

# Rotary District 7490



## Ray Cywinski, District Governor, 2022-2023



Ray was born in Jersey City, lived in Cliffside Park through grammar school (attending Epiphany Grammar School), then resided in Oradell from 1970 until moving to Demarest in 1982. Attended Bergen Catholic HS and Rutgers University (New Brunswick).

Ray is married to Jane, a dialysis nurse, and has three adult children, Caitlin and Lauren (son-in-law Evan), both living in Bergen County, and a son, Michael, living in Wisconsin.

Professionally, Ray has been employed at SUEZ Water NJ for 43 years. He is involved with many facets of natural resource issues, raw water quality and environmental

programs and initiatives at the company, a good fit with Rotary's Seventh Avenue of Focus – The Environment.

A Rotary member since 1997, Ray has served as President of Northern Valley (est. 1965 and now serving seven towns in Northeast Bergen County) for six years (2000-2002, 2007-2009, 2016-2018); he and Jane have hosted two GOL children from South Korea and Honduras in their home; served as an Assistant Governor for four years; traveled to Honduras in 2008 with District 7490 members for a water project; attended the Centennial Rotary International Convention in 2005 in Chicago. Ray was instrumental in instituting and raising funds through two fundraisers in the NVR Club; a Golf Raffle and a Super Bowl pool that over the years have raised over \$100,000. Ray is very proud of the Northern Valley Club along with his involvement in establishing in 2008 a Donor Advised Fund through Rotary, the only club in the District to have done so, thus far. A small club, Northern Valley has had three District Governors, one of whom passed away before taking office.

Ray is a Walter D. Head Fellow and a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Ray and Jane are recipients of the Gift of Life Humanitarian Award. Speaking of children, having participated in most of the presentations in the 16 years of their club's Dictionary Project, Ray loves interacting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students when club members give information on what Rotary is and what Rotarians do.

Ray epitomizes volunteerism having served as President of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, President of NJ Association of Conservation Districts and serving as President of the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions through 2020. Ray currently serves as a member of the Bergen County Environmental Council, supervisor with the Bergen County Soil Conservation District, member of the NJ State Soil Conservation Committee and as the NJ representative on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Conservation

Districts. Ray also served as Mayor of Demarest from 2011-2018 and previously as a Demarest council member for a total of 12 years. He is a lector at his church (St. Joseph's in Demarest) and serves on the parish Finance Committee.

Several of the recognition/awards Ray has received for his volunteer activities include:

1. From Hackensack Riverkeeper in 2016 the "Excellence in Public Service Award" as Mayor
2. From New Jersey Clean Communities in 2013 the Clean Water Award
3. From Bergen County Executive and Bergen County Health Department in 2008 for his "commitment to promoting public health"
4. From Bergen County Freeholders "In recognition of your dedication and commitment in improving the quality of life for Bergen County residents through environmental stewardship".