



It's Been a Challenging Rotary Year!

Your District Rotary Foundation Team sure worked hard this year to meet the needs of our clubs and club leaders. I would like to thank the team for helping us all to achieve great success in implementing our district and global grant projects, and raising funds so that we can continue to serve our communities with greater impact in the future.

The District Grants team of Raghavan Sadagopan (District Grants Chair, Innsbrook), Shel Douglas (Grants Chair, Prince George County), Sigur Whitaker (Norfolk), Rudy Garcia (future District Governor, Fluvanna County), Al Mink (Fluvanna County), and Lee Harris (BonAir) have worked diligently the past few weeks by helping clubs to complete their grant proposals and then evaluate all twenty-two projects. There is a well-defined process for evaluating each grant, but it is not all straight-forward. I want to thank every member of this team for all their effort. The District Grants help clubs to perform more visible service to their communities.

In addition to her work with District Grants, Shel is in charge of supporting clubs with Global Grants. She works tirelessly promoting projects and assisting club leaders with the nuances of the grant writing process, and the follow-up required after grants are approved by The Rotary Foundation. Adeeb Hamzey (Goochland County) and Ray Spencer (Virginia Peninsula) also work with clubs to facilitate Global Grant projects. All three have played important roles with the training programs we provide to Rotary Club leaders. THANK YOU, Shel, Adeeb, and Ray!

Mike Little (Peace Fellows Chair, Global Scholars Chair, Richmond) understands all the requirements for these programs. He provides guidance and encouragement to suitable candidates and is a resource for sponsoring clubs. THANK YOU!

Our development team has a year-round effort to educate Rotarians about The Rotary Foundation and assist club leaders in promoting the Foundation to its members and the greater community. Joy Kline (Development Chair, Goochland County) calmly and persuasively talks about the benefits of the Foundation. She wants to make sure every club has a Foundation program. Joy keeps me calm. David Rosenthal (Annual Fund Chair, Hampton Roads) digests and presents the Annual Fund numbers to club leaders each month. David is persuasive and manages to always find something positive to say. It is challenging talking about the numbers. And Bill Billings (Endowment Chair, Franklin) continues to give his Foundation presentations that include his own beautiful photography. If you have not witnessed one of his talks, you need to invite him to your club. THANK YOU, Joy, David, and Bill!

We experienced our first district Polio Telethon on World Polio Day last October. THANK YOU Colleen Bonadonna (Polio Programs Chair, New Kent) for your creativity and boundless energy to make this happen. Thank you for all your fundraising and creating awareness of our Polio cause. And THANK YOU to our Polio baseball crew of Stan Wall (Polio Baseball Coordinator, Major Gifts Chair, Colonial Heights) and Pat Edwards (Lt. Governor, Town Center at Virginia Beach) for setting up the three dates this summer.

Carol Woodward (Communications Chair, Prince George County) is responsible for our newsletter content, social media, and just keeping me focused on the right things. She is not my mom, because I do clean up after myself. Carol has been indispensable. One would think that Elizabeth McCoury (Events Chair and new Vocational Training Team Chair, Virginia Peninsula) had it easy this year, as all our Foundation events were on Zoom. Think again! All our in-person events require contracts with facilities. Elizabeth had to work things out with the venues. Don Vaught (Stewardship Chair, Brandermill) makes sure you know that all the grant monies are spent properly. It's not an easy task. THANK YOU, Carol, Elizabeth, and Don!

Proof that District 7600 is a very strong Rotary Foundation district (both in giving and implementing Foundation programs) is the fact that two of our Past District Governors and District Rotary Foundation Committee Chairs, serve on our Zone 33 Foundation committee. PDG Bill Pollard (Churchland) has been serving as our Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator. Bill keeps me straight all the time, whether I call him or he calls me. (over time all our governors kid Bill about all his helpful, but unsolicited information – but which is always appreciated). PDG Chuck Arnason (Blackstone) is the Endowment/Major Gift Advisor for Zone 33. Chuck is taking a lead role for our Million Dollar Dinner, is my immediate predecessor as Foundation Chair and has been an incredible resource for me. THANKS to both!

Our Million Dollar Dinner Team is off to a great start. You will receive your kudos later, but THANKS!