

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



THE AEROGRAM-NEWS FOR ROTARIANS- MARCH-2021
ROTARY THEME FOR MARCH-WATER AND SANITATION
MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH-TIME TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MARCH 14-TURN CLOCKS FORWARD-SPRING IS COMING!

Where did February go? We were so busy that we didn't see the days fly by. Of course- the snowstorms were on our minds-but we weathered those and getting our vaccinations also took time-especially trying to get appointments! Let's dwell, however, on all that we accomplished. When I glanced at the calendar-there wasn't a day that was not spent on conducting Rotary business and I am sure that March will be just as busy.

We concluded our Eventgroove training and clubs are now free to use the program as they continue to fundraise. I was very pleased with the attendance and your willingness to learn new strategies in a much-needed area. We also had to pivot in terms of planning for your annual conference. We had to do a quick turn-around, but we did it and now we have a wonderful virtual offering for you. Check the website-we are just fine-tuning our conference platform and we think you will like what the committee has planned.

We are now planning to review our by-laws and you have been asked to send in any recommendations. **USE YOUR VOICE**-we need your input. Our Rotary Means Business networking group had a wonderful program highlighting Rotary Leadership Roles for Women. We held a host of meetings on a variety of topics and again, a record number of Rotarians attended the Bias, Prejudice and Stereotypes workshop and great questions were asked of our presenter-David D'Amico. You were also extended an invitation to attend other offerings from RI.

Get ready for a month filled with more exciting plans and programs. We will start off the month with the PETS program-open to all Rotarians in the district, a great deal of information about our annual district conference-several new initiatives, continuing with our Membership Contest and the start of our Strategic Plan for the future. **ARE YOU READY?** Your DG is excited about where we are going. You are the standard-bearers for the future. Don't look back-we aren't going there! As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "WITH THE NEW DAY COMES NEW STRENGTH AND NEW THOUGHTS". Thank you for being in the moment with me and following my lead and thank you for all you do for others. **ROTARY NEEDS YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

ONE KIND WORD CAN WARM THREE WINTER MONTHS-JAPANESE PROVERB
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Good and Welfare-One of our Rotarians, **Mike Rabascas**, is now home after a hospital stay but still feeling poorly and under hospice care. Mike and wife Claire were honored not long ago for their service to Rotary for almost 60 years. Please keep Mike and Claire in your thoughts and prayers. They are members of the Madison Club.

Thank you for rallying around **Georgia Brown** who had a fall and is still in some pain-but as the trooper she is-still takes care of the clubs under her guidance.

PDG Adrienne Bzura also had surgery and although she has tried to rest-managed to complete the task of facilitating the Nominating Committee.

Our webmaster, **Barry Kroll** is up and running after his surgery on his hand. He has been back at his computer managing our website and helping at PETS.

If you know of someone who needs wellness encouragement-please relay information to DG Ann.

FROM THE GIFT OF LIFE-SUPER BOWL RAFFLE-Larry Ripley

The recent Super Bowl in your Living Room raffle was a resounding success!

We were very concerned with the current COVID-19 pandemic situation this year as to how to hold our raffle, which is our largest annual fundraiser. When we had to plan our raffle, the actual Super Bowl was still far away so we couldn't give away two tickets to the game along with hotel and airfare. PDG Ray Freaney suggested that we give away a 65" flat smart TV, along with a sound system, a catering package for the winner's Super Bowl Party and several official NFL jerseys. It turned out to be a popular idea and our ticket sales were over \$41,400 and after expenses the net profit was over \$37,000. Now approximately twenty children with heart defects will be saved utilizing the kindness of our members. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

A PUBLIC IMAGE MOMENT

Public Image is vital to your success as an organization and to Rotary Clubs. Visibility in the wider community is a necessary component to maintaining and growing membership. Target the audiences that will add meaning to the goals of the organization. Tell our story through well written press releases and deliver on what you promise to sustain membership.

MEMBERSHIP

We continue to get leads from RI and Steve Goldberg is making his way around the clubs talking about our plans to GROW MEMBERSHIP. **HAVE YOU ENTERED THE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST? ARE YOU SEEKING OUT POTENTIAL MEMBERS?** EACH ONE BRING ONE and your

club could win money for your club projects. The program started on February 1 and will end on June 25. Let's reach our goal of 100 new members. YOU CAN DO IT! See the flyer and contact Steve for more information.

FROM ZONE 28/32-Valarie Wafer, Director

*SAVE THE DATE-for the virtual Governor-Elect training and Zone Summit. The GETS, GNTS and DG sessions will begin in late August and end on **SEPTEMBER 23**.*

*The Zone Summit will be **NOVEMBER 2,3,4** and updates will be provided as the program is planned.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- That you have an open invitation to take a video tour of ONE ROTARY CENTER-our international headquarters? Go to: my.rotary.org/visit-rotary-international-world-headquarters
- That you can give to the Annual Fund by going to: rotary.org/donate
- That you should go to the Rotary Learning Center to learn about leadership and to add to your knowledge base about our organization? Go to: rotary.org/learn
- That April 24-30, 2021 is World Immunization Week? Mike MGovern, Chair of the International Polio Plus Committee suggests donating your voice to Vaccine Advocacy. You can get a tool kit to use at <https://www.endpolio.org/resource-center>
- **That March 8th is International Women's Day? ShelterBox is hosting their first virtual celebration with a panel highlighting the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women on March 8-3pm EST/12pm, PST Register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2125502624441022475>**
- Capt. Dianna Wolfson became the 110th commander and the first female to lead the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in its 252-year history?
- That Rotary's fully-funded PEACE FELLOWSHIPS provide peace and development leaders with the knowledge, skills and global networks needed to be more effective peacebuilders? The application is May 15.
- That Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln making the first time a female commanding officer will lead the crew of one of the Navy's 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers?
- That Zone 22 will host a virtual Rotary Africa Centennial International Conference- 23-25 April-and you can book your seat now. The conference will include a House of Friendship Virtual Projects Fair. Contact: Annemarie.rotary9400.org.za@clubrunner.email
- That roughly half of podcast listeners are women and yet only about 20 % of top podcasts are hosted by women. Proctor and Gamble has become a founding partner of Seneca Women Podcast Network-an app designed to amplify women's voices. Listen in to conversations with everyday women, entrepreneurs, celebrities and world leaders. Listen on the Seneca Women app, iHeartRadio app, Apple Podcasts or where you get your podcasts. Discover more at SenecaWomen.com.



Our beautifully planned in-person conference has taken on a new look! In a directive marked February 1-Rotary International has mandated that in view of the coronavirus pandemic all meetings/events need to 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.

THIS IS **STILL OUR** CONFERENCE AND YOU WILL BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST AND ENJOY THE PROGRAMS. STAY TUNED-CONFERENCE INFORMATION WILL BE UP AND RUNNING MOMENTARILY.

LOOK FOR THE **CONFERENCE CLIPBOARD** -A COMMUNICATION WHICH WILL BE COMING OUT GIVING YOU ALL THE INFORMATION AND DIRECTION YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE. LOOK FOR THE FLYERS THAT WILL BE COMING OUT FEATURING SPECIAL EVENTS. THANKS TO DENISE HUGHES AND PDG ROBERT ZEGLARSKI FOR SPEARHEADING AND PIVOTING SO QUICKLY TO MAKE NEW ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO THE COMMITTEE WHO WORKED DILIGENTLY IN THIS TIME OF CHANGE. Check out the district website and the conference website page.

A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME UNLESS IT CONTAINS FOOD AND FIRE FOR THE MIND AS WELL AS THE BODY. Benjamin Franklin

Name Change—The WASH Action Group has changed its website address:
www.WASH-RAG.org. Check out their newsletter. They note that World Water day is March 22. <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

The group is having a Photograph and Video Competition and are looking for photographs and videos showing people involved in water sanitation and hygiene projects. Two categories-amateur and professional involves \$2,400 in prize money. Submission is April 30.



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.

Wallkill Valley has been very busy donating money to the Sussex Help Center to deal with food insecurity, donating 40 boxes of Valentine candy to the shut-ins and Westwind Manor Assisted Living residents, and through the District Grant program, they donated 15 hotspots to aid students who could not get on line. They continue to beautify the Veteran's Cemetery and they have been selling raffle tickets for the 7475 District Stop Hunger Fundraiser.

Plainsboro-North & South Brunswick hosted a COVID-19 VACCINE public information virtual webinar with Professor Rajeeve Mehta, MD and Professor Sunanda Gaur, MD. The webinar had over 1800 views and the recording is available on the club's Facebook page. They also distributed over 125 new blankets throughout the community and partnered this initiative with Project Linus to distribute the blankets to the Salvation Army of Trenton and Restoring Hearts Ministries in Ewing and they plan to distribute another box to the North Brunswick Soup Kitchen as well. Great Job!

The Branchville Club had an interesting speaker- Genene Meli concerned with an outreach project in Haiti dealing with personal hygiene products. A great deal of information was gleaned from the speaker. Contact President Cindy Allen for more information as the club is involved in this initiative. Excellent presentation.

Branchburg Club's member- Dr. Ali Chaudry was awarded the NJ State Governor's Jefferson Award for 2020 as a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Champion for Justice.

The Rotary Club of Montgomery-Rocky Hill was recognized with the Jefferson Award with the PSE&G Service Award for Armed Services/Veterans. Kudos to both! The club also delivered 120 bag lunches to SHIP to help feed the homeless.

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields' was a founding partner with the Plainfield Food Security Project in conjunction with the DuCret School of Art, Star Fish Food Pantry and the Plainfield YMCA with club members volunteering with food donations, helping to package food for families and individuals. Thousands of families and individuals were helped.

Watchung-Warren has been busy starting an Early Act program with a formal ceremony slated for March. They also celebrated Valentine's Day with the children at the Morris-Union Jointure Commission. Each child received a stuffed animal and they have ordered a starter pack of children's books for their Literacy project and they have supported the raffle. Keep up the good work!

Morristown hosted Global Scholar Zach Beecher who presented an interesting program outlining his experiences as a scholar and member of the military. Thanks to Dr. Eva Reich for arranging for this event.

The Hillsborough Club offered financial support to the Cadettes of Girl Scout Troop 60143 in the planning, design of a letterboxing scavenger hunt aligned with the Township's 250th Anniversary celebration. The Cadettes presented the completed project to the club highlighting many of the town's historical sites. An interesting program to help support young female scouts.

The Dunellen Club sponsored a coat drive-providing two carloads and a truckload of coats for those in need in the community.

Ellsworth Havens of the Madison Club reports that the next scheduled End Hunger food distribution even will be on Saturday, April 10th from 8:30am-2pm at the Commuter Lot in Madison. The plan is to distribute 100-150K meals to agencies. Ellsworth is the contact person.

The Nutley Club hosted a program on how to use Clubrunner by Webmaster PDG Barry Kroll. They also inducted new member Maria Hamlin. We welcome Maria to the Rotary family.

The Madison High School Interact Club spend every other Saturday picking up bags of donated food from families in Madison and have surpassed their goal of delivering 800 bags of food to the local food pantry at the First Baptist Church.

Branchburg has been engaged in a host of projects: To celebrate the 116th birthday of Rotary, the provided computer labs for those incarcerated in Nepal to provide training for the future with a goal of reducing recidivism/they also delivered more than 400 Mac and Cheese cups and food bags to support the School Backpack program for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County/assisted veterans groups with monetary donations/provided transportation for those not being able to get to the Food Banks and opened a soup kitchen within an easy walking distance/as part of their Open World project-participants from Russia made presentations to the club concerning their trip here and how it has helped them to seek implementation of Special Education programs in their country/and Branchburg also held their World Interfaith Harmony Week with speakers and prayers from interfaith community leaders in Somerset County.

DAILY GETAWAY FOR STRESS RELIEF-FIND A PLACE OF SOLITUDE TO DISCONNECT FOR 10-MINUTES (WITHOUT YOUR CELL PHONE)

DATES TO REMEMBER

2021 VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-12-16 JUNE

2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS 4-8 JUNE

2023 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA 27-31 MAY

2024 SINGAPORE 8-12 JUNE

2025 CALGARY, CANADA 21-25 JUNE

PLEASE ADHERE TO DEADLINE DATES FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER-APRIL 22



