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy. This 24-word test for employees to follow in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers and customers, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy.

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.

It asks the following four questions: "Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

The Four Way Test can be used as a membership recruitment tool.

It is the code that all Rotarians stand by. Using this, Rotarian will hire Rotarians.

I myself have used Rotarian Accountants, Rotarian Lawyers, Rotarian Doctors and Rotarian Mechanics in my business. There is a greater feeling of trust when working with those who live by the Four Way Test.

It would be a great marketing tool to put this 24-word test on the back of their business cards. It is an indication of what you as a Rotarian lives by. This would give the confidence that your customer needs to trust you.

What a great networking product we have. I am sure the young professional potential member would love to have this to add to their presentation when attempting to get customers.

The Four-Way Test, along with your Rotary pin, assures your customer that we as Rotarians give more than we take.

Our New Year's Resolution should be a net gain of 10% per club in 2019. This is not unattainable.  
May you all have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Yours in Rotary,

Lenny

**Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG**  
**District Membership Chair**