



VOCATIONAL SERVICE



THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First - The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second - High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third - The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth - The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

January is Vocational Service Month in Rotary, a time to recognize and celebrate the importance of integrity, professional excellence, and service in our vocations. As **one of Rotary's Five Avenues of Service**, Vocational Service calls on Rotarians to use their skills, knowledge, and expertise to serve others while upholding high ethical standards in business and professional life.

What is Vocational Service?

Vocational Service is the essence of Rotary. It is the way Rotarians bring their professions into service, using their careers as a means to make a difference. It is about:

- **Demonstrating high ethical standards in business and professions**
- **Advancing professional development through mentorship and education**
- **Encouraging integrity and fairness in workplaces and communities**
- **Applying professional expertise to address societal challenges**

At the heart of Vocational Service is The Four-Way Test, a simple yet powerful ethical guide that ensures our actions are rooted in honesty, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all.

How Can Rotarians Engage in Vocational Service?

There are many ways to put Vocational Service into action, such as:

- **Mentoring and Career Guidance – Support young professionals and students by sharing career insights, leadership advice, and industry expertise.**
- **Recognizing Ethical Leadership – Honor individuals in your community who demonstrate integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to service.**
- **Skill-Based Community Service – Use your professional skills to support Rotary service projects, such as providing legal aid, financial literacy training, medical services, or vocational education.**
- **Encouraging Ethical Business Practices – Promote integrity and transparency in the workplace and advocate for ethical decision-making in all professional dealings.**

Making an Impact Through Our Work

Vocational Service reminds us that our professions are not just a means of earning a living but a platform for creating positive change. Whether we are educators, healthcare providers, business leaders, engineers, or entrepreneurs, we all have the power to use our expertise for good.

As we observe Vocational Service Month, let's challenge ourselves to integrate service, integrity, and leadership into our professional lives. By doing so, we strengthen our communities and uphold **Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."**

Presidential Peace Conference

Led by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul, Türkiye, 20-22 February 2025, will be an opportunity for the Rotary community and our partners to build on Rotary's contributions to promoting peace by exploring:

- Peace in a polarized world
- Technology, media, and peacebuilding
- Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- Making peace last

The conference will also recognize the launch of the new Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The three-day conference includes keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions that will highlight the many ways Rotary members, program participants, partners, and community leaders can advocate for peace; share stories, insights, and ideas about building peace locally and globally; and foster meaningful conversations about promoting peace within our communities and beyond.

Don't miss this special, one-time event focused on ways to take action to advance the cause of peace and explore important issues of our time, including creating sustainable peace and healing in a divided world



ISTANBUL IS WAITING YOU FOR PEACE



<https://www.rotary.org/en/2025-rotary-presidential-peace-conference>



Our dearest friend Vesna Baur wrote her last article about PEACE....

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference presided by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick will take place in Istanbul from February 20-22. This is unique opportunity for the Rotary family and our partners to build on Rotary's contribution to creating lasting peace and to explore critical issues such as:

- Peace in a polarized world
- Technology, media, and peacebuilding
- Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- Ensuring lasting peace

The conference will also highlight the launch of the Rotary Otto and Fran Walter Peace Center in partnership with BAU (Bahcesehir University). Over the course of two days, through presentation, panels and workshops, the conference will explore the various ways Rotary members, program participants, our partners, and the wider community can advance peace. It will offer a platform to share ideas, discuss how peace can be promoted both locally and globally, and examine the role of PI in peacebuilding, emphasizing the impact of how Rotary communicates its mission and values. It is unique opportunity for D2483 Serbia and Montenegro members. This event is a rare and valuable opportunity for our members in D2483, as it is being held in a neighboring country. Many of you have expressed interest in attending similar events in the past, but the locations were often too distant. Now with Istanbul so close, we encourage you not to miss out on the significant chance to engage in global discussion on peace. We are confident that this event will provide inspiration, meaningful discussions and new collaboration for everyone interested in contributing to the creation of a more peaceful world.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

I always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face.

A few years ago, someone arrived late. Instead of scolding the person, we cheered. Since then, we've made it a tradition to applaud all members when they arrive for meetings. It's tough not to smile with a greeting like that.

There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and — yes — fun.

Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people — the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member, would you join your current club? It's a powerful question but don't stop there.

Do members of your club feel that they belong? Are your meetings fun? If not, what can you do about it together?

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.

Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game. This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate.

When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand in hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. Rotary magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you.

Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living The Magic of Rotary.



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2024-2025



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

Rotary and Professions: A Commitment to Ethics and Service

Since the beginning, Rotary has believed that professions are an important part of serving the community. Paul Harris and the founding members thought that people from different professions could work together not only in business but also to help society.

One of Rotary's four main areas of service is Vocational Service. This means Rotarians should follow high ethical standards in their work and use their skills to help others. This idea is a key value of Rotary. It reminds us that professions are not just for personal success but also for making the world a better place.

As Rotarians, we believe in honesty and integrity in our work. We try to spread ethical values in business and always act fairly. This shows our dedication to professional ethics.

We also believe in cooperation between professions. As Rotarians from different fields, we share our knowledge and experience. We work together to solve problems in our communities.

Helping young people start their careers is another important goal for us. Rotarians give career advice and organize mentorship programs. We know this support helps young people build successful futures.

In the end, we use our skills to help society. We create new projects in areas like health, education, the economy, and the environment. These projects bring positive change and make communities stronger.

Rotary Vocational Awards: Honoring Excellence

Rotary also supports professional excellence through the Rotary Vocational Awards. These awards recognize people who are successful in their professions, follow ethical values, and serve the community.

When we give these awards, our main goals are:

- To honor professionals who follow ethics and social responsibility,
- To highlight role models in the community,
- To encourage young people to respect ethics in their careers,
- To share Rotary's Vocational Service mission with more people.

Through these awards, we show that professions are not just for earning money but also for helping others. The Vocational Awards reflect this idea. Rotary clubs should find and honor professionals who do great work and promote Vocational Service as a core Rotary value.

Honest, responsible, and socially aware professionals help build a better world. As long as Rotary exists, we will continue this important mission.

A great loss for Magic Team: ARPIC Vesna Baur

First of all, I want to say that losing dear Vesna has been a deep sadness and a big shock for me. This is what Rotary is about—you don't need a long time to love, trust, and believe in each other.

I didn't know Vesna for very long, but even in the short time we spent together, it was clear to all of us that she was kind, good-hearted, and hardworking.

I believe loyalty is one of the most important and meaningful values. As the Public Image team of the 23-26 Rotary years, we will never forget Vesna, and we will make sure she is always remembered.

As you know, for the past four years, we have been organizing a project video competition among the clubs in our zone called "Power of Goodness." I haven't shared this announcement with the friends I planned and organized the competition with, but I'm sure none of them will disagree with me. In fact, I truly believe they will support me.

It makes me very happy and proud to share that during the Power of Goodness video competition we will organize in the 24-25 Rotary year—likely with Zone 22 joining us—we will give a special award, which will be called the ARPIC Vesna Baur Special Award.

Rest in peace, Vesna.

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan
PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC
PDG 18-19 D.2430
RPIC 23-26 Region 25



AYLIN ÖZKAN
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
CHAIR
DISTRICT 2430 TÜRKİYE

Life Continues in Earthquake-Affected Regions: Hopeful Efforts from Aknehir to Tavla

Months have passed since the devastating earthquake, yet its effects are still deeply felt. Thousands of families living in container cities continue to rely on support and solidarity in their efforts to return to normalcy. In this context, various social projects are ongoing in neighborhoods like Aknehir, Sinanlı, Ballıöz, Yeniçağ, and Tavla, as well as in container cities such as Abdurrahman Melek and Kore Dostluk, to help heal the wounds of the affected communities.

Psychological Support Through Group Therapy in Neighborhoods

The trauma caused by the earthquake has profoundly impacted both the psychological and social lives of individuals. Group therapy sessions held in Aknehir, Sinanlı, Ballıöz, Yeniçağ, and Tavla have become vital steps toward individual and collective recovery. These sessions provide a sense of togetherness and help revive hope and solidarity among participants.

With the guidance of expert psychologists, these group therapy sessions address participants' concerns, foster a supportive environment, and guide them in adapting to life after the disaster. Attendees leave these sessions feeling strengthened and reassured that they are not alone.

Special Training for Children and Families in Container Cities

In the Abdurrahman Melek and Kore Dostluk container cities, special privacy education sessions are being held for children, along with informative meetings for families. These programs aim to protect children both physically and emotionally during this challenging time, fostering awareness through age-appropriate lessons.

Families are also receiving guidance on building healthy communication with their children, understanding their needs, and being mindful of potential risks. These sessions not only strengthen children but also empower families to navigate the rebuilding process more effectively.

Life Goes On, But Challenges Persist

Life in the earthquake-affected regions continues, but the challenges of living in container cities cannot be ignored. Many families are still waiting to transition to permanent housing and face daily struggles to meet even basic needs. The support of various sectors of society is crucial to making life in these regions more sustainable.

MESSAGES FROM OUR MONTHLY GUESTS

New Programs Planned for February

I am pleased to share that these efforts will continue with renewed momentum in February. Group therapy sessions, educational initiatives, and awareness programs will keep providing essential support to those in need. I will also stay in touch to keep you updated on the progress being made and to draw attention to the ongoing situation.

Let us not forget: solidarity and hope make us stronger. By continuing your support for the earthquake-affected regions, we can rebuild lives and create a brighter future together.

For a stronger future, united in hope...

Mental Health Committee Chair

Aylin Özkan





AYDA ÖZEREN
PDG DISTRICT 2440 TÜRKIYE

The Sylvia Whitlock Award is an honor given annually by Rotary International to a Rotary member who actively contributes to the advancement of women in Rotary. This award is named after Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary club president. In 1987, she served as president of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, and led efforts to promote women's participation in Rotary worldwide.

The award was created in 2017 by a group of Rotarians and became an official RI award in 2021. Nominations are accepted each year from August 1 to August 31. Any Rotary member in good standing, regardless of gender or length of membership, can be nominated.

This award aims to promote female leadership in Rotary and strengthen the role of women in the organization. As Magic Team, we are delighted to share that D2440 PDG Ayda Özeren has been honored with the Sylvia Whitlock Award for the 2024-25 Rotary year.

ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CHILDREN HOUSE

ROTARY CHILDREN'S HOUSE, organized by Rotary District 2440 and Konak Municipality, was opened and started to serve.

With the belief that the development of societies is possible with the empowerment of women and children, Rotary District 2440 offered an opportunity for working mothers to safely entrust their children and participate in working life. Rotarians were happy to provide a safe, loving and educational environment for children whose mothers work.

ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440



AYLA ÖKMEN
ÇOCUK OYUN EVİNİN TEFRİŞATI
UR ROTARY BÖLGE 2440
TARAFINDAN YAPILMIŞTIR
OCAK 2025

Rotary
Bölge 2440

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Children's Table Tennis Tournament from District 2440

Rotary Club of Bursa Demirtaş from District 2440, as every year, organized the Stars Individual League Table Tennis Tournament for children between the ages of 8-15, as a project partner with Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Sports Club.

Another community service project was successfully completed through this event, which aims to familiarize young people with sports and benefit their physical development



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Future Community Leaders; Leaders on Campus, Anatolia Rotary Club and Adana Beşocak Rotary Club

We organized the 18th Term of “Future Community Leaders; Leaders on Campus” project on January 9-10, hosted by Çukurova University Faculty of Communication, in collaboration with Anatolia Rotary Club and Adana Beşocak Rotary Club. Our event commenced with opening speeches by Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Sümbül, Dean of ÇÜ Faculty of Communication, and our District 2430 Federation President, Kerem Muradi.

Through our esteemed guest speakers, who have achieved remarkable success in their fields, we aimed to motivate and equip young people with additional training that will contribute to their personal development and social lives as they take their first steps into their professional careers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders who supported this project.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

District 2452 - Bahrain: Rotary Club of Salmaniya Distribute Food and Winter clothes to Construction Labourers

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya and the Bahrain Volunteer Work Society joined hands to distribute food and winter clothes to construction laborers along the new highway in Muharraq.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 2452 - Bahrain: Rotarians participate in tour de Bahrain

The Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain and the Rotaract Club of Bahrain jointly organized a cycling activity at the Bahrain International Circuit.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 2452 - Bahrain: Britus EarlyAct Club Attends First Aid Training

The Britus EarlyAct Club members participated in a two-day First Aid Training for Students on January 8-9, 2025. The training was within the school premises providing students with essential life-saving skills, including responding to medical emergencies, performing CPR, and confidently handling minor injuries. This initiative not only equips our students with practical first-aid skills but also fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership, aligning with the core values of the EarlyAct Club.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Fwd: District 2452 - Bahrain: Day Out on the Farm

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organized a day out at the "Learn to Grow" farm for the orphan children of the Al Sanabel Orphan Society.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

New Year (Cutting of the Vasilopita) Celebration - Cyprus Rotary -D2452

New Year Celebrations Continue with Fellowship and Tradition!

In Cyprus, New Year celebrations extend far beyond January 1st. and this year was no exception. On January 17th, all Nicosia-based Rotary Clubs—Rotary Club of Nicosia, Rotary Club of Kyrenia, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Ledra, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Salamis, and Rotary Club of Nicosia-Sarayönü, joined forces to co-organize a delightful Cutting of the Vasilopita celebration.

This joyful fellowship dinner brought together over 100 Rotarians and guests for an evening of connection, camaraderie and tradition. Rotarians traveled from across the country—including Ayia Napa, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol, and Nicosia to join the festivities.

The evening culminated with a touch of mystery: Who won the lucky coin traditionally hidden in the New Year's pie? Despite every guest receiving a piece of cake, no one stepped forward as the winner! Ever resourceful, the organizers quickly improvised: all guests will be assigned a number, and a random drawing will determine the winner. A creative twist to end the evening on a high note!

In addition, a modest surplus from the dinner proceeds will be donated to Elikas, a small local charity that supports the operations of a home for adults with special needs.

It was truly a night to remember, filled with laughter, fellowship, and generosity, reminding us of the enduring spirit that binds Rotarians together. Here's to a fantastic year ahead—united in service and friendship!

New Year (Cutting of the Vasilopita) Celebration - Cyprus Rotary -D2452



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

News from Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia - Cyprus D2452

The President's Gala Dinner of R.C. Nicosia Aspelia was held on 14th November '24 with a record attendance of 104 Rotarians and guests including the Ambassador of Lebanon Her Excellency Mme Claude El Hajal and her spouse, former Ambassador Mr. Ramez Dimashkieh.

President Nairy Merheje welcomed guests to the Gala Dinner which was also a fundraiser for the Alain Merheje Fund for the Children of Lebanon which is described as follows:

The international project of the Rotary Club of Nicosia Aspelia for 2024/25

This fund was established in May 2022 in honor of Alain Merheje, late husband of President Nairy Merheje, of Lebanese origin, who passed away under tragic circumstances in May 2022. Lebanon was his beloved country so the family, wished to support and contribute in any way possible in aid of children of Lebanon, specifically by contributing to and supporting a children's hospital in Lebanon for children who are in a desperate situation especially now, due to the devastation caused by the ongoing war. A suitable Children's Hospital will be identified in Lebanon and under the guidance of Rotary Lebanon we will implement this project. Our contribution will help in alleviating pain and hardship for many and any contribution for this worthy cause would be most welcome.

The substantial amount of approx. Euros 9,500 was raised before, during and after the Gala dinner.

This in addition to the €11,000 already held in the Alain Merheje Fund now amounts to almost €20,500, which will be transferred to R.C. Nicosia Aspelia in order to effect and achieve a Global Grant, if possible, so that the objective of substantially assisting a Lebanese Children's hospital in Lebanon is effected.

This is an example of the power and magic of Rotary!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

News from Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia - Cyprus D2452



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia - St. Lucas Foundation cheque presentation - Cyprus D2452

On behalf of the Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia, we are thrilled to share the success of our recent fundraising efforts in support of the St. Lucas Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of our community and partners, we raised a total of €7,140 through our various fundraising activities, in addition to another €2,500 from a bicommunal event organized by PDDG Tashtan Altuner in Larnaca.

This cheque was proudly presented to a representative from the St. Lucas Foundation during our Christmas Party on December 14th, symbolizing our collective commitment to this incredible cause.

The St. Lucas Foundation is on a remarkable journey to create a multifunctional centre designed to support individuals with complex disabilities and their families. The centre, which is still under construction, is expected to open by the end of 2025. Once completed, it will offer a wide range of services, including healthcare, skill development, social inclusion, and critical family support, all under one roof. This facility will not only improve the lives of those affected but will also foster a more inclusive and supportive society.

As the project continues to progress, we are reminded of the significant financial support required to make this vision a reality. The Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia is proud to play a part in helping bring this transformative centre to life, and we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing partnership and generosity of our supporters.

We thank everyone who has contributed to this meaningful cause. Together, we are making a lasting impact.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Baby Milk Donation to “Dar Lyatimeh” and “Maytam Al Chaarani”. Lebanon D2452

Rotary & Rotaract Tripoli-Maarad joint project with two orphanages in Tripoli.
Baby Milk Donation to “Dar Lyatimeh” and “Maytam Al Chaarani”.





Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE
MONTHLY MESSAGE
JANUARY 2025

ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475

My dear Rotary Family,
Happy New Year, with health, joys
and the desire for Rotary giving!

The month of January is dedicated to Vocational Service. As Rotarians, leaders in our professions, let us promote high ethical standards in our work and use our experience and knowledge to serve society. Our role in mentoring young professionals is important as well. In this context, I am delighted to announce the organization of three Institutes of Entrepreneurship (IPEN) this year - in Attica (February 15th), Thessaloniki (March 16th) and Heraklion (April 5th). I would like to warmly thank rtn Prof. George Doukidis for the coordination and the fresh approach he brings to the institution. Further details will be announced in a separate letter to the Clubs.

I also welcome the workshop on “Analyzing business: connecting ideas, creating the future” co-organized, under the auspice of the District, by the Rotary Clubs of Dionysos, Amarousio, Koropi, Marathon-Nea Makri, Piraeus-East, Peristeri-Anthoupoli, Chalkida, Psychiko, with the support of the Commercial Association of Dionysos, on Sunday January 26th.

I am particularly pleased to note the admission of new members to many Clubs, in several cases, I have had the pleasure of personally awarding the Rotary badge to young Rotarians. However, I note that, in some cases, there is a delay in the registration of new members in my rotary. This has a twofold negative impact: on the one hand, it does not reflect the true dynamics of our District, and on the other hand, both the District and Rotary International lack resources, so let us follow the procedures consistently and let Clubs register new members promptly.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Having completed the cycle of my official visits to the Clubs, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Assistant Governors for their valuable contribution, as well as for their continued support in all activities, both at Club and District level. The role of the Assistant Governor is of key importance and is characterized by considerable autonomy. It is essential that Clubs inform the Assistant Governor well in advance of all their planned events and activities, so that he/she can be present if his/her schedule permits and, of course, to refer to the Assistant Governor any matter of concern to the Club.

An important event for our District is the visit of the President of Rotary International, **Stephanie Urchick**, from February 24th to 26th , 2025.

- **On February 24th an official dinner will be held in her honor at the Makedonia Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki.**
- **On February 25th, after her visit to Vergina and the Aegon Museum, a dinner will be held in Volos with the participation of members of all the Clubs of Thessaly.**
- **On February 26th, an official dinner will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Athens.**

This visit is an excellent opportunity to highlight the important work carried out by our Clubs and to strengthen our links with International Rotary.

As we start the new year, we remain committed to our vision of strengthening Rotary in our District, ready to successfully face all challenges, creating the conditions for it to become even bigger, even stronger in the years to come.

Together, with love and dedication to our work,
let us all continue to enjoy and transmit the Magic of Rotary.



Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2025-26 VISITS GREECE

Rotary International President 2025-26 Mário César Martins de Camargo, accompanied by his wife, rtn Denise, visited Greece from 4 to 6 December 2024. This visit was an excellent opportunity for Rotarians to meet President Elect Mario, discuss with him and convey his vision.

Our District prepared a rich program indicative of its activities and its members. On Wednesday December 4th, DG Nikos Margaropoulos, PDG Mari Delivoria and Aide DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos

and PAG Rachel Topalidou, welcomed Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario and his wife Denise at the airport.

Followed a short lunch and a tour of downtown Athens.

On the evening of the same day, a gala dinner organized by RC of Halandri at the Athenian Club, on the occasion of the official planned visit of DG to the Club. The event was graced by the President of Rotary International 2025-26, Mario César Martins de Camargo, and the ambassadors of Brazil and the Philippines, reinforcing the spirit of unity and international cooperation that Rotary promotes. A large number of Rotarians from many clubs in the District attended the speeches of DG Nikos and Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario in a warm atmosphere of Rotary fellowship, while new members were inducted and customary gifts were offered. The dinner was an opportunity to strengthen bonds and celebrate the values of friendship and community service.

The next day, Thursday, December 5th, a visit was organized at ELEPAP (Hellenic Society for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons) where the important work of RC Athinai, often with the assistance of other Clubs and the Rotary Foundation through its programs, was presented to Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario César Martins de Camargo.

Followed a guided tour to the Acropolis Museum, by rtn and tour guide Dora Spachi. After lunch, the Camargo couple

visited Acropolis accompanied by Aide DGE Stefanos and PAG Rachel.

Next step was the visit to the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, where they met Minister Sophia Zacharaki and had a fruitful discussion on Rotary's contribution to society.

The day ended with the official planned visit of Governor Nikos to RC Kifissia Kastri, where, after DG's speech, Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario stressed the importance of Rotary in the challenges faced by the world today. Followed the induction of five members and offer of gifts.

On Friday December 6th, at Thessaloniki airport, Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario and his wife Denise were welcomed by a delegation of Rotarians from RC's of Thessaloniki East, Kalamaria, Panorama, Metropolitan and Alexander the Great-Greece.

After a live interview with a TV station where the Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario gave a short greeting, followed the visit to the University General Hospital of Thessaloniki AHEPA. The administration of the hospital presented to us the important and regular contributions of Rotary Clubs to the hospital.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2025-26 VISITS GREECE

After lunch with the representatives of above mentioned Rotary Clubs in a restaurant opposite the White Tower, followed a tour of the city having as theme "In the footsteps of Apostle Paul", with visit to Eptapyrgion, the Church of St. Demetrius and the Roman Forum.

In the evening, the Rotary International President 2025-26 Mario and his wife rtn Denise, DG Nikos and the Aides attended RC's Metropolitan event at the Officers' Club, which was dedicated to women's entrepreneurship. An Award of Recognition to professional women took place. In their speeches, both Governor Nikos and Rotary International President 2025-26 emphasized Rotary's support for women and that entrepreneurship is a key pillar of social development. The event celebrated the essential role of women in society and was a milestone for strengthening the ties between Rotary and the Greek community.

Same evening we returned to Athens and next morning we said goodbye to our new good friends Mario and Denise at the airport.



ARPIC MARIA MASTORA ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2025-26 VISITS GREECE



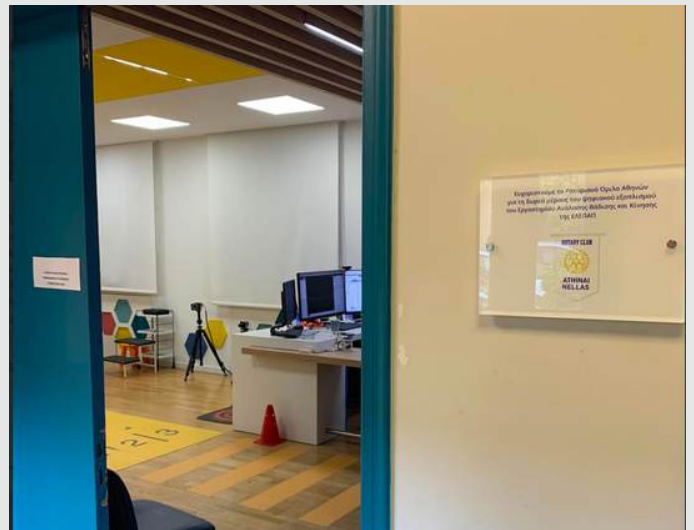
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI VISIT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2025-26 IN ELEPAP & REVELATIONS OF HONORARY INSCRIPTION OF RC ATHINAI THURSDAY 05.12.24

This Rotary Year we have the special honor, for the first time, of being invited to host the Rotary International President 2025-26 , Mário César Martins de Camargo, with his wife rtn Denise.

On December 5th, it was organized in honor of RI President 2025-26 Mário César Martins de Camargo, a visit to ELEPAP (Hellenic Society of Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons) , for the unveiling of the honorary inscription of RC Athinai, which is a Founding Member of the Society, in the presence of Governor Nikos Margaropoulos, Governor Elect Stefanos Anastasopoulos, RC Athinai President rtn Anastasios Ballas, as well as other rotary leaders.

ELEPAP is the first non-profit charitable association in Greece, which for 90 years has offered rehabilitation services to more than 110,000 children with disabilities. RC Athinai, Founding Member of the Society, for the 4th consecutive year "bends" over the needs of the Motion & Gait laboratory.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY 8 RC'S ANALYSING BUSINESS: CONNECTING IDEAS, CREATING THE FUTURE"

With great success **RC Dionysos** under the auspice of RID 2475 and co-organized by the Rotary Clubs:

- Amarousio,
- Koropi,
- Marathon-Nea Makri,
- Piraeus-East,
- Peristeri- Anthoupoli
- Chalkida,
- Psychiko

and the support of the "Dionysos Trade Association", held on Sunday 26 January 2025, in the hall of PEGKAP-NY (Panhellenic Association of Parents and Guardians of Mentally Retarded Children), a Workshop on:

"ANALYSING BUSINESS: CONNECTING IDEAS, CREATING THE FUTURE".

The topics were analyzed by renowned professionals and professors, each in their professional and entrepreneurial capacity.

The event was graced with the presence of DG Nikos Margaropoulos, many Rotary Leaders, rotarians and friends.

The participation was overwhelming.

Congratulations to all those who helped to make this conference a success.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY RC Dionysos and RCs Amarousio, Koropi, Marathon-Nea Makri, Piraeus -East, Peristeri, Chalkida, Psychiko under auspice of RID 2475

ANALYSING BUSINESS: CONNECTING IDEAS, CREATING THE FUTURE"



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - Rotary e-Club Greece OFFERING OF A CHRISTMAS MEAL

The action-institution "Offering Christmas Lunch of Love" of the Rotary eClub of Greece took place again this year on Friday 27 December 2024.

The members of the club started from different regions of Greece and met at the headquarters of "Action for Man" in Amfiali.

With the help of the tireless owner of the restaurant "The Cretan" Dimitris Karxavorachakis, we prepared and cooked for more than 300 people in need in the region.

The rations were packed in parcels that included, apart from food, fruits, sweets, milk, bread and other items, depending on the needs of the family that received the parcel and we distributed them to the people who benefit daily from the action of this organization.

Then followed a second distribution in the area of port of Piraeus, Perama and the surrounding areas at home, to people who do not have the opportunity to go to pick up the meals from the distribution point.

After completion of the process and in an intense emotional atmosphere, the members of Rotary e-Club Greece awarded the founder of "Action for Man" Dimitris Karhanorachakis, for his invaluable contribution, as he takes care of the daily feeding of vulnerable social groups of his community.

In the preparation and distribution of our meals, we were assisted by President of RC Chalandri rtn Teti Ralli and president of RC Psychiko Takis Farmakis.

A pleasant surprise was the presence of the Minister of Development, Mr.Takis Theodorikakos, who honored us with his presence and helped in the distribution of the meals.

This year's action ended in the best way as we all left full of strong feelings of altruism and satisfaction but mostly emotionally charged because we performed to the fullest what the Rotary commands, "First and foremost Service!".



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - Rotary e-Club Greece
OFFERING OF A CHRISTMAS MEAL



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT
Visit of Vafopouleio Cultural Center

Rotary honors art....

Art Honors Rotary....

Just before 2024 expired, RC Thessaloniki Alexander the Great has chosen a different cultural action: the visit, on December 27th, at the Vafopouleio Cultural Center in an evening where the Magic of Art met the Magic of Rotary!!!!

The creators of the Retrospective Exhibition ORO3, Lazaros Pantos painter - visual artist and Stelios Mertzanidis sculptor with their guide, gave the members of RC "Alexander the Great " a unique art experience.....!!!!

Thank you Lazaros Pantos and Stelios Mertzanidis for the honor.....!!!!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC MARATHON - NEA MAKRI TWINNING Event

On January 5, 2025, RC Marathon – Nea Makri visited Istanbul to reciprocate the earlier visit from the Istanbul-Fındıklı and Istanbul-Beyoğlu Rotary Clubs. The visit also aimed to honor their support for a project completed in Marathon during the Rotarian year 2022-23. A formal twinning ceremony was held to symbolize a new chapter of international friendship and collaboration.

The event highlighted the significance of collaboration in making a greater impact on local communities. It focused on shared values such as social service, peace promotion, and community support. The ceremony facilitated meaningful exchanges of ideas and experiences, fostering a warm and friendly atmosphere.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to

1. District Governor Nikos Margaropoulos (2475) and
2. District Governor İlter Ergurbuz (2420),
3. PDG Hasan Akbayrak for their support of this event.

Key participants included Presidents Ayça Aksoy (Istanbul-Fındıklı) and Muhammed Alp Ünal (Istanbul-Beyoğlu) and their members.

Special thanks were given to Sergeant At Arms Nikos Fournarakis for organizing the trip and all members and spouses who represented our Club admirably.

The event concluded with an exchange of souvenirs, solidifying the friendship and commitment to future collaborations between the three clubs.



ARPIC MARIA MASTORA ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC MARATHON - NEA MAKRI
TWINNING Event



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARACT AGIA PARASKEVI CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO "LITTLE PUGAD" INSTITUTION

Rotaract Club Agia Paraskevi, in view of Christmas, on December 18th 2024, had the pleasant opportunity to visit the institution "Little Pugad" which belongs to the Home Project organization. This institution houses children from the countries of the Middle East and Africa. The members of Rotaract Agia Paraskevi distributed to the children many Christmas presents, including new clothes and shoes, hockey tables, a dollhouse, dolls and a basketball! John (Club member) dressed up as Santa Claus gave to the children great joy and handed out a bag of candy to each one! The gifts for the boys were new shoes, a basketball, a hockey table and for the girls new clothes, dolls and a big dollhouse.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARACT ATHINAI-LYCAVITTOS

Christmas gifts to Primary School

Rotaract Club Athinai-Lycavittos responding to the request of the Parents' Association of the 23rd Primary School of Kallithea, offered Christmas gifts in collaboration with Fixed Transport Services (ΣταΣυ), for the last classes of the school. Present for the delivery was the President of Rotaract Club Irene Ginou.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC SAMOS

Donation to the Special School of Samos

RC Samos proceeded to a donation of furniture to the Special School of Samos, for the immediate coverage of fixed operational needs of the School Unit.

RC was represented by PP rtn Dimitrios Kyriazis and PAG rtn Eugenios Hardavellas.

The multiple offer and support of RC Samos to the Special School of Samos is,continuous and always on the spot.

The Rotarians of Samos, as Local Benefactors, with a special Social and Professional reputation, continue to be a constant support to the school and the Sami Society in particular.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

Gifts for Children of the Infant Center "Mother"

RC Dionysos closed 2024 with an action, the purpose of which was to collect money for the children of the Infant Center "Mother". The purpose was achieved with great success and all the children received the gifts they wished for. Thank you all for being with us, members and Friends had a great evening and contributed to the cause. We wish everyone a Happy New Year full of Love, Health and Offer.

The Happy faces of the children are the most beautiful gifts of these festive days. 22 children were made happy. We wish we could be able to do something every day to bring a smile on their faces . Happy New Year with solidarity and contribution



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA New Scholarship Holders

RC Kerkyra is pleased to announce the names of the three new scholarship holders, after the evaluation of the candidates by the scholarship committee.

The scholarship in memory of Lucian Zamit is awarded to Alexandros Yourkas who is studying at the Department of Political Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA).

The scholarship in memory of Nikolaos Tsilibaris is awarded to Georgios Theodoros Vitsos, a student at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Crete

The scholarship in memory of Theodore Leptokarides is awarded to Sebastian Katsaros, who is studying at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering at the University of Patras.

The President and members of RC kerkyra congratulate the three successful candidates and wish them progress and good luck in their studies.

With these new scholarship holders, the total number of scholarships awarded by RC Kerkyra is 7.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA, PARNITHA, RHODOS-KOLOSSOS, KIFISSIA-PIOLITIA, PENTELI, THESSALONIKI

Drone to Forest Fighters Association

RC Kifissia, in cooperation with RC's Parnitha, Rhodes-Kolossos, Kifissia- Politia, Penteli, Thessaloniki, delivered to the Voluntary Association of Forest Firefighters of Parnitha "PARNAS" a special drone, which will significantly enhance the Association of Forest Fighters capabilities for 24-hour surveillance of the area. The drone will contribute to the immediate detection of fires and faster mobilization, thus enhancing the protection of the wider area from fires.

This offer was implemented with the support and cooperation of RID 2475, highlighting the value of collective effort and cooperation for the protection of the environment and the safety of citizens.

This action is an example of how voluntary organisations, with the support of local stakeholders, can use technology to enhance their mission.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

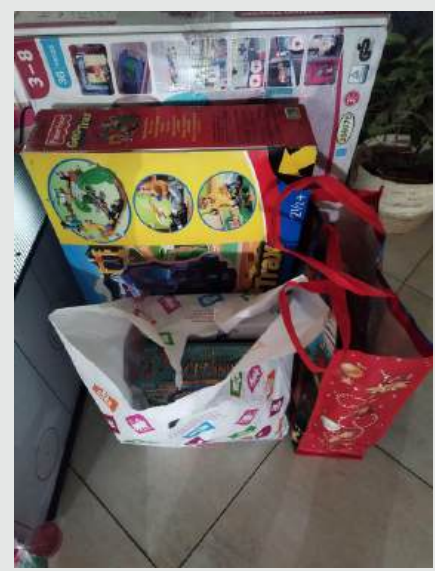
RID 2475 - ROTARY er-CLUB GREECE

DONATION OF BOOKS AND GAMES BY THE ROTARY eClub Greece AND THE VOLUNTEER GROUP IN LIBRO VITA - GIVE THE BOOK LIFE.

Santa Claus, in the form of volunteers from the Inlibrovita group "Give life to books" who donated books to strengthen the school library and the Rotary E-Club of Greece who donated creative games, tried to give a note optimism among the students and teachers of the Special Primary School of Moira in Crete.

The handover was made by the member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Electronic Club of Greece and representative of our Club in Crete, Rot. Dimosthenis Marakis , to the representative - social worker of the school , Mr. Papadias.

The event closed with the promise to continue the support...."We will be there for you".



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI LYCAVITTOS & KIFISSIA POLITIA Support of Municipality of Athens Homeless Support Center

On Friday January 17th, RC Athinai-Lycabittos and Kifissia-Politia delivered essentials to the Municipality of Athens Homeless Support Centre (K.Y.A.D.A.) which supports more than 3,500 families and people living below the poverty line. It also supports the accommodation facilities of the Municipality of Athens for the homeless population, where apart from shelter and food, the beneficiaries receive psychosocial support so that they can stand on their feet, find a job and "return" to society.

The Homeless Support Center of Athens K.Y.A.A.D.A. distributes food and essentials such as personal hygiene items, household cleaning products, clothes, shoes, bags, even school supplies and toys. It has a general Social Clinic, which provides primary health care to vulnerable people and prescribing their medication, a Social Mental Health Clinic, which provides psychological and psychiatric support services, a Social Dental Clinic, a Social Laundry for washing clothes and a Social Hair Salon.

To the delivery of the items were present the President of K.Y.A.D.A. and the Sponsorship Manager Mina Fountzoula and Elli Nazlidou respectively, while from RC Kifissia - Politia President Christina Kartsiotou and from RC Athinai Lycabittos Secretary, Rachel Topalidou.

The items were purchased with the important amount collected by the two clubs from their joint Christmas outing in the centre of Athens.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI EAST Offer to Greek SOS Village in Filyro

RC Thessaloniki East, offered to the Greek Children SOS Village in Filyro decorative equipment, a courtesy of rtn Papathanasiou Thanasis.

Also, fuel (pellets) was offered for the needs of above children's village in memory of rtn Tyrpenou Tesis.




ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟ ΧΩΡΙΟ
στο Φίλυρο

ΚΕΡΑΜΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ 11 (ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΛΓ. ΣΟΦΙΑΣ) - 54622 ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
Τ.Θ. 12159 - Τ.Κ. 54110 ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
ΤΗΛ. 2310 233.033 - FAX: 2310 233.802
ΤΗΛ. 2310 677.556, 678.460 - FAX: 2310.678.213
E-mail: ellinikopaidikoxorio@gmail.com • http://www.paidikoxorio.gr

Ροταριανό Όμιλο Ανατολικής Θεσσαλονίκης
Θεσσαλονίκη 27-12-2024
Αριθμ.Πρωτ. Π.Ε.Ε. φ 101/αγ

Αγαπητοί μας φίλοι,

Μας συγκινεί η ευγενική σας δωρεά των **■ ευρώ (για αγορά πέλλετ)** προς το «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟ ΧΩΡΙΟ» στο Φίλυρο στη μνήμη

ΤΕΣΗΣ ΤΥΡΠΕΝΟΥ.

Ευχόμαστε ο Θεός να της προσφέρει το Φως του Παραδείσου και στην οικογένειά της να χαρίζει υγεία, υπομονή και κάθε καλό.

Η προσεικίνησή σας στηρίζει την πολύτιμη για να συνεχίσουμε όλοι μαζί το κοινωνικό μας έργο προσφέροντας αγάπη, φροντίδα και σωστή ανατροφή σε παιδιά που στερήθηκαν από την πιο τρυφερή τους ηλικία το οικογενειακό περιβάλλον.

Τα παιδιά του «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΥ ΧΩΡΙΟΥ» στο Φίλυρο σας ευχαριστούν με όλη τους την καρδιά.

Με ιδιαίτερη εκτίμηση
Για το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο

Η ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ

ΕΛΙΣΑΒΕΤ ΛΑΪΤΟΥΣΗ-ΠΑΡΑΣΧΟΥ

Η ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑΣ

ΕΥΔΟΚΙΑ ΜΠΟΥΤΖΟΥΡΑ


ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟ ΧΩΡΙΟ
στο Φίλυρο

ΚΕΡΑΜΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ 11 (ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΛΓ. ΣΟΦΙΑΣ) - 54622 ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
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E-mail: ellinikopaidikoxorio@gmail.com • http://www.paidikoxorio.gr

Ροταριανό Όμιλο Ανατολικής Θεσσαλονίκης
Θεσσαλονίκη 07-01-2025
Αριθμ.Πρωτ. Π.Ε.Ε. φ 02/αγ

Αγαπητοί μας φίλοι και συμπαραστές,

Με την παρούσα επιστολή εκφράζουμε τις θερμές ευχαριστίες μας, για την ευγενική προσφορά (λαμπακία & ηλεκτρολογικά είδη) προς το «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟ ΧΩΡΙΟ» στο Φίλυρο.

Η συμπαράστασή σας στο ευαίσθητο κοινωνικό έργο μας, είναι απαραίτητη για να καλύψουμε σημαντικές ανάγκες των παιδιών του «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΥ ΧΩΡΙΟΥ» στο Φίλυρο.

Με την πολύτιμη συνεισφορά σας, προσφέρουμε όλοι μαζί αγάπη, χαρά και ελπίδα στα παιδιά μας, που έχουν στερηθεί την οικογένειά τους.

Σας ευχόμαστε επιτυχίες και ελπίζουμε να σας έχουμε πάντα αρωγούς στο έργο μας.

Τα παιδιά του «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΥ ΧΩΡΙΟΥ» στο Φίλυρο σας ευχαριστούν με όλη τους την καρδιά.

ΕΥΤΥΧΙΣΜΕΝΟΣ Ο ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΟΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΣ !

Με ιδιαίτερη εκτίμηση
Για το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο

Η ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ

ΕΛΙΣΑΒΕΤ ΛΑΪΤΟΥΣΗ-ΠΑΡΑΣΧΟΥ

Η ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑΣ

ΕΥΔΟΚΙΑ ΜΠΟΥΤΖΟΥΡΑ

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLEIO CANDIA Donation of Important Medical Devices

Rotary Club of Heraklion - Candia proceeded, on January 22nd, to the donation of two very important medical devices (LIFEPAK 1 Defibrillator and Vein Detector) to the Harakas Health Center (Municipality of Archanes Asterousia, Iraklion, Crete).

The amount for the purchase of the machines was collected during the Presidency of Anna Petromichelakis and with the sponsorship of her family, who, together with the secretary of the corresponding Rotary Year, Yannis Giavridis, delivered them to the Director of the Health Center, Mr. Emmanuel Doulgerakis, and the executives of the Health Center.

Followed a tour to the Health Center's facilities, and participants were informed about the current increased needs which require immediate action.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KORINTHOS & RC KOROIPI VIRTUAL CYCLING SYSTEMS

A very important initiative by the members of the Rotary Club Korinthos, and Rotary Club Koropi for the children of the Special School of Corinth.

On January 24th, two complete virtual cycling systems were delivered for use as part of the socialization effort of the children attending the school.

Their teacher Mrs. Patricia Georgakarakou together with the virtual cycling specialist Panagiotis Theocharis will be the bodies of utilization of this program while the cost was borne entirely by the Rotarians of Corinth and Koropi Clubs together with RID 2475.

This is the first worldwide attempt to use virtual cycling in the teaching process of children with disabilities.

As the experts informed us, this donation will have a very positive effect on children with autism who, due to the specificity of the condition, benefit greatly from cycling.

In addition to the school administrators, the vice-Regional Governor Mr. Giolis and the Deputy Mayor of Education Mr. Dimakos were in the delivery committee and thanked the Rotarians for this very important donation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KORINTHOS & RC KOROPI VIRTUAL CYCLING SYSTEMS



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA

Visit to the women's prison of Eleonas - Thebes

With particular sensitivity and respect to the needs of the imprisoned mothers and their children, RC Voula- Panorama visited on January 24th the women's prison in Eleonas -Thebes and offered the children clothing, footwear and toys, mainly educational toys.

The aim of the action is to offer some joy to the imprisoned mothers , but also to their children who are with them until the age of three, in an effort to maintain and reinforce the mother-child bond even under such difficult conditions.

During the visit to the detention centre we were greeted by the social worker Mrs. Magdalini Lenta who through her work supports and strengthens the mental health of the mothers and children.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC K00MOTINI & KOMOTINI RODOPI

The veteran rotarian of RC Komotini Nikow Chrysohoidis was honored for the donation of an ambulance to the National Center for Emergency Assistance (EKAB) of Komotini.

On January 26th, 2025, during the cutting of the annual cake of RCs' Komotini and Komotini Rodopi, the Deputy District Administrator of Rodopi Mr. Tapatzas, spoke about the recent offer of a drone worth 3,000 euros through a District Grant of RC Komotini, to which RC Komotini -Rodopi also contributed.

At the event the veteran Rotarian Nikos Chrysochoidis was honored for the donation of an ambulance to the National Center for Emergency Assistance (EKAB) of Komotini. The plaque of honour was presented by PDG George Christoforides. The honoree was touched, thanked and referred to the old years of the Club, founded in 1954 and the Rotary Ideals.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA-POLITIA Awarding the Greek Schools of Imbros

RC Kifissia Politia organized an event on the theme "Awarding the Greek schools of Imbros", on January 24th at the Kostis Palamas Hall at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The Vice President of the Association of Imvrians, K. Christoforidis, the teacher, A. Koutras, and K. Koutras, President and K. Bakali, Treasurer of the Alumni Association of Imvros Schools, told the history of their island and the schools, their experiences and their great joy for the reopening of the schools after half a century. For all Imbrians, their island is engraved in their hearts and is the most beautiful place in the world. The award for the high school was received by the principal, Limopoulos Nikos, who was also personally honoured for his work, while the award for the primary school was received by George Prodromos, teacher. Also awarded was the Director of the primary school, Stelios Bemberis.

Warm thanks to the Imbrian Association for their support.

The proceeds of the event will be used for the sponsorship of computers to the schools of Imbros.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 24754 - RC KOS

Twinning of RC Kos with RC Bodrum

On January 25th, RC Kos proceeded to the official twinning with the Rotary Club of Bodrum.

The ceremony was attended by RID 2440, DG Mert Korur, with his wife Ozlem Korur, RID 2440 PDG Alaeddin Demircioglu, RID 2475 AG Elena Gianniki, RID 2440 RC Bodrum: President Sehval Ozturk, Secretary Basak Yilmaz, President of Public Image Merve Baykan, President of Conference Committee Ayla Ince and members Kivanc Diker and Murat Kasapoglu.

The welcome of the distinguished guests was followed by a message from RID 2475 DG Nikos Margaropoulos, who was represented by Assistant Governor Elena Gianniki. In this message it was mentioned the importance of the meeting and friendship of Rotarians on an international level, which build bridges on the ideals of Rotary for the purpose of giving above and beyond to humanity.

The President of RC Kos Vassilis Hadjichristofis pointed out the close friendly relations that have been developed between the two Rotary Clubs and thus the evening continued with the signing of the Certificate of Twinning of the Rotary Club of Kos with the Rotary Club of Bodrum and the exchange of raffle banners.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 24754 - RC KOS
Twinning of RC Kos with RC Bodrum



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KOS

Interactive Whiteboard for Kos' Kindergarden

On January 28th,, RC Kos delivered an interactive whiteboard to the 6th Kindergarten of Kos. The Rotary Club, listening to the new educational needs that require modern material and technical equipment, responded to the request to purchase the interactive whiteboard, which we hope will help the work of the kindergarten teachers.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova
District Governor 2024-2025
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Letter



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482

МАРГАРИТА БОГДАНОВА
Дистрикт гуверньор 2024-2025
Ротари Д-2482 България

Rotary
District 2482



Dear Friends,

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris and his friends gathered around a simple yet powerful idea – to serve and make the world a better place for people.

Their brilliant idea led to the creation of Rotary as a movement that continues to drive positive change worldwide.

Today, Rotary is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the world, dedicated to community service, with nearly 1.2 million members united by a shared commitment to improving lives, promoting peace, and building lasting connections. The spirit of the Founders lives on in every project, every Rotarian, and every act of service, inspiring us all to be the change we wish to see in the world.

As we approach the 120th anniversary of Rotary's founding, its first area of focus—peacebuilding and conflict resolution—remains more relevant than ever. For many years, this topic seemed abstract to much of the world, including myself, my family, friends, and colleagues. I now realize how fortunate I have been to be spared the misfortune suffered by millions worldwide who have fallen victim to violence and the violation of fundamental human rights.

Peace and conflict are closely interconnected. Peace does not mean the complete absence of conflict. Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung defines peace as the absence of violence in all its forms and the constructive unfolding of conflict.

Peace exists where people interact without violence and manage their conflicts positively—respecting the legitimate needs and interests of all parties involved.

As individuals and as Rotarians, we do not accept war, but we must understand why conflicts arise. No matter how difficult they may be to manage, we must not give up. It is our moral obligation.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova District Governor 2024-2025 Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Letter

What can we do?

We can strive to better understand what others are saying instead of insisting solely on the correctness of our own perspective. At the heart of this effort lies dialogue. Societies with stronger mechanisms for dialogue thrive. Everyone can contribute to fostering better dialogue.

This is why Rotary implements various projects focused on building conflict resolution skills.

Recognizing the importance of these issues, The Rotary Foundation funds education in Rotary Peace Centers. I am proud to announce that a candidate from District 2482, Angela Antonova, has been selected. In 2025, she will participate in the certification program at the Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul. Her commitment upon completing the program is to lead initiatives for social change, including working with young people—students and pupils—on programs for conflict resolution and countering radicalization and terrorism.

Many clubs in the district recognize the need to foster conflict resolution skills, empathy, communication, and cultural understanding. Initiatives may include workshops, training sessions, or curriculum development for both young people and adults, helping to prevent violence and promote peaceful dispute resolution.

Creating an environment of positive peace is a key focus of the **Peace Conference in Istanbul (February 20–22, 2025)**, which will be held under the patronage of **Stephanie Urchick, President of Rotary International**.

The event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Rotary's 120th anniversary and explore more ways to achieve positive peace—a peace where conflicts are resolved, and sustainable, balanced coexistence among people with different views is fostered.

On the opening day, February 20, there will also be a meeting of the International Country Committees (ICC), where global ideas for peace will be transformed into future projects for dialogue and friendship. Don't miss this meeting, which will bring together over 600 committee sections from different countries. A huge thank you to all the Rotary clubs that hosted my visits in January: Gorna Banya, Sofia Triaditsa, Sofia Serdika, Sofia City, Botevgrad, Sofia Vazrazhdane, Sofia, Sofia Balkan, Sofia Capital, Sofia Vitosha, Gabrovo, Sevlievo.

In every club, I meet people who are the true magic of Rotary!

I look forward to our next meetings!

February 1, 2024
Margarita Bogdanova
District Governor 2024-2025
Rotary International
District 2482-Bulgaria



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB OF BOURGAS

120 Years of Rotary

32 Years Since the Restoration of the Rotary Club of Burgas

(Founded on August 4, 1937, Restored on January 18, 1993) community, and fulfilling our mission of service above self.



With 24 panels, like a dark futuristic film, the **Rotary Club of Burgas** is launching a large-scale campaign to **prevent addictions among young people**.

This is just the first phase of the project:

WE CARE ABOUT YOU, CHILDREN!

A traveling "exhibition" of horrors showcasing the devastating effects of addiction on individuals and their families. Stories of people who have escaped the grip of drug dependency, advice from specialists, confidential consultations, and interactive meetings with young audiences. The initiative includes film screenings, activities in sports, arts, and science—offering every young person an opportunity to discover a positive path forward.

Even before the panels were installed, young people revealed to us a **new and growing threat—gambling addiction among children**. The root cause is **easy access to online betting** and **the lack of effective control**.

Through this unique approach, **Rotarians from a club with a long history** mark their **new rebirth—32 years since the restoration of Rotary in Burgas**.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB NOVA ZAGORA

CHILDREN'S DRAWING CONTEST "FREE NOVA ZAGORA"



A large number of students participated this year in the traditional children's drawing contest "Free Nova Zagora", organized for the 12th consecutive time by Rotary Club Nova Zagora, with the support of Nova Zagora Municipality. The initiative, held in honor of January 14—the Liberation of Nova Zagora, featured 48 artworks created by students from Ivan Vazov Secondary School, Hristo Botev Secondary School, Lyuben Karavelov Primary School, and St. Paisii Hilendarski Primary School.

The award ceremony took place on January 14 at 5:30 PM in the foyer of the city library, attended by Deputy Mayor of Nova Zagora Ivaylo Enev, representatives of Rotary Club Nova Zagora, Chairman of the Dinya P. Sivkov - 1870 Community Center Georgi Nikolov, students, parents, teachers, and local residents.

Honorary member of Rotary Club Nova Zagora, Ivan Tsvetanov, addressed the audience on behalf of the organizers, emphasizing the club's commitment to supporting the artistic talents of children and reconnecting them with our history. Mr. Tsvetanov then gave the floor to Deputy Mayor Ivaylo Enev.

All participants in the "Free Nova Zagora" contest received a certificate of recognition from the club and the municipality, along with a special gift for each young artist, presented by Rotary Club members.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CHARTERING OF INTERACT CLUB PLOVDIV - PHILIPOPOL

On January 9, 2025, a formal chartering ceremony was held in Plovdiv to mark the re-establishment of Interact Club Plovdiv - Philipopol, following a hiatus since 2022.

The event featured congratulatory speeches, the presentation of the club's Charter, and the awarding of membership pins to new members. Among the distinguished guests were District Governor Margarita Bogdanova, Past District Governor Nasko Nachev, District Rotaract Representative Anna Atanasova, as well as representatives from local authorities and the education sector.

The club brings together students from several prestigious schools in Plovdiv and embarks on its journey with the ambition to contribute to the development of the community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Etiler Rotaract Club's Traditional Career Development Project: '5 Experts, 5 Lessons' – Second Session
Etiler Rotaract Club, District 2420

On January 6, 2025, Etiler Rotaract Club successfully held the second session of its traditional career development project, "5 Experts, 5 Lessons." Our guest speaker for this session was Cenk Akın, General Manager of BELTUR, who joined us to explore the question: "Where are you on your journey?" During the session, Cenk Akın shared his inspiring career path, from studying textile engineering to his current professional role and his passion for DJing. His unique experiences and valuable insights provided our participants with a fresh perspective on career transitions, passion projects, and professional growth. The "5 Experts, 5 Lessons" series aims to bring together accomplished professionals from diverse industries to share their knowledge, experiences, and career advice. Through these engaging discussions, we aspire to inspire and guide young professionals and students in their career journeys. This second session of the series was an enriching experience, filled with meaningful conversations and thought-provoking insights. As Etiler Rotaract Club, we are committed to fostering career development, networking, and mentorship opportunities for our community.

Stay tuned for the next session of "5 Experts, 5 Lessons", where we will continue to host inspiring professionals and explore new perspectives on personal and professional growth!

ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU
ROTARACT
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440



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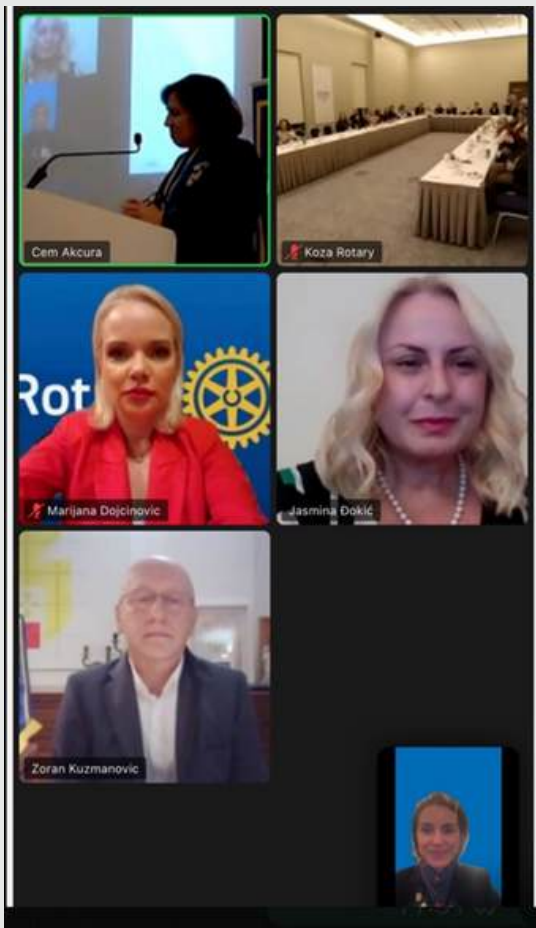
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Twin club Agreement RC Adana Koza (District 2430, Turkey) and RC Belgrade Passport (District 2483)

The signing of the document by club presidents Tijen Tureli and Zoran Kuzmanović took place in a festive atmosphere and with joint conclusions that the clubs will cooperate with each other on the implementation of international grants within the Rotary community.



ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Zrenjanin

On Friday, January 10, 2025, the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin joined the humanitarian action of the Belgrade Rotary Club Singidunum aimed at providing support to women and children victims of violence in the Safe House in Zrenjanin.

As part of this joint initiative, personal hygiene products, toys, sweets and other necessities are provided that contribute to a more comfortable stay for the users of the Safe House.

This action aims to improve the physical and emotional well-being of those who need help the most. The Zrenjanin Rotary Club thanks the Belgrade Singidunum Rotary Club for this initiative.



**ROTARY : POWER OF GOODNESS
ZONE 21 VIDEO COMPETITION**



Launch Date: February 23, 2025

Submission Deadline: April 23, 2025

The Public Image Team of **Rotary International Zone 21** proudly organizes for the fifth consecutive year the Video Competition “Rotary: The Power of Goodness”!

The goal of the video contest is to showcase inspiring stories of completed Rotary projects that are changing the world for the better and to promote the 7 Areas of Focus of The Rotary Foundation.

Conditions:

- Video length: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes.
- Videos will be judged on inspiration, message content, and technical execution (sound and picture quality).
- Content must adhere to the Rotary brand guidelines.

Criteria:

1. Creativity and impact on the community
2. The message conveyed through the video
3. Technical execution

Evaluation Process:

1. Zonal Jury
2. “Grand Jury”

Tell Our Stories

RPI Zone 21 Social MEDIA Networks

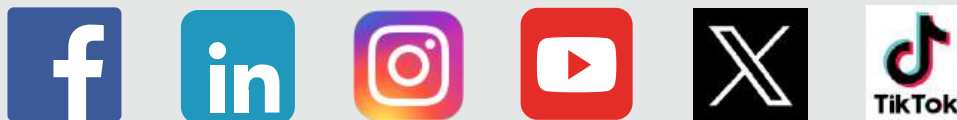
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If you want your stories to be published or you need training, and invitation for seminar and events, please contact your Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for assistance