

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



THE AEROGRAM-NEWS FOR ROTARIANS-NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

It is hard to believe that we are five months into our year. So much has taken place that has helped to move us forward into a new Rotary. As District Governor, I want to thank the clubs for embracing the shifts we have made to pave the way into a new direction of conducting business. I am extremely proud of the way that the members have exhibited a renewed enthusiasm for the work we need to do. We had to pivot very quickly when COVID presented itself-but Rotarians carried on not letting the health situation slow us down. More and more members have started to attend meetings due to technology-some clubs have become hybrid in order to accommodate its members. It has been my pleasure to have visited clubs-even if by Zoom. You have energized me so that we can go above and beyond in our work. Thank you for following my lead and being in the moment with me as we strive to become the number "1" district in our Zone. Keep up the good work-and remember that the leadership will lend assistance to help you meet your goals.



GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to the following clubs in recognition of their work-Skylands, Belvidere and Bridgewater-Bound Brook for their generous giving to the Annual Fund.

Branchburg, Dunellen-Green-Brook, Kenilworth, Princeton Corridor and Whitehouse for 100% TRF giving and to Branchburg, Dunellen-Green-Brook, Kenilworth and Princeton Corridor for EREY.

The following clubs received Certificates of Appreciation from RI for their financial support of End Polio Now-Countdown to History Campaign-2019-20: Branchburg, Branchville, Chatham, Millburn and Short Hills, Denville, Hackettstown, Madison, The Mendhams, Montgomery-Rocky Hill, Morris Plains, Newton, Nutley, Pequannock Valley, Roxbury, West Orange, and Westfield.

Certificates and banners will be mailed to the presidents for presentation to their clubs.

The Kenilworth NJ club held its first ever joint Zoom meeting between their club and the Kenilworth Club of England. The mayors of both towns were on hand to welcome each other. It was my pleasure as DG to welcome the attendees to this exchange.

PDG Robert Zeglarski and DG Ann coordinated a meeting with Kean University, Union, NJ. pre-service education students and Vice-Principal and Social Studies Teacher Melchor Encabo

of the Rotary Club of Metro Escolta, Philippines. All exchanged ideas about education between the two countries. The Kean students presented their work to the vice-principal as they studied problems facing education in today's society. Mark Hartmann served as tech host.

Congratulations to the New Brunswick, N. Brunswick, Highland Park and Milltown Club celebrating their Centennial Year!

Thank you to all who participated in Giving Tuesday on 1 December. Thanks also for helping to replenish food banks all across the district during a time when it was needed more than ever. Many thanks also for the generosity of members giving to the Gift of Life at their recent annual meeting. November was Rotary Foundation Month and we thank our members for their support as the Rotary Foundation turns our gifts into service projects both in our communities and around the world.



SPREAD KINDNESS AND OPTIMISM

We appreciated the time taken by RI representatives John Hewko, Sarah Stacey and Sophie Dangerfield for their presentations during these last few months. Their words of hope and optimism for the future served to help us with training and where we are going in the near future as an organization.

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. Please attend to this request so that District 7475 is in compliance. All clubs received the RI notice on 2 December followed by a message from District Governor Ann on the same date. Thank you for taking care of this needed information.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are receiving a number of Membership leads for our district and DG Ann has been installing new members. Presidents and Club Membership Chairs can show membership videos through YouTube by going to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC-dJHVuTrjFNZAbw3lgzaAyPtJ88hH3Q>

The District just presented a New Member Orientation program. A recording is available for clubs to show new members to acquaint them with information useful to maintain membership. **Our Job now-to not only Grow Membership-but to Retain our membership.**

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 is ready, willing and able to help you spread the word. They recently created a beautiful video for our Polio Plus message.

[A suggestion from Zone for PA Chairs-Create a press release library for the district to include plug-and-play templates for clubs to host on the district website to help clubs get the word out. PDG Ray Freaney is spearheading our PI committee for 2020-21. The PI team for Zone 32 includes Nikki Mederos as Chair.](#)

YOUR VOICE WAS HEARD

On October 16, the district presented a program concerned with a new fundraising tool called EVENTGROOVE. This initiative was suggested by Zone and a record number of Rotarians were in attendance. It was then suggested that clubs review the recording to grasp the concept of this new funding strategy. On October 27, the district called for a vote to determine the possible use and the result was a unanimous vote of approval.

Several leadership members met once again with Robert Friend who gave an update and the leadership is now going through the requirements for usage.

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.



For Clubs-Your next challenge is to now have a hand in assessing our Assistant Governor Leadership Team. Barry Kroll will initiate the assessment tool. 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.

WORLD POLIO DAY

World Polio Day raised \$900,000 through online giving at Rotary International with 2000 first time donors in the mix. Julie Ann Juliano is spearheading our Polio Plus initiative. Please continue to donate since we are so close to meeting our goal of eradicating Polio.

GRANT UPDATE FROM ZONE

The Foundation Trustees have made a change to the way global grants will be funded. They will stop matching cash contributions to grants because of the high demand for global grants giving clubs and districts more flexibility in financing grant activity.

Direct from the Foundation-there is no longer a minimum World Fund match for global grants. This means that grant sponsors can use any combination of DDF, cash, or directed gifts and endowment earnings to fund a global grant, as long as the minimum project budget is \$30,000. The Maximum World Fund award remains \$40,000. The Foundation will provide a 100 percent World Fund match for all DDF contributions, but not match cash contributions. The best way to ensure sufficient World Fund Resources for grant activity in the future is to give as generously as possible to the Annual Fund Share.

PDG Andy Calamaras is our Grant Committee Chair. His team is well-versed on Foundation matters.

At RI, the **How to Use the Grant Center** guide has been updated to reflect these changes.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

That-Rotary and Rotaract clubs can seek project partners through Rotary Showcase at RI.

There are some general resources available as [The Rotary Foundation Resource Guide](#) which gives an overview of Rotary Foundation programs and services/[A Guide to Global Grants](#) for members interested in applying for a global grant or developing more effective sustainable service projects/[The Learning Center](#) which offers a variety of material including information about fundraising and participating in grants and more.

That our district is running the 7475 2021 Raffle. Check with PDG Bob Button who is chairing this initiative. A flier has been sent out and he would be willing to share another in case you have misplaced your copy. 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 registrations. 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 there will be a Zone Convention for Interactors in the year 2022! A Zone 28/32 Interact Convention planning committee has been established with a scheduled date from Thursday March 10-Sunday March 13 of 2022. More details will be forthcoming from Zone.

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).

That Zone 28/32 is hosting a 2021 Symposium-keep these dates in mind-September 23-25-scheduled for Detroit-more information is forthcoming.

That there will be a Virtual International Assembly on February 1, 2021-more information to come.

District 7475 is gearing up for the New Year-look for our calendar of events coming out soon.