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YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

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Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service.

# YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

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**May is Youth Service Month** in the Rotary calendar — a time to celebrate the energy, vision, and commitment of young people around the world. This special focus honors the critical role that youth play in shaping a better future and highlights Rotary's investment in nurturing leadership, service, and global citizenship among the next generation.

Youth Service, also known as New Generations Service, is one of Rotary International's five Avenues of Service. It recognizes the positive change that young people bring through their leadership skills, innovative ideas, and community involvement. Throughout May, Rotary clubs around the globe are encouraged to engage youth in service projects, recognize their contributions, and support their personal and professional development.

Rotary supports young leaders through several dynamic programs:

- **Rotaract:** A global movement of young adults ages 18 and older who develop leadership skills while helping their communities. Rotaract clubs operate independently or in partnership with Rotary clubs, allowing members to address local challenges with creative solutions.
- **Interact:** Designed for high school students aged 12–18, Interact clubs foster leadership, teamwork, and service-mindedness. These clubs are often school- or community-based and organize projects that make a lasting difference both locally and internationally.
- **RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards):** This program offers intensive leadership training for youth and young adults. Through workshops, outdoor activities, and mentorship, RYLA participants build confidence, communication skills, and a deeper sense of purpose.
- **Youth Exchange:** A unique cultural exchange program that gives students the opportunity to live and study abroad for several weeks or up to a year. It fosters global understanding and peace by immersing young people in different cultures.

Youth Service Month is also a time for Rotary clubs to spotlight success stories — the Interactors who led a sustainability project, the Rotaractors who organized a health awareness campaign, or the RYLA alumni who returned to mentor others. These stories inspire and remind communities of the powerful impact young people can have when they are empowered and supported.

More than just a celebration, Youth Service Month is a call to action. It encourages Rotary members to invest time, mentorship, and resources into youth-focused initiatives. Whether through scholarships, career guidance, or collaborative service projects, the goal is to equip young people with the tools they need to lead with integrity and compassion.

This May, let us honor the creativity and courage of young leaders, and recommit ourselves to helping them rise to their full potential — not just this month, but every month. After all, when we empower youth, we all move closer to a brighter future.

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

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**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**  
**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**RY 2024-2025**

No matter how long we've been with Rotary, we all benefit from the energy and fresh perspectives of our young leaders. It is my privilege to place this month's presidential message in the capable hands of one young leader, Vitor Joventino. In his column, Vitor reminds us how teamwork and inclusivity can spark transformative change. As you read his message, I encourage you to reflect on its insights, share in his excitement, and embrace new opportunities to learn. — Stephanie Urchick

I remember the exact moment when I realized the power of Rotary's youth programs. It was a Saturday morning in Australia during my year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. I stood among a group of young leaders at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event. The organizers challenged us to stand on a large tarp spread across the floor and, without stepping off, find a way to fold it in half.

At first, the task seemed simple. But as we moved, strategized, and adjusted, the reality set in — it required teamwork, agility, and constant communication.

Rotaractors and Rotarians guided us, but no one dictated how to succeed. The decisions were ours to make. And then something remarkable happened. Without being instructed, we collectively decided that no one would be left behind as our space on the tarp shrank.

One of our teammates was a person who uses a wheelchair, giving us an opportunity to adapt, ensuring that he was fully part of the experience. We shifted, lifted the tarp, and reconfigured our positions, using our time to think, plan, and act as a team. In the end, we successfully completed the challenge together.

As we celebrated our success, one participant said, "Society works the same way — challenges will come, but instead of leaving people behind, we must find ways to include everyone." It was such a profound thought for someone so young, yet it perfectly captured the essence of our experience.

### **.PREVIOUS ISSUE**

Interact empowers young people to create service projects with real and lasting impact. Youth Exchange builds global citizens who return home with broader perspectives and stronger leadership skills. RYLA develops young leaders equipped to inspire and mobilize others. All of this is The Magic of Rotary, emerging through the actions of youth. These programs are the heart of Rotary's ability to grow and adapt in a changing world.

But the success of these programs depends on more than young leaders — it requires Rotary members who believe in their potential. I encourage you to sponsor an Interact club, host an exchange student, and support a RYLA participant. Your involvement does more than sustain these programs; it multiplies their impact and ensures that young leaders are not just beneficiaries of Rotary but active contributors.

To those already supporting youth programs, thank you. Your mentorship and commitment make all the difference. And to those considering getting involved, now is the time! Because youth leadership isn't just Rotary's future, it's Rotary's present.

### **VITOR JOVENTINO**

*Rotaract Club of Penápolis, Brazil*

## Coming Together in Friendship: Regional Leader Teams Learning Seminar in June

As many of you know, June is celebrated in Rotary as Fellowship Month. Friendship is one of Rotary's core values—not only within our clubs, but also across districts and international borders. In this spirit, our annual Zone 21–22 Regional Leader Learning Seminar was held this year in Sofia, Bulgaria.

## A Seminar Full of Learning and Friendship in Sofia

Bringing together all our regional leaders, this seminar was not only a space for refreshing our knowledge but also a warm and inspiring gathering where friendships were strengthened. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our seminar convener Daniel Tanase, our wonderful host DG Margarita Bogdanova of District 2482, and the chair of the organizing committee, RMC Walter Ebner, for their incredible hospitality and thoughtful planning.

**N. ALTAN ARSLAN**

**PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY**

**PDG 2018-2019 D2430**

**RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B**

Throughout the seminar, coordinators and assistant coordinators shared experiences from their regions and reviewed plans for the upcoming Rotary year. Once again, we were reminded that good planning is key to a successful Rotary year.

Leaders from both Regions agreed to continue working Unite for Good, with full harmony between RPICs, RRFCs, RMCs, and their assistants—showing what real collaboration can achieve.

## Rotary Spirit and Youth Energy in Kardzhali

After our busy but productive seminar in Sofia, I had the chance to witness an extraordinary youth football tournament in Kardzhali, organized by the Rotary Club of Kardzhali in collaboration with Arda 1924 Football Club. Over 2,000 young athletes participated in this joyful event.

This wonderful tournament was made possible thanks to the dedication of Rtn. Alyosha Sinabov, a valued member of the Rotary Club of Kardzhali and President of Arda 1924. The energy of the children, the pride of the families, and the enthusiasm of the Rotarians filled the final matches with hope and joy. 🏆🌟

I had the honor of presenting the trophies alongside MP Ayten Sabri, Mayor Erol Myumyun, Deputy Mayor Veselina Tihomirova, DGE Plamen Tsvetkov, and DGN Aleksandar Petrov.



### Looking Ahead: An International Goal

This year's tournament showed us that we can aim even higher. Our goal is to transform this event into an international tournament next year, inviting teams from all across our Zone.

On behalf of myself and my dear wife Neslihan, I sincerely thank ARPIC Arkan and DPIC Tanya for kindly inviting us and for their continued friendship and support. 🌟

These meaningful moments shared in June, a month dedicated to friendship, once again reminded us why we serve through Rotary:

Because Rotary starts with friendship and grows through service.

See you next month  
With love and respect,

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



# ZONE 21B ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE COORDINATOR MESSAGE

## A SEMINAR FULL OF LEARNING AND FRIENDSHIP IN SOFIA





## ROTARY SPIRIT AND YOUTH ENERGY IN KARDZHALI







**Rtn. Virpi Honkala**  
**PRID Zone 17-18 2020-2022**

**Rotary International District 2430 Conference, Antalya, Türkiye**

RI President Stephanie Urchick granted us the honor of representing her at RI District 2430 Conference, which was held during May 2-3 2025 at Nirvana Cosmopolitan hotel in Antalya, Türkiye. Already in advance we were greeted warmly by DG Kerem Muradi and were offered services of Rtn. Cengiz Turgay, who was in charge of all presentations and their display throughout the Conference. Also our excellent Aides, PDG Altan Arslan and his charming wife Neslihan, welcomed us – and they truly were beyond any expectations one might have!

It is always exciting to visit an event of this importance in a foreign country realizing that one may not actually know anybody before arrival. Hence, it was a lovely surprise to communicate with our dear friend Ayşe Mine Ergun, a Rotarian friend since 2022 and now executive secretary in this district. She kindly translated my slides into Turkish and was also very helpful with many details concerning the Conference.

RI President Stephanie defines her theme "The Magic of Rotary" by saying that "You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member". Her initiatives include Rotary's strategic plan, Peace, Polio eradication, TRF fundraising and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

In this district 2430 it was easy to deliver President Stephanie's message. During this Rotary year the district had already started 2 new clubs and the membership number had increased with 167 – the highest of Zone 21! The Rotary Foundation contributions were already now highest in 5 years. District Conference varied a lot from most of the earlier ones we had attended. Members of the arranging Rotary Club of Toros were present nearly in total and easily recognizable byt not only their green jackets but also the horns and whistles. All clubs were celebrated in the flag ceremony in addition to the different countries present.

Most of the clubs in this district have been truly active in various projects and all of them were shown by videos. Lots of awards were given both to the active clubs as well as Rotarians with significant achievements. The appreciation of members and thanking the clubs is a wonderful gesture and certainly encourages for more achievements.

DG Kerem, his wife Pinar and the whole district team were highly appreciated by the audience – hundreds of participants. The atmosphere of friendship, true inclusion and belonging, could be sensed from the very first musical welcome until the last goodbye and everything in between!

## Rotary International District 2430 Conference, Antalya, Türkiye

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Antalya has an incredible history, and we were blessed to be able to catch a glimpse of it as we visited the old city and later the ancient city of Perge. We had very knowledgeable guides and our Aides Altan and Neslihan made us feel so comfortable and relaxed.

The magic of Rotary is formed of many things – friendship one of them. We thank for this unforgettable opportunity to build new bonds, increase our understanding of culture and to realize, once again, what a great organization Rotary is!

### Virpi and Matti Honkala





## An Inspirational Gathering at District 2420 Training Assembly

Held under the theme “Unite for Good”, the 2025 District Training Assembly took place on April 26, 2025, at Caddebostan Cultural Center. Designed to shape the vision for Rotary’s upcoming term, the event drew enthusiastic participation from members across various clubs, energizing the atmosphere with unity and solidarity. On this special day filled with inspiration and camaraderie, Rotary’s guiding principles were once again highlighted: “Service Above Self” and “Touching Lives.”

District Governor-Elect Fuat Yalçın opened the assembly by emphasising that Rotary is more than a volunteer organisation—it’s a way of life. In his address, he stated:

“Rotary is a bridge of hearts built by individuals striving to make the world a better place. Our purpose is to add value to others' lives. This year, we will join forces to create a lasting impact. Every project we carry out could become a child’s smile, a mother’s hope, or a community’s story of transformation.”

Yalçın also emphasised the importance of members being involved from the earliest stages of identifying community needs and fostering increased collaboration between institutions.

One of the day’s notable speakers, Tijen Mergen, presented on “Leadership in Voluntary Organisations”, discussing how leadership in civil society thrives through emotional intelligence, vision, and effective team management.



Former Rotaract representative Esra Serdar Aydınoglu delivered a heartfelt talk titled “What Being a Rotaractor Gave Me”, sharing the growth opportunities Rotary offers its young members. By telling her personal story, she illustrated how youth can unlock their leadership potential:

“Rotaract gave me not only a sense of social responsibility, but also a sense of belonging, the courage to lead, and lifelong friendships.”

## An Inspirational Gathering at District 2420 Training Assembly

Past President of the Adıyaman Rotary Club, Ferit Binzet, moved the audience by sharing how The Rotary Foundation has contributed to the community and provided vital support during earthquake disasters.

After lunch, attendees enjoyed a classical music performance—a graceful interlude that brought a peaceful close to the morning’s energy.

Kadıköy Mayor Mesut Köseadağı also attended, highlighting the importance of collaboration between public institutions and civil society. He remarked:

“NGOs and public bodies are complementary structures. Meeting on shared goals is key to making our cities more livable.”



Former Minister of Tourism Bahattin Yücel gave a compelling speech on “The Importance of Civil Society Organizations”, offering historical and societal context and illustrating the essential role NGOs play in functioning democracies.

The assembly continued with examples of collaborative projects developed with UNICEF, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Health Department, AÇEV, and UNDP. A panel featuring representatives from these organizations focused on joint efforts in child health and education, inspiring Rotary clubs with actionable project ideas.

The event concluded with a keynote by renowned psychologist Prof. Dr. Acar Baltaş, titled “Rotary Extends Life”. Using scientific data, he presented the positive psychological effects of volunteerism on personal health, saying:

“A sense of belonging, life purpose, and helping others not only heals society but also the individual.” The 2025 District Training Assembly was a memorable occasion where ideas, hearts, and actions came together, reinforcing a shared ideal of enhancing lives.



# ROTARY RID 2420 CONFERENCE

**Rotary D2420 2025 Conference was held im Hilton Sarıgerme Resort between 16-19 May 2025.**

20 Governors (Past Current Elect and Nominee) from 3 Districts of Türkiye; 253 Rotarians and including twin club members; a total of 532 persons from 3 countries were present for meeting.

In the main program: Rotary Clubs of D220 were appreciated and rewarded for done projects; grants and activities on 7 focus areas of RI

It was aimed not only the formal program but also friendship and enjoy among rotarians and conference increased friendships and provided new ones.

In the year of Rotary Presidential Peace conference held in İstanbul: conference logo was Olive branch and Assistance governors came to stage by carrying the words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk; founder of Republic of Türkiye. The known words: PEACE AT HOME; PEACE IN THE WORLD.

DG 2420 İter Ergürbüz; raised the hands of DG 2430 Kerem Muradi and DG 2440 Mert Korur in the opening session; and IPDG Mehmet Altay and DGE Fuat Yalçın in the closing session: emphasizing the friendship and continuity of Disticts and years for SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

PRID Şafak Alpay's inspirational speech about Rotary; Dr. Baybars Sağlamtmur's presentation about environmental problems and solutions on Marmara Sea and Exchange students sharing their feelings were remarkable moments of the Conference.





# ROTARY RID 2420 CONFERENCE



## Rotary International District 2430 Asembly, Alanya, Türkiye

District 2430, BES and its Assembly took place in Alanya from April 10-13, 2025. Over 700 of our guests were hosted in the 385 rooms of the Haydarpasha Palace, with high participation from the region's officers, including our Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. The Assembly 2025, organized by the Ankara Tandoğan Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, was designed almost flawlessly. Committee Chair Mercan Ertan, Club Presidents Çağrı Şahin and Anıl Karabulut played a significant role in ensuring the success of the program, overseeing every detail. On the first day of the meeting, our traditional flag ceremony turned into a visual feast with the touch of master director Murat Atak. After the opening speech by District Governor Kerem Muradi, the incoming District Governor L. Can Çığırman gave a speech on international goals. He talked about the value of membership, the importance of coming together to achieve goals more easily, and the cooperation with NGOs being essential. It was emphasized that while Rotary needs innovation and renewal, our core values must remain unchanged.

One of the pleasant surprises of the Assembly was the dance performance, which was the result of 4 months of dance lessons taken by the organizing Tandoğan Rotary and Rotaract Clubs with the opening and closing songs lyrics which were written by GDG. Korhan Atilla, for the new club presidents sharing their goals.

On the second day, L. Can Çığırman presented a session on our regional goals and projects. The session covered 7 key areas, and before the presentation, our members showcased their special performance, which they had worked on for 4 months. Committee Chairs Özge Yalçın, Selim Soydemir, Aslı Selin Ariemre, Ayşegül Atak Yücel, Çağrı Şahin, Ayşe Sancı, and Kemal Atilla made their presentations. Our GDGs, Malik Aviral, Murat Öz, Korhan Atilla, Altan Arslan, Hakan Karaalioğlu, and Kemal Ketrez, along with our incoming District Governor Candidate Orhan Uludağ, delivered speeches as part of the BES session, prepared by our past District Governor and Regional Training Leader, Kemal Ketrez. The guest speaker of the day, Mehmet Yıldırım Özel (Q Mark Consulting), gave an inspirational speech for leaders, sharing his valuable experiences and insights.





## Rotary International District 2430 Asembly, Alanya, Türkiye

An important topic of our Assembly was one of the most significant projects of the year: the “Let’s Grow a Tree” project. Developed by Suar Nilgün Çığırhan, inspired by a project previously carried out by the Tandoğan Rotary Club, this initiative received great interest. Güler Karabulut, who benefited from the project, shared her emotional moments while explaining the project through her own experience.

On the final day of the Assembly, our guest was Teacher İhsan Kartoğlu. He shared his experiences regarding one of the most important projects of the new term, "We Are Going to Atatürk," with the audience. We had promised to introduce “Transformational Leaders” to the term, and we witnessed a transformational leadership speech from our esteemed teacher.

Asamble 2025 concluded with a Gala Night featuring the performance of the Tayla Koray Orchestra and Taylan Erler. Our Rotary friends, filled with new excitement for the upcoming term, left Alanya with new memories.



# ROTARY RID 2440 CONFERENCE

## RID 2440 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN THE ISLAND OF KOS

This year, RID 2440 Governor Mert Korur decided to conduct District Conference on Greek Island Kos by the organization of Rotary Club of Bodrum members. Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick was represented by RI 2024-26 Director Susan Stenberg. RI District 2430 Governor Kerem Muradi and RI District 2420 Governor İlder Ergürebüz participated.

Rotary International District 2475 was represented PDG. Mariza Oikonomou and Asst. Governor Elena Janniki, who delivered a peaceful message of Rotary cooperation.

Rotary Club members from Kos provided local support for the organization of the Conference.

The opening ceremony was graced by Kos Mayor Theodosios Nikitaras, who welcomed the international guests and praised Rotary's long-standing contributions to the local community.

Governor Mariza Oikonomou conveyed the warm greetings of Governor District 2475 Nikos Margaropoulos and emphasized the common vision that has united all Rotarians around the world for 120 years, always with the goal humanity

Club Presidents and District Officers who worked hard throughout the year to implement community-based projects and events were presented with commemorative plaques

Governor Mert Korur and his wife Özlem exchanged symbolic gifts with PDG Mariza Oikonomou, who expressed the importance of Rotary friendship with District 2475 Governor Nikos Margaropoulos in the 2024-2025 Rotary year.

As a sign of peace and Rotary Solidarity, Governor Mert, RIPR Director Susan and PDG Mariza planted olive trees and erected Peace Pole between Rotarians from the two countries and released white doves freely into the sky.





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### Samsun Kızılırmak Rotary Club



**ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU**  
**DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440**

Samsun Kızılırmak Rotary Club organized a very touching and effective program in the Kızılırmak Delta, one of Turkey's most important wetlands.

We carried out the "Give a bird a nest" Project with the participation of primary school students and their parents.

The project was realized with the partnership of Samsun Kızılırmak Rotary Club and Samsun Representative Office of Turkish Foresters Association.

With the project, our children, who are the little ones of our future, tried to contribute to nature to some extent by hanging the wooden bird nests they made themselves on the trees with a basket crane.

Today, however, the children will never forget the surprise they experienced when they learned which birds can adopt these nests, why the hole sizes in the nests are important, and most importantly, the excitement and happiness they experienced while hanging these nests.

The aim was to create a day that would be permanent in the minds of the children and to contribute to their becoming voluntary nature lovers for the future. I think we did it.

One of the most important goals of this project is to make a small contribution to the orthotic-prosthetic and rehabilitation support for the children who lost limbs in the Hatay earthquake with the income from this project.

We thank our little nature friends and parents for their contributions and sensitivity





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## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**RID 2440**

Regional Club Mavi Ege Rotary Club brought children together with sailing with the "Sea and Child" project on April 23rd, Children's Day





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### **RID 2430 - Rotary Club of Adana Koza accomplished a project of Park Wall painting.**

The “Colorful Hands, Shared Dreams” park project, carried out by RI DiSTRİCT 2430 Adana Koza Rotary Club, was implemented on April 23, 2025 in cooperation with the Adana Yüreğir Municipality. A busy park area was determined for the project, located in the garden of the Yüreğir Municipality Marriage Office, where newlyweds take photos, children play, and neighborhood residents spend a lot of time.

The entire process, from pattern design to template drawing, from painting to final applications, was carried out with the voluntary contributions of the members, spouses, and children of the Adana Koza Rotary Club.



## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2440

#### Rotary Club of Demirtaş accomplished a project of "Meeting students with author"

RID 2440 Bursa Demirtaş Rotary Club brought together 3rd grade students of Nilüfer Hatun Elementary School, a Community Corp., with children's book author and elementary school teacher Nursel Şahin.

The author gave a very enjoyable talk introducing her book in 2 parts to 208 students and signed the book we gave to each student one by one with their names.

A very enjoyable event was held with the children who experienced the excitement of meeting an author for the first time in their lives and having their book signed.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### **RID 2440 - Rotary Club of Çeşme accomplished a project of "Trekking Event".**

As the District 2440 Powerful feet trekking hobby group, we celebrated the 19th of May Youth and Sports Day by doing sports. Our walk, which was attended by 25 Rotarians and Rotaractors from 5 clubs in our region, was a great organization hosted by Çeşme Rotary Club. With the income from the event, we also supported the planting of mastic trees in the region.





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2440 - Rotary Club of Bursa accomplished a RYLA Automation

RID 2440 Bursa Rotary Club carried out the RYLA Automation program and inspired young people interested in the profession by equipping them with new information.





**ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜő**  
**DISTRICT 2452**

#### **ROTARY CLUB OF KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN ANNUAL SPRING MARKET FESTIVAL -D2452 CYPRUS**

The Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan hosted its annual Spring Market Festival on the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. Although Saturday's event was unfortunately cancelled due to adverse weather, they were delighted to go ahead as planned on Sunday the 4th and what a day it was!

RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan members were honoured to welcome the Mayor of LAC Mr Fırat Atasır, who joined in the morning to show his support. The aim of this annual event is to bring the community together in a vibrant, joyful atmosphere, while also offering local artists, craftspeople, and small business owners a valuable opportunity to showcase their talents and generate income.

The day was filled with wonderful performances! The much-loved Ahu Ari captivated the crowd with her stunning voice, while DJ Lucas brought energy and fun with his music, singing and dancing, getting everyone up and involved in some lively line dancing as well as his performance of Bachata with Sandra Chiara. Dancers Selen Ozdalili and Sandra Chirara wowed the audience with their spectacular and dynamic performance.

A special highlight was the visit from 31 the Rotarian friends from Rotary Club of Ludwigsburg, Germany, who joined RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan during their holiday. Their presence truly added to the spirit of international fellowship and celebration.

RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan thanks everyone who helped make the day a success.



## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### ROTARY CLUB OF KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN ANNUAL SPRING MARKET FESTIVAL - D2452 CYPRUS





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### Dr. Marios Antoniou, member of RC Nicosia-Salamis, led a Rotary International delegation to Uppsala University in Sweden - D2452 Cyprus

Between 23 and 25 April 2025, Dr. Marios Antoniou, member of RC Nicosia-Salamis, D-2452 led a Rotary International delegation to Uppsala University in Sweden, one of the partner universities of the Rotary Peace Fellowship program. As part of this Relationship Building Visit, Marios, who serves on RI's Rotary Peace Centers' committee contributed to the program's review process by holding discussions with Rotarians who support the program as Host Families / Host Counsellors, the academic and support staff of the program, Rotary International President Dr. Stephanie Urchick and of course, with the students of the program, namely, the Rotary Peace Fellows of classes 22 and 23 who are pursuing postgraduate studies in the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University.

The Relationship Building Visit was scheduled to coincide with the Center's annual seminar where Peace Fellows of the graduating class shared the results of their research, and their work with over 140 Rotarians and friends of the program who attended the event. The visit reaffirmed the importance of the Rotary Peace Fellowship program and its significant contribution to the personal and professional development of individuals working to improve the lives of people across our planet.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RC Famagusta Cavo Greco Hosts Island-Wide Rotary Leadership Gathering and Celebrates New Members - D2452

On Saturday 10th May 2025, the Rotary Club of Famagusta Cavo Greco proudly hosted a memorable leadership gathering, bringing together current and incoming presidents from clubs across Cyprus. The event, held in the scenic and elegant DiCapilla Seaside Stories, was marked by an atmosphere of light-hearted connection, joyful exchange, and a strong spirit of unity.

The event opened with heartfelt remarks from P. Louis Papageorgiou of the Famagusta Cavo Greco Rotary Club, who welcomed all attendees and emphasized the importance of strengthening inter-club relationships across the island. He was joined by distinguished Rotarians Lefteris Triaros, Past President Yiannis Tomasides, and other esteemed leaders who enriched the day with their presence and insights. We were honored to be joined by DDG Demetris Pantazis, whose ongoing dedication and support were once again deeply appreciated by all in attendance. His presence added both gravitas and warmth to the gathering.

A highlight of the event was the official pinning of five new members into the Rotary Club Famagusta Cavo Greco. This significant milestone reflects the club's continuous growth and its commitment to service, leadership, and community. The pinning ceremony was carried out with grace and enthusiasm by DDG Demetris and the PDDGs present, offering a heartfelt welcome to the newest members of our Rotary family.

The gathering was not only a celebration but also an opportunity for open dialogue and reflection. Leaders shared current challenges faced by their respective clubs, particularly touching on the important topic of membership engagement and inter-club communication and coordination. The conversation, moderated by DDG Demetris, was solution-oriented, practical, and marked by a spirit of collaboration—staying true to Rotary values.

A symbolic group photo captured the essence of the event: connection, leadership, and shared purpose. In addition, a moving leadership story was shared to remind us all, the deeper mission behind our roles and responsibilities within Rotary.

As the event concluded over a delicious seaside lunch, laughter and sincere conversations filled the air. The spirit of Rotary—service above self, friendship, and progress—was felt by all who attended.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who made this event a success and reaffirm our shared commitment to building stronger bonds across Rotary Clubs in Cyprus.

P. Louis Papageorgiou expressed his joy for the day's success and announced with heartfelt enthusiasm that he will host this event annually at DiCapilla Seaside Stories. Special thanks to all who contributed to this unforgettable day.

## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RC Famagusta Cavo Greco Hosts Island-Wide Rotary Leadership Gathering and Celebrates New Members - D2452





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### POLLINATION EVENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KYRENIA LIMAN - Cyprus D2452

On Thursday, May 15, RC Kyrenia Liman held their Pollination Event at the "Youth Garden" in Ozanköy, which is affiliated with the Municipality of Kyrenia, hosted by Ms. Burcu Veysioğlu, Mr. Mehmet Atak, and Mr. Mehmet İzbul.

They received information from Ms. Burcu Veysioğlu about the cultivation of heirloom seeds and the agricultural activities of the Youth Garden.

Students from Karaoğlanoğlu Primary School (which supports their own Pollination Garden), along with Principal Ms. Ayşem Tomgüsehan, teachers, and guests, participated in planting flowers and filling the insect hotel produced by Karpaz Vocational High School.

Ms. Caterina Kalavas drew attention to the decline in insects, butterflies, and bees that are vital for pollination due to climate change and the use of agricultural chemicals. She emphasized that we can support pollination even by growing flowers in our gardens or balconies.

RC Kyrenia Liman sincerely thanks the team from the Municipality of Kyrenia, the teachers and students of Karaoğlanoğlu Primary School, and the RC members who contributed to this event.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### EXHIBITION VISIT TO YESILYURT SPECIAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL by RC Kyrenia Liman - D2452 Cyprus

On Wednesday, May 21st. Members of RC Kyrenia Liman were at the exhibition visit of Yeşilyurt Special Education and Vocational School, which is a primary focus of RC Kyrenia Liman.

The beautiful handmade products created by the students both impressed and made us very proud.

Meanwhile, an emotional moment took place as the school's first graduate and winner of the dance competition, Tuana Zehirok, was presented with her diploma by the school principal, Ms. Esma İneci, and her plaque by Ms. Sibel Tatar.

RC Kyrenia Liman congratulated both the school principal and the teachers for their great effort and dedication in the students' development and education, and we wish them continued success.

As Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman, we will always stand by their side.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### DISTRICT 2452 - BAHRAIN: ROTARY CLUB OF SALMANIYA ORGANISED AN EID CARNIVAL FOR THE DOWN SYNDROME CARE CENTRE

On May 29, 2025, the Rotary Club of Salmaniya, District 2452 - Bahrain, organized a fun-filled Eid Carnival at the Down Syndrome Care Center in Adliya. Arts & Crafts, Games, Music & Dance for the kids, was organized by the Club Community Service Committee and hailed by the Center's director as one of the best events for the kids.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### CYPRIOAT AT THE HELM OF ROTARY DISTRICT 2452

Dubai, May 24, 2025 – In a grand ceremony held at the luxurious Mandarin Oriental Jumeira hotel in Dubai, Cypriot Peter Ashdjian takes over as the new Rotary Governor of District 2452 of Rotary International, effective July 1, 2025. The event, a formal gala dinner, brought together hundreds of Rotarians from dozens of countries across Europe, Asia, and Africa, highlighting the organization's global character.

#### Historic Moment for Cyprus

Peter Ashdjian's assumption of leadership marks a historic moment for Cyprus. As the Governor of District 2452, one of the most multicultural and active districts of Rotary International, Cyprus is projected as a pillar of service, leadership, and cooperation on an international level. Cyprus is no longer just a geographical part of the district but is now at the core of its leadership, signaling a new era for the Cypriot Rotarian world and the country's international presence through a global network of humanitarian purposes.

#### Vision with a Cypriot Signature

The new Governor, a fourth-generation Rotarian, expressed his emotion with a deep sense of responsibility. During his inauguration, he stated, "68 years ago, my great-grandfather served as the Governor of the District, then known as District 89, and later on he served as director of the Rotary International. To follow in his footsteps is a deep honor and a duty for me."

In his speech, Peter Ashdjian emphasized Rotary's social responsibility, the need to support regions in need such as Artsakh in Armenia, Sudan, and Palestine (some of the countries in District 2452), and the organization's unity under the motto "Unite for Good." He also stressed that leadership in Rotary means primarily service to communities, Rotary Clubs, and above all, its members.

"The members are at the heart of Rotary. We are here to work tirelessly so that you, the members, enjoy your Rotary journey, develop your clubs and contribute the best to your communities"

#### Cyprus in the Spotlight in 2026

Special emphasis was placed on the upcoming organization of the annual Rotary District Conference in Cyprus in May 2026. The conference holds not only Rotarian significance but also national importance, as it will offer Cyprus the opportunity to showcase itself internationally as a place of hospitality, culture, peace, and intercultural dialogue. It is worth noting that Rotary in Cyprus consists of 19 clubs operating across the island under the official flag of the Republic of Cyprus. Clubs from both communities collaborate seamlessly, making Rotary one of the few organizations that operates in harmony. Through the conference's proceedings and parallel cultural and social activities, Cyprus will showcase its history, traditions, and its role as a beacon of stability in the region. The ceremony in Dubai marked the beginning of a period that brings Cyprus to the forefront of international Rotary activity, with a positive impact on the country's Rotary clubs and the island's global outreach.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### CYPRriot AT THE HELM OF ROTARY DISTRICT 2452

##### What is Rotary?

Rotary is one of the oldest and most recognizable international volunteer organizations in the world. Founded in 1905, it has over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical regions. Rotarians work to promote peace, prevent and combat diseases, support maternal and child health, provide access to clean water, education, local economic development, and environmental protection.

In Cyprus, Rotary Clubs actively contribute through their community projects. Examples include:  
The creation of a Special Diagnostic Laboratory for childhood cancer at the Karaiskakio Foundation, worth over €400,000.

Similar diagnostic equipment donated to the Americos Argyriou Center for Preventive Pediatrics.

Restoration of the water supply system in the mountainous village of Ora.

Establishment of the first Queen Bee Breeding Center and Honey Quality Laboratory “Melissa Zoi” in Odou, in partnership with the Bank of Cyprus, to restore bee populations lost in devastating fires (over 100 million bees).

In Larnaca, in cooperation with the Bank of Cyprus, the creation of the first inclusive playground for children with mobility challenges, called “Equal Opportunities Park”.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they purchased four fully equipped ICU beds for Nicosia General Hospital and provided medical equipment to Kyrenia Hospital.

Rotary Clubs consistently support various organizations and institutions and also contribute by awarding scholarships to students.

The District 2452, which includes countries from the Middle East, Southern Europe, and Central Asia, is a model of multicultural cooperation and volunteerism. Rotary International holds official consultative status with the United Nations, participating actively in consultations and initiatives for global peace and human development.





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### CYPRriot AT THE HELM OF ROTARY DISTRICT 2452





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2475 – DG'S MONTHLY LETTER (MAY 2025)



ARPIC MARIA MASTORA  
DISTRICT 2475

My dear Rotary Family,

May, Rotary International's month dedicated to the New Generation, invites us to look to the future and recognize the power of young people as a driving force for positive change. As Rotarians, we have both the responsibility and the privilege to lead, inspire and support the young leaders of tomorrow. But to do this we must support and strengthen Rotaract, which has been significantly weakened in recent years. The current Board has made significant efforts to promote the importance, value and actions of Rotaract to society, efforts that, if continued in the coming years, have the potential to reverse the current situation

Young people have fresh energy, innovative ideas and a different way of approaching social challenges. We stand by them by offering, among other things, the renewed Institute for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship, IPYE, which this year was organized in Athens, Thessaloniki and Heraklion- Crete, with a significant number of young people responding. It is a long-term effort that I hope will continue in the same form and focus in the coming years.

We have made the initial report for our Conference in Ioannina. The large participation, the different presentation and structure, the presence of both the Representative of the President of Rotary International and the Governor of the 2120 District DR, Lino Pignataro, gave it an international character. As I mentioned at the Conference, the best report of the year was the Clubs' and Rotarians' awards, which were of a large number.

But I clarify here that the Clubs that did not receive an award does not mean that they did not realize rich and important Rotary activity, just that their activities did not fall into any of the categories that were announced, and besides, I think, we all agree, awards are not the motivation for service. Of course, the Congress does not mark the end of the Rotary year, we continue to work without interruption because our Contribution to Society never stops and is not determined by the end or the beginning of the Rotary Year. This was precisely one of the messages that this year's Board wanted to pass on to the Clubs, that it is our duty, when we hold the baton to do our best, but paving the way for the competent Leaders who will succeed us, so that their own course will start with the best possible conditions, in order Rotary, our District, will go even higher!

In Orlando last year, I was positively surprised to hear the Governor of 2440 Turkish District, Mert Korur, ask me to have his District organize their Conference in Kos.

**THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**NIKOS MARGAROPOULOS, DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-25  
MONTHLY LETTER MAY 2025**

Our District's Board approved the proposal and the Conference, under the motto of Peace, was held on 9-11 May. Due to my absence abroad, our District was represented by PDG Mariza Economou, together with the Assistant Governor Elena Gianniki. The assistance of past Assistant Governor Alexandros Papoulis with the help of RC Kos was essential. The Conference was another proof of Rotary Fellowship, which transcends any difference. It was very successful, with the participation of hundreds of Rotarians. Relevant report, together with photographic material, is given in the following pages of this Letter.

The international presence of our District continues as I have been invited to speak at the 2120 District Conference in Bari, Italy. RID 2120 also spearheaded the support of six Italian Districts in supporting our District's Global Grant of \$85,227 for the procurement of cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment for the islands of Anafi, Lipsi and Halki. This Global Grant was approved, the amount was paid by the Rotary Foundation, confirming, once again, the value of international cooperation and the strong position our District holds in the global Rotary family.

The month of June that begins in a few days will be the last one of this Magical Year, and on Saturday, 28/6, we will celebrate its completion and the beginning of the New Rotary Year, always in a spirit of fellowship, proud to be Rotarians. So let us come together, once again, to celebrate the Rotary we deserve, the Rotary of our hearts.



**Nikos Margaropoulos  
District Governor 2024-25  
RID 2475 / GREECE**



## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**RID 2475 - NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN IOANNINA- 25-27 APRIL 2025**

My dear Rotary Family,

I begin with a big Thank You to each one of you, Rotarians, and those who accompanied you!

It will not be the large attendance, but the positive spirit and excellent fellowship that will be the memory of this Conference, now that it is history. I am glad that changes, large or small, have contributed to a positive assessment of both the organization and the content of the Conference.

I only regret that a year and a half ago, when the hotel was booked, it was not possible to take into account the large number of participants and thus it was not possible to have space for everyone at the Gala dinner, which was attended by over 330 people.

But I am sure that at every subsequent event, culminating the change of leadership on June 28th and the next Conference in Rhodes, we will exceed this number of participants, living what we envisioned together last year, the Rotary we deserve, the Rotary of our hearts!

For the amazing Team that with exceptional competence, but also with rotarian Love, organized and managed all the details of this conference, it is not enough to say, "thank you".

Thank you" and congratulations! It was not a surprise, let us not forget that all year long we have worked as a team and this collective effort is vindicated.

We will continue to do this way until we hand over the baton to the next Governor and his Team, with the wish and encouragement to go higher. This will be the vindication of all our efforts.

Congratulations to the newly elected DGN Dimitra Sukara and the other deserving candidates Kostas Karagiannis and Elias Papageorgiou

Let us remain with the pleasant memory of this Conference, and continue to pass on and experience the magic of Rotary.

**Nikos Margaropoulos, DG 2024-25**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN IOANNINA- 25-27 APRIL 2025





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

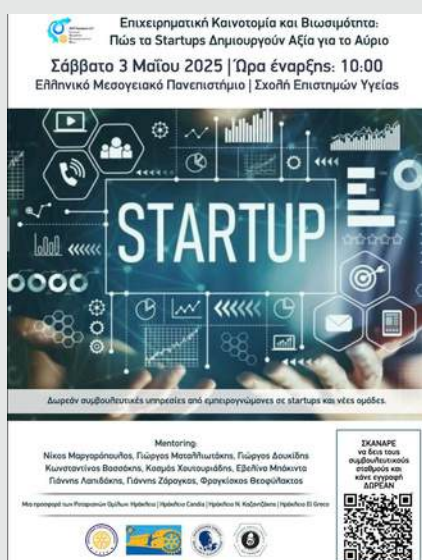
### RID 24745 -SEMINAR / Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Institute

The Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Institute (YEPI) of RID 2475 organized, on 3/5/2025, a FREE seminar entitled: "Business Innovation & Sustainability: How Startups Create Value for Tomorrow", at the School of Health Sciences of Hellenic Mediterranean University (ELMEPA) in Heraklion, Crete.

The seminar was organized by RID 2475, in collaboration with the 4 Rotary Clubs of Heraklion (RC Heraklion, RC Iraklio Candia , RC Iraklio - N. Kazantzakis, RC Iraklio - El Greco.) The seminar was held in the presence of DG Nikos Margaropoulos and the Vice-Regional Governor of Crete in the area related to issues of interface with research and academic institutions Dr. Matalliotakis George.

At the same time, a voluntary blood donation took place at the seminar site, by the Blood Donation Station of the "Venizelio" Hospital of Heraklion. Each blood donor and each trainee was given free books from Inlibrovita "Give the book life".

As President of RC Iraklio , I would like to congratulate the Assistant Governor and member of our Club, Michael Zografakis-Sfakianakis, who took over the coordination of the event, as well as our Club members, Ioannis Lapidakis and Evelynne Bakinta, for their participation and their excellent contributions to the seminar. I would also like to thank ELMEPA, which offered its premises free of charge, for the needs of the seminar, DIMOSTHENIS MARAKIS and Inlibrovita "Give life to the book", for the donation of the books, as well as the staff of the Blood Donation Station of the "Venizelio" Hospital, for the organization of the Blood Donation.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RD 2475. Blood donation

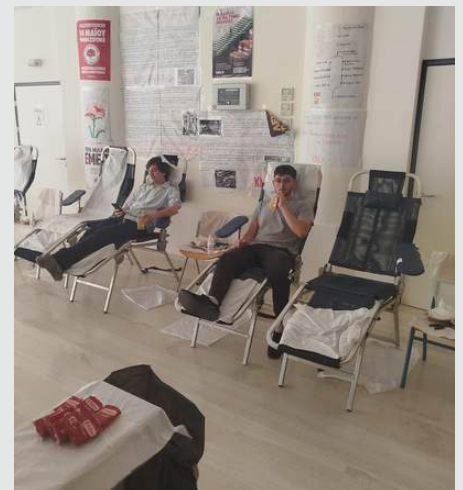
The Voluntary Blood Donation Committee of RID 2475 organized in Heraklion, Crete, as a parallel activity to the seminar of the Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Institute(IPEN), a voluntary blood donation with the participation of the Rotary Clubs of Crete and the Rotary e-Club of Greece.

Once again, the "Rotarians of Crete" proved how high the ideals of the Volunteer are, by offering blood in this excursion of the Committee in beautiful Crete!!!!

With these actions, we keep our District's Blood Bank alive, stocked and operational, so that it can cover our fellow Rotarians in a difficult moment of their lives.

Special thanks to DG Nikos Margaropoulos and the AG for the Clubs of Crete Michael Zografakis-Sfikianakis for their unreserved help and contribution to the organization of this action and for showing how high in the priorities of the District is the Voluntary Blood Donation !!!!

Special thanks to the volunteer group Inlibrovita "Give the book life" and to the Rotarian DIMOSTHENIS MARAKIS and his entire team, who distributed books as a "gift" to the volunteer blood donors and to the Blood Donation Center of the Venizelio General Hospital Blood Center and the tireless staff of the Blood Donation Center for the excellent cooperation.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2440 CONFERENCE 9-11 MAY 2025, KOS

The annual Conference of RID 2440 was successfully held on 9-11 May 2025 on the island of Kos, with DG Mert Korur having as theme the International Peace, and organized by RC Bodrum, Turkey.

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick was represented by RID 2024-26 Susan Stenberg. RID-2420 and RID-2430 Governors also participated in this Conference.

RID 2475 was represented by PDG Marisa Ekonomou and Assistant Governor Elena Gianniki carrying the peaceful message of Rotary fellowship.

The members of RC Kos supported locally the organization of the Conference.

The opening ceremony was honored by the Mayor of Kos, Theodosios Nikitaras, who welcomed the international guests and praised RC Kos's long-standing contribution to the local community.

PDG Mariza Economou conveyed the warm greetings of RID 2475 Governor Nikos Margaropoulos and stressed the common vision that unites all Rotarians around the world for 120 years, always aiming at the fellow human being.

Governor Mert Korur and his wife Özlem in an enthusiastic atmosphere, exchanged symbolic gifts with PDG Mariza Economou, expressing the importance of rotarian friendship with RID 2475 DG Nikos Margaropoulos, during the Rotary year 2024-25.

In a sign of Peace and Rotarian Solidarity, Governor Mert, Director Susan and PDG Mariza planted an olive tree in presence of Rotarians from both countries and left free white doves in the sky.

In a special festive environment during the gala dinner, RID 2440 DG Mert Korur awarded Assistant Governor Elena Gianniki, RC. Kos President Vasilios Hadjichristofis and PAG Alexandros Papoulis for their contribution in the success of the international conference and in expression of gratitude and rotarian fellowship.

In the context of the Conference was promoted the great organization of the ICC-Public Image Summit that will take place in Athens from 13-16 November 2025, renewing the appointment of all Rotarians there.





THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2440 CONFERENCE 9-11 MAY 2025, KOS





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI**

#### **50th Award Ceremony of International Leonardo Da Vinci Prize**

With great success, the 50th Award Ceremony of the International Leonardo Da Vinci Prize was held in Athens, at the Peristyle of the Zappeion Hall, with the participation of 11 European Rotary Clubs: Athens, Amsterdam, Vienna, Würzburg, Brussels, Dublin, Copenhagen, London, Madrid, Tours, and Florence.

The award was presented to trombone solist Ms. Barbara-Antigoni Athinaïou by the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Nikitas Kaklamanis.

Greetings were delivered by:

- Rotarian Anastasios Ballas, President of RC Athens,
- Rotarian Dr. Ioannis Koimtzoglou, Chairman of the LDV Athens 2025 Committee,
- Rotarian Emanouela Masini, Secretary General of the LDVA and Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Florence,
- and composer Rotarian Giorgos Katsaros, honorary member of RC Athens, who spoke with deep emotion about the personality and work of the award-winning musician.

Among the distinguished guests were Member of the European Parliament Mr. Dimitris Tsiodras and former Mayor of Athens Mr. Kostas Bakoyannis, both of whom addressed the audience, highlighting the prestige and importance of this year's event. Also in attendance was the Very Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Theodosios Oikonomidis, whose presence added a special symbolic touch to the occasion.

Attendees included: Rtn. Katerina Kotsali, former board member of RI, Rtn. Nikos Margaropoulos, DG 2475; PDG Rtn. Mary Delivoria, DGN Rtn. Dimitra Soukara, PAG Rtn. Maria Mastora ,ARPIC Zone 21B, Assistant Governors Rtn. Gianna Apostolakou and Rtn. Panos Vomvylas; President of RC Thessaloniki Rtn. Lena Chatzidimou, Mr. Nikos Avramidis, Athens City Councilor; Representatives from Piraeus Bank (sponsor), the Red Cross; distinguished academics, businesspersons, and Rotarians from all over Greece 🇬🇷

Athens, hosting the ceremony for the sixth time in the history of the institution, once again demonstrated its key role as a cultural and Rotary hub of Europe. The choice of the Greek capital for the symbolic 50th award ceremony was no coincidence, as it embodies the past, present, and future of an institution that continues to inspire and unite.

Through such events, RC Athens continues to serve as a bridge between institutions and society, with a focus on people and the timeless values of service and peace.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all contributors, the Rotaract Club of Athens, the Region of Attica for its patronage, and Piraeus Bank for its support!

## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI

### 50th Award Ceremony of International Leonardo Da Vinci Prize





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2475 - ROTARACT DISTRICT 2475

On May 10th 2025, Rotaract District 2475 Greece organized a First Aid Seminar together with the National Emergency Aid Center (NACA) at the offices of D-2475 in presence of rotarians Officers, members and friends of Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.

Those present were trained in First Aid by professional rescuers-trainers of the National Emergency Aid Center, which included theory and practice by using props in the following training subjects:

- ◆ Conductor.
- ◆ Lung and Heart Support.
- ◆ Automatic External Defibrillator
- ◆ Treatment of injuries.
- ◆ Providing First Aid in pathological emergencies.

At the end of the seminar, certificates of attendance were issued by the Organization.



## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2475 - RC KOROPi

Rotary Club Koropi offered gift vouchers to the Association of Sponsoring Families of Saronicos to be given to families in need in the area.



### RID 2475 - RC KOROPi

RC Koropi, after personal dedicated time of all its members, collected 20 boxes of women's and children's clothes, as well as children's shoes, all of excellent quality and condition. These items were delivered to families in need in Spata area.



ωη καρπετοπουλου

April 8 at 12:22 PM -

έλω να ευχαριστήσω δημόσια τον

ισταριανό Όμιλο Κορωπιου για τα παιδικά ρούχα και διάφορα παιδικά παπούτσια τα οποία φυσικά όλα χαρίζονται σε ανθρώπους που τα έχουν ανάγκη.

ύριο θα έρθουν άλλες 10κουτες με διάφορα γυναικεία ρούχα πάλι από τον Ροταριανό μμιλο

ίμαι πολύ ευχαριστημένη για την εμπιστοσύνη που μου δείχνετε.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC PATRA KOSTIS PALAMAS Lunch of Love by RC Patra- Kostis Palamas

RC Patra- Kostis Palamas offered a "Lunch of Love" to the guests of the Homeless Asylum and the Ark of Love, thus honoring the holy days of Easter.

This initiative is now a tradition for the Club, which, with a sense of responsibility and solidarity, consistently supports the socially vulnerable groups of our city, offering not only material support but also moral support to our fellow human beings in need.

The members of the Club actively participated in this action.

We would like to thank the staff of the two institutions for their valuable cooperation and hospitality.



## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### RID 2475 - RC CHRISOUPOLIS NESTOS RIVER

Members of RC Chrisoupolis- Nestos River had a meeting with Rotarians of RC of Zlatograde at our headquarters.

During the meeting we discussed issues of cooperation for the next Rotary year and accepted an invitation to a three-day event with the participation of Rotarians of Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria in Zlatograd, Bulgaria.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE

On Holly Wednesday Rotary e-Club Greece, the favorite chef and awarded professional of the year by e-Club, Iakovos Apergis, offered a meal of love to the Social Kitchen of the Municipality of Korydallos. This time, Iakovos, interceded for the sponsorship of seafood dishes, from the companies "7 Seas" & "Vassiliou Trofinko", which he cooked with joy and passion in the Social Kitchen, with the help of the Social Services Staff and members of our Club.

The result was an excellent meal for the beneficiaries of the structure! Every act of social sensitivity is a practical demonstration of compassion and humanity!



**ΔΗΜΟΣ ΚΟΡΥΔΑΛΛΟΥ**  
**ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ**  
**ΔΟΜΗ ΠΑΡΟΧΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΚΩΝ ΑΓΑΘΩΝ**  
**ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟ ΣΥΣΣΙΤΙΟ**

**"ΓΕΥΜΑ ΑΓΑΠΗΣ"**  
Για τους υπεύθυνους του Κοινωνικού Συσσιτίου



**ΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΣΕΦ ΙΑΚΩΒΟ ΑΠΕΡΓΗ**  
**Μ.ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 16/04/2025**  
**ΩΡΑ: 10:30**

**7ΘΑΛΑΣΣΕΣ**  
Vassiliou Trofinko

Κτίριο Κοινωνικών Υπηρεσιών Δήμου Κορυδαλλού  
Ξενοφώντος 5 & Πελοπίδα

 Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης  



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA KASTRI

RC Kifissia-Kastri held an action at the Athens Nursing Home on April 30th, 2025. Members of the Club and volunteers created beautiful May Day wreaths with various flowers and colors, assisted by the elderly. During the action, the inmates of the nursing house had the opportunity to be entertained by Mrs. Olga Alexopoulou Director-Founder of the choir "Olgarythmos". She accompanied them on the piano with favorite songs of another era and the residents not only sang (with sheet music printed for everyone) but danced as well.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC SANTORINI OIA Organization of Voluntary Blood Donation

Once again RC Santorini Oia stands by the side of the unknown suffering fellow human being and the Blood Bank of D 2475 by organizing another Voluntary Blood Donation.

The Voluntary Blood Donation Committee of the District thanks from the bottom of its heart RC Santorini Oia for the continuous and uninterrupted voluntary blood donation of its members, ranking it as the Rotary Club with the largest voluntary contribution of blood units by its members to our bank.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

On May 17th 2025, RC Kerkyra offered to the school of Corfu Prison a document shredder and stationery. The donation met a constant need of the Prison School. The President of RC Kerkyra offered the equipment to the president of the Friends of Corfu Prison School.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC KORINTHOS

RC Korinthos continues its social work with another substantial donation, to the Kiato Health Center. On Friday, May 16th, it donated a medical mobile aspirator (suction) unit, enhancing the medical equipment and facilitating the work of the health officers.

The donation was accepted with great joy by the Director of the Health Center, Mr. Andreas Rovilos, who emphasized that the device will significantly contribute to the upgrading of the services provided to citizens.

Also present at the ceremony was the president of the local council of the city of Kiato, Mrs Alexandra Avramopoulou, who warmly thanked everyone who contributed to the implementation of this initiative, highlighting the importance of social contribution and cooperation for the common good. The president of RC Corinthos rtm Michalis Michailidis, signed the handover protocol and received the letter of appreciation from the scientific operations coordinator of the Kiato Health Center.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA POLITIA

Mother's Day was celebrated on May 11th, at Hippolysis, a centre that rescues horses, offers them love and a good life and they in turn help people through learning and self-awareness sessions. Many thanks to psychiatrist-neurologist, Dr. Niki Markogianni, founder of Hippolysis for her excellent speech and experience with horses! RC Kifissia Politia proceeded to a sponsorship to this non-profit organization that helps horses and people.

Sincere thanks to all participants in this festive event!





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA POLITIA

The official delivery of RC Kifissia Politia's major project, 4 brand new state-of-the-art HP desktops and 4 UPSs to schools in Imbros, was completed during our amazing trip to the island. We were welcomed by the Imbrian Cultural Association, teachers, professors and students to whom we delivered sweatshirts, courtesy of our member Xenia Perrotis Cantuna.

During our four-day trip we visited, among other things, the schools that started operating in 2013, after 50 years of closure, thanks to the Imbrians and the tireless efforts of Patriarch Bartholomew. Metropolitan Kirillos welcomed us warmly in the Metropolis, thanked us for the donation and exposed us the tremendous effort of the Imbrians and priests to keep alive Hellenism and the schools attended by 50 students.



### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE & RC SANTORINI ENRICHMENT OF THE LIBRARY OF THE ONCOLOGY CLINIC DAY CARE UNIT OF THE HOSPITAL OF RIO PATRAS.

The members of Rotary e-Club Greece and RC Santorini were invited to cover an important need of the Hospital of Rio.

Specifically, the already existing lending library of the Oncology Clinic Day Care Unit of the Hospital of Rio Patras was enriched. The members of the two Clubs donated at least 250 volumes of books of various subjects.

And what a surprise when we saw that the existing library was donated by the Patras - South Club (a Club that no longer exists) the satisfaction was multiple as it is proven once again that the Rotary Wheel continues to turn in perpetuity and its works exist, remain and we ought to preserve them and why not increase them.....!!!!

The nursing staff of the unit, stressed that the lending library is extremely important for the patients of day hospitalization (undergoing chemotherapy), since the location of the building is unfortunately not accessible by the mobile phone network and therefore there is no access to the internet. Thus the time required for treatment is very difficult. The only way to smoothen the situation is a book from the unit's lending library.





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC PIRAEUS EAST

RC Piraeus East participated in the "Cycling with Love for Mother" cycling event, together with other Rotary Clubs. The event was a great success with more than 65 participants with 55 cyclists. The proceeds will cover the needs of the Foundation "Mother".

The magic of Rotary unites...





### THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

#### RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI NORTH

Running faster than cancer; participating as RC Athinai North members in Cancer Patient Association “KEFI” Σύλλογος Καρκινοπαθών Κεφι race to support those who fight cancer and in memory of our beloved ones in the sky.





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION "CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

#### The Art of Saying NO to Addictions

Rotary International, District 2482 Bulgaria, proudly announces the launch of the national visual arts competition "Choose Freedom!", dedicated to the art of saying NO to addictions.



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN  
DISTRICT 2482

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



#### Who can participate?

The competition is open to young people aged 14 to 18.

#### Objectives of the Competition:

1. To raise awareness in society, especially among young people, about the dangers of addictions, including the use of harmful substances.
2. To encourage creativity and digital skills among young people.
3. To inspire participants to create powerful visual messages against addictions.
- 4.

#### Competition Timeline:

- Competition Announcement: March 22, 2025, Hotel Calista, Stara Zagora Mineral Baths.
- Regulations Announcement & Start of the Competition: March 27, 2025.
- Deadline for Submission of Entries: May 10, 2025.
- Announcement of Winners: May 31, 2025.
- Official Award Ceremony: June 14, 2025, Plovdiv, Annual Conference of Rotary International, District 2482 Bulgaria.

#### Categories for Participation:

- Poster (hand-drawn or digital)
- Short Video (2 to 3 minutes)
- Meme with a message

#### Evaluation and Awards:

Participation in the competition is individual. Each participant may compete in only one category with one submission.

All young people aged 14 to 18 who are students are eligible to participate.

## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

#### "CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

The entries will be evaluated by a jury composed of representatives from Rotary clubs in Bulgaria, experts in graphic design, and representatives of organizations involved in addiction prevention and treatment.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- ✓ Clarity and impact of the message (up to 40 points)
- ✓ Artistic and technical execution, and script (up to 30 points)
- ✓ Originality of presentation (up to 30 points)

In addition to the official jury, there will also be a "Audience Award". Information on how the public can vote and express their preferences will be published on the district's website by April 10, 2025.

#### Prizes:

- 🏆 **First place in each category – Tablet**
- 🥈 **Second and third places – Material prizes**
- 🏅 **Additional awards:**
  - **"Special Award for Social Impact"**
  - **Audience Award**

All participants will receive a digital certificate. Schools with the highest number of participants will also be recognized.

#### How to Participate?

Fill out the participation form: <https://forms.gle/2xnraA9v4Fgm1ANB8>

Upload your artwork; for video submissions – send a link.

Wait for a confirmation email regarding the receipt of your submission.

Technical requirements are published on the Rotary District 2482 website:

🔗 <https://www.rotarydistrict2482.org/>

Follow us on social media!

#ChooseFreedom #NoAddictions #RotaryBulgaria

#### Be part of the change!

**Share your message, inspire those around you, and support the cause of building a healthier future!**



## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **ROTARY CLUB TUTRAKAN, COMPLETED PROJECT "THE WALL"**

The Rotary Club of Tutraikan has successfully completed its project for painting a section of the retaining wall in the town.

Initiated by the Rotary Club's current president and further developed with the help of the director of the historical museum, a competition was announced for designing a mural on a part of the retaining wall along "Dulbokiyat Pat" (The Deep Road). Two companies submitted designs, and the Club approved the one by "Sofia Graffiti Tour." Over the course of 7 days, three young artists from Sofia and Pernik painted approximately 95 square meters of the wall. Tsvetan Bizev, Rikardo Garov, and Ivan Kolev Ivanov visualized symbols and figures that the people of Tutraikan take pride in and deeply respect.

The project was funded by the Rotary Club as well as friends of the Club. The total cost of the mural amounted to 7,000 BGN.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **"PLAY SPORTS WITH THE ROTARY FAMILY – GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH" IN STARA ZAGORA**

On May 11, 2025, the charitable event “Play Sports with the Rotary Family” was held in “Artillery Park” in Stara Zagora. The event was organized by the Rotary Club Stara Zagora, the Satellite Rotary E-Club Stara Zagora, the Rotaract Club Stara Zagora, and the Interact Club Stara Zagora.

The goal of the event was to raise funds for providing free eye screenings for children in kindergartens across the city, with a focus on the early detection and treatment of amblyopia (“lazy eye”). The initiative successfully raised enough funds to carry out 350 preventive eye examinations.

Participants had the opportunity to take part in tournaments in football, basketball, tennis, volleyball, and running. Group fitness classes were also organized for all interested, including Zumba, Tabata, and HIIT sessions, along with demonstrations of American football and baseball.

The event was carried out with the support of the Municipality of Stara Zagora, the help of volunteers and professional trainers, and sponsorship from “Sevtopolis” mineral water and “Zagorka” brewery. Some of the participants also won prizes through a raffle, which included medical check-up vouchers generously donated by members of the Rotary Club Stara Zagora.

This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts of the Rotary Family in Stara Zagora to promote an active lifestyle and support health prevention among children.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**ROTARIANS FROM THE "RUSE - DANUBE" CLUB AND STUDENTS FROM THE BABA TONKA MATH HIGH SCHOOL PADDED IN KAYAKS FOR A CAUSE AGAINST ADDICTIONS.**

Young leaders from the Baba Tonka Mathematics High School in Ruse, Rotarians from the "Ruse – Danube" Rotary Club, and members of the "White Star" travel club took part in the 23rd Rotary Kayak Trip on the Yantra River. The crews paddled under the motto "Prevention of Addictions Among Adolescents."

The participation of high school students in the Rotary kayak journey demonstrated that young people in our community are eager to explore diverse opportunities for spending their free time in healthy and meaningful ways.

In a world where temptations are around every corner, the risk of children becoming obsessed with screens or developing addictions to harmful substances is enormous. That is why the participants in the event led by example, showing that society can build a strong shield against these threats.

For many of the young participants, this was their first encounter with the adventure of kayaking. They quickly adapted and enthusiastically paddled side by side with their more experienced companions, including their teacher Kaloyan Nachev. Through teamwork and interaction with successful members of the community, the students gained valuable lessons and motivation for their future development. Participants shared that sports and a positive attitude toward outdoor activities are powerful allies in the fight against addiction.

At the end of the trip, all students were awarded certificates for successfully completing the route and supporting the cause.

The 23rd Rotary Kayak Trip on the Yantra River once again proved that the combined efforts of Rotarians and young people can create meaningful and inspiring experiences aimed at building a healthier society.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **ROTARIANS FROM THE "RUSE - DANUBE" CLUB AND STUDENTS FROM THE BABA TONKA MATH HIGH SCHOOL PADDED IN KAYAKS FOR A CAUSE AGAINST ADDICTIONS.**

160 Students Compete in Games of Speed, Agility, and Balance in Stara Zagora's Artillery Park

Once again, Stara Zagora hosted the beloved sporting event for 1st to 4th grade students – part of the long-term project “Mission: Healthy Children” by Rotary Club Stara Zagora-Beroe. Held in the green heart of the city, Artillery Park, the event was organized with the support of the Municipality of Stara Zagora.

Around 160 students from eight local schools participated in fun and competitive games aimed at developing speed, coordination, and teamwork. The children competed in two age groups – grades 1–2 and grades 3–4, in teams of 10.

Petko Krumov, Head of the Municipal Sports Department, greeted the participants on behalf of Mayor Zhivko Todorov, emphasizing the importance of sports for health and happiness. Anton Tonev, Deputy Chairman of the City Council and Rotary member, highlighted how the project is becoming a symbol of community unity around the values of health, sports, and teamwork.

Rotary Club President Dimitar Stamatov underlined the project's focus on promoting physical activity, health prevention, and social skills in children. He thanked the municipality, schools, and volunteers for their support and encouraged the children to stay active even after the event.

Special guest Dr. Georgi Gospodinov praised parents and teachers for inspiring kids to lead active lives and reminded everyone that these children are the future.

The event was filled with joy, energy, and a strong sense of community. All participating teams received awards and souvenirs provided by the Municipality. The event was hosted by Katya Ruseva, Rotary member and principal of Elin Pelin Private School, who helped create a vibrant and well-organized atmosphere.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **ROTARY CLUB NOVA ZAGORA – AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY.**

For another consecutive year, on the eve of the Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture, Rotary Club Nova Zagora held a ceremonial gathering to honor outstanding educators from the municipality.

The event was attended by teachers and school leaders from across the region. The honorary “Teacher of the Year 2025” award was presented to Mrs. Boyka Nyagolova in recognition of her lifelong dedication and commitment to the teaching profession. Mrs. Nyagolova is a long-standing educator and school leader whose enthusiasm and tireless energy serve as an inspiration to younger professionals in the field of education. The certificate was presented by the club president.

The annual education awards aim to highlight the achievements, talent, professionalism, and civic contributions of the nominated educators.



**ROTARY CLUB SAMOKOV AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO 12 TALENTED STUDENTS**

In Samokov, an official ceremony was held to honor twelve outstanding students with certificates and scholarships as part of the annual Rotary Club Samokov initiative, "Rotary for Gifted Children." The project encourages young people's achievements in education, culture, and sports.

This year, over 70 students from 10 clubs applied, reflecting the rich talent in the community. After careful evaluation by a jury, 12 students were selected, each receiving a certificate and a scholarship of 500 BGN.

Awardees included students from various local schools, such as Nikola Y. Vaptsarov High School, Konstantin Fotinov High School, and others from surrounding villages.

The ceremony was attended by the mayor of Samokov, deputy mayors, municipal officials, teachers, parents, and representatives of cultural institutions and media. Special certificates were also given to participating schools and clubs supporting the initiative.

Rotary Club Samokov President Radoslav Naydenov emphasized the challenge of selecting only 12 recipients, noting that many others deserve recognition. "We believe every child has potential that should be nurtured and supported," he said.

The event featured a musical performance by Margarita Bocheva, who also received a special award.

The ceremony concluded with a group photo and scholarship documentation presented to the students' parents. Organizers expressed gratitude to all local schools, clubs, and institutions for their cooperation and highlighted their commitment to supporting youth development in Samokov.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **PARADISE CUP 2025 – ROTARY CLUB KARDZHALI AND ARDA 1924 FOOTBALL ACADEMY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WITH 2000 KIDS!**

On June 1st, on the occasion of Children's Day, the award ceremony of the annual football tournament Paradise Cup took place. The tournament was held in two stages – the first ended in mid-May, and the final awards ceremony was on June 1st. Thirty teams from 30 football schools across the country participated, training over 25,000 children.

Among the guests were: DGE Plamen Tsvetkov, ADG Emil Pashov, DGN Alexander Petrov, RPIC of Zone 21B and PDG of District 2430 Altan Arslan, Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Committee Konstantin Stoyanov, Chair of the Public Image Committee Stoyanka Georgieva, presidents of Rotary Clubs Ruse-Dunav and Burgas – Galya Pencheva and Gergana Georgieva, a friend of the club from Bursa Shaban Rodoplu, president of Rotary Club Edirne Aykut, as well as guests from Rotary Clubs Harmanli and Dimitrovgrad.

Paradise Cup is not just a football tournament but a valuable investment in the development of future athletes. As Rotary, we emphasize the importance we give to young people and their healthy, active development. The children participating not only play sports but also learn values such as teamwork, discipline, and friendship.

For next year, our goal is to expand the tournament by including more Rotary Clubs and actively engaging the local community. It is especially important to increase the involvement of parents and families to better support the young athletes.

We invite all Rotary Clubs to join this significant sports and youth initiative to build healthier and more successful generations together. The champions of tomorrow grow up with the Rotary family!





**ARKAN APTURAHMAN ON.....**

## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**PARADISE CUP 2025 – ROTARY CLUB KARDZHALI AND ARDA 1924 FOOTBALL ACADEMY  
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WITH 2000 KIDS!**





**ARKAN APTURAHMAN ON.....**

## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**PARADISE CUP 2025 – ROTARY CLUB KARDZHALI AND ARDA 1924 FOOTBALL ACADEMY  
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WITH 2000 KIDS!**





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### 1. Georgia Rotary Student Program

On Wednesday, 14. May 2025, Rotaract District 2483 Serbia and Montenegro, in cooperation with the Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica and the Rotaract Club Belgrade Čukarica, organized an online lecture titled “The Georgia Rotary Student Program.” The guest speaker was the program director, Kathyryne A. Fields from Georgia. She had the opportunity to present the scholarship program offered by Rotary clubs from Georgia to students from around the world, along with the application requirements. Selected students are granted a one-year study opportunity in Georgia, which includes accommodation, meals, and a monthly stipend.

PDG ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC  
DISTRICT 2483





## **2. ROTARY KLUBA ZRENJANIN – LECTURE ABOUT POLIO**

The Rotary Club of Zrenjanin is on April 24, 2025 in the conference hall of the hotel "Vojvodina" organized a lecture dedicated to marking the week of the fight against poliomyelitis. The goal of this event was to inform the membership and citizens about the current situation of poliomyelitis in the world and get acquainted with the latest scientific research in the field of prevention and treatment of this disease.

The lecture was given by the respected Dr. Gaja Pozojević, a specialist pulmonologist and a long-time specialist member of our club, who introduced the attendees to the historical perspective of vaccination, as well as according to the latest data from the World Health Organization. It was especially pointed out that, although the number of cases of poliomyelitis in the global context have significantly decreased, the disease is still a threat to population in some regions, primarily in parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dr. Pozojević explained the difference between attenuated ("numbed") - oral and "dead" parenteral vaccines, pointing out the advantages of oral. He emphasized that the new generation vaccines are being tested for greater safety, but that their widespread application still depends on logistical and financial capacities of countries with limited resources. He also drew attention to the importance of continuous education of local health workers and citizens, in order to complete immunization of as many children as possible was achieved.

In the discussion that followed, everyone agreed that the Rotary program "End Polio Now" will continue requires active support, both through fundraising and local actions education and promotion of vaccination. This event once again confirmed our commitment club's global initiative to eradicate polio and the local community's contribution to its humanitarian mission.

## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **3. 15.05.-18.05. Friendship that inspires - Rotary meetings from Plitvice to Una with the message of nature conservation**

Members of the Rotary Club of Sremska Mitrovica spent an inspiring weekend in Croatia and BiH, enjoying the natural beauty of the Plitvice Lakes and the Una River.

A special experience was provided by the visit to Bihać, where we were warmly and friendly welcomed by members of the Bihać Rotary Club (District 1910). Their hospitality and openness created an atmosphere of true Rotarian spirit. Together we visited the natural jewels Štrbački buk and Martin Brod, and the visit to the Rmanj monastery added a spiritual and cultural-historical dimension to our stay.

We were especially inspired by the presentation of the ecological action of RC Bihać - "Rotary Canyon", through which the hosts emphasized the importance of preserving natural resources and the role of Rotarians in environmental protection. This initiative additionally reminded us that the Rotary movement, in addition to friendship and humanitarian action, also has a strong environmental mission.

We are happy to invite our friends from Bihać to visit us in Sremska Mitrovica, in order to continue the dialogue and exchange of experiences in the spirit of Rotarian friendship. The upcoming meeting will be an opportunity to jointly consider the possibilities for the implementation of concrete initiatives that can already contribute to the preservation of the environment, the empowerment of local communities and the promotion of the value of sustainable development.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **4. April 12, 2025 Second Rotary Convention on Mental Health, District 2483 Mental Health Committee**

Organized by the Mental Health Committee of District 2483 I of the Budva Rotary Club, the 2nd Convention on Mental Health was held at the Montenegro Hotel in Bečići, entitled "Empathy - the way to a better society".

This year's convention theme was not chosen by chance. Empathy is the essence of humanity, the foundation of any healthy society and the core value on which Rotary rests. Without it, there is no understanding, no support, no true community. At a time when social, family and interpersonal ties are increasingly weak, it is our responsibility to cultivate solidarity, compassion and a willingness to be there for each other.

The event was officially opened by Vladan Mijailović, Governor of District 2483 in 2024/25, Dr. Tijana Antin Pavlović, president of the Committee for Mental Health, Dr. Jovo Đedović in front of the organizing committee and Mirko Radjenović, president of the Rotary Club of Budva.

As part of the convention, an inspiring panel discussion "The art of empathy" was held under the excellent moderation of Dr. Jov Đedović, a psychiatrist from RC Budva. Gordana Nišević-Tadić, lawyer, RC Novi Sad Eco Art, Dr. Tijana Antin Pavlović, child and adolescent psychiatrist, RC Belgrade Sava, Darija Bambur-Petović, psychologist, RC Kotor and Anđela Ivanović, lawyer, RC Budva gave their contribution in considering the importance of empathy in different spheres of life. . Participants presented the importance of empathy, not only in healthcare, but also in other professions, such as law and working with clients. As important as it is that empathy exists, it is just as important that it does not paralyze, but rather triggers action and adequate assistance to a client who has come to a lawyer or a patient who has consulted a doctor.

Special attention was drawn by Dr. Gorica Đokić's plenary lecture on "Narcissistic and Borderline Personality Disorders", which, through a professional but accessible approach, brought the complexity of mental challenges and the importance of an empathetic response closer to those present, led all those present to think and opened an interesting discussion about empathy in everyday life and leadership.

In the workshop part of the program, participants had the opportunity to actively participate in three workshops:

"Empathy in the health system", led by Dr. Olivera Poček, general medicine specialist, RC Ulcinj and Dr. Sanja Đedović, radiologist, DZ Budva. The presence and authentic experience of empathy on the part of a patient who has struggled for many years and continues to struggle with the difficult challenges of illness and disability gave the workshop a special richness. With her presence and authentic story, she pointed out the importance of the connection between courage and empathy and brought into the discussion the importance of the doctor's relationship with the patient and the way empathy is combined with the doctor's determination to help the patient.

## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **4. April 12, 2025 Second Rotary Convention on Mental Health, District 2483 Mental Health Committee**

"Empathy and dynamics within the Rotary community", led by prof. Dr. Marija Jevtić, RC Novi Sad Eco Art. This workshop is a place to discuss empathy within the Rotary community, empathy among the membership, and how empathy can and should be fostered within the club and within the Rotary community. Through the discussion, it was shown how much empathy within the club can be important for an individual - a member who is in a difficult phase of life.

"Empathy of the Rotary community towards society", with moderators Božena Jelušić, MD, prof. of Literature, RC Budva and M.Sc. Velibor Zolak, RC Budva. The workshop provided an opportunity to think through various examples about the importance of the Rotary Club's capacity for empathy towards the community, and how much empathy helps in deciding whom to help and in what way.

These workshops opened up space for reflection on how much and how we cultivate empathy within our communities and organizations, as well as on the broader implications for society as a whole.

The convention showed how necessary it is to talk about empathy not only as a feeling, but also as a skill that can be learned and nurtured. In an atmosphere of mutual respect, openness and honest exchange of experiences, the participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this innovative and necessary event. There was a strong sense of connection and a willingness to go further — to communities that care, listen and support.

The Mental Health Committee prepared this Convention for many months and with great care and reaffirmed that commitment to mental health is of particular importance at the moment in which we live and act as a Rotary community.

We express our special gratitude to the Rotary Club of Budva for their exceptional efforts in the realization of this Convention. The Mental Health Committee remains deeply committed to this topic, with a desire to spread the spirit of empathy within Rotary and beyond, in our local communities and globally.

Mental Health Committee:

Dr. Tijana Antin Pavlović, RC Belgrade Sava, Chair of the Rotary Committee for Mental Health RD 2483 2024/25

Prof. Dr. Marija Jevtić, RC Novi Sad Eco Art

Prim. Dr. Jovo Đedović, RC Budva

Dr. Olivera Poček, RC Ulcinj

MSc. Darija Petović Bambur, RC Kotor





## THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### 4. April 12, 2025 Second Rotary Convention on Mental Health, District 2483 Mental Health Committee





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **5. The first street library was installed from the funds of the second rotary table tennis tournament**

The second Rotary table tennis tournament was held in November 2024, and its goal was to collect funds for the construction of street libraries. Thanks to the great support, money was collected for the construction of three libraries.

The first street library was installed on May 22, 2025, as part of the EUCO Belgrade event, in the beautiful surroundings of the "Jevremovac" Botanical Garden. This library is now available to all garden visitors, who can freely borrow or exchange books and thus additionally enrich their time spent in this peaceful corner of Belgrade.

The street libraries project aims to promote reading culture, togetherness and accessibility of books to everyone, regardless of age and education. Street libraries function according to the principle "take a book - leave a book", which encourages exchange and love for the written word.

In the coming period, two more libraries are planned to be installed, which will give this project an even wider social significance.





## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **6 REPORT ON THE "KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE" FESTIVAL BELGRADE MAY 19, 2025**

After the municipal and district reviews of the "Knowledge for the Future" festival in Belgrade, the festival final was held on May 19, 2025, at the "Ranko Žeravica" Sports Hall in New Belgrade, in which 64 schools with 91 teams participated in the drone, mbot robot 1 and mbot robot 2 disciplines. Over 400 students and teachers had the opportunity to show what they had learned together in programming and controlling mbot robots and drones.

After the singing of the anthem of the Republic of Serbia, the festival coordinator, Past Governor of Rotary District 2483 Vladimir Matić, greeted the students, teachers and guests present. He especially thanked the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia as the patron of the festival and the City Municipality of Novi Belgrade, which was the sponsor of the final competition in the "Ranko Žeravica" Sports Hall again this year.

Matić also thanked all the friends who helped organize the festival, especially the "Klett" Publishing House, the companies "MikroElektronika" DOO Belgrade (Zemun), "Jaffa" Biscuit Factory Crvenka, "Swisslion-Takovo Gornji Milanovac, Rotary District 2483 of Serbia and Montenegro, the Red Cross Čukarice, the "Zvezda" Center and the hosts from the Commercial Company Sports Center Novi Belgrade d.o.o.

The attendees were greeted by Bojana Stojanović, Sales Director of the "Klett" Publishing House, and the President of the City Municipality of Novi Belgrade, Ivana Nikolić, who ceremonially opened the competition within the "Knowledge for the Future" festival.

The festival's technical director elected Governor of Rotary District 2483 Vladimir Lalošević, and the competition manager, Professor Igor Tomić, introduced the teachers and teams to the festival rules and how to overcome obstacles and score.

The competition lasted from 12:15 to 15:30, after which the results for all teams were determined.



## **THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

### **6 REPORT ON THE "KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE" FESTIVAL BELGRADE MAY 19, 2025**

Based on the points scored, the winners in all three disciplines were announced as follows:

#### **DRONE DISCIPLINE**

1st place - Elementary School "Dositej Obradović" from Bela Crkva - 305 points

2nd place - Elementary School "23. Oktobar" from Golubinci - 287 points

3rd place - Elementary School "8. Oktobar" from Vlasotince - 285 points

#### **MBOT ROBOT DISCIPLINE 1**

1st place - Elementary School "Dušan Jerković" from Ruma - 330 points

2nd place - Elementary School "Nata Jelacic" from Šabac - 276 points

3rd place - Elementary School "Stevan Sremac" from Borča, Belgrade - 275 points

#### **MBOT ROBOT DISCIPLINE 2**

1st place - Elementary School "United Nations" II from Belgrade - 300 points

2nd place - Elementary School "Stefan Nemanja" from Niš - 280 points

2nd place - Elementary School "Vuk Karadžić" from Žitkovac - 280 points

2nd place - Elementary School "Dušan Jerković" from Ruma - 280 points

3rd place - Elementary School "Svetozar Marković" from Belgrade - 270 points

The organizers presented valuable prizes to all schools that won the first three places in each of the 3 disciplines, provided by the Publishing House "Klett" and the company "MikroElektronika" DOO Belgrade (Zemun).

The organizers of the festival, Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica, Rotary Club Ruma, Roda Educational Center and OUR FRIEND MR ROBOT, thanked all participants of the final review of the festival "Knowledge for the Future", which ended at 4:15 p.m.





THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

6 REPORT ON THE "KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE" FESTIVAL  
BELGRADE MAY 19, 2025





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Maria Delivoria: 694 790 4452

Maria Mastora: 699 895 7516

e-mail: [icc.publicimagesummit.gr@gmail.com](mailto:icc.publicimagesummit.gr@gmail.com)



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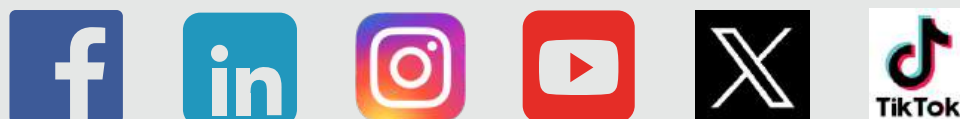
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