



**District Governor
John D. Mitchell**

Governor's Newsletter

District 7490

**Serving Bergen, Hudson
& Passaic Counties**

New Jersey, USA

December, 2019



Governor's Message for December.

With the holidays behind us and the start of a new decade, we are all wondering what is in store for us Rotarians. No doubt that whatever lies ahead will be a continuation of the dynamic times we have just experienced. The key question for us Rotarians is whether we will take control of our own destinies and let the world know what Rotary is all about. I say YES, WE WILL!

Lucky for us, we have the excellent resources of Rotary to control our futures. Many of the clubs I have visited have already staked their claim for the upcoming new Roaring 20's. They have:

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- Established a solid officer succession plan with younger Rotarians.
- Implemented diverse committees that regularly report to the membership.
- Broadened their horizons beyond local service projects. They are thinking big!
- Dismissed being discouraged when initial plans fail to materialize.
- Internalized with their entire membership on how they can be a better Rotary.
- Partnered with other Rotary Clubs to facilitate joint projects, fundraising events and fun.
- Collaborated with our District for the benefit of all our clubs.
- Focused on specific events to grow their membership.
- Made sure to always have fun!!

As we start 2020 together, I'm very much looking forward seeing you all at the District events we have planned starting with our regular monthly District meetings, New Rotary Member Orientation (March 7th), Slam Dunk Against Hunger (March 14th), The Presidents' Ball (April 16th), and our Lake George District Conference (May 14th to May 17th). Additionally, stay alert to important dates regarding Pre-Pets and a special District wide training on how we can fight the opioid epidemic while PETS is scheduled for March 19 -21,

Let's make 2020 a year to remember!

John

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Newsletter Editor

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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 Retention Committee.

The New Year has begun, and I think back on when I was invited to Rotary. I never thought my entire life would change at that moment.

When I went to a meeting I was impressed at the camaraderie that existed. The members were cordial, and I immediately felt welcomed. This club was very concerned about their community and had a number of projects on their agenda that were targeted to helping the less fortunate.

You all can relate to this I am sure because each club in our district is proud to help those in need whether it is to feed the homeless, providing school supplies to children, giving warm coats and blankets to the needy, and I can go on and on. Then my prospective club was doing a major fundraiser for the Foundation for the Handicapped.

Before I knew it, I was being installed as a new member. Once I joined, I realized that this was only the beginning of the life-changing relationship I was going to have as a member of Rotary.

Rotary has a fabulous leadership program which helps us to become a strong leader not only in Rotary but in our business. The Rotary Leadership Institute taught teamwork and communication skills. Opportunities were made for collaboration and networking.

Through Rotary, I was able to travel internationally and make friends around the world. The Gift of Life program also gave me an opportunity to see lifesaving surgery performed on a child with a hole in his heart. This was only one of over 1,000 surgeries provided by our District.

Mark your calendars now to join me with our District Chairs who are joining Rotary International with a number of projects in our District which changed my life, and I am sure will change yours. This is a continuation of our new member-orientation which was held in May and was extremely successful.

The date is March 7, 2020 at Care Plus from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will have a light breakfast and a pizza party for lunch. Further information will follow.

I am proud to be part of the 1.2-million members who reach out to provide Service Above Self.

My email is: mealen26@gmail.com

Yours in Rotary,

Lenny

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

My email is: mealen26@gmail.com.

Rotarians of District 7490 Enjoy Holiday Party Despite Incelemt Weather.

District Governor John D. Mitchell welcomes Rotarians to the District's annual holiday party on Dec. 9.



Past District Governor Dan Shiver leads Rotarians in a dance during District 7490's holiday party on December 9.



Rotarians dancing to music provided by Past District Governor Dan Shiver, who acted as the disc jockey for the District's December 9 holiday party.



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus are flanked on their left by Nancy Jengo and on their right by Past District Governor Dominic Jengo on December 9 as District 7490 celebrates the holiday season.

Apollo 15 Astronaut Alfred M. Worden Talks With Ridgewood Rotary Club of Nation's 4th Moon Landing.



Photograph by Alexis Shanes/North Jersey.com

Col. Alfred M. Worden of the United States Air Force (retired) speaking on Dec. 10 to the Ridgewood Rotary Club of the Endeavor Scholarship program and of his mission during the Apollo 15 space flight in July, 1971.

Col. Alfred M. Worden, who orbited the Moon for three days during the Apollo 15 space mission while his two fellow astronauts explored its surface, in July, 1971, spoke in December of the space program in general and of an Endeavor Scholarship program in particular.

Addressing the Ridgewood Rotary Club on December 10, Colonel Worden said that the Endeavor scholarship program, named after the command module he piloted during the space mission, was initiated by the Kallman Foundation, established by Gerald M. Kallman, a member of the Ridgewood club.

The program's goal, he explained, is to provide high school students from around the world with one-week of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) training during the summer.

With the first scholarships having been announced this year at the Dubai Air Show, additional scholarship awards will be announced "at similar events in Singapore, Chile, the United Kingdom, Poland, Bahrain, Australia, Japan and France" according to an article in *The Record*, (previously known as The Bergen Record) which reported on Colonel Worden's presentation.

Speaking to *The Record*, Tom Kallman, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Kallman Worldwide, said that this summer "the first 20 foreigners (high school students) will come and intermingle with the American kids and be inspired toward science, technology engineer and math." Working with their teachers, the students will study at Space Camp, located at the United States Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Hopefully, Colonel Worden said, these students will in later life help to build the spacecraft needed for the exploration of Mars and planets beyond, saying "the day will come when we can't live here (on Earth) anymore, so we've got to go somewhere else."

Colonel Worden then spoke of the space program, beginning with the launch of Cmdr. Alan B. Shepherd on May 5, 1961 on a 15-minute suborbital flight. In planning space flight, he emphasized, the space team realized that the very survival in space of astronauts would be at stake.

In addition to questions surrounding the safety of the spacecraft themselves, Colonel Worden said, additional questions arose as to whether astronauts would be safe in the spacesuits they would wear, especially when they maneuvered outside their spacecraft during their so-called "spacewalks". Would lunar modules be able to dock with the command modules in their return from the Moon's surface? Would astronauts be able to live in space, and then return safely to Earth?

Citing the danger inherent in the space program, Colonel Worden noted that prior to Commander Shepherd's suborbital flight, the experimental rockets that were to be launched prior to his flight all exploded during launch.

He cited also the fire aboard the Apollo 1 spacecraft during a rehearsal on January 27, 1967, in which three astronauts, Virgil I. Grissom, Roger Chaffee and Edwin White were killed.

The fire, which was electrical in origin, flared due to combustible nylon materials and the pure oxygen aboard the command module. The fire, Colonel Worden said, spread so quickly that the three astronauts died within 15 seconds after it began.

Colonel Worden also said that the landing on the Moon on July 20, 1969 of the Eagle lunar module during the Apollo 11 mission was almost aborted. As the module was descending to the lunar surface, he explained, Mission Control detected a problem which might require them to abort the landing and return the module to the spacecraft circling above them.

The decision of whether to land the module on the Moon or to abort, Colonel Worden said, fell to a 22-year old engineer, who decided that the lunar module should land. Think of it, Colonel Worden said: a 22-year old man deciding if the first lunar landing should take place or be aborted. And he noted, with the whole world watching.

Speaking of his own flight, in which he orbited the Moon while his two colleagues explored the Moon's surface, Colonel Worden said that contrary to what one might think, he did not feel lonely, as his two colleagues explored the Moon while he orbited around them for 67-hours, citing the cramped conditions aboard the Apollo spacecraft. Moreover, he was too busy performing his own assigned tasks to think of whether he was lonely or not.

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)

Apollo 15 Astronaut Alfred M. Worden Talks With Ridgewood Rotary Club of Nation's 4th Moon Landing.

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 2)

During his mission, Colonel Worden performed what was described as the first “deep space extravehicular activity” in which he left the spacecraft to retrieve film canisters from outside the command module. It was the first time that an astronaut exited a spacecraft that was traveling to Earth rather than orbiting the globe.

Explaining his military career, Colonel Worden said that he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1951 because his parents could not afford to send him to college. Now a colonel (retired) in the United States Air Force, he was a major during his flight aboard Apollo 15.



Col. Alfred M. Worden, the command module pilot of Apollo 15, speaking at the Ridgewood Rotary Club's meeting on Dec. 10. In the photograph above him, are the three astronauts of Apollo 15: Col. David R. Scott, the flight commander; the then Maj. Worden, and Lieut. Col. James B. Irwin, all of the United States Air Force.



The front page of *The New York Times* highlighting the Apollo 15 space mission's first full day of exploration on the Moon by Col. David R. Scott and Lieut. Col. James B. Irwin as Maj. Alfred M. Worden circled above.



A patch highlighting the Endeavour Scholarship program, sponsored by the Kallman Foundation. The scholarship program is named after the command module of the Apollo 15 space mission, which Col. (then Maj.) Alfred M. Worden, piloted during the space program's fourth landing on the Moon.

Jersey City Rotary Club Provides Winter Coats for Needy and Toys for Children Under State Protection.

Warm Coats Provided to Needy in Annual Project.



Jerry Beckner of Jersey City Lodge 266 of the Loyal Order of Moose, who hosted the Dec. 14 packing of Operation Warm Coats, with from left-to-right Jujo Conol, Alison M. Robinson and Gina Verdibello.



Pratik Patel and Gina Verdibello, the Club's President, in the midst of clothing to be packed and given to social service agencies for distribution to more than 400 families. Alison M. Robinson, who led the project, can be seen to the extreme left.



Gina Verdibello, the Jersey City Rotary Club's President, working on December 14 at the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 266 with other volunteers, packing winter coats for distribution to social service agencies for further distribution to more than 400 families.

Toys Collected for Children Under N.J. Supervision.

In an annual project, members of the Jersey City Rotary Club provides toys for children under the supervision of the New Jersey Division of Protection and Permanency during its holiday party on December 12.



In the photographs above and below are some of the toys that were collected on Dec. 12 for presentation to children under the care of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.



Paramus Club Provides Emergency Kitchen and Receives Award and Holiday Visit from Local High School.

Club Converts Ambulance to Emergency Kitchen.

The Rotary Club of Paramus purchased a former ambulance that would become a Mobile Emergency Response Kitchen (MERK) for Scouts BSA Troop 138 (for boys), Scouts BSA (for girls) and Venturing Crew 138 - all of Paramus NJ.

The MERK is staffed by these groups of dedicated Scouts, Ventures and adult volunteers to help feed first responders and disaster victims.

1/2/2020

Meet the MERK: A Scouting service project on wheels to help feed first responders

Meet the MERK: A Scouting service project on wheels to help feed first responders



*The Paramus Rotary Club purchased the vehicle that would become the MERK. They bought it from the Philadelphia Fire Department and donated it to the Scouts. The vehicle had about 79,000 miles on it at the time of purchase. *

"The engine and drivetrain were sound," Hill says. "But the body was in need of work."

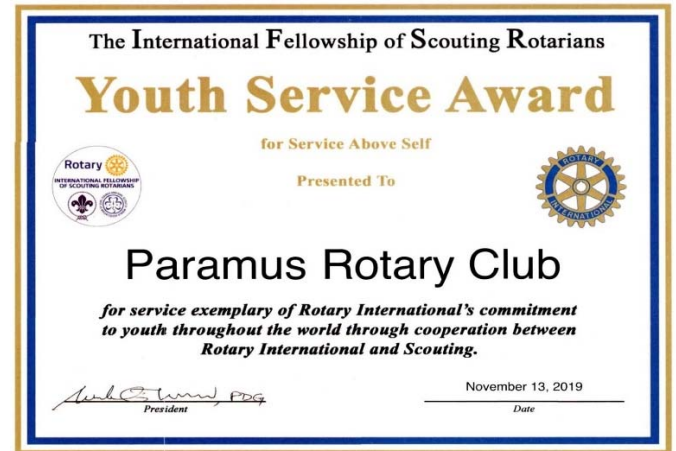
And so the Scouts got to work. Using donated paint and supplies, Troop 138 Scouts and a few leaders painted the rig.

It was, as Hill says, "a great Scout effort." The before-and-after results above confirm his assertion.



A Mobile Emergency Response Kitchen (MERK) designed to feed first responders in emergency situations that that was purchased by the Paramus Rotary Club.

Club Receives Youth Service Award from Scouting Fellowship.



The Rotary Club of Paramus was presented with the Youth Service Award by The International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians.

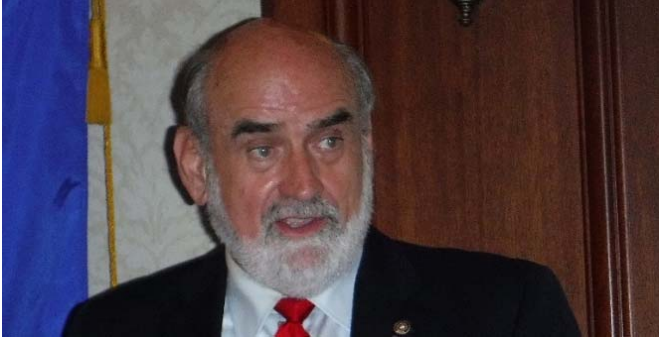
High School Students Entertain Club at Holiday Luncheon.



Great visit to the Paramus Rotary Club on December 19th from the Paramus High School Spartanettes dance team as well as the Paramus Chamber Singers. Their performances were amazing and really helped us all get into the holiday spirit.

Report of 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 December 31st, Clubs in our District have donated \$45,630 to the Foundation, including \$34,065 for the Annual Fund and \$9,265 for Polio Plus. The donations for PolioPlus surpassed last year's total of \$7,500 which was the highest total of the last five years. The top five clubs in total giving are:

Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$10,818.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$4,075.85
Paramus Rotary Club	\$2,700.00
Paramus Sunrise Rotary Club	\$2,150.00
Wayne AM Rotary Club	\$2,000.00

The top five clubs in donations to Polio Plus are:

Secaucus Rotary Club	\$2,285.85
Wayne AM Rotary Club	\$2,000.00
Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$1,433.00
Oakland/Franklin Lakes Rotary Club	\$1,000.00
Ridgewood Rotary Club	\$500.00

Idea for Paul Harris Fellow Polio Donations.

Governor John and the End Polio Now Committee proposed that clubs name a Paul Harris Fellow for each of the next three years to benefit the End Polio Now Campaign.

The goal is for each club to name one or more Paul Harris Fellows with the fund designated for Polio Plus in each of the next three years. By doing so we will have significantly increased our support of the Polio Plus Campaign.

A number of clubs have adopted a policy of donating the proceeds from their weekly 50 – 50 to the campaign.

District Clubs in 22 Global Grant Programs.

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 22 Global Grant programs: 12, as an International Partner and 10 where they have provided resources to another district's Global Grant

Wyckoff/Midland Park Proposes Nigeria Water Project.

At our next Committee meeting, we will be considering providing funds for a new project proposed by the Wyckoff/Midland Park Club. Their project is the creation of a Fresh Water Well and Storage Facility at Obukpa, Enugu, Nigeria. Total project budget is \$50,000 of which they are looking for a \$20,000 match from the Rotary Foundation.

Request Club Programs from Foundation Group.

Remember to request club programs from the members of the Rotary Foundation Committee.