

Rotary District 7475  
FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
DR. M. ANN WALKO



THE AEROGRAM-NEWS FOR ROTARIANS-FEBRUARY-2021  
FEBRUARY IS WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

January proved to be a busy month and we are well on our way to providing some interesting activities for February. This month has also been designated as World Understanding Month. It is the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in 1905. This is a time for reflection to think about promoting our Fourth Avenue of Service-Rotary's quest for goodwill, peace and understanding around the world.

Generally, this is the time when schools teach about U.S. presidents. One remark made by our 40<sup>th</sup> president has always remained on my mind. He said, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny". I would like to share with you that Rotarians now have "where we are going and how to get from here to there" as part of our destiny. My question for members is-are you ready to determine 7475s destiny? Are you ready to "roll up your sleeves" and participate in shaping a framework to follow so that we become stronger and engage in a more vibrant future? Very shortly-you will be asked to share in a participatory exercise where your thoughts and ideas will be valued. As we begin the month of February-open your hearts and remember to help us with our Polio Plus Program and adding to our Annual fund. Keep up the good work and your willingness to learn and engage in new initiatives. We will be rolling out some new programs. Please remember that the leadership will help you reach your club goals. **THANK YOU FOR LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF.**



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**GOOD NEWS**

*Shekhar Mehta, who will become RI President for 2021-2022, has announced his theme-Serve to Change Lives. You can go to the Brand Center to download the logo. His challenge to the new class of DGs around the world-Become Change Makers!*

Members of the Early Act Club of Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield were busy making nearly 200 rubber band mask lanyards for first responders in their area. But they were not finished- they also collected over 300 winter coats for the non-profit Jersey Cares

organization and 400 pounds of non-perishable items for the food pantry at Grace Presbyterian Church. **Way to go, Early Act Club members.**

**EXPLORE. DREAM.DISCOVER.**

Congratulations to Steve Walsh, Past President of the Morris Plains Rotary Club who won the Gift of Life raffle. Steve and his wife Claudia have hosted Gift of Life children over the years.

Stephanie Adomaitis, manager of donor engagement for the Rotary Foundation introduced a new online tool, **Raise for Rotary**, which gives Rotarians another means to raise funds to support the Foundation. It is easy to use-including using your cell phone to create personalized virtual fundraisers and to support your favorite Rotary cause. Want to get started? A Rotary fundraising coach will contact you to offer support and guidance. For questions, refer to the FAQs or contact [raise@rotary.org](mailto:raise@rotary.org).

Shelter Box has been engaged in several operations around the world-hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity Honduras and the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula, partnering with the United Peace Organization in response to the Sudan floods, and the winterization of 1597 households across 12 camps in Syria. For a complete list of where Shelter Box is responding to stress in the world-visit <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/home-page/news>.

District 7475, 7490 and 7505 are joining together to combat food insecurity. They are sponsoring an END HUNGER 3.6 CALENDAR RAFFLE. THE DONATION IS \$12.00 PER TICKET. CONTACT: Carl Hassett-DG 7490 for [tickets-Governor7490@gmail.com](mailto:tickets-Governor7490@gmail.com) or 201- 296-1797

**POSITIVE LIVING: APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE AND DON'T DWELL ON THE PAST!**

**By now-clubs should have recorded all of their officers for the 2021-22 Rotary year. If you still need help-we are here to give an assist. Reporting of your officers is now PAST DUE.**

### **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-dJHVuTrjFNZAbw3lgzaAyPtJ88hH3Q>  
**THE CHARGE IS NOT ONLY FOR 2021 TO GROW MEMBERSHIP-THE CALL TO ACTION EXTENDS INTO 2022 WITH PRESIDENT-SHEKHAR MEHTA (2022) WITH HIS MESSAGE TO GROW MEMBERSHIP. HIS GOAL IS TO MOVE THE FIGURE OF 1.2 MILLION TO 1.3 MILLION!**  
Steve Goldberg will begin a new Membership Contest to increase our membership by 100 members by the end of June.

## **PUBLIC IMAGE**

Public Image is working with the 2021 Conference Committee in honoring men and women of the Armed Services. You will be receiving a flyer highlighting information so that we honor those Rotarians who have served. Jeff Cadorette, Chair of Rotary International's Communications Committee shared some points regarding the use of social media. He posted recently that how we use our social media accounts matter. Many of us use social media to promote Rotary and he is concerned that airing our "dirty laundry" about clubs in the form of gripes and complaints is not the way to go. There is also a problem with sharing deep-rooted political views on divisive subjects. Rotary is supposed to be apolitical and is asking Rotarians to use discretion and judgement when choosing to post political views from the same account that is used to promote Rotary. Visit the Brand Center for tools and resources that will help you promote Rotary on social media.

## **FUNDING PLATFORMS**

The Eventgroove Training sessions are in full swing. I am pleased with the number of Rotarians participating in the sessions. The first offering occurred on January 26<sup>th</sup> with an added bonus session on the 29th which was excellent. The training sessions will end on February 22. You also were offered another funding source with the Book Bin Project.

## **PRESIDENTS WE NEED YOUR INPUT!-RESPONSES LONG OVERDUE!**

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. **YOU HAVE A VOICE IN HOW THE DISTRICT CAN RUN-BUT YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL.** Every organization needs to constantly assess plans and programs so that adjustments can be made. Your DG is looking for close to a 100% return and Barry Kroll put the assessment reply form on the district website for easier access. Your involvement is setting the platform for the next DG. **BE PART OF THE PROCESS. NEW DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 20. IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES-YOU CAN DO IT! CLICK ASSESSMENT LINK BELOW**



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

That our district is running the 7475 2021 Raffle? Check with PDG Bob Button [rbttt@aol.com](mailto:rbttt@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 there is no place for harassment in Rotary? People won't join or stay if they are exposed to harassment. Harassment is broadly defined as any conduct, verbal or physical, that denigrates, insults, or offends a person or group based on any characteristic (age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientations, or gender identity-from the Rotary Code of Policies 26.120.**

**It is up to leaders to ensure that Rotary is a harassment-free area according to Katey Halliday, a member of Rotary International's Inaugural DEI Task Force. She is also a project officer and training facilitator in the DEI Branch of the South Australia Police.**

**You can review Rotary's Preventing and Addressing Harassment course in the Learning Center (My Rotary log-in required).**

**That if you want to learn more about making your Rotary Club more diverse and inclusive, go to [my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference](https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference).**

**That the Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group is working on sustainable ways to end hunger and malnutrition? Find out more and how to get involved at [foodplantsolutions.org](https://foodplantsolutions.org).**

**That now that Rotary is in alliance with Toastmasters International-there are a number of courses available to our members and Rotaractors to enhance communications and leadership skills.**

**Go to the Learning Center at [learn.rotary.org](https://learn.rotary.org)**

**That Rotary International is now hosting monthly podcasts called-All Things Rotary: A CDS Podcast. If you are new to podcasts-learn more about them at**

**<https://www.podcastinsights.com/what-is-a-podcast/>**

**Some topics include: How to start a Rotary Club, Does Attendance really matter-Engagement vs. Attendance and Working with club members I don't get along with.**

**That Rotarians and UN colleagues will be hosting a live-stream event on 10 April 2021 sponsored by Rotary District 7230, Home District of the United Nations from 10:00 am-1 pm EST?**

**That District 7475 was 78% up-to-date with reporting requirements for grants sponsored by the district and its clubs as of a January analysis according to Meredith Burlew, Stewardship Manager at RI?**

**BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER. CHINESE PROVERB: PEOPLE ALWAYS KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING, JUST NEVER LISTEN. AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IS A GOOD LISTENER.**



*Our beautifully planned in-person conference will need to take on a new look! In a directive marked February 1-Rotary International has indicated that in view of the coronavirus pandemic all meetings/events should be held virtually for the rest of the year. That is why our International Conference is going virtual as well.*

*HOWEVER, WE STILL WILL HAVE OUR PLANNED CONFERENCE AND A CONFERENCE BULLETIN IS BEING DEVISED TO KEEP YOU APPRISED OF A NEW FORMAT. THIS IS **STILL OUR** CONFERENCE AND YOU WILL BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST AND ENJOY THE PROGRAMS. STAY TUNED WHILE WE REARRANGE OUR FORMAT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOUR DG IS DISAPPOINTED-BUT GOING VIRTUAL IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST. **WE CANNOT CONTROL WHAT IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.** WE ARE UP TO THE CHALLENGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CREATIVE. WE WILL HAVE THE BEST CONFERENCE IN SPITE OF WHAT BEFALLS US DURING THIS TIME OF HEALTH STRESS. **ARE YOU READY FOR THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY? YOUR DG IS COUNTING ON YOU TO MOVE FORWARD. WE ARE RESILIENT-WE ARE ROTARY STRONG!***

### **SHARING IDEAS-THE CLUB CORNER**

We are telling our stories which highlights all the hard work and effort that clubs are exhibiting in service to others.

**The Rotary Clubs of Denville (Denville Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Denville)** spearheaded the renovation of a basketball court at Peer Place, an affordable housing complex. They worked with JCP&L, the Morris County Housing Authority and Denville Social Services and local vendors. Plans are on the drawing board for the renovation of Santaland in the spring and summer.

**The Newark Club** has presented some interesting programs to include a presentation by Amed Moukoro who visited his home in West Africa and commented on his family's involvement in Rotary. Rotarian Nakeicha Wilson discussed the Rockhouse Foundation and its efforts in Jamaica and will hear a talk by Bridges Outreach. They also plan to hold PHF inductions sometime in February. AG Richard Russo and PE Sophia Modu will be cited for attaining PHF+1 status and Rotarians Gail Alba and Joseph Casale will attain PHF+ 3 citations.

**The South Amboy-Sayreville Club** completed a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. They are encouraging new members to join so that they can become a club with 100% Paul Harris Fellows-as they were in the past.

**The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Club** is pleased to announce that one of their members, Gene Janotti, has been appointed a trustee for the Union County College Foundation. UCC is located in Cranford. They are planning a fundraiser for April and more details are forthcoming.

**The Nutley Club** is working to help the VFW fix the exterior around the building with park benches donated by the town and also working with the town to replace the concrete around the flagpole and adding 5 smaller ones to for each branch of service. They are also working on several fundraisers-one is a virtual Trivia Night for March. They are also collaborating with Interact with a Sock Drive. Contact President Dorothy Huey for more information and Interact's work with food insecurity.

**The Robbinsville Hamilton Club** has been involved in several initiatives: Collecting of pajamas to support Lala and Mimi's Pajama Project to provide this necessity to children in need-check with President Tom Damm for locations to ship pajamas. The club partnered with Be Kind, Inc. to deliver more than 700 coats, 150 hats and assorted cold weather gear to Sandro's Coat Rack. They were also involved in providing winter survival kits and socks to the Rescue Mission of Trenton and 400 unwrapped toys and puzzles to three local organizations. The club also provided food for its Send Hunger Packing project for the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank.

**The Newton Club** worked with Landscape Architect David Wright to design and construct new walls, paver walkway and plant shrubbery around the club's food booth at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show at the NJ State Fair grounds.

**The Union and Kenilworth Clubs** joined together to induct four Paul Harris Fellows-Norman Woolley and Julie D'Aloia of the Union Club and Kristin Boyle and Nova Vitug-Thomas of the Kenilworth Club. Telina Cuppari was welcomed as an honorary member of the Kenilworth Club. Richard Fisher of the Union Club sponsored the Paul Harris Fellows.

**MEDITATE...A FEW MINUTES A DAY OF MEDITATION PRACTICE CAN HELP EASE ANXIETY AND MANAGE STRESS**

#### **FROM MARGIT RAHILL-DISTRICT PROGRAM, VETERANS CHAIR**

The committee has been busy putting together individual cases of personal hygiene products for 87 male and 4 female veterans at Lyons VA. Individual Valentine Thank You packages will also be distributed in place of a face-to-face dinner as in past years. We thank our veterans for their service.

#### **FROM DAVID BREIDINGER-ANNUAL GIVING AND PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS CHAIR**

##### **SO WHY SHOULD WE DONATE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?**

Rotary International's 35,000 clubs carry out sustainable service projects that support Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus-*Water and Sanitation, Disease Prevention, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Economic and Community Development. Basic Education/Literacy, Maternal/Child*

***Heath and Protecting the Environment.*** Our donations have helped wipe out 99.9 percent of all polio cases, train future peacemakers, support clean water projects and strengthen local economies.

Our generous contributions to OUR Rotary Foundation are essential to securing and growing Rotary programs throughout the world. Rotary International recognizes donors to express gratitude in commitment, offering individual and club recognition as well as enabling Rotarians to honor a friend or family member with a Paul Harris Fellow.

So, as Rotary works to assist with COVID-19 vaccines around the world, Let's make a resolution to "Do Good in the World" and become a Sustaining member of the Rotary Foundation. Surely, each one of us can find \$100 a year to put a smile on a mother's and child's face somewhere on our global sphere! The world will, indeed, THANK YOU! To contribute visit [www.rotary.org/donate](http://www.rotary.org/donate). To learn more about OUR Rotary Foundation, contact District 7475 Annual Giving Chair, David Breidinger at [dbreidinger1@comcast.net](mailto:dbreidinger1@comcast.net) or <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>.

Thank you for your support of OUR Rotary Foundation.

**FROM MICHAEL (DUTCH) MINOR-District Program Business Networking**

District 7475 Rotary Business Network is hosting a zone wide program called *Women in Rotary Forum* highlighting how to empower women to move forward in Rotary Leadership Roles on February 17 at 7pm by Zoom. The featured speaker is RI Director Valarie Wafer.

**RAY WENZEL, PRESIDENT OF THE MORRISTOWN ROTARY CLUB** shares this information with us that the next president of the club is a female and the following year's president elect is also female and they have three women on the Board of Directors and as their membership continues to grow-75 percent of new members are women. He notes that very little within the club would be accomplished without the proactive involvement of women. His thoughts fit in nicely with the theme of the forum.

**LEARNING IS NOT ATTAINED BY CHANCE. IT MUST BE SOUGHT FOR WITH ARDOR AND  
ATTENDED WITH DILIGENCE.**

***ABIGAIL ADAMS***

