



OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620
NEWSLETTER
CENTRAL MD & DC



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

December 2020

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RI DIRECTOR PETER KYLE HONORED WITH FLAMINGO FLOCKING AT HIS HOME

by Governor Jimmie Gorski

It was a dark October 30, pre-Halloween night when Rotary International Director Peter Kyle was flamingo flocked by Zones 33 and 34. Since the pink flamingo is the mascot of the Zones and filling the yards of honorees with flamingos has become part of our suburban culture, plans were made to surprise RI Director Peter Kyle. Event planners were DG Harry Henderson of District 7610 and DG Jimmie Gorski of District 7620, the districts closest to the Kyles' residence. Soldiers on the ground were AG Sue Weber and PE Carolyn Richards, both of the Annapolis Rotary Club. In the family event, Peter's wife Margaret, their daughter, and their grandson helped to maintain the surprise.



the elements late last night to locate our home and place the flamingos. The basket of goodies is also fabulous. I hope y'all enjoyed "flocking" me as much as I enjoyed being "flocked," What a fabulous gesture! Many thanks to all. You have truly made my day! Many thanks and best wishes! Peter

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RID Peter explains in his own words:

Dear Harry and Jimmie,

Around 1:00 AM this morning, I woke up and went downstairs to make a cup of tea. To my surprise, I noticed a basket of goodies with a card that said, "You have been flocked" and it was signed by two District Governors. I had no inkling what this was about but finished my tea and went back to bed. A few hours later I came downstairs again and looked out the front window. There, to my amazement, I saw our front lawn full of amazing flamingos! Margaret joined me and let me in on the secret.

What a fabulous gesture! I have taken lots of photos and will share some of them with you shortly. Many thanks to all including particularly Sue and Carolyn who braved

DELORES EDWARDS HARDING NOMINATED 2023-2024 GOVERNOR

by Governor Jimmie Gorski



I am pleased to share with you that the members of the Governor Selection Committee (GSC) of District 7620 have reached a unanimous decision to select Delores Edwards

Harding, member of the Baltimore Rotary Club, as the DGN-D for 2020-2021 and will be the DG for 2023-2024.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The District Conference is being held April 23 and 24, 2021, at the Graduate Annapolis Hotel in downtown Annapolis. Two days of action packed events, breakout sessions and hands-on projects.

Some highlights include but are not limited to:

- Annual Golf Tournament
- Cornhole Club Competition
- RLI Session 1 will be offered
- Meals for Hope (hands on project)
- Bylaws vote for club Presidents
- Hospitality Tables
- House of Friendship with Club Brag boards
- District Awards
- 4 Way Speech contest
- Vice Admiral Buck is one of the key note speakers and will address how Rotary and the Naval Academy are committed together to help the community
- New topics for breakout sessions

For extracurricular fun you can take a tour of historic Annapolis, tour the Naval Academy, tour the State House, go on a haunted Pub Crawl, etc.....

It is a District Conference not to be missed for Rotarians and family members.

June 6-10, 2021
Rotary International Convention
Taipei, Taiwan

FLAMINGO FLOCKING FOR RI DIRECTOR

(continued from page 1)

Who is Peter Kyle? Peter R. Kyle was born and raised in New Zealand. After graduating with honors degrees in law and economics from Victoria University of Wellington, he clerked for the Chief Justice of New Zealand before pursuing postgraduate studies in law at the University of Virginia on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship.

In 1992, after a career in private legal practice in New Zealand and a senior role with the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines, Kyle returned to the United States to work as a senior international attorney with the World Bank, based in Washington, D.C. Two weeks after accepting the position, his first assignment took him to Moscow to advise on the transition of the former Soviet Union from a socialist system to one based on market principles. He retired in 2009 but continues to serve as a consultant to the World Bank.

A Rotarian since 1976, Kyle has served Rotary in many capacities, including RI training leader, Council on Legislation representative, RI President's representative, and Dean of the Rotary Representative Network. In addition to serving on the board of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, he has chaired Rotary's Alumni Relations and Rotary Peace Centers committees. Besides Rotary, his other great love has been Outward Bound International, which he has served as founding chairman. In 2010, Kyle received the Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award, which he considers one of his proudest moments in Rotary. He has also received the Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He is a Major Donor, Paul Harris Society member, and — like all his family members — a Paul Harris Fellow.

What does RI Director Peter do as the chair of the Board Council Legislation Advisory Committee?

He advises the Board on Council matters,

including proposed legislation and resolutions, roles and responsibilities at the Council on Legislation and the Council on Resolutions, and, in the year of the Council on Legislation, statements of support and opposition for consideration by the Board.

What does RI Director Peter do as a member of the Executive Committee?

He considers and responds to petitions to the Board, evaluates the performance of the general secretary, serves as the personnel committee of the Board, and acts on behalf of the Board as outlined in the terms of reference set forth in the Rotary Code of Policies.

Many thanks, Peter, for all that you do.

2023-2024 GOVERNOR

(continued from page 1)

As noted in the Bylaws, "Clubs shall have 14 days from the date of receipt of such publication to challenge the selection of the nominee. If no challenge is received within that 14-day period, the District Governor shall declare the nominee to be the District Governor Nominee Designate (DGN-D) and shall certify the name of the DGN-D to the General Secretary of Rotary International within 10 days after such nominee has been declared the DGN-D. If two or more nominees were under consideration, the selection may be appealed if 10 percent of the Clubs (rounded up to the next whole number) notify the DG within 14 days of the date of this announcement.

Please let me know if there is any protest for this selection within the 14-day period. If not, I will declare Delores Edwards Harding to be the DGN-D and certify her to the General Secretary of Rotary International within 10 days after she has been declared the DGN-D for 2020-2021 and will be the DG for 2023-2024 for our District.

ROTARY DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, District Environment Committee Chair; ESRAG Chair 2019-2021

The September 2020 Minutes of the Rotary International (RI) Board of Trustees included Appendix B Environment Area of Focus (Decision 26). This document is available to all Rotarians at www.myrotary.org. The final markup will be released in January, prior to the RI International Assembly for District Governors-elect from February 1-11, 2021. The D7620 Environment Committee is planning a virtual Webinar-Workshop on the new area of focus "Supporting the Environment" for January 2021. It will be open to all the Rotary family of D7620. Please look out for details and registration next month. This will explore how your club can engage in the new area of focus and join with other clubs across the District in multi-club projects.

The D7620 Environment Committee is continuing several District-wide projects and expanding some others. Six District projects below are currently in development or underway; we welcome more if you would like to get involved. Our projects will be featured in detail over the months to come:

- Pollinator plants for schools and pastures benefiting bees, butterflies, birds, and all of us;
- Tree planting in the District and beyond;
- Food waste recycling, including Lunch out of Landfills;
- Project impact reporting, geospatial mapping, tracking progress of D7620 projects;
- Environment awards for clubs doing environmental projects (featured next month);
- Finding feral freon (CFC-11 and CFC-12) for collection and removal

for destruction.

Finding feral freon: Joe Richardson, Rotaractors and Interactors have been engaged in the collection of canisters of CFC-11 and CFC-12 around Frederick and Baltimore. These two as well as other hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are known as freons. Freons are not hazardous to humans. The use of these, mostly refrigerants, coolants, and propellants, was banned by the 1987 Montreal Protocol because of their destruction of the ozone layer and as greenhouse gases (GHGs) that are c.10,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide. These illegal feral freons are still in home and building storage and need to be removed before the canisters leak. Our goal is to locate and remove these canisters for destruction by our partner Tradewater, Inc. If you know any business in our Rotary District that would like payment for canisters with CFC-11 or CFC-12 please contact Joe Richardson (joesr@bar-t.com). Today newer HCFCs are commonly used in a wide variety of applications, including refrigeration, air-conditioning, building insulation, fire extinguishing systems, and aerosols. The need for alternatives for these products will increase 10-fold over the next three decades, so the race is on to find replacement chemicals that are not GHGs and harmful to our future.

Several members of the Environment Committee are available for presentations on environmental topics for Rotary Clubs across the District and beyond:

- Chris Puttock – Supporting the Environment, Climate Change, Pollinators, and almost anything to do with Environmental Sustainability. He is the current Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), and was a prime mover

for establishing the new area of focus

- Joe Richardson – Feral freon, school food waste and composting
- William Dent, Mary Anne Richebarger - Monarchs over America, Operation Pollination, and the Monarch Sister Schools Program with Mexico

If you would like a presentation on anything to do with the environment, please contact the Committee Chair.

Zoom meetings:

Upcoming Environmental virtual zoom meetings for all our Rotary family

- Mary Anne Richebarger with CFP – RC Rockville - Pollinator gardens (12/3/2020 12:00pm)
- Chris Puttock – RC Kamloops, British Columbia – Pollinator gardens (12/3/2020 5:30pm)
- Colin Holmes (RC Capitol Hill, ESRAG) – Ocean plastic pollution (12/9/2020 8:30am)
- Charlie Garlow (ex RC College Park, ESRAG) - Clean Air vs Pollution (1/13/2021 9:00am)

Zoom webinar-workshop:

D7620 Exploring "Supporting the Environment" (tentative dates 1/16/2021 9:00-11:30am, or 1/23/2021)

Please extend the invitation to members of your clubs and anyone you know in other clubs that would like to be involved in "Supporting the Environment" through the activities and support of the Environment Committee. Our next meeting is proposed for 7:00am Monday December 14, 2020. Please contact Christopher Puttock (Christopher.Puttock@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved.

ROTARY DISTRICT SUPPORTS WOMEN PEACE BUILDERS IN WEST AFRICA

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, D7620 DISC Co-chair

Rotary District 7620 is a major supporter of the Women Peace Builders Training in West Africa, a global grant that was recently approved by The Rotary Foundation. This proposal is designed to

support and prepare women primarily in West Africa (from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cameroon) to thrive as leaders in peacebuilding. This is a multi-country, cooperative effort led by Jim Palmquist of the Rotary Club of Emmaus, PA; the Ikeja Rotary Club of Lagos, Nigeria; and Mediators Beyond

Borders International (MBBI), an international Service Partner of Rotary International, which was founded on the principle of people-centered peacebuilding. Peacebuilding is a pillar of Rotary International's Mission.

How did the Peace Builders Global Grant come to D7620? When DC Rotarian Marcus Soriano attended the Toronto Convention in 2018, he connected with this Women Peace Builders project showcased in the House of Friendship exhibit hall and brought it home. Then fellow Rotarian John Sullivan, head of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and part of the National Endowment for Democracy, evaluated the project for the DC's International Service Committee, and gave it a strong "thumbs up" commenting, "This training is much needed." The DC Club donated \$5k, and D7620 donated \$10k in DDF, which was matched 100% by The Rotary Foundation. Meanwhile grant leader Jim Palmquist spent the following two years

speaking to clubs, calling 1500 leads to secure the rest of the funding, and then COVID-19 hit and the grant had to be re-imagined.

Vision for Peace. Jim Palmquist gave a shoutout to us and reported on this peace project during the recent MBBI breakout at the Zone 33/34 Leadership Summit on November 21:

"While most Rotary projects impact Peace, not many districts are familiar with peacebuilding and very few projects deal directly with Peace. Rotary has a phenomenal opportunity to change the world, much like we've done with Polio but even broader in its impact because we are so well-positioned to be the peacebuilders of the world. And with resources like MBBI...we have just tremendous potential. . . I do think this is just such a powerful idea, the idea of training people on how to reduce conflict and engage as junior mediators in their communities, that we could really change Rotary's focus in the world to be the NGO peacebuilder in the world."

What's it all about? The goal is to develop and support women leaders working to address conflicts in their communities and countries. This month, 30 scholarship candidates, five from each country, will be screened and interviewed from among 250 applicants. "There is an incredible thirst for peacebuilding skills," said Jim. The first stage of the training will start in January 2021. Candidates will include a diverse group, different ages, rural and urban mix, potentially recognized leaders in their communities, all with the potential and commitment to share their skills and put their training into practice. For example, one graduate trained 9,000 people, facilitating the peace process in her country through MBBI training.

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FREDERICK ROTARY COMMEMORATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Joanne McCoy, President, Rotary Club of Frederick

More than 100 years ago, in August of 1920, several of the most prominent citizens of Frederick, Maryland, met at Carty's Furniture Store on East Patrick Street to discuss chartering a Rotary club for their town. The concept was thoroughly vetted and unanimously approved, and within two months, the group had received its charter and the Rotary Club of Frederick held its first meeting.

For the past two years, plans were well underway for a year-long celebration of Rotary in Frederick for RY 2020-21 when something few anticipated hit: the world closed down in an effort to contain and manage the spread of COVID-19. Suddenly, our celebration felt inappropriate and tone-deaf. How could a club whose motto was "Service Above Self" dance in the streets when our fellow community members were suffering financial disaster, food insecurity, and loneliness from enforced isolation?

To use the word of the year, our club decided to "pivot" and convert our original plans to celebrate into a far more impactful and meaningful activity: we would use our centennial celebration dollars to serve those hardest hit by the pandemic.

On July 1, 2020, The Rotary Club of Frederick committed to giving back \$100,000 to the community to commemorate our 100 years of service. Efforts such as the following during the first half of the Rotary year have put us well on our way:

- Our Service Partnership Grant Committee led by longtime Rotarian Pat Hanberry was given \$60,000 to award to help extend the reach

of local nonprofits whose missions aligned with Rotary's areas of focus and were already engaged in supporting those who are struggling in our community.

- As of November 23, 2020, including the \$5,000 matching grant from District 7620, we have invested



[Above] President Jo McCoy with First Century Trust Co-Chairs Phil Berkheimer and Charlie Nicodemus; Rotarians gathered in Baker Park on October 28, 2020, 100 years to the day from the Rotary Club of Frederick's first meeting, to plant a red maple tree, and the plaque that accompanies the Rotary Club of Frederick's red maple tree. -Julie L. Hipkins Originations Photography

\$18,893.97 into our Food & More program. Created by Past-President Mark Lancaster in April of 2020, Food & More mobilizes 40 club members to shop safely and deliver food to limited income, homebound seniors at highest risk for COVID-19. Another 35 members served as "Rotabuddies, providing support and friendship via phone calls and cards, and staying in touch with these seniors during this lonely time. The program is slated to continue through June 1, 2021.

- We funded two microgrants at \$2,500 each when Frederick City announced a program to help some of our town's hardest hit businesses stay open.
- We set aside \$6,000 to purchase and provide needed items to local nonprofits to help them better care for the increased amount of community members seeking help.

At a fully-masked, physically distant, outdoor meeting at Frederick's Harry Grove Stadium on October 7, the

highlight of the program was an announcement by Phil Berkheimer and Charlie Nicodemus, both longtime members and past presidents, that the First Century Trust of the Rotary Club of Frederick had exceeded the \$1million mark. An endowment was created by combining several

existing legacy funds at the Community Foundation with new cash and pledges from club members over the past 10 years. Proceeds from the Fund will be available in perpetuity to be used at the discretion of future Club Presidents and Boards of Directors to fund projects that will better the lives of everyone in the Frederick community.

On October 28, 2020, the Rotary Club of Frederick celebrated the very first meeting of the club that took place 100 years earlier, on October 28, 1920. We were able to safely gather again in Baker Park to plant a red maple tree as a gift to the Frederick community, in celebration of our first century of service, and as a symbol of our intention to continue serving for the next century.

"Throughout our first century of service, we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars and an equal amount of hours in bringing our service projects to fruition, in Frederick and around the world," said President Joanne McCoy. "We have been honored to join our 1.2 million fellow Rotarians in helping to provide healthcare, medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions in need. We look forward to continuing to put our motto "Service Above Self" into action during our second century of service to Frederick."

DISASTER AID USA UPDATE

Hurricanes Eta and Iota – Flooded Guatemala and Honduras

*By Bob Grill, President of Disaster Aid USA;
and Paul Mahata, Chair, District Disaster
Relief Committee*

Disaster Aid USA, in coordination with the District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee, is preparing to respond to the disasters at the northern Caribbean Coast of Guatemala and Honduras. This is in addition to our multiple deployments in Louisiana and Florida Panhandle to help the victims of Hurricanes Laura, Sally, and Delta. DAUSA is working and coordinating with the Rotary District Governors in these areas. We urge you to consider donating money individually or as a club to benefit the victims of these disasters.

Hurricanes Eta and Iota left a bleak outlook in the northern Caribbean Coast of Guatemala and Honduras. Both unleashed torrential rains that have, in turn, caused widespread flooding and devastating landslides and mudslides. The weather systems have destroyed houses, flooded villages, toppled trees, and knocked out power grids, driving thousands of people out of their homes to seek sanctuary in other more secure structures; others have died or gone missing.

The East Guatemala Rotary Club contacted the Cypress-Fairbanks Rotary Club in Houston, TX, and indicated the immense need for humanitarian relief due to Eta and Iota's hurricanes brought to the different areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The East Guatemala Rotary Club is fully capable of guaranteeing delivery to the areas most affected by the two storms in the recent weeks. Guatemala also has Rotary Clubs working in the most affected regions of Izabal, Coban, Huehuetenango, Gualán, and Chiquimula. All these areas have no road access now due to the loss of bridges and roads. DAUSA was assured by the local Rotary clubs that all humanitarian aid will be delivered to devastated areas. We have been made aware that the Government of Guatemala granted the Rotary Clubs in Guatemala a five-year governmental exemption franchise enabling Rotary to bring into the country all humanitarian aid donated free of tax.

We are asking that you consider visiting the DAUSA web site: www.DisasterAidUSA.org and click on the PayPal button and make donations individually or as a club. Your donations will be used to provide aid and assistance to the victims of Hurricanes Eta, Iota, Laura, Sally, and Delta, as people rebuild their lives and homes. Alternatively, you can mail a check to: Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD 20706. Also, there is an option for donating money through Network for Good.

<https://disasteraidusa.networkforgood.com/projects/107762-hurricane-laura-2020>

For any questions feel free to contact Bob Grill: bob.grill@disasteraidusa.org or Paul Mahata: Pmahata@verizon.net.



DISTRICT BYLAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By DGN Sean McAlister (Rotary Club of Capitol Hill)

Each of Rotary's nearly 35,000 Clubs worldwide has its own Club constitution and bylaws. These documents, together with the Constitution of Rotary International, the Bylaws of Rotary International, and the most recent 2019 Rotary International Manual of Procedures, constitute the legislation governing the administration of each club. This also is the case for Rotary International's 535 Rotary Districts.

District and Club constitutions rarely change, but bylaws are periodically updated to align with evolving culture and demographics requirements. District bylaws are also updated every three years to incorporate Rotary International's Council of Legislation changes. The last Council of Legislation was held in 2019, and the next will be held in 2022.

But what are bylaws? Basically, they are the written rules that control the internal affairs of an organization. Bylaws generally define things like the group's official name, purpose, requirements for membership, officers' responsibilities, how committees are to be assigned, how meetings should be conducted, and how often meetings will be held. Bylaws govern the way the group must function as well as the roles and responsibilities of its officers. They are essential in helping an organization map out its purpose and the practical day-to-day details of how it will go about its business. Bylaws also serve as the legal guidelines of the organization.

Bylaws are also sometimes mistakenly

called standard operating procedures (SOPs) or policies and procedures, but those are different things, as they tend to govern day-to-day operations and do not have the force of law, which bylaws do.

In the spring of 2020, then District Governor Barton Goldenberg, suggested that District 7620 should review its current bylaws since they had not been updated since 2012. On July 1, 2020, current District Governor Jimmie Gorski formed an ad hoc District Bylaws Committee to review and make recommendations to bring them in line with the Rotary International's 2019 Council of Legislation and to reflect the current culture of the District.

DG Jimmie tapped DGN Sean McAlister to chair this committee, and she appointed DGE Geetha Jayaram, PDG Ray Streib, PDG Andy Baum, PDG Bob Parkinson and District Treasurer Sharon Taylor to the committee. Since July, this committee has diligently met nearly once a week in its pursuit. DGN Sean's goal is for the committee to present its proposed recommendations to DG Jimmie by mid-January 2021.

In accordance with the current 2012 District Bylaws, DG Jimmie will then present the Bylaws Committee's recommendations to the Clubs for review and comment in early spring. More details will be announced in January on how this will happen. The club presidents will then have an opportunity to vote on the adoption of the proposed 2021 District Bylaws during the 2021 District Conference this April in Annapolis. If approved by majority vote, the new 2021 District

Bylaws would come into effect on July 1, 2021 during DGE Geetha Jayaram's term as District Governor.

Please send any questions about the District Bylaws Committee to DGN Sean McAlister at SDMRotary7620@outlook.com.

GAITHERSBURG ROTARY FEEDS PEOPLE

By Kenneth D. Weiss, Gaithersburg Rotary Club

Coronavirus. Unemployment. People hungry. Our Rotary Club is rising to the occasion.

Our member, Jack Bell, is a key employee of Nourish Now, one of the county's primary food providers. Also, Jack leads our project to staff the food bank for Gaithersburg HELP one evening a month.

On November 15th, members helped the Montgomery County Muslim Federation place bags of food in the open trunks of some 500 hungry cars. Then, on the 21st, members worked with the Federation to provide nearly a hundred people with Thanksgiving dinner in a box.

On November 23rd, 24th and 25th, some of us joined the Germantown Cares Hub in packing hundreds of boxes of food and delivering them to homes in the Montrose Mobile Home Park and the Cider Mill Apartments.

With all that, we are preventing some people from going to bed hungry. What better way to use our volunteer hours?

DISTRICT ROTARACT CLUB NEWS



By Monique S. Toussaint, District 7620 Rotaract Chair

Below are the Rotaract events that happened within District 7620, in the month of November from the Rotaract District Leadership Team.

The Rotaract Club of American University

The Rotaract Club of American University held a community service event this month and will be hosting another on December 1! Keep up the great work in your community!

The Rotaract Club of UMD

The Rotaract Club of UMD held a workshop on wellness during the pandemic. Look out for more workshops on their instagram @umdrotaract

The Rotaract Club of Washington, DC Annual Thanksgiving Potluck and Food Drive.

The DC Rotaract collected food donations for the Capital Area Food Bank.

The Rotaract Club of Howard University

held an event titled "BEING Inspired Through Service," a joint meeting with the Rotaract Club of Georgetown University & Rotaract Club of Kingston in Jamaica on November 12th. This meeting focused on self-care and giving back, and attendees made virtual cards for kids in Jamaica and DC.

District 7620 has 13 active Rotaract Clubs in Washington D.C. and Central Maryland. Our 3 community-based and 10 university-based clubs are:

Rotaract Club of American University

Rotaract Club of Annapolis

Rotaract Club of Frederick Community College

Rotaract Club of George Washington University

Rotaract Club of Georgetown University

Rotaract Club of Hood College

Rotaract Club of Howard County

Rotaract Club of Howard University

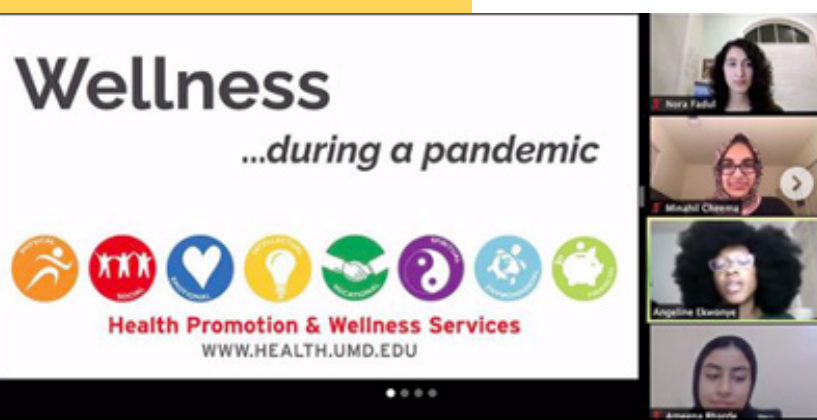
Rotaract Club of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Rotaract Club of University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

Rotaract Club of University of Maryland College Park (UMCP)

Rotaract Club of University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.





Being Inspired Through Service

A JOINT MEETING WITH
GEORGETOWN U ROTARACT CLUB & JAMAICA ROTARACT CLUB OF KINGSTON!

THURSDAY NOV, 12TH

7:00-8:30 PM ET

JOIN US AS WE MAKE HOLIDAY CARDS FOR ORPHANS IN JAMAICA & DC!



ZOOM link in bio!

 @HUROTARACT

 @HUROTARACT

SMOKETOWN ROTARY CLUB CHALLENGE

By Dick Foot, Rotary Club of Carroll Creek

In an effort to make real to Smoketown Rotarians the global impact of Rotary, Carroll Creek Rotarian Richard Foot, sponsoring Club advisor to the two-year-old Rotary Club in Brunswick, Maryland, issued a challenge to the Smoketown Club members.

Foot pledged to make a \$100 contribution to The Rotary Foundation in the name of the first Smoketown Rotarian who connects with a "Brunswick" Rotary Club outside of Maryland. Foot said that the "connection"

could take the form of (1) engaging in one of the club's virtual meetings; (2) exchanging mini-club banner for Smoketown Rotary Club railroad spike; or (3) attending a club meeting, service project, fellowship event, or fundraiser in-person (once the pandemic passes). Once the contact is made, the Smoketown Rotarian was encouraged to share with the Smoketown Rotary Club something of interest about the club with which s/he connected (signature fundraiser, major club service project, etc.).

It appears that the sun never sets on Rotary Clubs in Brunswick! Brunswick Rotary Clubs around the world are meeting every weekday, except Tuesdays. Foot suggested to the Smoketown Rotary Club that members download the Rotary Club Connector app on cellphones to

obtain meeting times, locations, officers, etc. of ALL Rotary Clubs worldwide!

Brunswick Rotary Clubs are meeting around the clock . . .

Brunswick, ME - Monday, Noon

Brunswick Coastal, ME - Wednesday, 6:00 PM

Brunswick Tullamarine, Brunswick East, Victoria, Australia - Thursday, 12:30 PM

Brunswick, GA - Thursday, Noon

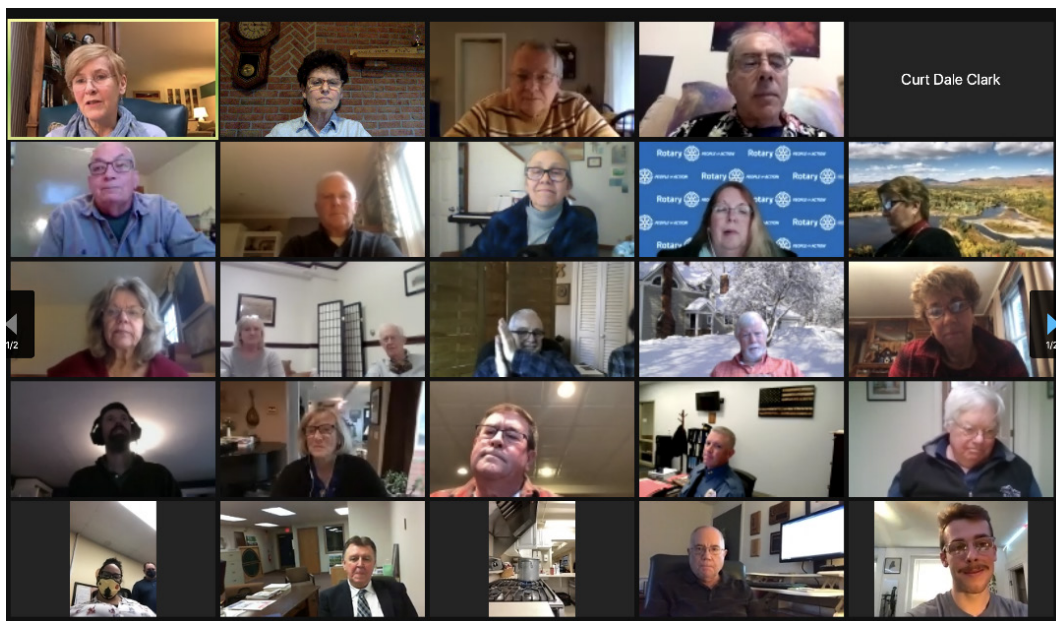
Brunswick, OH - Thursday, 7:15 AM

What an inspiring club! Brunswick, ME has a population of approximately 20,400 so they're about 3 times the size of Brunswick, MD. There were about 30 people attending the meeting yesterday. They support their community in numerous ways - Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc, but they recently donated \$50,000 to help build a Veteran's Memorial Park! They have a routine for their meetings that include introductions of guests, the pledge, an "Astronomy Pic of the Day" (Charlie!), an invocation (they used one from Elder William Brewster

(Plymouth) this week), a "Relaxation Video" (<https://youtu.be/hpKuOIM4qk>), announcements (from specific people and then, from the broader audience), Happy Dollars (including some jokes to start it off), and then their speaker. This week, they surprised the Director of Parks and

Rec with a Paul Harris Award. After the award was given, the director gave a brief presentation on current projects and how Covid affected their operations.

I am SO happy that Dick challenged our group to find a "Brunswick" Rotary to visit - Maine is special to me since I graduated from the Univ. of Maine and Mike and I were married in Somesville, ME. Thanks, Dick, for donating to the Rotary Foundation in my name - what a wonderful gift to the Foundation and me!



South Brunswick Islands, NC - Friday, 7:30 AM

New Brunswick, NJ - Thursday, 12:15 PM

Smoketown Rotary Club of Brunswick, MD - Friday, 12:00 PM

Smoketown Rotary Club charter member Karin Tome accepted Foot's challenge, and participated in the weekly virtual meeting of the Rotary Club of Brunswick, Maine. Karin reports: "I joined a ZOOM meeting yesterday for the Rotary Club of Brunswick, MAINE and wanted to "brief" you on it.

ELLICOTT CITY SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB SUPPORTED HOWARD COUNTY DIAPER PROJECT

By Andy Stewart, President, Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary

In cooperation with Costco Wholesale of Elkridge, Maryland, eleven Rotarians purchased and delivered more than

eligible Howard County families. Cars, vans, and trucks were lined up to load and unload. Rotarian Halt found the Food Bank warehouse manager eager to receive the shipment, "We ran out of Size 6 on Thursday."

Last year, after hearing a presentation from Diaper Bank staff, Rotarians learned that diapers are not eligible for purchase with food stamps. An important, real, need for diapers became evident. This is the third time Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary Club has supported the "Howard County Diaper Project" in this way since 2019. In addition to the purchase, Costco Wholesale management also donated \$100 worth of gift cards; this money was also used to purchase diapers and baby wipes.

Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary is tremendously grateful to the David M. Barnes Trust which provided funding for this purchase and delivery. In addition, John Halt, Ellicott City Sunrise Rotarian, offered to "match" member donations. The money went to the Club; twice the amount was spent on diapers! Like a "no-bake bake sale," 100% of all monies received by the Club will be used for other charitable and service projects.

For more information about the Howard County Diaper Project, see their Facebook page (HoCoDiaperProject).

Andy Stewart, President of Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary, noted, "This goes beyond wonderful to show one example of how a small group of committed individuals is working together to make a big impact; we are a part of a win-win situation here. The Howard County Diaper Project "wins;" the Food Bank "wins;" local moms and dads "win," and Rotarians are visibly showing the Rotary Motto of "Service above Self." We have been having fun all morning – so we are "winning," too!



Save the Date

District Governor Jimmie Gorski invites you to explore historic Annapolis and attend the District Conference.

District 7620 Conference
April 23 & April 24, 2021

The Graduate Annapolis
126 West Street



1.1 TONS (2200+ pounds) of diapers to the Howard County Diaper Project on Saturday, October 24. Roughly, eight pallets of diapers and 200 containers of baby wipes were delivered. Club Project Coordinator, Rotarian John Halt, insured the sizes which are in most demand at the Diaper Bank were obtained from Costco. To minimize COVID-19 exposure, warehouse staff pre-selected the boxes of diapers in needed sizes. Then, a caravan of nine Rotarian vehicles made the four-mile journey to the Food Bank, which oversees the distribution of diapers (and food) to

HOW MEDIATORS BEYOND BORDERS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WITH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ON PEACEBUILDING

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, D7620
DISC Co-chair

For the last five years, Mediators Beyond Borders International has been an International Service Partner of Rotary International, both sharing a "strong ... commitment to global, grassroots and community-centered peacebuilding."

MBBI President and CEO Prabha Sankaranarayan spoke on November 21 at the Rotary Zone 33/34 Leadership Summit about women's participation in peace processes. The conference introduced Prabha by explaining that "when women participate in peace processes, the resulting agreement is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years." She reported that research covering the last 30 years indicating that the inclusion of women as a peace strategy could reduce conflict and advance stability has been largely ignored. Even though it has been shown that women can improve the outcomes, she noted that between 1992-2019, women constituted only 13% of those involved in peace negotiations, only 6% were mediators and only 6% were signatories in major agreements. Seven of ten peace negotiations did not include women.

Nonetheless, MBBI has been working for the last eight years to build women's capacity to facilitate peace processes. MBBI has been invited by hundreds of people, organizations, and communities to launch peace training and consulting projects in countries worldwide.

The Rotary International/MBBI partnership has been synergistic with more opportunities to come. Among the many joint accomplishments of the partnership are:

- MBBI has trained over 2,000

Rotarians at breakout sessions during Rotary Conventions and Peace Conferences since 2014.

- MBBI organized International Peace Training Institutes for women peacebuilders in Southeast Asia, the Andean Region and the Middle East, and North Africa, with another to be launched in West Africa next year. MBBI has conducted training partially funded by Rotary global grants in 33 countries.

- MBBI has presented at dozens of Rotary clubs throughout the world.

- MBBI partnered with RI at the World Peace Conference 2020 and 2016.

- MBBI leaders are also active Rotarians who have helped clubs and districts develop peace committees and action plans.

MBBI CEO Prabha noted that "RI has the capacity to become the major peacebuilder organization." To learn more about MBBI and Rotary, go to mediatorsbeyondborders.org.

PEACE BUILDERS IN WEST AFRICA

(continued from page 4)

Palmquist summarizes the training's five elements:

- 1) A five-day introductory online (because of COVID) training for a cohort of 30 women peace builders. The training is based on a model called the International Peace Training Institute (IPTI) launched by MBBI in 2012 with the goal of developing a global network of women peace leaders. The peacebuilding skills program uses dialogue facilitation, mediation, restorative justice, and training methodology; negotiation and advocacy training skills;

and cohorts are taught to think strategically about the best use of these skills in cultural contexts.

- 2) A five-day advanced training 8-12 months later - based on the training needs uncovered in fieldwork.

- 3) Monthly coaching sessions provided by the MBBI trainers since trainees are expected to expand their current field work.

- 4) Development and execution of community projects in their home countries.

- 5) Access to an international network of other IPTI participants from different regions of the world to create an international working group, sharing lessons learned and best practices.

Previous trainings in Jakarta in 2016 and Bogota in 2017, funded with Rotary Foundation global grants, have been successful. The 93 participants trained so far have impacted over 20,000 people living in areas prone to conflict.

Outcomes and new goals. The projected outcomes include: a) increased peacebuilding skills and activities of the trainee cohort in local projects and increased connection with Rotary peacebuilding efforts in their home countries; b) increased understanding and skills related to conflict resolution/prevention; c) increased community awareness of alternative ways to address conflict within the family and community, and d) increased branding of Rotary's Peacebuilding efforts.

MBBI has called for training 100,000 women in 2021, noting that Peace is not just about reducing violence; women work at the nexus of peace and the areas of health, education, development and the environment.

THREE NEW INTERACT CLUBS

*By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District 7620
Interact & RYLA Chair*

The District 7620 Interact Committee is pleased to announce the charter of three new Interact clubs in our district.

1. Interact Club of Howard County sponsored by the Rotary Club of Howard County. The Howard County IC is community-based club and was chartered on September 16, 2020.

2. Interact Club of College Park sponsored by the Rotary Club of College Park. The College Park IC is a high school-based club and was chartered on September 15, 2020.

3. Interact Club of Charles County sponsored by the Rotary Club of Charles County (La Plata). The Charles County IC is a community-based club and was chartered on October 26, 2020.

Congratulations to the sponsoring Clubs for their immense support of our youth programs. We could not do it without you!

Interact Club of Metro Bethesda

Metro Bethesda Interactors participating in rice & bean packing for Small Things Matter Kokua Food Program for those in need in Montgomery County!

Interactors of Metro Bethesda and Rotarians celebrating **World**

Interact Week with speakers and a collection for I Support The Girls! These students are the best!

Rotary International Interact Awards!

Are you thinking about submitting photos to this year's Interact Awards? Check out these tips and learn more at <http://on.rotary.org/2020InteractAwards!>

Interact Club of Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts

Congratulations to the Interact Club of Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts for receiving the **Rotary International Presidential Citation with Platinum Distinction**. This is the highest distinction an Interact Club can receive! Rotary District 7620 is very proud of you!

The Club officers of the Richard Wright PCS Interact Club took over the Wednesday lunch meeting of their sponsoring Washington, DC Rotary Club during **World Interact Week** (November 1-7) and were surprised with this amazing recognition. The students also presented on their past and upcoming projects and the Washington, DC Rotary Club awarded the Richard Wright PCS teacher liaison, Mr. Joe Gassert with honorary membership in their Club.

Perry Hall Interact Club

District 7620 Interactors don't stop working. **Congratulations to the Interact Club of Perry Hall for recruiting 93 new members!** Perry Hall National Honor Society students joined Interact and became one large Club. We are so proud of you!

Please email (mncruz10@gmail.com) or call/text (562.303.4711) District 7620 Interact & RYLA Chair, Marilyn Nevy Cruz with any questions.



[Above] Metro Bethesda Interactors participating in rice and bean packing for Small Things Matter Kokua Food Program for those in need in Montgomery County.

[Below] Interactors of Metro Bethesda and Rotarians celebrating World Interact Week with speakers and a collection for I Support The Girls.



ROTARY SCHOLAR ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACE & SECURITY SHARES THE STAGE WITH FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE

By May O'Brien, DC Rotary Scholarship Committee

Ever wonder what happens to our Rotary Scholars? After Agathe Christien, a Rotary Global Grant Scholar from Brittany, France, got her Masters' from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service in Arabic and Peace & Conflict Resolution, she joined the GU Institute for Women, Peace & Security (GIWPS) as the Hillary Rodham Clinton Research Fellow.

Agathe is the lead author of a joint report, "Advancing Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Reconstruction" and "UN Action Plan," which was launched at a virtual program on November 11, 2020, streamed by Reuters TV. She shared the stage with keynote speaker former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; UAE Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Lana Nusseibeh; and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, GIWPS Director. Agathe and Ambassador Vermeer briefed the audience on the report's findings and action plan and led the discussion. At the end of the program, several ambassadors to the UN endorsed the report and proclaimed its importance.

The report celebrates the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, affirming the "important role of women in the prevention and solution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to



[Above] "I hope that this report and action plan can help the UN, post-conflict states, and development partners make concrete commitments to adopt a gender perspective and advance women's meaningful participation in post-conflict reconstruction." -- Agathe Christien

conflict prevention and resolution . . ."

The GIWPS report aim is to advance women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction. The following areas in post-conflict transition period are addressed in four chapters: 1) Enhancing Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Governance; 2) Fostering Women's Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability in Economic Recovery; 3) Advancing Justice for Women; and 4) Championing Security Sector Reform. GIWPS notes "The ... report highlights effective strategies and entry points to ensure women's meaningful



[Above] Agathe and her Mum and sister at her GU SFS graduation.

participation as decision-makers, implementers, and beneficiaries of post-conflict reconstruction. The UN Action Plan offers priority actions and specific recommendations to advance these goals." For example, the report shows that "Women's political participation is associated with more equitable policy outcomes and a reduced likelihood of renewed conflict."

The report and action plan were written by a team at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security—led by Agathe Christien and Jeni Klugman. The report followed a number of panel discussions with policymakers, practitioners and experts; the report and action plan, and most of the webinars are available online at [GIWPS.georgetown.edu](https://giwps.georgetown.edu).

Agathe Christien, a Rotary Global Grant Scholar sponsored with the Fouesnant Sud Rotary Club in France, (near Quimper in Brittany) and District 1650 and a graduate of the prestigious Sciences Po university, came to our club out of the blue after Bart Cleary, US coordinator of the US-France Intercountry Committee, called me looking for a sponsor in Washington, DC, to meet a looming TRF deadline for the French club's global grant scholarship application. I volunteered! I had never sponsored a Rotary scholar before, but now I could never be prouder! Aside from her studies, she enjoys Jazz and Swing Dancing! She is now back in France, working for the World Bank, remotely. Kudos, Agathe!

DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE CALENDAR

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, D7620
DISC Co-chair

Expand your international horizons!

5 December - Rotary Action Group for Peace's inaugural "Legacy of Peace Award" will be bestowed on Mr. Albin "Al" Jubitz, Jr., co-founder of the Peace RAG. Al has dedicated his life to fostering peace. The Legacy of Peace Award is to be bestowed on Rotarians and peacebuilders who have demonstrated through their exemplary leadership an enduring and impactful commitment to the enhancement of world peace efforts. The Peace RAG will be honoring Al at a special Zoom event on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Contact: wendy@Rotariansforpeace.

10 December – Webinar: Groundwater Recharge; A key component for sustainable aquifer management, focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM EST, sponsored by The University of Texas at Austin and UHL Associates. Sustainable management of groundwater resources requires information on groundwater recharge (the rate at which aquifers are replenished). Recharge rates provide an upper limit on the longterm rates at which groundwater can be safely extracted for human and agricultural uses. And with an increasing need for food production, small and large-scale irrigation schemes are increasingly being developed in SSA, principally from groundwater sources. This webinar will illustrate the importance of natural recharge in SSA. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ut-austin-uhl-assoc-groundwater-recharge-webinar-registration127174968755>.

10 December – UN Human Rights Day

12 December – B.I.G. Sale! Books

for International Goodwill's next book sale, 8 AM – 2 PM: 451 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD. Sponsored by the Parole Annapolis Rotary Club, B.I.G.'s book sales offer an excellent opportunity to purchase books at highly discounted prices! Buy presents for the holidays. The BIG warehouse is located 1.7 miles west of the Annapolis Mall on the south side of the road. Books are priced at \$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for trade softbound, and \$1 for pocket paperbacks. You may fill a provided grocery shopping bag for \$35 or \$25 after 1:30 PM.

All participants MUST wear masks and practice distancing. The proceeds are used to ship books overseas to underserved populations in developing countries. The Parole Rotary Club has delivered over 8.7 million books to more than 30 countries to promote literacy, education and culture and to recycle gently used books. Over 1,000 books are donated a day! For more information: www.big-books.org or contact 4bigbooks@gmail.com

9 December – 8:30 am -- Ocean Plastic pollution: USAID's approach to the global problem. Speaker: Colin Holmes, Director, USAID's Land and Urban Office, which leads the Agency's efforts to strengthen land tenure and property rights of all members of society and to promote sustainable urbanization solutions, improved municipal governance and improved service delivery, as well as combatting ocean plastic pollution. Colin is the President of the Capitol Hill Rotary Club. Colin joined USAID in 2009 and the US Foreign Service in 2011, serving abroad in Nepal and Bangladesh. From 2016-19, Colin served on the management team of USAID's Office of Forestry and Biodiversity. He has a Masters in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis and a BS

in Biology from Santa Clara University. Colin's Rotary experience began with RYLA in high school, and served as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to India in 2002-2004. He belonged to the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Midtown while in Nepal. To register for ESRAG's Biodiversity Seminars, email Yasar Atacik

14 December – D.7620 Environment Committee meets, 7:00 AM. Contact Chris Puttock for Zoom link, ChristopherPuttock@gmail.com.

15 December – DEADLINE: Last day to get December registration discount for RI Convention Taipei. \$365. <https://convention.rotary.org/>

23 December -- ESRAG Biodiversity Task Force meeting, 9:00 AM ET – Open session Projects Assessment. Contact ChristopherPuttock@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

2021

13 January – ESRAG Biodiversity Task Force meeting, Topic: Clean Air – Charlie Garlow. 9:00 am. For meeting details, contact Christopherputtock@gmail.com. There is an accessible archive of earlier talks on Coral Reefs, Aquaponics, and Soil Health on the ESRAG website.

14 January, 7 PM, repeated 15 January at 11 AM - Webinar -- Nuts & Bolts of WASH.

Global Grants – Monitoring & Evaluation, Part 3– sponsored by the WASH Rotary Action Group and The Rotary Foundation. Register at WASHRAG.org.

Join us for the third of a three-part webinar series on global grants focused on WASH in Schools (WinS). Parts 1 and 2 webinars are available at wasrag.org.

Register at WASRAG.org.

RI CONVENTION SURVEY

By Holger Knaack, Rotary International President

Dear Friends:

I am reaching out to you because you attended a Rotary International convention in recent years. We would be interested in hearing your experiences and opinions to ensure that the convention continues to meet your expectations, as well as to support new opportunities to serve the Rotary community.

Knowing more about your interests and goals will help us offer more meaningful and engaging future conventions. We will use your responses to search for convention sponsors that are relevant to attendees. Sponsors reduce the cost of the convention for attendees.

I sincerely appreciate your participation in this short survey to which you only have to spend a few minutes. To get started, click on the following link:

[Take the Survey](#)

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8zYT1SvLn9oat0N?Q_DL=ZD2M0kZsSrbCyPk_8zYT1SvLn9oat0N_CGC_uez74udrltcQWdh&Q_CHL=email

I understand that this message could come at a difficult time for you. I want you to know that my highest priority is taking care of our Rotary clubs and our friends in the clubs, although I am constantly amazed at the work Rotarians do to serve the world in the midst of the worst pandemic we have ever experienced in our lives. Thank you for all that you do for Rotary and your neighbors in need. Know that you have my deepest appreciation and admiration.

INTERACT ADVISORY COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY

By Marilyn Nevly Cruz, District 7620 Interact & RYLA Chair

Youth voice is vital in creating innovative, strategic, and lasting change for Rotary International. Thanks to the new Interact Advisory Council, recently approved by President-elect Shekhar Mehta, Interactors and recent Interact alumni have a chance to serve at the international level and advise the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

The Interact Advisory Council will be comprised of eight current Interactors from around the world and two Interact alumni as advisors. The Council will:

- provide recommendations for the most effective and sustainable structure for continued Interact representation at Rotary's International level;
- create innovative programming that connects Interactors from all across the world;
- and further collaboration of Interactors with Rotaractors and Rotarians, advising on how to strengthen and encourage life-long connections to Rotary International.

All interested Interactors and Interact alumni must submit an application by Sunday, 20 December 2020 at 11:59 PM - UTC-5 (Chicago Time), including goals for the Council, a short video, and a reference from an Interact advisor or other Rotary mentor.

Please share this opportunity with Interactors and recent Interact alumni.

Application for the 2021-22 Interact Advisory Council:
https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2aRhv12KXCxCaEZ

“The best antidote for international fear is international understanding.”

-- Rotary International Founder Paul Harris, 1928.

Rotary



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