

ROTARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION of GREATER NEW ENGLAND

— est. 2013 —



Newsletter #17, October, 2016

Welcome Readers

By David Gau, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar '11 and President of RAAGNE

Hello members and friends of RAAGNE! Welcome back to the latest edition of RAAGNE newsletters!

Over the past year, we went through a visioning process to work out the future direction of RAAGNE. In addition, we have also transitioned our leadership board and I would like to introduce your board for this coming year! I am Dave Gau, a bioengineering PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh and Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar '11. I am serving as president of RAAGNE.



I would also like to introduce Caroline Kowalczyk, Amanda Zeidan, and Klaus Hachfeld as current board members.

Caroline holds a Global Master of Arts in International Relations from Webster University. She is a project consultant at GDS International, where she assists C-level executives to solve their priority business challenges, and finds relevant leadership development solution providers to implement their key projects efficiently and effectively.



Amanda is a graduate student in the Master of Science in Foreign Service program in the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, concentrating in global business and finance. Her research focuses on public-private partnerships to track and prevent financing to international terrorist organizations.



Klaus was Rotary District 7910 Governor in 2008-2009, has been a member of the Sturbridge Club (near Boston, Massachusetts, USA) for 34 years. He has held many district chairmanships, including for Group Study Exchange and Ambassadorial Scholars. He co-founded RAAGNE with Dr. Christopher Uschnig, based on his 10 year experience annually orienting Rotary scholars at NORTHEAST LINK. Currently Klaus is D-7910 Alumni Chair, working to connect Rotaract club members to RAAGNE, as additional resources.



While we are a board of four at the moment, **we are actively seeking other Rotary Alumni that may be interested in becoming more involved** with the planning and implementation of RAAGNE. If you are interested, please contact me at davidmgau@gmail.com for more information!

New this year, we have an active advisory board including Westborough, MA Rotarian Ron Goodenow, and past-RAAGNE president Christopher Uschnig. If any Rotarians would be interested in serving on our advisory board, please feel free to contact me as well.



It goes without saying that while the visioning process has already started, we welcome any input from our membership or friends of RAAGNE on issues or topics that you would like to see us tackle. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments!

In this newsletter, you will find information on serving as a mentor for new Rotary Global Grant Scholars, Kosovo-2 project, and a brief on Rotary Reconnect Week!

Let's Help New Members!

By David Gau, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar '11 and President of RAAGNE

Each year, the Rotary Foundation funds and sponsors many individuals and groups to travel abroad to carry out the mission of Rotary. Examples of such endeavors are the new Global Grant Scholarship, Peace Fellows, Youth Exchange, and more.

In the past, these individuals attended an orientation and usually had the opportunity to meet with past recipients to ask questions about traveling abroad under the Rotary Foundation. The format has been streamlined recently and attending such physical orientations are no longer required. As alumni of the Rotary Foundation, many of us have had the opportunity to travel abroad and took full advantage of this opportunity.

We propose to initiate a mentorship program where RAAGNE alumni members are matched with new scholars by type of fellowship and/or location of travel. If you are interested in mentoring new Rotary Foundation award recipients, please contact me at davidmgau@gmail.com!

Time to Connect and Reconnect

By Laura Higgs, Rotary Youth Exchange student '04 and Alumni Relations Communications Specialist for Rotary International

Across the world, people who recognize and are proud of Rotary wait for an invitation to become involved again. They are the former youth exchange students, the young professionals who moved out of Rotaract and Interact, Rotary scholarship recipients, and many more who have been touched by the programs that Rotarians provide in their districts and globally.



9-15 October marks the second annual time that Rotary Reconnect Week will welcome these alumni to our district, and there are many ways to be involved in this event week.

I was a youth exchange student, and I know that I have moved to about seven different Rotary districts in my lifetime. It's hard for me, as a young professional who moves a lot, to keep in touch, but when I do settle down, I enjoy visiting local Rotary clubs and often have built strong relationships with the Rotarians who made an effort to welcome me. Alumni can be potential members, donors, and service project participants and so I encourage you to always make sure they feel a welcome part of our

community. The role of the District Alumni Chair is to help you find ways to do this.

The Kosovo-2 Global Grant Project

By Klaus Hachfeld, Rotary PDG

RAAGNE, the Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England, has members who at this time are primarily alumni of the Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarship Program, though membership is open to a much wider group of students and past students, all of whom have benefitted either from financial support from the foundation, or directly from Rotary clubs. Either way, the source of that support is donations that Rotarians make.

While RAAGNE is set up to be a mechanism for connecting alumni to each other and to Rotary, it is hoped that alumni would be willing to assist in humanitarian projects. To date, RAAGNE members have successfully done two formal projects, but it has become clear that much greater leverage can be effected if alumni participate in Rotary club



projects, because only Rotary clubs are able to access money from the Rotary Foundation via District and Global Grants.

It is with that thought in mind that we are asking our alumni to consider participating in the Kosovo-2 Global Grant project, to provide a DEXA-Scanner to the Rheumatology Department of the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK), in Prishtina, Kosovo. Such a specific X-ray scanner is ideally suited to display issues like loss of bone density and Rheumatism in the older generation, which is a particular issue following the end of the civil war in Kosovo. UCCK is the only teaching hospital in the country and will be the only place making these scans and treatment available to all two million inhabitants. Remember that Kosovo, in the south-eastern part of Europe, is the poorest country on the continent.

The Sturbridge Rotary Club in Rotary District 7910 (a one-hour drive west of Boston Massachusetts, USA) in collaboration with the Prishtina-Dardania Rotary Club, is working through the process of applying for a \$40,000 Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation to buy the DEXA-Scanner, ship it to UCCK, install it, train



the hospital staff in its use, and maintain it for five years.

This follows the \$35,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant (Kosovo-1) project the clubs completed as they supplied specialized surgical instruments to UCCK for reconstructive hand surgery following the Balkan war. That project had seven Rotary clubs on four continents cooperating to make it a success!

The intent is that the Kosovo-2 project will grow further, by partnering with other humanitarian non-profit organizations, in order to supply additional equipment to the hospital.

RAAGNE has now committed to partner with the Sturbridge Rotary Club to provide \$1,000 towards the total cost of the project. As the project moves forward we intend to keep RAAGNE members updated with progress reports, so that this becomes an example of how even relatively small contributions can make an impact on a big international project directly helping communities in need of medical attention.

Your alumni consideration, and contributions once the project has been approved by the Rotary Foundation, will be very much appreciated by the patients in Kosovo and hopefully make you feel connected with one of the very best charitable organizations in the world; Rotary and the Rotary Foundation.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Past District Governor Klaus Hachfeld at laserklaus@gmail.com.

Good Words from Klaus Hachfeld on Chris Ushnig

Dr. Christopher Ushnig co-founded RAAGNE with PDG Klaus Hachfeld in a ceremony held at the NORTHEAST LINK multi-district Rotary scholar



orientation on September 28, 2013. Since then he has energetically served three years as RAAGNE President, guiding its growth process while also pursuing his medical studies. We owe much to Chris, whose energy help build the association to more than 200 members, connected primarily via the internet.

While studying at Harvard University in Massachusetts, the heart of New England, he was also active in the Boston Rotaract Club, which is leading to new links and younger potential members for RAAGNE through joint projects. RAAGNE also completed its first two international projects during

Christopher's term in office, projects totally funded by Rotary alumni.

Just prior to Christopher's return home to Austria, Klaus presented him with a custom designed plaque, thanking him for his service to humanity.



We sincerely thank Christopher for all he has done for RAAGNE and the Rotary alumni world, and wish him success and happiness as his career develops.

Looking Forward to Events

- Friday April 27 through Sunday April 29, 2017, will be a 4-District Conference (including our D-7910) in the Providence Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island. Our Co-DGs have agreed to support a RAAGNE REUNION (we are no longer going to talk about an Annual General Meeting) during the conference, so we need to think about what we would want to do there. Some thoughts are:
 - A Reunion Dinner, to give alumni a chance to meet. Ideally on Saturday, but otherwise on Friday evening.
 - A Service Project, joint with local Rotaract clubs. Probably on Saturday morning or afternoon.
 - A Presentation to alumni, giving updates on what RAAGNE is doing & where it is going. Ideally on Saturday.
 - A different presentation about RAAGNE, given to Rotarians at the conference. Emphasizing the need to interest alumni in Rotary club projects. Could be on Friday or Saturday.

We're looking for a concept, location & possible dates to have an alumni Retreat. Not just to socialize, but to also brainstorm and take the pulse of what matters to alumni, and how they would participate in proposals they offer; we need to have alumni have some skin in the game.

For more information, paste these links into the address line of your web browser:

RAAGNE Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/search/people?q=RAAGNE>

RAAGNE Home Page

<http://www.raagne.com/>

Rotary International Home Page

<https://www.rotary.org/en>

Send us pages to post here.

Contact Us with Content and Ideas

If you have questions about Rotary please contact Past District Governor **Klaus Hachfeld** at klausdh@charter.net . Past Club President **Ron Goodenow** is newsletter editor and welcomes ideas for content...and your content. Contact Ron at ron.goodenow@gmail.com.