

**Rotary International**  
**New Generations Seminar**  
**(NGS-12-13-14)**  
**Boxborough, Massachusetts**



**Jahnbaz Almas**  
**Board Member & Author of the**  
**Youth Leadership Council**  
**Rotary Club of Wall Street**

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Wall Street and District 7230, I participated in the New Generations Seminar in Boxborough, Massachusetts. The seminar agenda was primarily focused on leadership training and service projects. It was an honor to accompany two of the Pace Rotaract Club members, Nasifeh Ahmad and Melissa Navas. Their participation in the New Generations Seminar was sponsored by Mr. George Camp, PDG a good friend and supporter of the Rotary Club of Wall Street.

**There were three main areas of leadership training that included RYLA, Interact, and Rotaract.**

In the morning session, Nasifeh, Melissa and I decided to participate in the

Rotaract leadership training and the panel was moderated by Ms. Katie Picchione, President of the Rotaract Club of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). In this Rotaract session I talked about the Rotary Club of Wall Street's Rotaract initiatives at Pace University and the Youth Leadership Council education and literacy initiative in the High School of Economics and Finance. The participants showed interest in the Rotary Club of Wall Street's Youth Leadership Council initiatives.

In the afternoon, Nasifeh and Melissa joined in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) session and I participated in the Interact leadership training session. We took a break for lunch and networked among participants from 11:55 to 1:00 PM. I met with Ms. Mary Valentine Callahan, District Governor of D7910 who sponsored the New Generations Seminar and exchanged ideas about how her district and the Rotary Club of Wall Street could work jointly in Global Service Projects. Her District 7910 has a large representation in Haiti and it is vital to communicate with her to join RCWS's Haiti global project. She requested to visit our club and would like to be a speaker. Also, I met with Carl Gomes, Chair of the Rotaract Clubs of the District D7910 and currently the Chair of the Rotaract Club of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and he requested to facilitate a relationship between the Rotaract Club of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and the Pace University Rotaract Club. The WPI Rotaract Club, in partnership with Engineers without Borders, is currently having a major global project in Guatemala supplying clean drinking water to various communities. WPI President Ms. Katie Picchione, requested our two Rotaractors to visit the Pace Rotaract Club, and, if possible, work together in joint global projects.

In the afternoon, all participants of the seminar joined the presentation by Nangchukja, a global grant scholar. He spoke about his humanitarian projects in Tibet. Also, we participated in the Guatemala clean water project presented by Ms. Katie Picchione.

There was a meeting scheduled in the late afternoon to brainstorm the planning process for next year and to possibly change the date and the location of the New Generations seminar based on my recommendation because this date of December 13 is too close to the final exams for university students and for this reason most of the Rotaractors are not able to participate.

The conclusion of this meeting will be reported later to all participants. Our two Pace Rotaractors took initiatives in each aspect of the seminar. Carol Toomey, the Chair of the New Generations seminar (NGS-12-13-14) assigned responsibility to Nasifeh and Melissa to create the Instagram account and took pictures during the seminar activities for a picture contest. Also, Carol Toomey told me that she will give major leadership responsibilities to Pace Rotaractors in the 2015 New Generations seminar.

The New Generations Seminar was an extremely valuable venue for the young participants to share their experiences in various leadership projects. The Rotaract, Interact, and EarlyAct members presented videos presentations about their participation in various service projects. One of the key video presentations about leadership was by the EarlyAct members of the Amherst Middle School which is sponsored by the Milford Rotary Club, who were just seventh grade students, and was one of the most amazing and fascinating presentations of the seminar. I have requested Mrs. Claudine Hessmer Husainy, the Vice Chair of the Youth Services for District D7870, to share this video with the participants of the 2014 New Generations Seminar. This video was very impact driven and these seventh graders challenged all of us to help the young generation of Americans. These young seventh graders inspired us on how to be good leaders and help our communities. Mrs. Husainy sent me this video link that the students uploaded to YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm3YgOoViD8&sns=em>

**The major focus of the seminar agenda could be summarized as follows:**

**Session 1:**

***How does your club start a ROTARACT club?***

- What makes a good club?
- The anatomy of a meeting.
- How you should organize communications between clubs.
- How long should a meeting be?

- Identifying leadership. To keep continuity, a junior for President?

## **Session 2:**

### ***Empowering youth:***

- How do you empower your young people?
- How do you involve the community?
- Do the Rotary Club and the Rotaractors join together in service projects?
- Do they have social activities together?
- How does the club membership grow?
- How does a club retain vital membership?
- Are there female and male members?
- Do the demographics reflect the community demographics?
- At what age do you encourage joining Rotary?
- How can the Rotary Clubs support the youth?
- What responsibilities does each group have?
- How do we encourage students to think about Rotary as an adult?

## **Session 3:**

### ***Curriculum Discussion:***

- How the club chooses and implements a Service Project.
- Service above Self: What is a good service project?
- How do we teach our students to actively create a service project?
- How do the students fund these service projects?
- What is the difference between a service project and a fundraiser?