

D7475 2024-2025 Year-End Progress Summary

June 15, 2025

Foundation

- Surpassed prior two years' Annual Giving and PolioPlus fundraising results, currently at \$185K and \$47K, respectively, and expecting increases by year-end
- Raised \$50K for the Endowment, surpassing last year's giving
- Secured six new major donors, three at Level 1 and three at Level 2
- Sponsoring three impressive global scholars focusing on Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention, Community & Economic Development, and Environment; two are expecting degrees in June, and the other in September
- Selected three Global Scholars for 2025-26 academic year focusing on peace, disease prevention, and maternal health
- Have one global grant to fight human trafficking in Uganda pending approval
- Completed 51 individual and multi-club district grant applications totaling over \$236K, supported by \$71K DDF and \$31K from our district fiscal surplus.

Membership

- Supporting clubs with an 8-member committee
- Created a membership advisory group focused on increasing representation of younger members, minorities, and ethnic and cultural interests
- Grew total membership year-to-date by 35, based on May 31 report; expecting a reduction in June
- Started one satellite club in July 2024; currently working to become an independent club with 20 members before June 30
- One Rotary club with eight members aged out; another club will dissolve in June, with most members transferring to other clubs
- Small club merger efforts were unsuccessful due to member resistance
- Started new initiatives to engage newer Rotarians, including district-wide live social and learning events
- Held many multi-club events, socials, and community and service projects to improve member experience and increase our impact

- Seven clubs embraced the companion club initiative at the meeting with the Rotary Club Creation Team; Creating two companion clubs, focused on community health and environment.

Finance

- Reviewed and unanimously adopted 2023-2024 financials by clubs in November
- Developed district budget using a clearly defined process and with full transparency
- Made all financials accessible and easy to read and understand
- Responsibly and thoughtfully reducing our district fiscal surplus by lowering district dues, subsidizing presidents-elect training, and supplementing district grant projects over the next three years
- 2025-26 district budget was unanimously approved.

Youth Programs

- Successfully built new district Youth team
- Held a successful action-packed 2024 RYLA program in July to transform over 50 high students into future leaders, led by the Rotaract Club of Leadership and Service; partnering with District 7490 to hold 2025 RYLA for 120 students this June
- Established dedicated Youth Exchange checking account to become compliant with RI COP
- Held successful 3-week 2024 Short-Term Youth Exchange program with Japan (over 40 inbound and outbound students participated); holding 2025 exchange with 40 students
- Hosting one LTYE student for the 2025-26 school year
- Managing YE and STYE programs under ESSEX for full RI compliance; established and made available Youth Participant Crisis Management Plan; completed RI Youth Exchange review and obtained certification
- Built district Youth Protection program compliant with RI standards and established comprehensive Youth Protection webpage for district clubs and members.

Public Image

- Revitalized the district website with improved user-friendliness and more comprehensive content
- Appointed new District Technology Director to improve district communication and boost public image efforts using technology
- Held website and social media tutorials for clubs

Operation

- Clubs and members expressed very favorable feedback on district support and communications
- Demonstrated overall positive energy and renewed spirit throughout the district
- Boosted morale and set forward-looking tone for positive change throughout the year, especially at the one-day district conference and well-attended district dinner
- Made all district information, documents, resources and tools available on the district website
- Published new monthly e-news and received positive feedback from members
- Had record number of PELS attendees in 2024 and 2025 (90% club participation); held online and in-person District Learning Assembly sessions and additional learning sessions on various topics throughout the year for all members
- Successfully held a one-day conference centrally located in the district in April; emphasized partnership and collaboration, kickstarted efforts on protecting the environment in the district, held membership meetups, and presented recognitions and awards
- Building 2025-26 district leadership structure using team-based approach
- District is fully functional, with no outstanding operational issues.

Governance

- Demonstrated strong DG team working together serving clubs and members throughout the year with support from RI Director Chris and RI
- Totally revamped District Manual of Procedures, unanimously approved by clubs in 2024
- Made RI governance documents, District MOP, budget, financial statements and youth policies available to all members

- Established district Crisis Management Plan and made available online
- Trenton Rotary Club Short-Term Youth Exchange: In cooperation with RI, we terminated the Rotary non-compliant, longstanding club sponsored STYE program with Japan. A new Rotary Friendship Exchange is being developed with Japan
- Service Foundation 501(c)3: RI helped clarify that the entity is not part of Rotary and does not have Rotary insurance coverage. The organization completed its name change to NJ Service Foundation. A committee was formed to review and reconcile funds held by the organization. \$11,975.09 was reclaimed by the district. Excess administration fees from the annual raffles were returned to the participating clubs. RI helped resolve misinformation and communications issues
- Single gender club: Lake Hopatcong Club, our last single gender club, admitted their first female member in February
- NJ Rotary Collaboration Initiative: Clubs overwhelmingly voted down the opportunity to be part of NJ Rotary. We will continue to collaborate with other districts on PELS, RYLA and conference
- Completed nomination process and selected DGND
- There are no outstanding governance issues.

Submitted by
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