



Karen DeMatteo
District Governor Elect
Rotary District 7410

Karen DeMatteo, a native of California, moved to New Jersey in 1988, married her husband Lou and began her family. She has 2 adult children, a daughter and a son.

An active parent in her children's lives, Karen began volunteering as a class homeroom mom, a PTO President, and an organizer of many school fundraisers. Continuing her involvement in the community, Karen attended church where she dedicated her time to support women's groups, and work with youth programs teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and traveling to developing countries for mission work.

It was not until Karen's move to the Poconos of PA in 2008 did she discover what would become her new passion. In Nov. of 2009 Karen joined the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs and her desire to work with young people fit right into the club. She has served as District Chair of RYLA and Co-Chair of the (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference) program since 2010 and as a result was able to begin an Interact Club at the local high school.

In the years since becoming involved with RYLA, Karen has been an influential force in developing the program in the positive direction which it has evolved into. Helping hundreds of 10th grade students from all around northeastern Pennsylvania discover their leadership potential, Karen oversees the five-day summer program along with her co chair. The students learn new leadership skills and have a great time while doing so. In addition to the sophomore RYLA participants, Karen works with and mentors 20+ young people who go through the RYLA program to become the counselors and staff who help facilitate and lead the conference each year.

Traveling to Honduras is also high on her list of yearly Rotary activities with the group Operation Honduras. Karen has served on 4 humanitarian trips helping to build schools, deliver the gift of sound and sight through hearing aids and glasses throughout the country. She is a servant leader and believes in hands on projects.

Karen has served as Youth Service Chair, International Projects Chair, Club President in 2014 ~ 15, Rotaract Club Adviser, District RYLA Chair, Assistant Governor and on multiple other Rotary District and Club committees. She is a Paul Harris +4 and a member of the Paul Harris Society. She enjoys reading, traveling, and meeting new people and is looking forward to serving District 7410 as Governor in 2019~2020. Karen's focus is always on youth because, after all, they are of the future of Rotary and the world.