

Rotary International
District 7230



District 7230 Newsletter

JANUARY 20, 2018

Upcoming...

District Conference:

April 27-28, 2018
DoubleTree Hotel,
Tarrytown, NY

Eat Well, Do Good:

White Plains,
January 31, 2018

Charity Water:

Rotaract UN
February 9, 2018

Hudson Valley Fermented:

Pleasantville,
March 10, 2018

Bronx Rotary:

Centennial
April 16, 2018

Rotary7230.org □



From District-Governor, Janet DiBenedetto:



Though the weather outside has been cold things are heating up in our district.

When visiting the clubs of the district talking with Rotarians and listening to their ideas and goals, though they may be different I realized we are all the same. We are People of Action who are Making a Difference.

It is always interesting to hear the excitement of the clubs and the members of the many different ways they are fundraising. Here are a few ideas that you may find interesting and may give you a new idea for your club - Poker tournaments, super bowl raffles, dog walks, bowl-a- thons, golf outings, auctions, comedy nights, 5K races, beer and wine tastings and the 5 clubs of Staten Island working together on an Octoberfest. Rotarians working together as they build friendships and comradery.

With the funds they have raised, Clubs are supporting food banks, senior citizens, children at risk, veterans, reading programs, the homeless and midnight runs and the list goes on and on. I say thank you, well done and continued success. This is who we are - Rotarians providing service.

I have been traveling the district talking about the District Conference on April 27- 28 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown, NY. Registration should be ready by the time you read this. The highlights will be the Paul Harris Luncheon on Friday and the Outreach Feeding Program on Saturday followed by a dinner and dance on Saturday night.

We are working with Larry Cohen, Jim Kushner and Todd Shea on the Puerto Rico project providing solar lanterns and water filters. Jim is working with the District Governor in PR and local Rotary clubs. You will be hearing more about this project in this newsletter.

-Janet



Congratulations to District 7230

Giving Tuesday was a huge success!!!

Rotarians around the world raised over \$189,000 on November 28, 2017 for the Rotary Foundation.

District 7230 had the third highest District giving this year worldwide with over \$7,300 giving on Giving Tuesday.

THANK YOU to all the Rotarians who made this possible.

District Conference: Update

As announced earlier our rescheduled District Conference will be on April 27-28 at Tarrytown's Doubletree Hotel. **The good news is registration for the Conference itself is FREE.** Kicking off the conference Friday morning will be the District business meeting – the District Assembly where there will also be a memorial for departed district Rotarians.

A highlight of the day will be the Paul Harris Lunch during which there will be the presentation of PH Fellows and flags, the keynote speech on Cyber-Security and the District Foundation Annual Meeting.

The afternoon session will feature a Tribute to Purple Hearts. The optional Friday night Dinner will be fun and games. On Saturday a food packaging program will take place at White Plains Middle School. We hope the clubs will organize 400 people to package food for the hungry. The Conference concludes with a dinner Saturday evening at the Stone Manor 101.

Registration will open in a few days. Look out for more information on the District website rotary7230.org and on our Facebook page.

Rotary: Making a Difference with Disaster Relief

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, James Kushner and Justin Shea of the Inwood, Manhattan Rotary Club and Comprehensive Disaster Response Services, teamed up with Larry Cohen of the New York Club. With support from Past District Governor Helen Reisler, the three seasoned relief workers secured a generous \$25,000 grant from the New York Rotary Foundation to support disaster relief in the communities devastated by hurricanes.

While Justin headed off to hard-hit Alvin Texas, Jim and Larry remained in New York providing logistics support. For some weeks, Justin worked along with Pastor Steve Vaughn, mucking-out the mud and debris from water-soaked homes, providing food, water and living essentials to storm-struck townspeople in a Cambodian immigrant community. While there, Justin secured a \$20,000 grant from Global Giving to assist in the cleanup.



Justin next went on to the Florida Keys to help with situation after Hurricane Irma. While there, Hurricane Maria devastated virtually the entire Island of Puerto Rico. That's when the real work began for the three D7230 Rotarians.

Jim and Larry stayed busy in New York, raising funds and managing logistics. Jim raised another \$4,000 from friends and by selling Inwood tee-shirts at a local farmers' market. Larry connected with Danielle Butin at Afya Foundation in Yonkers and requested a donation of essential medical supplies, which would prove crucial to the mission. Jim spoke with Jose Lucas Rodriguez, Rotary District Governor for Puerto Rico (District 7000). The two assessed the needs of the Island and laid out plans for providing clean water, solar-powered lanterns, and medical supplies.

Larry researched water filter suppliers and contacted Sawyer Products about their filter kits that can clean more than 1000 liters of water per day, providing communities with clean drinking water that exceeds US EPA recommendations. These filters remove bacteria such as cholera, botulism, typhoid, e. coli, and salmonella, as well as protozoa (e.g. Giardia, Cryptosporidium). The filters can be easily cleaned so they have an extremely long life. Sawyer supported our efforts in Puerto Rico by providing these filters at their cost, enabling them to place an initial order for 800 kits funded by the Rotary Club of New York. These water filters provide communities with a sustainable source of clean water instead of depending on the delivery of bottled water, which is costly and requires the disposal of plastic waste.

After researching and testing a number of solar-powered lanterns, Larry contacted LuminAID about their inflatable lanterns that can provide a sustainable source of light for families many of whom have been without electricity for more than 100 days and may be without power for more than a year. LuminAID was funded on Shark Tank by Mark Cuban, and they are supporting our efforts by providing a substantial discount for their products. We are also testing their latest innovative product, which is twice as bright and can charge a mobile phone with solar power. Our goal is to launch a joint marketing campaign with LuminAID to sponsor a "gift of light" to families in Puerto Rico. Our initial purchase of 200 lanterns was funded by the Rotary Club of New York and a second shipment of 150 was funded by the Rotary Club of the Bronx.

Justin spent his first two weeks in Puerto Rico familiarizing himself with the local communities, Rotarians, and getting to know the lay of the land and the needs of the people. When all supplies were received, they were packed by Jim and Larry and put on a flight with Jim to Puerto Rico.

Jim was met at the airport by Justin and Yolanda Mercado, a licensed nurse, who was provided with the medical supplies donated by Afya Foundation. Jim and Justin then traveled the island, connecting with local municipalities and aid groups such as Rubicon, a volunteer



organization comprised primarily of military veterans. In San German, Jim and Justin partnered with the local Rotary Club and Ayud Pa La Montana, a group of young volunteers, who were working to bring supplies into isolated mountain hamlets. The two New York Rotarians met with District Governor Jose Luca Rodriguez and the Rotary Club of San German to solidify their plan of operation and supplied them with water filters and solar-powered lights.

Jim and Justin accompanied Ayud Pa La Montana into the mountainous districts of Lares, Maricao and Adjuntas where they personally distributed water filters and solar lanterns. They also installed filters in schools and senior centers in the San German area. After returning home, Jim, Justin and Larry continue shipping supplies to Rotary Clubs in Mayaguez and San German who are distributing these water filters kits and solar lanterns to isolated communities.

The work has only just begun. DG Janet DiBenedetto has already raised an additional \$5000 from D7230 Clubs, and she is asking all Rotarians to support our partnership with Rotary District 7000 in Puerto Rico. In addition to the solar lights and water filters, we would like to develop a joint rebuilding and construction project. Volunteers will be needed and greatly appreciated, and we will need donations to aid in the funding. This is a chance for a hands-on Rotary experience, one that will enrich and stay with us all of our days.

Larry Cohen would be happy to provide a program on this project. He can be reached at lhcohen3@aol.com

If your club would like to be part of the project, send checks to:
NY Rotary Foundation, c/o Andreas Runngatscher, 383 Prospect Road, Chester, NY 10918.

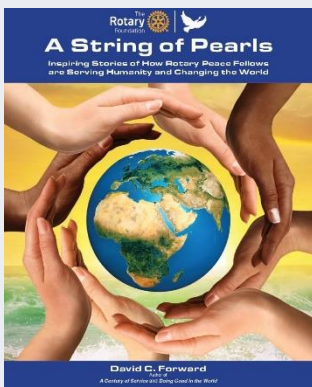
-Larry Cohen

Rotary String of Pearls

Rotarians everywhere can talk about PolioPlus and Foundation grants and scholarships . . . but 9 out of 10 of us could probably not speak for more than a minute or two about the Rotary Peace Centers. Yet this program could have a greater impact on the world in future years than anything else Rotarians are doing.

PDG David Forward, author of the official history books of both Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation was so impressed by this amazing program that he wrote the only book in the world that tells the inspiring stories of the young men & women who are serving as peacebuilders in hotspots around the world—and he did so pro bono. A private foundation then paid for the actual printing of the book, so every dime of the \$30 purchase price goes directly to The Rotary Foundation's Peace Centers program.

Supplies are limited. Be sure to order your copy right away from www.RotaryStringofPearls.com



Yonkers-East Yonkers sponsors Ugandan village to save mothers and children



The Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers is sponsoring a project to build 100 clean cookstoves in Lugazi village in the Mukona District of Uganda to create a safe, smoke-free environment. This will help save mainly mothers and children from inhaling the polluted smoke which can cause long-term health problems.



Briarcliffe Manor President Mark Johnson has been presenting the Cookstove Project to Area Clubs. These stoves replace the open fires that kill 4.3 million people each year. For \$1,000, an entire village will be saved from the unseen danger by equipping the homes with these clean cookstoves. Each stove is handmade using local materials and uses far less fuel and causes much less damage to the environment.



The project falls under two of Rotary's worldwide causes – Fighting disease and Saving mothers and children. It aims to eliminate the preventable deaths in developing and newly industrialized countries that are caused by cooking with a three-stone open fire. Nearly 3 billion people prepare food for their families using an open fire in their home. This inefficient cooking method exposes users to dangerous pollutants and impacts livelihoods due to the high cost of fuel. The project helps women and their families gain access to efficient, clean cookstoves through solutions that are unique to each country.

These 100 cookstoves from the Rotarians of Yonkers-East Yonkers will not only change the lives of the children and families in the entire village, but also have a global impact on the environment by removing pollution from at least one village.

-Bina Ahmad

Let me inspire you! Rotary is good for the Soul

A Happy New Year to all our Rotarian family. Amazingly, its January is nearly at its end. I wish health and good life for all. I am glad to be alive and a Rotarian. My motto has always been "Interact," "Engage", "Impact." And Rotary allows me to do just that.

We are all making an impact on our communities and the lives we touch. Our Four Way Test always helps us navigate the challenges of our time locally and globally. These four rules of engagement have become a mindset for Rotarians and truly a differentiator for Rotary.

I'd like to share some news on the Membership front. Even though there is a concern about our membership being lower than it's been in the past, I feel that we're on the path of regaining more members and gaining momentum in that area. For those members who participated in our district presentations on membership, some ideas





were shared and some specific goals were established. Every club was asked to create its plan to increase membership. Some clubs were able to complete their plan and commit it to paper. It got everyone thinking. At a high level, we wanted to focus on a number that was easy to remember and hopefully achieve. Simply, every club was asked to add three new members to their membership roster which would add up to 129 new members across our district. Most participants agreed that this was a doable number, although no one thought it was not without its challenges. Becoming and staying a Rotarian truly requires a deep commitment. The three T's of services, Time, Treasure and Talent are required and necessary in a relentless manner.

We started our 2017-2018 Rotary year with 43 clubs and 1,212 members. At the end of December 2017, at a half point mark, we sit at 44 clubs and 1,228 members. We have gained a net of 16 members according to our records. There are additional members who have been added and not reported or recorded yet. At this rate, we need to add 113 more members in the second half of the year. Our congratulations to all the new members across our clubs and our gratitude to their sponsors.

As many now know, the motto for next year's RI president is "Be Inspirational." This word is spectacularly dear to me. It is at the top of my favorite words list, followed by the "Impact." As Rotarians, we all appreciate the importance of words and the impact they can make.

Every Rotary Club in our district and others is connected to the local community and the world at large through the causes they support and the impact they make in their pursuit of serving humanity. And by definition, every club is absolutely "Inspirational" to the causes it supports. Imagine, the impact we have created, collectively, for our community and the world. Everyone in your community and sphere of influence has, with different levels of intensity, a keen interest in making a positive impact to their community and the world. When we invite them as guests to our clubs and events, they will be inspired by meeting other Rotarians who are already making a positive impact. As a result, those who are like minded will rise to the occasion and become members when they realize what a terrific and effective organization Rotary is.

To be "Inspirational," we must share our enthusiasm about service by way of example. Often, we, as Rotarians, are just shy about advertising what we do by staying local. To increase our membership we are all encouraged to share more openly with others. The easiest way is to carry and hand out our little yellow Rotary Cards with the 4-Way test inscription.

Causes Connect us and bond us together. We're already being Inspirational.

Be inspired, you're sure to inspire others.

-Amir Asadi

Rotaract at the UN: Fundraiser for Charity Water

One cannot survive without water yet there are so many people who do not have access to drinkable water. Charity:Water is a non-profit organization bringing clean and safe drinking water to people in developing countries.



The Rotaract Club at the UN is glad to announce their fundraiser benefiting Charity:Water, from New York City.

Do join in on Friday, 9 February from 7 to 9 pm for the 2-hour open bar at The Press Box, 932 Second Avenue (Between 49th & 50th Street), NYC. Draft beer, well drinks, wine, and finger food are all included. Come help support giving the gift of clean water. Please RSVP as soon as possible! Spots are limited Visit:

<http://www.rotaractnyc.org/charity-water-fundraiser/>

Have you registered for Toronto?

The 2018 Rotary Convention, 23-27 June, will bring thousands of Rotarians from around the world to Toronto. One of the main benefits of attending a Rotary Convention is the exceptional speakers from around the world.

The Keynote Speakers in Toronto will be:

Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand; former Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP);

Dr. Isis Mejias, Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) Ambassador, Rotary global grant scholar;

Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Responsibility Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School;

Anja Nikolova, 2015-17 Rotary global grant scholar, Yale University;

Caryl M. Stern, President and CEO, UNICEF USA

Breakout sessions can inspire attendees, and help them polish their leadership skills and get new ideas for projects, fundraising, strengthening membership, and more. The preliminary schedule of the breakout sessions will be announced in February.

Still waiting? Register online at:

<http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto/register>

Rotary Club of Pleasantville invites you on March 10, 2018 to their event at Pace University, Kessel Center.

An afternoon tasting of the finest craft beers, spirits, wines, hard ciders, beverages and artisanal foods the Hudson Valley has to offer.

hvfermented.com

