

FIRST VIRTUAL ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

By Sonia Liu, MetroBethesda Rotary Club

A very first and different kind of Virtual District Conference 2020 kicked off on Friday, June 26 at 6:30pm and successfully closed on Saturday, June 27 at 12:30pm. The highlights are:

- A Stimulating Opening Keynote: "What Will Rotary Look Like in 2025" by Tom Thorfinnson, Chief Strategy Officer of RI.
- An Amazing 4-Way Test Competition, the winners are: 1st place: Aislinn Murray - Severn High School; sponsored by Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club; 2nd place: Sai Badugu - Mt. Hebron High School; 3rd place: Rio Biran - Urbana High School; 4th place: Ben Ault - Rockbridge Academy.

• A Wonderful Panel of Global Scholars:

In-Bound Global Scholar: Dr. Satoshi from Japan;

Out-Bound Global Scholar: Ms. Aminata.

• A Thoughtful Memorial Service - Celebration of Life for our passing Rotarians.

• District Club Awards - Rotary Year 2019-2020.

• An Impressive Keynote Entrepreneur: "The Intersection of Entrepreneurship" by Seth Goldman, Honest Tea.

• People of Action: Virtual Service Projects for Your Club by Catonya Lester from Baltimore Sunset Rotary Club.

• DG Barton Goldenberg's Acknowledgements and Awards.

• Remarks from Incoming District Governor Jimmie Gorski.

• Closing Remarks: DG Barton Goldenberg.

• Special Session | Council on Legislation

Presentation & Vote:

PDG Andy Baum was elected to be our District COL Representative for 2020-2023 and PDG Claude Morissette was elected as the Alternate Representative.

This unprecedented COVID-19 threatened and changed our life. However, it also gave us the opportunities to connect the world even more and better. We are fearless, we are people of action. We got a record-high contribution, we also got a record-high registration for a virtual meeting, thank you for all of your great and strong support! Your participation made our very first Virtual District Conference even more special!

Comments from Jane MacMillan:

Just wanted to say how wonderful the Virtual District Conference was. Really impressive!

I have been a Rotarian since 1989, first year we women were invited to join.

Originally in the now defunct Towson Club, I was later in the Downtown Towson Club, formed by a few of us from Towson.

That club only lasted about 6 years, and now I am with Hunt Valley Rotary since 2009. So proud of the part our Matt May played in tonight's 4-Way Test contest.

That has been our club's signature project for 51 years and includes elementary school poster and middle school essay contests. I am so disappointed that could not happen this year.

I think I saw that the program was being recorded. I hope it can be shared with those of us who did not tune in.

Thanks for making this possible, Ashley, Temrah, Jennie and Sonia. You go, girls! It was great!

Best regards, *Jane MacMillan, Secretary, Hunt Valley Rotary*

