



**District 7475**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

**DR. M. ANN WALKO**



**THE AEROGRAM-NEWS FOR ROTARIANS-JANUARY  
JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

Here's to a New Year with brand new initiatives. My best wishes for a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful year filled with new Rotary adventures. We have shifted and on the road to a New Rotary. We have now been given carte blanche to pave the way to where we want to go as a district. In a recent presentation by John Hewko of Rotary International sponsored by the Troy Club of Michigan -we have been given the green light to move on as we see fit to promote Rotary- you will have a hand in shaping our destiny as we can make our own rules for growth. Now is the time to continue our efforts and very shortly-you will be part of designing our own Strategic Plan. I want to take this opportunity for your kindness, wonderful emails, invitations to party with you in preparation for the holiday season, for all your creative ideas-but most of all-for being in the moment with me and following my lead during this COVID time of stress. I have observed through your wonderful newsletters, my conversations with you and through your invitations to speak at your events-that you truly are PEOPLE OF ACTION. Let's continue that momentum so that we become stronger and engage in a more vibrant future. Keep up the good work and your willingness to learn and engage in new initiatives. Please remember that the leadership will help you reach your club goals. Thank you for the overwhelming response for news of what you are doing to make life a little bit better for others. THANK YOU FOR LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF.



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#### GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Montgomery-Rocky Hill for receiving an award for 20 years of outstanding dedication and support of ShelterBox Rotary. They were designated as the top 20 club nationwide.

Welcome to our new Paul Harris Fellows-Norman Woolley and Sharon Patel of the Union Club and Kristin Boyle and Nova Vitug-Thomas of the Kenilworth Club. The Fellows were sponsored by Richard Fisher of the Union Rotary club. DG Ann and David Breidinger were on hand to perform the ceremony.

ONE WAY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE IS TO LOOK UPON IT AS AN ADVENTURE  
WILLIAM FEATHER

Clubs are reminded to update their club membership and officer lists. RI tailored each club's reminder notices with a suspense date of 1 January. We have slated January 15 as the date to complete this task. Please attend to this request so that District 7475 is in compliance. All clubs received multiple reminders and a direction sheet has gone out to help presidents input information on ClubRunner.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are receiving a number of Membership leads for our district and DG Ann has been installing new members as has Steve Goldberg, District Membership Chair. Presidents and Club Membership Chairs can show membership videos through YouTube by going to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC-dJHVuTriFNZAbw31gzaAyPtJ88hH3Q>. However, we have lost 59 members! We are sad to report that the Bridgewater-Bound Brook Club has disbanded and members are continuing their service in other clubs. Our Job now-to not only Grow Membership-but to Retain our membership. We must make a concerted effort to increase our membership and we will be rolling out a new program to help in this effort.

### PUBLIC IMAGE

District 7475s Public Image Committee is in full swing. This is an area that needs our attention so that we can tell our story of the good work being done not only in our local communities but around the world! The team recently presented a program to introduce members to Canva and how to prepare PowerPoint presentations. They are planning to design a video to highlight club activities for Vocational Service Month.

### DO YOU WANT TO MAKE \$?

Within a few short weeks-clubs will be able to avail themselves of this new way of fundraising. DG Ann promised you a Voice in decision-making and she was pleased with the response from the membership. We are now ready to raise more money by using Eventgroove. Several training sessions have been planned and the dates posted on the district website. You will need to register for each session. The Trenton Rotary Club just used Eventgroove for their successful Comedy Night and the Nutley Club is in the process of using the service for a Trivia Night.

### WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

For Clubs-Your challenge was to have a hand in assessing our Assistant Governor Leadership Team. Barry Kroll initiated the assessment tool. The response was disappointing. Please respond to suspense dates so that we can determine how well our AG program is working. Assessment has not been done in a number of years so your involvement in the process is critical so that feedback can be given to the Deputy Governors who oversee the AG program in order for them to provide assistance to the AG pool. Every organization needs to constantly assess plans and programs so that adjustments can be made. DG Ann is looking for a 100% return and Barry Kroll will now put the assessment reply form on the district website for easier access.



### DID YOU KNOW?

IMPORTANT-THIS CLARIFICATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL GRANTS-For Global Grants, 15 percent of all contributions, not of the project budget, need to come from outside the country. This corrects a previous communication from Zone.

That the RI Learning Center has more than 600 courses in over a dozen languages including more than 80 in English? The Learning Center has something for everyone and your DG has been taking the courses to upgrade her knowledge base. Why not join her in learning more about Rotary?

That our district is running the 7475 2021 Raffle? Check with PDG Bob Button [rbttn@aol.com](mailto:rbttn@aol.com) who is chairing this initiative. Information has gone out- Presidents- please share with your membership-it means money back to your clubs.

That the Taipei Convention Registration Report shows our District having set a goal of 25 for attendance and thus far-we have 7 registration? LET'S GO TO THE CONVENTION-meet Rotarians from around the world-engage in great workshops and the beauty of the country-June 12-16, 2021.The early registration discount deadline-extended to 15 February, 2021!

That our district is preparing for a 2021 conference at Skytop Resort in Pennsylvania? Preparations are in full swing and information is on our Website-May 14-16. COME JOIN US FOR A NEEDED WEEKEND OF FUN- (AND A LITTLE ROTARY BUSINESS). Register now on the District Website at [www.njrotary.org](http://www.njrotary.org) You will be receiving weekly updates via the DG Conference Clipboard Newsletter. Remember-this is a district conference-it is your conference-your involvement will make a difference. Heed the call-we need you to make this the best conference ever!

Did you know that the Rotary Club of New Brunswick donated \$3,250 in the month of December to the Annual Giving Fund which will be matched by an anonymous donor in 2021? Way to go!

That RI is moving forward on its new area of focus-The Environment? Clubs and districts can apply for global grants in this area beginning 1 July 2021.Clubs should start reading carefully the policy statements to ensure that their proposed projects are eligible. RI contact is Abby McNear, Director of Grants.

Did you know that Una Hobday, Chair of the Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group can speak to your club about ideas that could be done by Rotarians? Contact" PDG Una Hobday, Chair at [www.foodplantsolutions.org](http://www.foodplantsolutions.org).

THOUGHTS FOR POSITIVE LIVING-AVOID SPREADING NEGATIVITY (GOSSIP)- APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE-BE THOUGHTFUL TO OTHERS -DON'T DWELL ON THE PAST-WE AREN'T GOING THERE!
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#### FROM THE DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE-ADRIENNE BZURA CHAIR

The search has begun for the DGND who will become the DG 7475 Governor Nominee on July 1, 2021. The following procedure constitutes the nomination process:

- \*The presidents of all active clubs make nominations

- \*Each club is entitled to nominate one candidate

- \*A nomination must be submitted in the form of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting and certified by the club secretary. The nomination must be submitted to Adrienne Bzura via email on or before January 31. Any questions can be directed to Adrienne either by email-ajbdq2000@aol.com or mobile # 908-872-9771.

New Thought-

ALL GROWTH DEPENDS ON ACTIVITY. THERE IS NO DEVELOPMENT PHYSICALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY WITHOUT EFFORT, AND EFFORT MEANS WORK. Calvin Coolidge

#### SHARING IDEAS-THE CLUB CORNER

OUR NEW THOUGHT SHOWS ALL THE HARD WORK AND EFFORT THAT CLUBS ARE EXHIBITING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

Hillsborough-continued their long tradition of supporting their town's Social Services Department by donating thousands of dollars in the form of gift cards and sorting donated gifts for families in need. They also remembered members of the military branches through the laying of wreaths on the graves of veterans in their local cemeteries.

Newark-donated monies for the purchase of cooking pots for the Maasai Girls Fund.

Hamilton Club-donated paper products for Mobile Wheels of Hamilton in addition to kitchen towels, oven mitts and hot pads for the clients of Mobile Meals. They also worked with the Hamilton Police Dept in the Toys for Tots program and collected food items for 24 days for eight local food pantries.

Morristown-worked with the Westfield Club in funding and distribution of clothing for Homeless Vets Program at Lyons Vets Center and also collected funds to help the Interfaith Food Pantry. In addition, they serve meals at Mt, Bethel Church's Table of

Hope, provided gifts to two mothers and their children through the Battered Women's Shelter, helped the Salvation Army with the annual bell-ringing program with close to \$1,000 dollars collected, purchased socks for men at Homeless Solutions and re-opened their grants program due to a successful 50/50 fundraiser.

Clinton Sunrise-will be hosting a Cardboard Boat Race in July right before the Great Hunterdon Duckie Race. Proceeds from the Duck Race will go to the Cancer Support Center of Central New Jersey.



Dunellen/Green Brook- is sponsoring a Winter Coat Drive along with scarves/gloves/hats-ongoing until Feb 15. Check with the club for drop-off check points.

Plainsboro-North and South Brunswick-hosted a virtual run to encourage fitness and health with progress tracked using a mobile app. More than 100 participants signed in and raised over \$2000 and they also held a blanket drive partnering with Project Linus for a smooth distribution to those in need. They also organized a clothing and shoe drive with over 100 bags of clothes and shoes collected. Their Interact Club ran a Farm to Table fundraiser collecting over \$1000 -the vegetables were handpicked from Hallock's Farm in New Egypt.



Nutley Club-wrapped poinsettias and delivered them to the senior center with some going to town offices to show support. They are also raising funds for their projects by selling popcorn and items from the Pampered Chef.

Fanwood-Scotch Plains-Thanks to member and community involvement-the club raised over \$12,000 for masks sold at the local Farmer's Market and which is still going strong, \$9,000 was raised for health care providers at Overlook Hospital for PPE. They also ran a Toys for Tots program which was an overwhelming success due to community and member donations-children received items they wanted and enough money was raised to give each family a \$100 gift card for essentials at ShopRite. For their Day of Service-they are holding a Winter Hat and Glove Collection to benefit Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County which ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January.

Newton Club-They are releasing \$75,000 from their restricted fund for a new cardiac lab over a three- year period in increments of 25,000 dollars each in 2020/2021/and 2022. They are also engaged in a Global Grant in Sri Lanka involving Children's Heart surgeries.

Branchville-sent 358 Christmas/Holiday cards to victims of violence or their family members. This was the first year for this endeavor.

Roselle-Roselle Park-held a Community Winter Sock Drive led by Rotarian Courtney Washington. Hundreds of socks were collected and donated to The Elizabeth Coalition for the Homeless and the Elmora Presbyterian Church Food Kitchen for those in need.



Branchburg-is partnering with other veteran organizations and hopes to present more than \$76,000 to provide special services for needy veterans. They have raised \$32,000 worth of food to the Somerset County Food Bank. They are also celebrating three decades of Humanitarian Service in Nepal through the ASHA Project which provides thousands of dollars each year for health camps, school supplies, education scholarships to home building projects, micro-credit loans to helping needy children.

Dare to Be Great Global EClub-This club is very active and is embarking on an International Debate Competition, a Become an Expert/Write a Book Program, a Read-a- Thon, several Youth Summits, a Global Song Contest, and much more. Because their aims are extensive, contact Bill Graham at [wmgrahaml@hotmail.com](mailto:wmgrahaml@hotmail.com) for his complete report.

Elizabeth-held its first Virtual Taste of Elizabeth which raised approximately \$5,000. They also doated toys and clothing to 12 local children with the Angel Tree through the Salvation Army. Their sponsored Linden Satellite Club held a Kids Coat Drive benefitting The Apostles House and also hosted two toy drives with the Apostles House and the Linden Fire Department's Toys for Tots.

Carteret-in cooperation with the District is honoring first responders (firefighters, police officers and EMTs) and information is on our district website You can contact Joseph Wutkowski at [iwutkowski@gmail.com](mailto:iwutkowski@gmail.com) for more information.

Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick-Engaged members in a Conversation regarding COVID-19 vaccine with Professor Sunanda Gaur and Dr. Rajeev Mehta. The presentation can be found on YouTube.

