



District 7500 Governor's Newsletter

Monmouth, Ocean & Burlington Counties

Rotary International President 2015-16

H.R. "Ravi" Ravindran

District Governor 2015-16

David C. Forward

January 2016



Governor David's Diary



I have a confession to make.

One of my close friends is Past-RI President Frank Devlyn, and back in 2000-2001, when he was President, he coined the phrase, "Family of Rotary." I never said a word about it, but I thought it was a corny

expression. I mean, of course I *liked* Rotarians. I had many good friends in Rotary and had unbridled admiration for many others who have done so much to make the world a better place.

But *family* of Rotary? I just chuckled to myself and never used the phrase personally.

Oh, how wrong I was.

The experience of being your Governor has been one of the most remarkable honors in my life. As I visited every club in the District and spoke to hundreds of you, it became so evident of the degree of caring Rotarians have for one another. Members would enthusiastically cheer one another during "Happy Bucks" time when one of them announced good news. At other times, I witnessed genuine grief—the sort that only comes from the loss of a family member—when a club lost one of its own.

When a Rotarian was recognized by the community for extraordinary acts of selfless service, Rotarians came together to congratulate and cheer them on.

But it wasn't until I spent almost three weeks in the hospital in the past month that I got to see what Frank Devlyn had meant by *Family of Rotary*. Every day when Chris would visit, she would bring and more and more expressions of your love, prayers, and good wishes.

Several doctors and nurses said they had never seen so many get well cards.

Meanwhile, members of the Team7500 leadership team jumped right in and continued to advance the mission

we all adopted on July 1st of helping make our District, "Bigger, Better, Bolder" in every way. And the incredible PDG Harriet Primack stepped in immediately to act as Vice Governor so that our members, our clubs, and our programs never skipped a beat for the service they needed. It's a cliché that TEAM is an acronym for Together, Everybody Achieves More, and I have witnessed how the leadership of Team7500 made that a reality.

Other than my beloved wife and son, all my blood family is in England. But now, more than ever before, I know I have hundreds of friends every bit as caring and loving as my siblings: they are my Family of Rotary right here in District 7500 and across the Rotary world.

Thank you for your expressions of love and compassion. I pray that you will feel a part of the Family of Rotary, too. And yes, when Frank Devlyn comes to our District

Conference in Baltimore in April, I will thank him for coining that phrase, Family of Rotary!

David

Coming Soon

A brief listing of upcoming club and district activities

Jan 23: Comedy for a Cause, the Barnegat Rotary Club's comedy night at the Holiday Inn, Manahawkin. Tickets are only \$40 and include a buffet dinner and professional comedy show. Buy tickets at www.EventBrite.com

Jan 23: An Introduction to Home Winemaking, held by the Belmar-Wall Rotary Club. Cost is only \$20 for the event, which will be held from noon-2PM at the Belmar Arts Center. For tickets or information, call Pat Darcey: 973-985-1084

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Coming Soon

A brief listing of upcoming club and district activities

Jan 30: Mid-Year Assembly at Ocean County College, 8:30AM-12:30PM. Information-packed morning with sessions on Membership, Rotary Foundation, Public Image, Rotaract, and much more! RSVP now with PDG Boots White at 609-267-3349 or KWBoots@aol.com

Future Leaders Discussion: Immediately following lunch at the Mid-Year Assembly, we will have a panel discussion for anybody wondering what it takes to move up to become a club president, an Assistant Governor, or a District Governor. This does not obligate you in any way; it simply lays out the time, money, and other commitments for those who may have some interest in becoming future leaders in Rotary.

Feb 13: Breakfast round table discussions for club presidents, held in Burlington County at the Pop Shop, Main & Bank Streets, Medford.

Feb 15: Brick Morning Rotary's **Comedy Night and Chocolate Tasting**. 6PM at the Brick VFW Post. Tickets are only \$20 if ordered in advance. Contact Rich Lau at 732.267.0960

Feb 20: Breakfast round table discussions for club presidents, held in Ocean/Monmouth County

Mar 21: "Be a Gift to the World" dinner with RI President. Be one of the 100 new Paul Harris Fellows or Major Donors to receive your recognition by the RI President. Register for the dinner through www.RotaryDistrict7500.org or Contact Foundation Chair David Legg for details at Legg46@aol.com.

Apr 29-May 1: The **"MORE in BaltiMORE District Conference"** in Baltimore. Register for the conference through www.RotaryDistrict7500.org or contact Jim Robinson at 609.923.3881 for details.



PolioPlus Update

Here is an update on the outbreak of the wild polio virus (WPV)

	All of 2014:	All of 2015:
Afghanistan	28	19
Nigeria	6	0
Pakistan	306	51
Other	19	0
Total	359	70

We ARE "THIS Close!"



Rotary



A monthly question on Rotary history or trivia.

This month's Rotary trivia question is:

Before women were allowed to join Rotary, the wives of Rotarians were affectionately called by this name. What is the name, and what is its derivation?

If you think you know the answer, email it to newsletter editor, Chris Forward at CCFRN1@aol.com before January 30th

LAST MONTH, our Rotary trivia question was:

If you left the Rotary Club of Detroit and headed due south, what would be the first foreign country you would come to?

The answer is . . . Canada! Yes, a little sliver of Canada folds down under Detroit to the south.

Come meet the Rotary International President

Be a part of the “Be a Gift to the World” Dinner

On Monday, March 21st, we are joining with our southern District (7640) to welcome the President of Rotary International, K. R. “Ravi” Ravindran to a spectacular function we are calling the “Be a Gift to the World Dinner.”

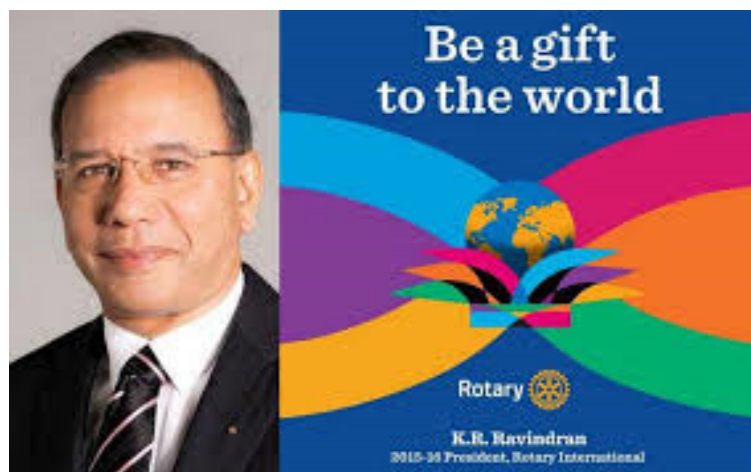
Firstly, the dinner is open to anybody who would like to meet the president and hear this renowned and eloquent speaker. (What a great opportunity for your club to buy tickets for its new members!). We have kept the price at only \$60, table of 10 is \$500, you should register NOW at www.RotaryDistrict7500.org

But we will be conferring special honor on anybody who contributes to the Rotary Foundation (contributions from April 1st through February 29th count) in the following ways:

1. If you donate \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation, you or the person in whose name you make the contribution will have their PHF presented by President Ravi.
2. Ditto if you are already a Paul Harris Fellow and you add a \$1,000 contribution to earn a multiple donor pin.
3. If you commit to joining the Paul Harris Society, wherein you can have an automatic bank draft make quarterly donations that add up to \$1,000 a year to the Foundation, you will be invited to a private VIP reception with President Ravi, in addition to the above presentation. Contact Lois Currie at 973-715-1053 (Lois973@aol.com)
4. If you become a Rotary Foundation Benefactor, with a pledge of \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation in your estate plan, you will also be invited to the VIP reception with President Ravi. Contact Lou Mann at 609-560-5484 (LouisMann@Comcast.net)
5. If you are, or become, a Major Donor, you will also be invited to the VIP reception with President Ravi. Major Donors give \$10,000 or more, which can be in cash, stock, real estate—or a pledge over 3 years totaling \$10,000 or more. Contact Foundation Chair David Legg at 908-902-6196 (legg46@aol.com)

The event will be held at the beautiful Lucien’s Manor on Route 30, Berlin, NJ. The VIP reception runs from 5-6PM. Everybody else can enjoy the cash bar beginning at 5:30 and dinner at 6:25PM.

This is a unique and rare event for the sitting RI President to present you with a Paul Harris Fellow (or higher recognition). It WILL sell out. To be sure you and your club gets seats, please register today at www.RotaryDistrict7500.org



And the Governor’s Golden Gavel Award goes to . . .

Top 5 clubs in attendance for December:

Barneget	100% (AGAIN! AWESOME JOB!)
Belmar-Wall	81%
eClub	80% tied with. . .
Medford Sunrise	80%
Moorestown	76.79%

Membership increase in December:

Central Ocean	3 (SUPER job!)
Red Bank	2
eClub, Freehold, Moorestown, Mt. Laurel, and Point Pleasant Beach	each had one new member in December.



Here are the results for the first half of our Rotary year, July 1 through December 31.

Top 5 clubs in attendance for July-December:

Barneget	88.67%
eClub	83.33%
Medford Sunrise	76.51%
Toms River Sunrise	75%
Point Pleasant Beach	74.5%

Net membership increase for July 1-December 31:

Bordentown	13 (Incredible job!)
Red Bank	8
Mt Laurel	5
Grtr Long Branch	4
Marlton	4
Moorestown Breakfast	4

By commenting on the top two, I don’t want to detract from the fabulous job all of these clubs did in net membership growth. You are indeed our Superstar clubs! Congratulations! - David

So WHY should I want to attend the MORE in Balti**MORE** District Conference?

FAQs and comments from other Rotarians:

- What is a District Conference?
 - Once a year, each District Governor plans a weekend conference that brings together Rotarians and their families. It is held in different places each year.
- Is this just another boring Rotary meeting?
 - Absolutely not! It is a time to have fun, to get away for the weekend to a fabulous hotel and destination, to hear inspiring speakers, and to meet old and new friends.
- What does it cost?
 - If you register before January 31st, the conference cost is \$262 per person in a double room. You only need pay \$100 deposit upon registering at www.RotaryDistrict7500.org. The hotel room at our special contracted rate will cost you \$159 per person (for two nights) plus tax, and while you book the room now with the hotel, you won't be billed for that until you check out on May 1st.
- What does that include?
 - Refreshments during Friday afternoon and Saturday plenary sessions, Friday evening wine & cheese reception, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday evening reception and Grand Banquet, Sunday breakfast, all taxes and gratuities.
- You said "inspirational speakers." Like whom?
 - We have the two most-requested speakers in the entire Rotary world. On Friday evening, our keynote speaker will be Past RI President Richard D King from California. On Saturday evening, our keynote speaker will be the immensely popular Past RI President Frank Devlyn from Mexico City. On Saturday morning, I guarantee you will be riveted by Razia Jan, a Rotarian from Massachusetts who fought the Taliban to establish a girls school in a tribal village in Afghanistan. Because of her dogged persistence, the opponents let her build the school, and for the first time, girls are now getting an education, and Razia is now planning to build a women's college for them. Razia was named one of 5 Rotary Global Women of Courage and CNN named her a CNN Hero. A movie is being made of her work.
- What else?
 - The Friday afternoon and Saturday morning plenary sessions will be customized to give you new ideas and insights on how to be more effective in your local club and as a Rotarian. There will be sessions on Best Practices in Fundraising, How to Launch an Effective Public Image Campaign using Social Media, How to Develop a Community Garden to Raise Fresh Food for the Needy—and many other topics.
- Will there be any free time?
 - Absolutely! Saturday afternoon is free, and we'll adjourn by 11AM Sunday, leaving you with lots of time for shopping, sightseeing, or sampling the fantastic local eateries. We are also arranging the first-ever District 7500 Dragon Boat Race across the Inner Harbor. So be sure to sign up your club's two fittest peddlers to win the coveted prize!
- Where will we be staying?
 - Accommodations will be at the magnificent Embassy Suites Hotel. The hotel was completely gutted 2 years ago, so all the rooms and restaurants are brand new. Some rooms can accommodate up to 4 people. All of our meetings will be held in the adjacent building called the Grand Historic Venue. One of the most historic buildings in Baltimore; built in 1866, The Grand was first known as the Tremont Grand, and served as the headquarters for the Maryland Freemasons for 130 years. In the late 1990's the building underwent a massive restoration project before finally reopening in 2005. Completely restored to its original grandeur, The Grand is one of the most iconic event venues on the East Coast. One cannot describe in a few words the magnificent building, with its gleaming marble, its soaring cathedral ceilings, stained glass windows, rich wood paneling, and crystal chandeliers.
- What else is there to do?
 - Do you have a week?! The Charm City Circulator is a free bus that stops right at our hotel's front door and takes you to all the most popular sights. Don't miss the HarborPlace for unique boutiques and myriad restaurants. The National Aquarium is a MUST-SEE, as are the B&O Railroad Museum, Ft. McHenry (where the battle inspired the writing of our National Anthem), the Science Center, the USS Constellation, various harbor cruises . . . see what we mean?

Continued on next page

- What other Rotarians are saying:
 - o “The Baltimore Inner Harbor is a fabulous destination! No matter how many times I visit it, there is still so much more to do.”
 - o “I was a member of a Rotary club for 3 years before I got talked into attending my first District Conference. I’ve attended 25 of them since! I became a member of Rotary 28 years ago; I became a *Rotarian* when I went to my first District Conference.”
 - o “I can’t believe how many times I’ve gone to a District Conference and come away having made new friends. It’s amazing how much you find out what we have in common when we meet other Rotarians at a plenary session, around the dinner table, or in the hospitality rooms.”
 - o “When I heard Rick King was speaking, I sent in my registration that same day.”
 - o “Frank Devlyn is awesome! I’d go 200 miles just to hear him speak.”

What’s next? If you register by January 31st at www.RotaryDistrict7500.org you will be entered into a drawing to win the new book *Doing Good in the World: The Inspiring Story of The Rotary Foundation’s First 100 Years*. Written by District Governor David, this book will be released by RI on January 20th and will be signed by the author and RI President Ravi Ravindran.

If you have further questions, or would like a program presented to your club, please call Conference Chair Jim Robinson at 609.923.3881

And now an important word from our District Secretary . . .

Attendance/Membership Reporting

One of the important duties of the District Secretary is accurate and timely reporting of the club’s meeting attendance, including updating the current club membership. This information is utilized to create the monthly District Attendance Report and the monthly District Member Report. The District Member Report information is transmitted to RI to update their records. This information is one of the indicators which tells RI how well the District is doing.

Due to the way the data is handled, there are currently differences between the number of members that are reported on the District 7500 website and the number of members reported on the RI website. **ALL** clubs should turn on RI Synchronization to keep the District Database and RI database in tune with each other. Once RI Sync is turned on, the club should periodically run *RI Member Synchronization* from the District Website.

In order to improve the accuracy and timeliness of our reporting, there are several things that all clubs can and should do:

1. Make sure that you report your attendance and membership every month by the 5th day after the completion of the reporting month.
2. **ALL** clubs should make sure they have synchronization with the RI website turned on. This will provide the data to RI as soon as you make any member changes. RI Sync must first be turned on at the RI website, and then the District 7500 website. If you have any questions about how to do this, contact Steve Sanfilippo (Steven_Sanfilippo@msn.com) or Paul Peacock (dorispaul@comcast.net).

3. Report your attendance online. Most clubs are now doing this, but for those clubs that are not, it is highly recommended that they do so. It is quicker and more accurate to do it this way. If you have any questions about how to do this, contact either Steve Sanfilippo (Steven_Sanfilippo@msn.com) or Paul Peacock (dorispaul@comcast.net).

Our goal is to have both databases up to date and synchronized. This will allow for proper membership reporting to RI and will also keep the District Club Membership database current.

We have gone from 18 non-synchronized clubs in December to 7! The following clubs have **NOT** turned on their RI Synchronization as of January 12:

District Secretary Paul Peacock is inviting the President or Secretary of the following clubs to bring their laptops to the Mid-Year Assembly on January 30th, where he will give a 10-minute demonstration on how they can turn on RI Synchronization for their clubs:

Burlington
Great Bay
Hazlet
Jackson
Maple Shade
Matawan-Aberdeen
Toms River Sunrise

Again, it is in your interest to turn on RI Synchronization. If your club is listed above, please follow the steps described to do this, and, as always, let Paul or Steve know if you need any help doing so.

Rotary and the Peace Corps announce a new partnership

Peace Corps, an independent U.S. federal agency, sends U.S. citizens abroad to help tackle the most pressing needs around the world while promoting better international understanding of American culture and enhancing global awareness. Peace Corps Volunteers live and work alongside the people they support for a period of two or more years and concentrate efforts to create sustainable change that lives on long after their period of in-country service. Peace Corps currently has volunteers in more than 60 countries.

While in service, each Peace Corps Volunteer is tasked with addressing one of the following sectors:

- Education
- Health
- Community Economic Development
- Environment
- Youth in Development
- Agriculture

These sectors align closely with Rotary's areas of focus, which provide the framework for Rotary members' work around the globe. Learn more at www.peacecorps.gov. Why work with a Peace Corps Volunteer? A Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) offers access to local contacts, community development insights, and funding possibilities within a particular community. Involving a PCV in your project will increase its reach, impact, and sustainability. Peace Corps Volunteers work with nongovernmental organizations, host-country governments, and local community members to identify and address local needs. PCVs can help you identify prospective beneficiaries and work with you to find the most effective way to address a community's needs. They also can help oversee a project's implementation, assist with training, and help you make arrangements with community members to ensure a project's sustainability.

Rotary and Rotaract club projects are strengthened when clubs in different countries form an international partnership. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers often maintain relationships with their host community, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers can help connect clubs at home in the U.S. to ones with which they worked while abroad. Such links can lead to international Rotary partnerships that provide resources for projects in the host country. How to work with a Peace Corps Volunteer Peace Corps Volunteers live in the community they are helping, and are eager to meet with others who are invested in improving communities.



To introduce Rotary to a Peace Corps Volunteer:

- Invite the volunteer to a club meeting or Rotary event.
- Invite the volunteer to visit a project your club has undertaken in your community.
- Invite the volunteer to make a presentation at a club meeting about his or her work and experiences incountry.
- Explore how the volunteer can serve as a cross-cultural liaison between the host club and existing or potential club project partners in the U.S.
- Ask for the volunteer's assistance translating documents and communications from English into the local language.

To identify collaboration opportunities, check Peace Corps' website for lists of countries where Peace Corps works. Even if a volunteer lives far from your club's area, he or she still may be able to assist with contacts in your region. Contact rotarypartnership@peacecorps.gov to connect with Peace Corps post in your country. How to create a Rotary Community Corps in collaboration with Peace Corps Volunteers Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) are made up of people who are not Rotary members but who work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. Each RCC is sponsored by a Rotary club and acts as its partner in service.

Some RCCs are created for a specific project, while others tackle larger, entrenched problems on an ongoing basis. Each RCC sets its own goals based on its community's specific needs. As representatives of the community being served, RCC members bring enthusiasm, creativity, and sustainability to the projects they help design and implement. They offer community solutions for community challenges. Work with the community's Peace Corps Volunteer to determine whether a new RCC should be established to undertake project work and to ensure a project's sustainability after the volunteer has returned home. Learn more about Rotary Community Corps. How to work with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), volunteers who've completed their service abroad and have returned to the U.S. often maintain strong relationships with their host communities and with the local Rotary or Rotaract clubs.

To introduce your club to a Return Peace Corps Volunteer:

- Contact a Peace Corps Regional Recruitment Office to connect with the local RPCV alumni network in your region

- Invite a returned volunteer to attend your club meeting or a Rotary event.
- Invite a returned volunteer to make a presentation about his or her work abroad and, if applicable, about how he or she worked with local Rotary or Rotaract clubs.
- Ask a returned volunteer to facilitate an introduction to the Rotary or Rotaract clubs with which he or she worked while abroad.
- Invite a returned volunteer to use his or her community development expertise to assist your club with its projects.

Hold off on that Rotary Gun Show!

The following message was received from Rotary International for distribution to all clubs:

We would ask any clubs that may already be sponsoring or hosting gun/knife shows, shooting tournaments and hunts to cease such activity.

Per 11.020.6. Guidelines for Use of Rotary Marks by Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship and Cooperative Relationship Purposes

20. No Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity shall accept a sponsorship or a cooperative relationship that
 - a. Conflicts with Rotary's ethical and humanitarian values
 - b. Undermines internationally recognized standards for human rights
 - c. Supports the use of addictive or harmful products and activities including but not limited to alcohol (when inappropriate in a specific cultural context), tobacco, gambling, and weapons or other armaments
 - d. Promotes a particular political or religious viewpoint
 - e. Involves abortion
 - f. Unfairly discriminates based on race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or birth or other status
 - g. Weakens the autonomy, independence, reputation, or financial integrity of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or the specific Rotary club, district or other Rotary entity
 - h. Involves any subject matter which is not in accord with the Object of Rotary

RI learned that a few Rotary clubs are sponsoring or hosting gun and knife shows, shooting tournaments and hunts and are using Rotary's trademarks on materials for these events. As you may know, the RI Board has set forth guidelines for use of the Rotary Marks by Rotary clubs for sponsorship and cooperative relationship purposes, and this policy prohibits clubs from accepting relationships that support the use of harmful products, including



weapons and other armaments; see the relevant *Rotary Code of Policies* Section below. We believe the RI Board would not take kindly upon knowing that Rotary clubs are sponsoring or hosting gun and knife shows or that the clubs are hosting or sponsoring shooting tournaments and hunts. We would appreciate your assistance in passing on this information to the clubs.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

News from the clubs and news *for* the clubs

Congratulations to Great Bay (Tuckerton) Rotarian **Rev. James Occhipiniti** for receiving the James J. Mancini Award for Community Service from the Southern Ocean Medical Center. At the same awards ceremony on December 10th, the SOMC presented their Community Health and Wellness Award to the **Rotary Clubs of Barnegat, Southern Ocean, and District 7500** for their medical equipment contributions through Rotary Foundation Grants.



Mount Holly Rotary Club Co-President **Greg Gravenstine** gives a helping hand for the holidays to a local resident who had a fire recently.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

News from the clubs and news *for* the clubs

Mike Bucca of Central Ocean Rotary is now a published author!

Mike penned this excellent article, which was published in the RI “Rotary Voices” blog earlier this month. It is a great read for all of us who want to attract younger members to our clubs. Congratulations, Mike!

What 30-Somethings need to know about Rotary

Posted on January 6, 2016

By Michael Bucca, a member of the Rotary Club of Central Ocean Toms River, New Jersey, USA

You might think that I, a 32-year-old member of a 110-year-old organization, would be preoccupied with trying to modernize my club’s way of doing things. But remarkably, my experience in Rotary is teaching me to spend more energy convincing my generation – which keeps trying to reinvent everything – that there is much to be gained in the lost art of personal connection.

We all use **social media** in our daily lives. Without a doubt, Twitter, Facebook, text messaging, etc. has great value in our social and professional circles. But long before there were Wi-Fi connections, laptops, or smartphones, a man named Paul Harris came up with the idea of professional leaders getting together face to face to make a difference in their community. The organization that arose from this modest idea took its name from the early practice members had of rotating meeting locations between their offices.

In an era of instant communication defined by not-so-blind carbon copies, accidental “reply-alls,” and desperate attempts to “recall” an email, many people seem to have lost the ability of competent verbal and non-verbal face-to-face communication with other human beings. Making good eye contact and managing a well-timed handshake are becoming endangered skills.

At a Rotary meeting, no one is trying to make a good impression via a text message. We are communicating with fellow members, community leaders, and guest speakers in person. We are networking in the way that was standard long before an Ethernet cable was a household commodity.

Think of this as a real-life Facebook status combined with a weekly GoFundMe campaign

Does my Central Ocean Rotary Club in Toms River, New Jersey, use texts and emails? You bet. We are always using these tools to organize events, set up meetings, and handle various other tasks. When we aren’t all together, we turn to technology to get the job done.



The Central Ocean Toms River Rotary Club during a recent meeting.

However, for one hour and 15 minutes every Tuesday, we turn our phones off, hold our meeting, and enjoy camaraderie with fun activities such as “Happy Bucks.” One member at a time gives several dollars to the club and speaks about topics they are personally happy about. Think of this as a real-life Facebook status combined with a weekly GoFundMe campaign — except instead of “liking” a post, people listen and sometimes break out in applause.

Joining an organization like Rotary is a smart way to meet business leaders in your community and enjoy the opportunity to help people in need. Becoming a member lets you practice life skills

that no social media site will ever provide: interpersonal communication. You might meet someone who will change your life. You may even change theirs. But instead of sending a friend request, you will walk right up to them and say “hello.”

Belmar-Wall President-elect **Jonathan Martinek** presenting the club’s banner to Bar Anticipation owner Johnny B on the occasion of the club’s Christmas party fundraiser at Bar-A.



Another Incredible Speaker booked for our MORE in Balti**MORE** District Conference!

Razia Jan, Rotarian, humanitarian and CNN Top 10 Hero, has worked for decades to build connections between Afghans and Americans while improving the lives of young women and girls in Afghanistan.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, Razia sent more than 400 homemade blankets from her adopted hometown of Duxbury, Massachusetts, to rescue workers at Ground Zero. Her efforts expanded to sending care packages to US troops in Afghanistan and then to the US Army's Operation Shoe Fly, through which she coordinated the delivery of more than 30,000 pairs of shoes to Afghan children. Razia's handmade quilts commemorating September 11 have been exhibited at Madison Square Garden, the chapel at the Pentagon, and at fire stations in New York and Massachusetts.

In 2008, despite fierce opposition from the tribal elders, Razia began building a school for girls in a village 30 miles outside of Kabul. The very idea of providing girls with an education put her life at risk, but Razia would not be deterred. Her sheer will and sense of mission resulted in the completion of the school, and today, more than 420 girls from kindergarten through eighth grade receive a free education there. In a culture where men in their 60s and older typically take a 12-14-year-old village girl as a wife, Razia has been able to effect a significant change in those practices—through education.



In rural Afghanistan, it is literally inconceivable for a girl to attend a school of higher education. Yet Razia, through her frequent visits and gradual gains in this change of mindset through the results have achieved, is now taking her school to an entirely new level: she is building a girl's college! She has just broken ground on a college next to her Zabuli Education Center, and plans to offer young women training in nursing, with a special focus on midwifery. Because a large percentage of women either die or lose their baby during childbirth at home, the village elders see this as a positive development, and the once-closed doors to higher education for girls is now opening.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Razia centers her work on the passionate belief that empowering girls through education is the key to positive, global change. We are thrilled to invite our Rotarians and guest from District 7500 to her Razia's inspiring story at our District Conference. A documentary has just been filmed of her work at the school, and excerpts will be shown.

Meeting our fellow Rotarian Razia Jan will change your life! Book today for earlybird discounts at www.Rotary-District7500.org and click on the link to the 2016 District Conference.

The Backsliding Rotarian's New Year's Resolutions

JANUARY: I hereby resolve to make every Rotary club meeting this year. But I'll wait until February. Gotta get over the holidays. They take a lot out of a person.

FEBRUARY: Weather is terrible. I'll start when it gets a bit warmer. I would hate to get into an accident on the way to Rotary, what with the roads the way they are.

MARCH: Lots of sickness just now. Got to keep away from those bugs.

APRIL: Easter! Passover! Big crowds . . . the club won't miss me.

MAY: I've been holed up all winter and now that the weather is getting pretty, it's time to get busy in the garden. Let me get my garden ready and then I can focus on Rotary.

JUNE: You know what, I haven't made a club meeting in months—and nobody even calls me any more. Guess that means they're doing just fine without me

JULY: Boy! The heat and humidity are awful! The meeting place has lousy air conditioning, and when it does kick on,

I can't hear the speaker.

AUGUST: Club president's on vacation, and who is this new guy they elected anyway? I barely know anybody in my club any more. Even the secretary's away, so probably won't be taking attendance anyway.

SEPTEMBER: School's started. I've got so much on, what with back-to-school for the kids, and then catching up at work after me vacation.

OCTOBER: You know what I've been thinking? Going to a meeting doesn't make you a Rotarian. I've got Rotary in my heart, and that's what really matters.

NOVEMBER: I really planned to go to Rotary this month. But the weather is so miserable, and it gets dark so early.

DECEMBER: It's the holidays! When better than to send quality time with your Rotary friends. Except my wife has been running ragged getting the house ready for her family that is flying in for the holidays. Family first is what I also say! Even Paul Harris said "Put your family before Rotary." (I think that's who said that...)

Why should every Rotarian attend the Mid-Year Assembly?

Let's count the ways . . .

On Saturday, January 30th, Rotarians from all over our District will converge on Ocean County College in Toms River for an event that we GUARANTEE will leave you feeling more informed, more motivated, and more inspired to Be a Gift to the World. And our District is subsidizing the event, so it will only cost attendees \$15.

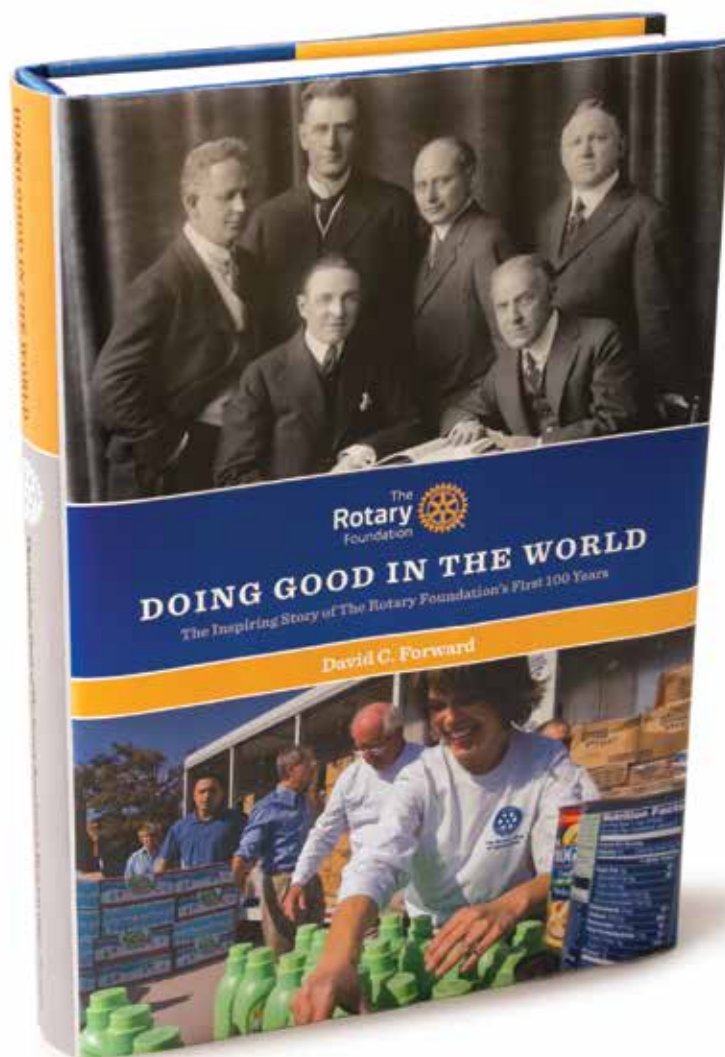
Just look at the agenda:

Preliminary Outline for MidYear Assembly, January 30, 2016

Time	Topic	Room	Presenter
08:00-08:45	Continental breakfast	Lobby	
08:45	Call to order, Welcome, Pledge "Looking back, looking forward"	Lecture Hall	DG David C. Forward
09:10	Move to breakout sessions		
09:15-10:00	1A: Membership: Attracting new members	Lecture Hall	Membership Team
	1B: "So what is The Rotary Foundation, and why should I care?"	5th Floor	DGND Bill Donnelly
	1C: Tech Tips: Using Social Media to promote your club	Room 36	Mike Bucca, Public Image Team
	1D: What the heck is Vocational Service!!!	Room 23	DG David C. Forward
10:00-10:15	Morning break		
10:20-11:00	2A: Membership: Retention through Membership Engagement	Lecture Hall	Membership Team
	2B: "How does the Zone & Rotary Foundation fit into my Rotary Club"	5th Floor	PDG Kathy Hiltner
	2C: Creating a New Youth Protection Policy	Room 36	Ally Morrison
	2D: Tech Tips: Using Rotary.org	Room 23	Barry Kroll, Asst. Regional Coordinator
11:10-11:50	3A: Membership: Growing our Membership through Extension	Lecture Hall	Membership Team
	3B: "Global Grants: As Easy As 1+2=3"	Room 23	DRFC David Legg
	3C: Public Image	5th Floor	Public Image comm.
	3D Leadership Styles and Skills	Room 36	DGND Bill Donnelly
12:00-12:45	Working lunch Keynote address	Lecture Hall	Dr. Julia Phelps, RI Director
13:00-14:00	Future Leaders Panel Discussion	Room 23	Dr. Julia Phelps, DG David C. Forward, PDGs
13:00-14:30	Pre-PETS – all Presidents-elect are expected to attend	Room 36	Deborah Horner, DGE

Please help our registrar by NOT swamping her as a walkin! We need to have an accurate head count for the catering. Register now at www.RotaryDistrict7500.org or contact PDG Boots White at KWboots@aol.com

Own a piece of Rotary history



“Doing Good in the World: The Inspiring Story of The Rotary Foundation’s First 100 Years” commemorates the Foundation’s centennial in 2016-17. This book tells the fascinating story of how The Rotary Foundation became one of the world’s leading humanitarian organizations.

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Our fabulous District Conference will be held in Baltimore next April.



"MORE" in Balti *MORE* District Conference!

Conference Cost:

Before 2/29/16: \$222.

After 3/1/16: \$237

Registration Fee:

\$25

Plus cost of Hotel

Registration is easy:

- 1) Register through www.RotaryDistrict7500.org and click on the "2016 District Conference" link.
- 2) Call the hotel at 1.800.873.6668 and book your room, giving them the "Rotary District 7500" code to get your discounted rate. You don't have to pay for the room until you check out.



April 29 thru May 1



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