



**District Governor
John D. Mitchell**

Governor's Newsletter

District 7490

**Serving Bergen, Hudson
& Passaic Counties**

New Jersey, USA

June, 2020



Governor's Message for June.

Our Four Way Test has always had special meaning to me because it clearly articulates the things we think, say or do. No doubt we all have been "tested" this year, but we are magnificently weathering the storm.

This Rotary year started off like many others from the past. Our incoming Club Presidents and Assistant Governors (AG's) spent a few days receiving the traditional PETS training and approving District budgets for the coming year. All of the attendees were eager to return to their clubs or club assignments ready to implement what they had learned. To everybody's credit, things started off swimmingly.

We welcomed our newest Rotarians into our family. We did follow-up training for our AG's. We emphasized the connection between the Rotary Foundation and our Clubs. Our youth programs hit the ground running. Clubs were doing wonderful service projects, both locally and internationally. The committee to Combat Human Trafficking was expanding. Clubs and MFAC were focused on helping our veterans, active military and their families. We set a lofty \$20,000 goal for Polio Plus. Our Gift of Life program was flourishing. Governor Club visits were taking place and great ideas were exchanged....and much more, of course.

Along comes mid-March and we were hit with COVID-19. Initially, it was a shock to us all, but we dusted ourselves off and sprang into action. We realized that the sky was not falling, and that Rotarians were needed more than ever. The exploits of our Clubs to provide PPE's, meals to healthcare workers, first responders and testing centers is well chronicled. Proudly, Governor Murphy even gave us a warm "well done" during one of his briefings.

If 2020 could not be any more challenging, George Floyd is murdered, and his demise hits our country at its very core. Certainly, Rotarians are not immune to this tragedy, but we were fortified somewhat by the words and meaning of our Four Way Test. In fact, our humanitarian outreach during this pandemic continues unabated to this day and is made up of teams of all races. While not an answer to all the ills that face our great country, we can proudly serve as a beacon for those seeking harmony.

Serving as your Governor this year has truly been an honor. Yes, there have been a few curveballs thrown at us, but we adapted quickly and hit a bunch of balls out of the ballpark.

Gracefully and in the true spirit of Rotary, we stood tall through it all. Many friendships were made, we doubled our Polio Plus goal, we kept our membership at acceptable levels, we adopted new meeting technologies but most of all, we set the stage for a wonderful future.

Our incoming Governor, Carl Hassett and his team have been dutifully planning for the upcoming Rotary year. I have no doubt they are prepared to successfully take on this leadership role and guide us into a very bright future. Let's all give them the support they need!

Please allow me to finish by saying thank you to you all, my fellow Rotarians, for making this year as exciting and rewarding as it has been. You have been an inspiration to me from day one and I will cherish every moment we have shared. Continued success my friends and good health to you and your wonderful families.

DG John Mitchell

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Newsletter Editor

Stephen Stamos is the editor of *The Governor's Newsletter*. He can be reached at 201-823-0247 or at stamos@optonline.net.

Sites in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties Where Blood Drives are Being Undertaken.

Following is a list of the sites in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties which are accepting blood donations on behalf of the American Red Cross:

Our Lady of Mercy R.C. Church

Sunday, July 5, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
40 Sullivan Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday, July 6, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2 Exchange Place
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Grace Lutheran Church

Thursday, July 9, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
836 Avenue C
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Leaders Save Lives-Gianna Matthews

Thursday, July 9, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Ringwood Ambulance Corp.
115 Alta Vista Drive
Ringwood, NJ 07456

Hawthorne Fortitude Masonic Lodge

Thursday, July 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
24 Franklin Turnpike
Ramsey, NJ 07446

United Parcel Service

Monday, July 20, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
340 Macarthur Boulevard
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Wawa

Wednesday, July 22, 2020
2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Lodi VFW Memorial Post 5082
163 Union Street
Lodi, NJ 07644

Little Falls Fire Dept.

Saturday, July 25, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
60 Wilmore Road
Lodi, NJ 07424

Congregation Beth Tefillah

Sunday, July 26, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
452 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Ramsey Free Public Library

Thursday, July 30, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
30 Wyckoff Avenue
Ramsey, NJ 07446

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 Rotary year is coming to a close.

We were on the upswing with membership until COVID-19 struck. Even with this pandemic we held our own.

I know that as soon as all the figures come in we will show an increase in membership.

It is important that the Secretaries from each club update their membership figures in the District 7490 website as well as update the Rotary International membership in *My Rotary*. There is still a discrepancy with what the membership indicates in the District website and *My Rotary*.

COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill. But Rotary used digital technology to stay connected.

We found new ways to connect. During this pandemic Rotary rolled up their sleeves and continued to provide *Service Above Self*.

We did not miss a beat. We accepted the challenge and are going forward.

In the first 10 days of the pandemic, the Rotary Foundation raised \$1-million, with \$250,000.00 coming directly from the Foundation itself.

Around the World, Rotary showed its presence, saving lives. Global Health became Rotary's primary goal.

President Mark Daniel Maloney stated at the Virtual International Convention, "Now more than ever Rotary Connects the World."

Virtual meetings have had some advantages. The younger generations are attracted to this digital technology. This group of potential members can bring us new ideas. Their energy can provide us with new service projects.

I found that clubs have reported that a number of members who have not attended the traditional meeting are appearing on the zoom meetings. Also when a member is out of town, they still were able to attend the meetings.

Speakers have been very comfortable making a presentation at a zoom meeting and these virtual meetings brought us some great speakers. When we advertised that we are going to have a popular speaker attend our zoom meeting new people attended our meeting.

This gave us the opportunity to "ask" potential members to join our club. The virtual meetings also gave us the opportunity to reach out to other club zoom meetings. We can ask them if they are going to have a zoom meeting.

We can attend their meetings and learn what projects they are doing. This is a way of getting new ideas and also allow us to work together to help them with their projects. Each club has projects to satisfy those in need providing "Service Above Self".

After this pandemic, we will go back to our traditional meetings and meeting places. It will be nice to see each other and join in the fellowship.

Some clubs however want to take advantage of virtual meetings. They are considering one zoom meeting a month and three regular meetings.

This would give the clubs more flexibility and allow greater participation and the potential of getting new members.

I hope to see you soon. Until next time.

Yours in Rotary,

Leonard (Lenny) Agrusti, PDG
District Membership Chair

Governor John Provides Overview of His Year of Service and Speaks of Impact of the COVID-19 Virus.



District Governor John D. Mitchell, seen in October, 2017 when he was the President of the Fort Lee Rotary Club.

“Rotary Connects the World” – that, District Governor John D. Mitchell pointed out – is the theme of Rotary International for the year coming to a close as of June 30.

Speaking to that theme in an overview of his year of service given at the June 25 District Staff Meeting, Governor John declared: “no one could have predicted how prophetic that phrase would become” adding: “Our world has been turned upside down because of COVID-19, but it has also connected all of earth’s inhabitants to come together in an effort to destroy this invader.”

Addressing his ZOOM audience, Governor John noted that, like every other year, the year 2019 – 2020 “started out just like others with many of the traditional goals such as growing & retaining membership, getting younger, supporting the Rotary Foundation, identifying new leadership and simply making the world a better place.”

But, he said, the pandemic which began affecting the United States in March changed everything.

“Much of our traditional activities came crashing down once the pandemic hit” he said, noting that “in person meetings had to be cancelled; fundraisers were postponed; service projects were delayed, and many District-level events were also cancelled such as March Madness Against Hunger, the Presidents’ Ball and the annual District Conference.”

Among these events, he noted, were the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) conference that had been scheduled for this month and District 7490’s meeting of Interact clubs, made up of high school students pursuing the ideal of Rotary.

But Governor John said, repeating a well-worn phrase: “when the going gets tough, the tough get going” that, he said, is what Rotary District 7490 did - it got going.

“The exploits of our clubs: to provide PPE’s, (personal protective equipment) meals to healthcare workers, first responders and testing centers is well chronicled” he said. In recognition of these efforts, he pointed out, Governor Murphy, in his daily coronavirus briefing on May 18, “gave us a warm ‘well done.’”

But, he said: “This effort continues as we speak,” adding that “while there isn’t anybody that is happy that we were hit with this virus” it has nonetheless “showcased what Rotary and Rotarians are all about.”

In his remarks, he thanked Jennifer R. Aitkin, Mimi Tausner, Rick Saltarelli, Stephen Stamos, John Gil and Alex Daoud who, he said, “have been great messengers this year letting the world know what we Rotarians are made of.” He also singled out Past District Governor Niurka “Nikki” Mederos “for her insight and public information role for Rotary International that has been of great benefit to our District.”

Speaking of the thousands who have died since the pandemic began, Governor John told his listeners that we “must never forget the souls we have lost during this pandemic, including Rotarians near and dear to all of us.”

Speaking of the virus, Governor John said that his year of service – the Mitchell year - as he called it, “will be forever remembered as the year of the Coronavirus Pandemic.” But in addition to the virus, “the recent tumultuous events following the murder of George Floyd,... makes you wonder what else 2020 has in store for our Clubs, our District, Rotary International and our great country.”

While one cannot avoid facing up to these events, Governor John said, “it also puts a spotlight on our organization, our diversity and what ‘Service Above Self’ and the 4 Way Test truly stands for” declaring: “This, ladies and gentlemen, is a proud achievement but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.”

He then turned to other accomplishments of Rotarians in District 7490 in the year coming to a close, noting that contributions to Rotary International’s PolioPlus campaign increased “by over 400-percent” thanking Philip E. Wilson of the Rotary Club of the Palisades and Dr. James R. Cole of the Englewood Rotary Club for their efforts in promoting PolioPlus. As of June 21, according to John C. Fowler, the District’s Rotary Foundation, \$40,000 has been donated to PolioPlus, as opposed to \$7,500 in contributions last year.

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Governor John Provides Overview of His Year of Service and Speaks of Impact of the COVID-19 Virus.

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 2)

Among other accomplishments, Governor John said, were that “membership (was kept) at acceptable levels.” The recent innovation of online ZOOM meetings, he added: “can actually help us grow membership” and he spoke of “previously unknown District leaders (who) have stepped forward who will help pave the way for a very bright future.”

Speaking of his audience, who were listening from their homes or offices, Governor John said: “Rotarians, please allow me to conclude by thanking you all for your adaptability during this Topsy-Turvy year” adding that “You’ve all been so generous and kind to me and have also done a hell of a job.”

He then thanked Past District Governor Peter F. Lefkowitz who served as his trainer and District Treasurer Louis Knaub who “were the behind the scenes guys that I leaned on heavily and their advice and counsel was always spot on.” He also thanked Patricia Gallagher, his Chief of Staff who “has been the glue that has kept things together.” Her “dedication and hard work” he told her “have been invaluable to me personally and certainly for our entire District. I can’t thank you enough Pat!”

Turning to the coming year which begins as of July 1, Governor John then spoke of his successor, Governor-elect Carl Hassett, who he said will “bring a world of experience and energy to the table” adding: “There is no doubt in my mind that by this time next year, our Rotary District will be flourishing like it never has before.”

Concluding his remarks, he said: “My dear friends, let me say how blessed I have been to serve as your Governor. It has been an experience of a lifetime. I have been truly lucky to have had something that makes saying goodbye as hard as this moment is, but I’m bolstered by the notion that our friendships are forever.”

Governor John had begun his remarks by speaking of his visits to the 49 Rotary clubs of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties that make up District 7490. Meeting “in person with almost every club along with my sidekicks Forrest Elliott and Jack DeStefano” Governor John said, those visits “were the highlight of my tenure as Governor.”

“I was blown away by the innovative service projects some of the clubs had undertaken” he said: “including novel initiatives like placing tracking devices on autistic children to find them if they wonder off or raising funds to purchase a specially equipped van for a quadriplegic adolescent or sponsoring a luncheon for rival football teams to promote sportsmanship before the big game.” And, Governor John said: “There were also many more service projects and they were just as impressive.”

Speaking of the opioid crisis, which until the beginning of the coronavirus had commanded so much public attention, Governor John said that “several club presidents also shared their personal experiences and perhaps most poignant were the stories about how the deadly opioid scourge impacted their families or close friends.” From “those heart wrenching discussions” he said: “we took it head on and organized a Rotary training seminar on how to administer NARCAN in the case of an overdose.”

More than 70 Rotarians participated in that training session on February 25 at the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center in Paramus he said in which “we each walked away with a supply of this life saving drug.”

But sadly, he said, although deaths from opioid abuse had begun to decline before the onset of the coronavirus “stats are now showing that opioid use is on the rise during this pandemic.”

Governor John, the District’s 63rd Governor, will conclude his service as such as of June 30, with Carl becoming District Governor the next day, on July 1.

A member of the Fort Lee Rotary Club, Governor John describes himself in part as a “recovering politician”, having served as a member of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders in 2010 – 2013. He also served three terms as President of the Fort Lee Rotary Club in 2014-15, 2016-17, and again in 2017-18.



John D. Mitchell, a member of the Fort Lee Rotary Club, speaking on June 12, 2019 as he was installed as the 63rd Governor of Rotary District 7490. In his remarks then, he called for support for the eradication of polio, increased donations to the Rotary Foundation and its programs, and for the suppression of human trafficking and the ending of the addiction to opiate drugs.

In a ZOOM Meeting, Rotary District 7490 Presents Awards at It's Final Staff Meeting of the Year.

In a series of award presentations, Rotary District 7490 this month honored several Rotarians and clubs for their service during the year coming to a close.

With Past District Governor Joseph Dino, Jr. serving as Master of Ceremonies for the event, the District presented the Arthur A. Fenniman Memorial Award, the Florie Scialla Community Service Award, the Vocational Service Award and the Governor's Cup. It also honored the club that has presented the most Walter D. Head awards.



Past District Governor Joseph Dino seen at the Nov. 4, 2019 District Staff Meeting, presided on June 25 at the presentation of District awards at the final Staff Meeting of the Year.

Fair Lawn Rotary Receives Florie Scialla Award.

With Past District Governor Emil Geering speaking for the Club, the Paramus Rotary Club on June 25 presented its Florie Scialla Community Service Award to the Fair Lawn Rotary Club, which over the last two years, has created four library kiosks in Fair Lawn, with each kiosks being a replica of a building in the city. The Club hopes to create at least one kiosk for each of Fair Lawn's 13 parks.

The Florie Scialla award is named in honor of Florie Scialla, the late wife of Past District Governor Arthur M. Scialla, who herself was a president of the Paramus club. The award is presented annually to a club for its "outstanding community service or community service project".

(Award Presentations Continue on Page 7)



On behalf of the Paramus Rotary Club, Past District Governor Emil J. Geering on June 25 presented the Fair Lawn Rotary Club with the Florie Scialla for its creation of library kiosks. He is shown here at the June 11, 2016 District Staff Meeting.



One of the four library kiosks constructed by the Fair Lawn Rotary Club, a replica of the Fair Lawn Municipal Building.

In a ZOOM Meeting, Rotary District 7490 Presents Awards at It's Final Staff Meeting of the Year.

Dr. George Ngo Receives Arthur Fenniman Award.

District Governor Nominee John G. Susani then presented the Arthur A. Fenniman Award to Dr. George Ngo, President of the Garfield Rotary Club. Acting for the Maywood Rotary Club, John recognized George for his “commitment to service and high ethical standards.”

The award is named in honor of Arthur Fenniman, a member of the Maywood Club, who exemplified the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self” and whose “personal, vocational and Rotarian life mirrors the Four-Way Test.”



Dr. George Ngo, President of the Garfield Rotary Club, received the Arthur M. Fenniman Memorial Award



John Susani, then President of the Paterson Rotary Club, with his wife, Dale with then District Governor Stephen V. Jarahian at the March 29, Presidents' Recognition Ball, presented the Vocational Service Award.

Ray Falcon Honored with Vocational Service Award.

Raymond M. Falcon, a member of the Park Ridge Rotary Club, was presented this month with Rotary District 7490's Vocational Service Award. With Joe Dino acting for District 7490 at its final Staff Meeting, the District on June 25 honored Ray for his service to people with special needs, especially those with autism, and also for his willingness to help those in need where ever he found them,

Ray, the Principal Owner of the Falcon Law Group, acted as Chief of Staff to Bonnie F. Sirower when she served as District Governor in 2012 – 2013.

The Vocational Service Award is presented to the one Rotarians who in the District's view best exemplifies the Rotary ideal of Vocational Service as well as “high ethical standards in his or her business or profession.”



Raymond J. Falcon of the Park Ridge Rotary Club, seen speaking at the Jersey City Rotary Club's meeting of Sept. 6, 2012.

Englewood Club Honored for Member Expansion.

For the second time since the award was conceived, the Englewood Rotary Club will be awarded the Governor's Cup Membership Award, for having achieved the highest per capita membership expansion in 2019 - 2020.

Past District Governor Dominic L. Jengo made the announcement at Rotary District 7490's ZOOM Staff Meeting on June 25, saying that the Englewood club has, during the last 12 months, installed 20 new members.

The Governor's Cup award was created by Dom when he was District Governor in 2008 – 2009.

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In a ZOOM Meeting, Rotary District 7490 Presents Awards at It's Final Staff Meeting of the Year.

Englewood Club Honored for Member Expansion. (Continued from Page 7, Col. 2)



Past District Governor Dominic L. Jengo, seen at the April 1, 2018 District Staff Meeting, announced on June 25 that the Englewood Rotary Club had won the Governor's Cup and Membership Award for a second time, having admitted 20 new members this year.



The Governor's Cup Membership Award, which Past District Governor Dominic Jengo announced on June 25 will be presented to the Englewood Rotary Club.

Ridgewood AM Rotary Cited for Member Recognition.

In a new award, the Ridgewood AM Rotary Club was honored at the June 25 District Staff Meeting for the recognition it accords to its own members and to distinguished community leaders in the presentation of Walter D. Head awards.

Car Hassett Talks of Banner Exchange and Assembly.

Governor-elect Carl Hassett announced that District 7490 will hold a District Assembly over a three-day period beginning on Monday, June 29. The one-hour meetings will be held through ZOOM beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the evenings of Monday, June 29, Tuesday, June 30 and again on Wednesday, July 1.

Among the items to be considered on Monday will be the budgets for the years 2018 through 2021; on Tuesday, a discussion of the responsibilities of assistant governors and club presidents; and on Wednesday, club secretaries and treasurers.

He also announced that a Banner Exchange will be held, in the form of a brunch, on Sunday, August 16, at Seasons Catering & Special Events, located at 644 Pascack Road in Washington Township, N.J.



Governor-elect Carl Hassett, who announced the scheduling of three one-hour sessions of the District Assembly, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. from June 29 through July 1.

Paramus Rotary Club Provides Personal Protective Equipment and Meals in COVID-19 Outbreak.

Since April 27, the Paramus Rotary Club initiated the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and began delivering meals and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and the Paramus Veterans Home.

Here is a brief update as of June 5, 2020 of the Funds progress:

Quantities of meals and PPE's delivered to date:

2,600 meals – 1,700 Popeye's® chicken sandwich meals and 900 Fire & Oak Meals.

16,000 articles of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including:

KN95 respirators

3-ply surgical masks;

Rigid face shields;

70% alcohol hand sanitizer gel;

Hand and surface wipes;

1,500 CarePlus Hero First Responder Counseling flyers.

Here are some pictures of the good works of The Paramus Rotary Club COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund:

We are already operating in a deficit position at this time. We are desperately in need of additional funding to maintain this program through June 30. Our cash needs are in the order of \$100,000. Please contribute anything that you can.

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)



Paramus Rotarians delivering hand sanitizers to first responders.



Paramus Rotary Club members with members of the National Guard at the New Jersey Veterans Home in Paramus. COURTESY OF THE PARAMUS ROTARY CLUB

Paramus Rotary aiding health care workers and first responders

The Paramus Rotary Club has established a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to provide immediate relief to front-line healthcare workers and first responders impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The fund started with a donation of \$15,000 to the Paramus Rotary Club Foundation, which was matched by the Trinity Presbyterian Church and has grown to over \$40,000 in just a few weeks.

The fund has provided personal protective equipment to healthcare workers and first responders at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and the Veterans Memorial Home in Paramus,

Online

See the latest NJ coronavirus news at Northjersey.com

as well as The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

At the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and at the Veterans Memorial Home, the Paramus Rotary Club is also delivering 100 meals, five days a week, along with PPE packs for personal use. The goal is to provide critically needed

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Rotary

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PPE and to feed all 2,200 of their collective healthcare workers.

The meals are being prepared and provided by Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Chicken and the Fire and Oak restaurants.

By the numbers:

■ 1,700 Meals delivered (1,200 Popeyes Chicken Sandwich Meals and 500 Fire & Oak Meals)

■ 8,500 surgical grade face masks and KN95 respirators delivered

■ 1,000 face shields, 100,000 pairs of medical-grade nitrile and vinyl gloves, 1,000 packages of sanitizer wipes, 3,000 bottles of 70% alcohol hand sanitizer gel

■ 10,000 additional KN95 masks & blue surgical masks to be distributed through June 30.

All PPE is being purchased at competitive pricing and in bulk quantities.

Donations should be made to the Paramus Rotary Club Foundation Inc. (memo: COVID-19 Relief) and mailed to: Paramus Rotary Club Foundation Inc. C/O Linda Martin, 1 Kalisa Way, Suite 301, Paramus, NJ 07652

Fred Rohdieck - president, Paramus Rotary Club and Nick Laganella - treasurer/Relief Fund chair

Town News/June 11, 2020

An article in the June 11 edition of *Town News*, reporting on the Paramus Rotary Club's response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Paramus Rotary Club Provides Personal Protective Equipment and Meals in COVID-19 Outbreak.

(Continued from Page 9, Col. 1)

The Paramus Rotary Club and its members continue supporting front line workers by expanding the food pick up at Popeye's of Paramus and bringing it to Care Plus of New Jersey Center for Primary and Behavioral Health in Paramus.

Also delivering very needed Personal Protective Equipment. Thank you Jean and Debbie for today's delivery.

Paramus Rotary delivering meals and POE to Care Plus in Paramus. In the photo is Joe Masciandaro, President/CEO of Care Plus and Debbie. We are proud to be Rotarians



In a Facebook post on June 24, a member of the Paramus Rotary Club loads supplies in her car for delivery to Care Plus of New Jersey and Behavioral Health in Paramus.

In addition to all that has been accomplished by the Rotary Club of Paramus the attached photo is probably the most "note-worthy" as the Veterans Home in Paramus was the most significantly affected location hit by the Covid-19 Epidemic. I believe the last count was 75 deceased residents.

The National Guard was brought in to help.

After establishing the appropriate protocol and approvals, the Rotary Club of Paramus was allowed to expand our mission of supplying both food and PPE supplies to the staff and support members at the Veterans Home of Paramus.

Providing that support was listed in the initial Mission Statement when we formed The Paramus Rotary Club Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund.



Deliveries being made on June 24 by the Paramus Rotary Club.



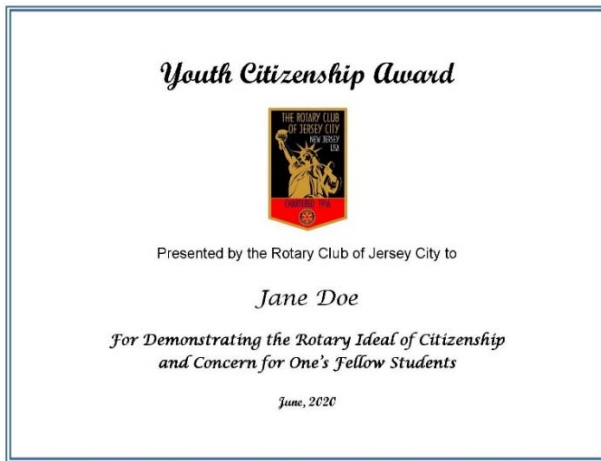
Members of the Paramus Rotary Club join with members of the New Jersey Army National Guard at the Veterans Home in Paramus where scores of residents died due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus.

Members of the Jersey City Rotary Club Present Youth Citizenship Awards to Pupils in 19 Public Schools.

During the month of June, members of the Jersey City Rotary Club presented Rotary Youth Citizenship Awards to eighth grade pupils of the 19 Jersey City Public Schools which, this month, conducted virtual graduation ceremonies for their students.

Continuing a tradition that began in 1955, Gina Verdibello, the Club's President; Jennifer R. Aitken, Joseph E. Branco, Elizabeth Liaci, Hugo W. Morales, Grisell Romero, Kelly A. Soto, Stephen Stamos and Cynthia Vazquez made the presentations in video messages that were forwarded to all of the schools.

The pupils also received Youth Citizenship Award certificates, with their names imprinted, during the ceremonies.



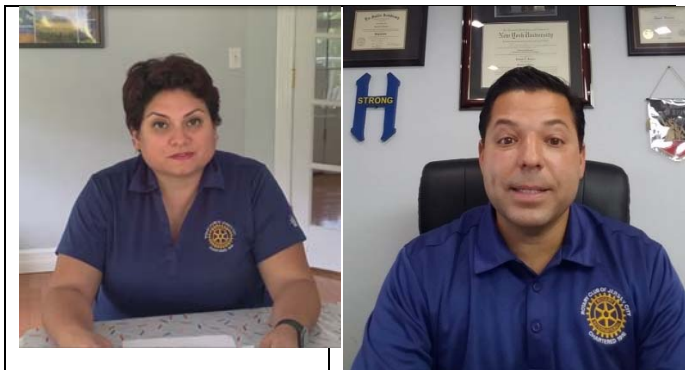
A sample of the Rotary Youth Citizenship Award certificate that was presented to eighth-grade pupils graduating this month from the Jersey City Public Schools.



Cynthia Vazquez and Kelly Gormeley Soto as they spoke in a video message to grade school students in Jersey City.



Elizabeth Liaci and Hugo W. Morales also spoke at virtual graduation ceremonies for pupils of the Jersey City Public Schools.



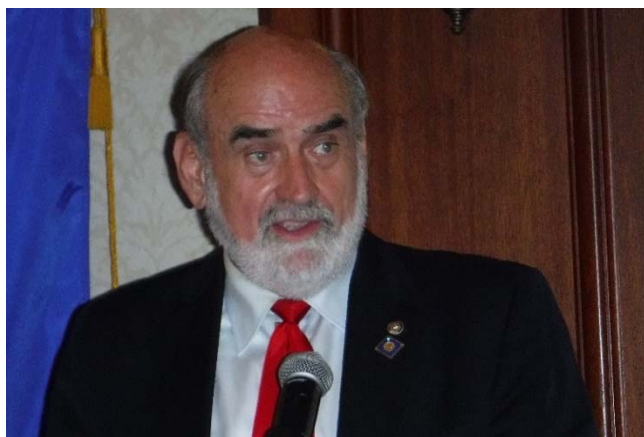
Gina Verdibello and Joseph E. Branco as they addressed eighth-graders graduating from the Jersey City Public Schools.



Jennifer R. Aitken and Grisell Romero also delivered graduation messages to eighth-graders but their videos could not be obtained. Stephen Stamos was the ninth person to speak.

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.

Overview of the Committee for the Year Now Ending.

This is my last newsletter article as our District's Rotary Foundation Chairperson and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Committee who have served with me over the past three years.

Together we have increased awareness of the Foundation in our District, increased overall Donations to the Foundation and this year had a very significant increase in donation to the Polio Plus Campaign.

We held an event to Celebrate Women in Rotary and to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson".

Serving on the Committee were:

Grants Chairs: Lisa Beohm and Maria Rini;

Stewardship Chair: PDG Lenny Agrusti;

Polio Plus Chairs: Jim Cole and Philip Wilson;

Fund Raising and Endowment Chair: PDG Peter Lefkowitz;

Annual Fund Chair: Paul Platek;

Major Gifts Chair: PDG Emil Geering;

Paul Harris Society Chair: Rick Saltarelli;

Peace Scholar Chairs: PDG Bob Tedesco and PDG Jim Boyer;

Alumni Chair: Aleta Frezzell;

Special Events Chair: Pat Gallagher;

Advisors: PDG Nikki Mederos, DG John Mitchell, DGE Carl Hassett, PDG Joe Lauren;

Other members of the Committee: Vlad Zherenovsky, Jennifer Aitken, PDG Dominic Jengo, Jay Leone.

Significant Change Funding of Global Grants.

The Rotary Foundation has made a significant change in the funding of Global Grants. Beginning on July 1st the Foundation will continue to match District Designated Fund contributions at 100%, however the Foundation will no longer match any other contributions to a Grant.

The Foundation has renamed the Six Areas of Focus. They are:

1. Providing Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene is now **"Water, Sanitation and Hygiene"**
2. Supporting Education is now **"Basic Education and Literacy"**
3. Fighting Disease is now **"Disease Prevention and Treatment"**
4. Saving Mothers and Children is now **"Maternal and Child Health"**
5. Growing Local Economies is now **"Community Economic Development"**
6. Promoting Peace is now **"Peace Building and Conflict Resolution"**

Club Donations to the Rotary Foundation.

Through June 21st, clubs in our District have donated \$155,552 to the Foundation, including \$56,006 for the Annual Fund, \$39,979 for Polio Plus and \$59,170 to Global Grants.

The donations to Polio Plus surpassed last year's total of \$7,500 which had been the highest total of the last five years.

The top five clubs in total giving are:

Paramus Rotary Club	\$15,450.00
Fair Lawn AM Rotary Club	\$14,620.00
Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$13,726.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$7,370.00
Bergen Highlands Rotary Club	\$5,511.72

The top five clubs in donations to Polio Plus are:

Paramus Rotary Club	\$11,600.00
Bergen Highlands Rotary Club	\$3,375.00
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$3,050.00
Palisades Rotary Club	\$2,443.00
Wayne AM Rotary Club	\$2,400.00

The top five clubs in per capita giving to the Foundation are:

Ridgewood AM Rotary Club	\$274.02
Paramus Rotary Club	\$223.91
Secaucus Rotary Club	\$196.36
Fair Lawn Rotary Club	\$180.22
Mid-Bergen Rotary Club	\$115.00