

Rotary **News**

District 7230

The Governor Speaks...



Janet DiBenedetto, District Governor

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

What a year this has been. As the Rotary year began last July our goals were set. The clubs would focus on Public Relations, Membership Development and Retention, The Rotary Foundation, Avoidable Blindness and Children at Risk.

Public Relations

Rotary Clubs in our District have been visible in their local newspapers, as well as local television and radio. Clubs have provided information on upcoming speakers, fundraisers, local events and getting information out to the public on what Rotary is and what Rotarians do.

Membership Development and Retention

At the beginning of the Rotary Year, we had a loss of members, but as we began to reach the fall season we have had an increase in membership. At this time, an accurate accounting cannot be given due to the fact that clubs have not reported their monthly attendance on a timely basis.

Club Mergers

The Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant is the result of the merger of the Hawthorne-Thornwood and Valhalla Rotary Clubs. This merger has made the resulting club stronger and this club is now better able to meet the needs of the Mt. Pleasant area, serving three local schools districts as well as expanding their service to the community.

The Rotary Foundation

As a result of the holiday greeting cards this year we were able to contribute an extra \$4,492.00 to the Annual Giving of the Rotary Foundation. As of the end of May 2001 we have contributed \$58,623.45 to the Annual Fund and \$37,650.00 to the Designated Fund. (Please note that all contributions have not been counted.)

Matching Grants

Cairo, Egypt

Our District has helped provide 450 cataract surgeries at the Ras El Tin Hospital. We partnered with Districts 7170, 7620, and 2450 as well as the Rotary Club of Kasr-El Nile. This was a \$50,000 grant. Our District contributed \$3,575.00.

Mexico

This grant will provide education of a young girl. It is a literary program. Districts 7170, 7230, 7620 and the Rotary Club of Magima Mase, partnered again for a \$50,000 grant. Our District contributed \$1,000.00.

Ismailkhanpet, India

The Rotary Club of the Bronx has a grant number along with the Rotary Clubs of Hyberabad Washington, DC and Washington DC Districts 7170 and 7620 will provide clean water and sewerage in Ismailkhanpet, India. When this project is completed it will be a \$147,320 grant. Our District worked to help partner this grant.

This has been an extraordinary year for Rotary International's Matching Grant Program. Approximately 4500 grants were filed. The Foundation had no more money to apply to grants. That meant that other grants we had signed off on are now on hold. The remaining DDF monies will be put into transportation and low-income scholarship pool grants.

Avoidable Blindness

Every Club in the District has contributed to the Avoidable Blindness Project \$10,385. With these funds we were able to contribute \$5,600 to the Avoidable Blindness pool. The money in this pool means that Clubs and Districts that are in need of grant money for blindness related projects can draw on these funds.

Our District has continued to work in the Philippines with the remaining money and we have been able to purchase a medical vehicle. A grant number has been given. This project will be completed next year.

Ambassadorial Scholarship

Caroline Filippo is our Ambassadorial Scholar for this year. Caroline will be in Australia where she will study for the next year.

Children at Risk

The Clubs in our District are very involved with the children of their communities as well as the children around the world. Your clubs have provided scholarship, helped with education, reading, mentoring, testing the hearing of children, provided new

playgrounds, learning centers, rag-a-muffin parades, smoke detectors and the list goes on. Your work and efforts have made these things happen.

This year seven new Interact Clubs were chartered at local High Schools.

- 1. Hedrick Hudson HS sponsored by the RC of Peekskill*
- 2. Briarcliff HS sponsored by the RC of Briarcliff*
- 3. Moore Catholic HS sponsored by the RC of Staten Island*
- 4. Academy of Notre Dame sponsored by the RC of Mid Island*
- 5. Eastchester Interact sponsored by the RC of Eastchester*
- 6. Gorton HS sponsored by the RC of East Yonkers*
- 7. Hawthorne Cedar Knolls sponsored by the RC of Mt. Pleasant*

There is a commitment of service from both the Rotarians and the Interactors. I hope that these Interactors will be our future Rotarians. A new Rotaract Club was also chartered this year at Concordia College sponsored by the RC of Eastchester.

Citations and Awards

Rotary International gives one award per district per year to recognize outstanding club service. This year the Significant Achievement Award was given to the Rotary Club of the Bronx. The project that this club has been doing for the past few years has been providing hearing tests for the children of the South Bronx. Rotarians have worked diligently with this hands-on project. Congratulations!

A Meritorious Service Award was presented to PDG Andrew Morzello. Rotary International gives one award per district to the Rotarian who continues to provide service to the Rotary Foundation.

Presidential Citations were given to each club in the district this year from President Frank Devlyn, a tremendous accomplishment. This citation is given for projects that have been done in your community, club and the world. A Presidential Citation was given to the District Governor stating that we are in the top 3% of the districts in the world.

DG Janet gave District Governor Citations to every Club President for their effort and hard work. DG Janet also gave Certificates of Achievement to each club for their participation in Avoidable Blindness project.

There are so many people that I want to say thank you to for working so hard this year. I must begin with the Club Presidents for their leadership, support but most of all their dedication this year. Each one has helped to achieve both their goals and District goals. To the leadership team, for their help in decision making, for their ideas, views and opinions on how to advance our District and for their working so closely with Club Presidents.

Thank you Bob Benson, Don Lee, Arcadio Casillas, Frank Santora and Fred Ming for serving as Assistant Governors. The Area Reps must also be thanked for their help and assistance. Thanks to Jerry Fioretti, for serving as District Secretary and Lou Mahler for serving as District Treasurer, Laura Montefusco District Conference Chair and Bob Flynn Newsletter Editor. Thanks also to Harry Mendez as Interact Chair and Glen Nygreen who helped work with me almost daily on Foundation Projects and Grants. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to PDG Andy Morzello, my District Trainer and mentor, for all his assistance, guidance to me and his devotion and dedication to Rotary. Andy continues to follow the Rotary theme of 94-95 "Be A Friend."

I extend to DGE Andrew Cheng and DGN Bob Benson my very best wishes during their year as Governor in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively.

I am very thankful and proud to have been given the opportunity to serve as your District Governor. This has been an incredible year in my life. I especially must thank my family, my husband Bob, for his support and understanding. To my daughters JoAnne and Danielle for their help, and my Mom for her ability to understand that I had to do this job and at times take away time from my family. But, most importantly, in my heart, I am thankful to Philip Farrow, my sponsor, for inviting me into Rotary. I am very proud to be a Rotarian. This year we did follow the Rotary theme....we did "Create Awareness and Take Action."



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