



ENVIRONMENT MONTH

— *April* —
IS DESIGNATED AS
**ENVIRONMENT
MONTH**



This month highlights Rotary's
seventh Area of Focus:

Supporting the Environment.



ROTARY'S
AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR PLANET
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

UNITE FOR GOOD.

ENVIRONMENT MONTH

April is recognised throughout Rotary as Environment Month — a time to reflect on our responsibility towards the world around us and to take meaningful action in support of a healthier and more sustainable future.

The environment is not an abstract concept or a distant concern. It is the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that feeds us and the natural spaces that shape our communities. The quality of our environment directly influences the quality of human life. For this reason, Rotary adopted the Environment as its seventh Area of Focus, recognising that long-term progress in health, education, economic development and peace is impossible without protecting the natural systems on which we all depend. Across the world, communities are facing growing environmental challenges. Climate change, water shortages, pollution, deforestation and the loss of biodiversity are no longer warnings for the future — they are realities of the present. We witness rivers drying up, green areas disappearing and urban environments struggling under increasing pressure. These issues affect not only ecosystems but also people, livelihoods and public health. Rotary's strength lies in its ability to transform concern into action. Around the globe, Rotary clubs are planting trees, restoring parks, protecting water resources, supporting sustainable agriculture and educating younger generations about environmental responsibility. These projects may begin locally, but their impact reaches far beyond the communities where they start.

Environmental protection is not about opposing progress. It is about finding balance — ensuring that development does not destroy the resources future generations will depend upon. Sustainability requires long-term thinking, responsible leadership and a willingness to act before problems become irreversible.

History reminds us that positive change is possible when communities stand together. From local environmental initiatives to global partnerships, Rotary continues to demonstrate that service above self can create lasting improvements in both society and nature.

Environment Month is also an opportunity for personal reflection. Small everyday choices matter: reducing waste, conserving water, limiting unnecessary consumption and showing greater respect for natural resources. Collective change often begins with individual responsibility.

As Rotarians, we are called not only to recognise problems but also to lead by example. Whether protecting a local river, creating greener public spaces or supporting educational initiatives, every action contributes to a healthier and more resilient future. The environment is not separate from our mission of service — it is deeply connected to it. By protecting the world around us, we protect human dignity, community wellbeing and the opportunities of future generations.

This April, let us renew our commitment to environmental stewardship and continue building communities where both people and nature can thrive together.



FRANCESCO AREZZO
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2025-2026

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins. The facility was short-staffed. The nurse midwife in charge was not present.

A community health worker stepped forward. She had participated in Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale initiative. And though she was not formally trained as a midwife, she was equipped with essential emergency obstetric skills.

Hours later, both babies had been delivered, one at the health center and the other at a general hospital, where the mother had been referred after complications were quickly identified. The newborns and their mother were alive and safe.

Women around the world face similar circumstances every day — moments when the difference between life and loss depends on well-trained medical staff and reliable systems and procedures.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria exists to increase the chances that those moments end in hope. By strengthening health systems and training frontline workers, this program helps communities protect mothers and children even when circumstances are difficult.

This work reflects the very heart of Rotary service. Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal. It is what we do when systems are strained, resources are limited, and the need is urgent. It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does.

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother who survives childbirth. It is a newborn who takes a first breath. It is a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act. Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested.

Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions. By working alongside health professionals and local leaders, Rotary helps ensure that lifesaving care does not depend on luck or location.

The story of the mother and her twins is at its core a story of service. It is a reminder that Rotary's impact is measured in human moments when people step forward to help others in their most vulnerable hours.

When we Unite for Good, service becomes more than an ideal. It becomes a lifeline for families, a source of strength for communities, and a promise that Rotary will continue to go wherever help is needed most.

ZONE 21B ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE COORDINATOR MESSAGE



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

As we move through May, Youth Service Month, we once again see that investing in young people is investing in the future.

With RYLA programs, we help young people discover their leadership potential. Through Youth Exchange, they learn about different cultures and become ambassadors of peace. With Rotaract and Interact clubs, young people take action, create projects, and become leaders of change.

But Rotary's impact is not only about youth. In the past period, we carried out many meaningful projects in education, health, environment, and community support. We reached people in need, created awareness, and built strong local and international partnerships.

The successful completion of PELS and Assemblies in most of our districts shows that we are well prepared for the new term. This is not just a transition, but an opportunity to serve better and create more impact.

Now, a new Rotary year is ahead of us. We should strengthen our youth programs and increase our community projects to reach more people and create lasting impact.

As we approach the end of the 2025–2026 term, I believe our leaders will continue to fulfill their responsibilities with the same commitment and dedication.

To our 2026–2027 leaders: you are not starting from zero. You have a strong foundation and valuable experience in front of you. Be brave, take initiative, and believe in your power to create change. Every big impact starts with a leader who believes.

Let us remember: every Rotary project changes a life, every action creates hope, and every term leaves a lasting impact.

Let continue to unite for good,
With love and respect,

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

PDG 18-19 D.2430

RPIC 23-26 Region 25

THE POWER OF GOODNESS VIDEO COMPETITION INVITATION

Dear Friends,

With great joy and excitement, we invite you to take part in the sixth edition of the video competition “The Power of Goodness,” organized by the Public Image Teams of Zones 21 and 22.

“The Power of Goodness” is more than just a video competition. It is a cause. It is a reminder that kindness is the quiet force that unites us, uplifts communities, and brings hope where it is needed most. Goodness does not seek applause — it creates impact. It does not measure its strength in words, but in the lives it touches and the futures it changes. Every project we carry out, every hand we extend, every life we improve sends a wave far beyond what we can see.

This competition is our opportunity to tell those stories — to share the heart behind our initiatives, to show how the members of our Rotary and Rotaract clubs transform compassion into action under the banner of Rotary International and through the seven Areas of Focus of our Foundation.

The projects you submit may have been implemented during the previous or the current Rotary year. What truly matters is not when they happened — but how they made a difference. Show us how your club’s dedication, perseverance, and belief in doing good have created lasting, positive change. Inspire others with your example.

The evaluation process unfolds in four stages: district, zonal, regional, and finally, the Grand Jury. In each of the first three rounds, entries are carefully reviewed and scored according to established criteria, narrowing the field to the top ten finalists. These outstanding projects are then presented to the Grand Jury for final evaluation.

This year, we are proud to introduce a NEW CATEGORY – END POLIO, giving special recognition to projects that support one of Rotary’s most powerful and historic missions.

The final deadline for submission is **May 11, 2026**.

We look forward to seeing the participation of the Rotary and Rotaract clubs from our district in this contest, so we can proudly share our successful and sustainable projects that serve our communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

Let’s share the Power Of Goodness with the world!

-Arkan Apturahman

ARPIC 2024/2027 Zone 21B, D2482



Power of Goodness Video Competition



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CREATE AND SUBMIT A VIDEO THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY



www.thepowerofgoodness.com



Rotary
Zone 21 & 22



Power of Goodness Video Competition



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

NEW CATEGORY



www.thepowerofgoodness.com



GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

1. Plan the filming in advance.

As you prepare your project or event, decide who will be responsible for filming, what equipment will be used, and which shots will be needed. Assign a dedicated person or team for this task.

2. Use a drone when possible.

For outdoor activities, aerial shots provide dynamics and add a professional look to the video.

3. Include interviews.

Record short interviews with participants, volunteers, organizers, or beneficiaries. Ask what the project means to them, how it made them feel, or what inspired them.

4. Tell a story, not just document.

Focus on emotions, action, and outcomes. Show people, not only activities.

5. Capture the preparation phase.

Behind-the-scenes footage of volunteers packing, organizing, or coordinating creates authenticity and highlights the effort behind the cause.

6. Gather short statements.

Even one or two sincere sentences from someone whose life has been touched can be very powerful. Seek authenticity rather than long monologues.

7. Ensure good lighting.

Whether indoors or outdoors, light is essential. Avoid dark rooms or shooting directly against the sun.

8. Use stable equipment.

Unsteady shots are distracting. If you don't have a professional camera, use a tripod or stabilizer for your phone.

9. Film in horizontal format.

For higher quality and compatibility with platforms such as YouTube, always shoot horizontally.

10. Include close-up shots.

Faces, smiles, and hands in action bring warmth and humanity to the story.

11. Ensure clear sound.

Use an external microphone if possible. In noisy environments, consider recording separately or adding narration afterwards.

GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

12. Show the final result.

Present the completed project, the happy participants, and the overall impact achieved.

13. Build a timeline through your shots.

Show “before, during, and after” the event. This structure helps tell a complete story.

14. Capture audience reactions.

Smiles, applause, and emotions are living proof of the project’s impact.

15. Include children and youth (with consent).

If children are part of the initiative, ensure parental consent for filming. Their smiles often speak louder than words.

16. Add supporting images or archives.

If your project has history, use “before and after” comparisons, documents, or older photos to show progress.

17. Use music to enhance emotion.

Neutral, uplifting music reinforces the message. Make sure to use licensed tracks or free-to-use libraries.

18. Add English subtitles, especially when people are speaking.

Even short statements should be subtitled to ensure clarity and accessibility.

19. Display names and roles.

When showing someone speaking, add their name and role for context.

20. Start and finish with identity elements.

Open with a short title/intro and close with your club’s logo.

21. Include a message or a quote.

A powerful line or inspiring quote at the end can leave a lasting emotional impression.

22. Prepare a clear script before editing.

Decide what story you want to tell, in what sequence, and with which footage.

23. Show the impact achieved.

Highlight how lives were improved or what was accomplished. This is the heart of the contest — the lasting mark of kindness.

24. Respect Rotary branding.

Use the official Rotary logo, fonts, and colors. Guidelines are available at brandcenter.rotary.org.

You are not alone in this process! Contact us if you have questions!

– Arkan Apturahman, ARPIC D2482 Bulgaria

A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ADIYAMAN TO NEW YORK

A message of friendship from the ancient lands where the sun rises has now reached the United States. Adiyaman Nemrut Rotary Club had an important meeting in New York, one of the most famous cities in the world.

Past Presidents of Nemrut Rotary Club, Ferit and Mehtap Binzet, met with Müjdat Altay, President of the Rotary Club of New York. They held a flag exchange ceremony to show friendship and cooperation between the two clubs. This symbolic act helped strengthen international friendship.

An important guest also attended the meeting. Angel Angelov, Consul General of Bulgaria in New York, was the speaker. During the meeting, participants discussed Bulgaria's European Union process, relations between the United States and Türkiye, and global developments.

The program took place at Türkevi in New York and included emotional moments. After the flag ceremony, Past President Ferit Binzet presented a statue of the Adiyaman Clock Tower to Müjdat Altay. The Clock Tower is an important symbol of the February 6 earthquakes, known as the "disaster of the century."

Binzet also thanked Can Erbilgin for the valuable contributions made to Adiyaman by his late father, Past District Governor Kemalettin Erbilgin.

This meaningful gift is not only a memory. It is also a strong symbol of Adiyaman's pain after the earthquake and the spirit of solidarity shared with the international community.



DIGITAL HORIZONS, UNIVERSAL LEADERS

Traditional leadership programs are struggling to keep pace with the rapidly evolving demands of the age of artificial intelligence. Today's young leaders need more than inspiration from past models; they need the ability to navigate uncertainty, uphold ethical values, and use technology in service of humanity.

With this vision, the Rotary Club of Evrensel organized the 176th RYLA online on 26–29 March 2026 under the theme “Digital Horizons, Universal Leaders.”

Over four days, 20 selected participants from Türkiye and across Europe engaged in an intensive and highly interactive learning experience, covering leadership, artificial intelligence, ethics, law, creativity, communication, and human-centered technology.

The program went far beyond traditional sessions. Participants:

- Composed AI-assisted music,
- Built their own websites,
- Collaborated in digital escape rooms,
- Engaged in real-time creative and decision-making processes.

Sessions included AI law and ethics, the use of AI in clinical practice, entrepreneurial leadership in the age of AI, inclusive leadership, and human-centered technology. Through hands-on modules such as RYLA ConnectLab, PromptLab, and EscapeLab, participants did not just learn—they created.

What makes this RYLA particularly significant is not only its content, but also its format. It stands as the first online RYLA organized by an online club in our district. We approached this model not as a limitation, but as an opportunity to create an accessible, borderless, and future-facing leadership platform.

At the heart of the program was one central question:

What does leadership mean in the age of artificial intelligence?

Our answer is clear:

Leadership today is not only about direction, but about meaning-making, ethical responsibility, and using technology for the benefit of humanity.

As one participant described it, the experience was “truly invaluable,” particularly highlighting sessions on AI ethics, clinical AI, and creative AI production.

We went beyond delivering a RYLA.

We created a leadership space that empowers young people, builds confidence, and launches future journeys.

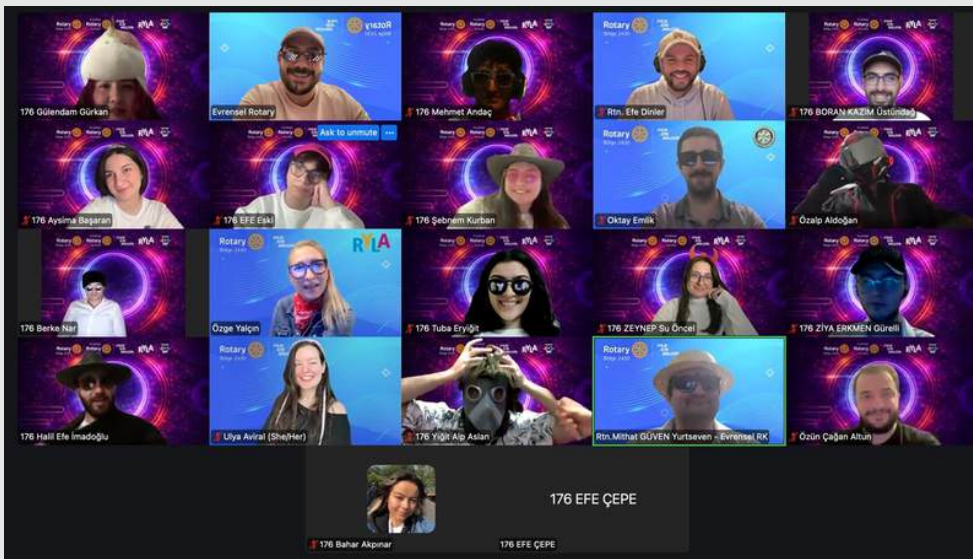
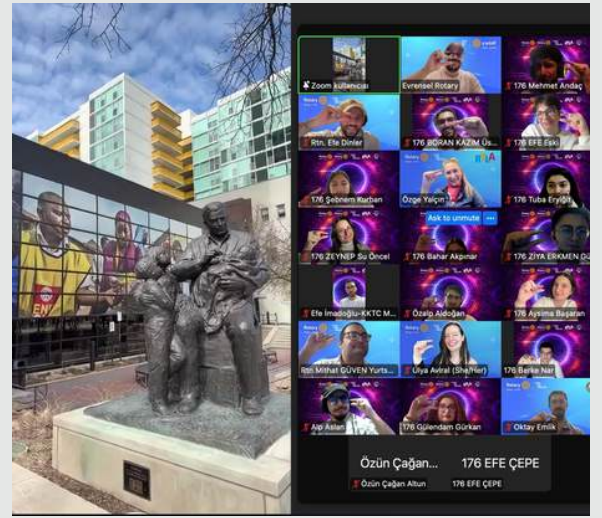
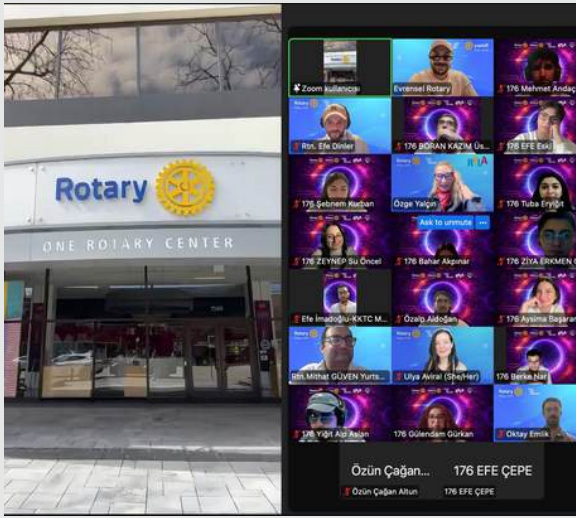
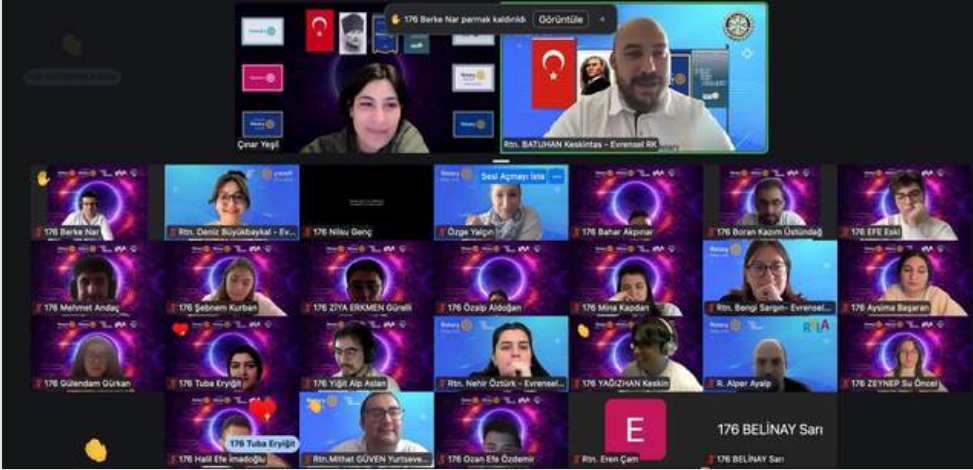
This model has been designed to be scalable and replicable across districts. Evrensel RYLA has the potential to serve as a new reference point for future leadership programs within Rotary.

Rtn. Batuhan Keskintaş

Term President 2025–2026

Rotary Club of Evrensel

DIGITAL HORIZONS, UNIVERSAL LEADERS



ARKEO-CAMP 2026 OFFERS HANDS-ON ARCHAEOLOGY EXPERIENCE IN LYCIA

“Arkeo-Camp 2026” will bring young participants aged 18–24 to the ancient Lycian region of Antalya from July 11–18, 2026, offering a week-long immersive archaeology experience.

The program includes visits and fieldwork at key sites such as Myra, Andriake, St. Nicholas Church, Patara, Simena, and Tlos. Participants will engage in excavation preparation, workshops, and field-based learning alongside professionals.

The camp also features cultural activities, including environmental awareness work on Caretta caretta turtles in Patara and free time in Kaş. The experience concludes with a farewell boat trip in Kekova.

The participation fee is 750 euros, excluding flights and insurance. Promoted as “The Light of Lycia Invites You,” the camp offers a concise yet impactful introduction to real-life archaeology.



ON 11TH OF APRIL, AS ANTALYA OLIMPOS ROTARY CLUB , WE SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT OUR FIRST SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT AT ADRASAN BEACH, ANTALYA WITH OUR ROTAKIDS.

Within the scope of the project, we conducted an environmental clean-up activity and collected waste along the beach together with our children. The main objective of this initiative was to help them develop environmental awareness at an early age, strengthen their sense of responsibility towards nature, and experience teamwork in practice.

Throughout the activity, the children demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm, responsibility, and sensitivity, clearly reflecting the success and impact of the project. This initiative not only contributed directly to the environment but also marked an important step toward raising more conscious and responsible individuals for the future.

The awareness and energy shown by our children were truly inspiring for all of us.

Rtn.Tuba Subaşı

Rotary Club of Antalya Olimpos

Club President 25-26



SUPPORT CHILDREN IN THE EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED REGION

As six Rotary clubs in Antalya, we came together for a meaningful project to support children in the earthquake-affected region who have never had a bicycle before. The theatre play “Bir Acayip Soygun”, performed with great dedication and effort by our Rotarian actors, met the audience on April 9–10, 2026, at 20:00 at the Mall of Antalya Stage.

This project, carried out in collaboration with the Antalya Rotary Club, Kaleiçi Rotary Club, Aspendos Rotary Club, Perge Rotary Club, Olimpos Rotary Club, and Falez Rotary Club, aims to bring hope to children in the earthquake region through both the initial contributions and the proceeds from ticket sales.

With the income generated after the performance, bicycles were provided to be gifted to children living in the earthquake-affected region:

- 5 girls' bicycles (24" – Eros)
- 6 girls' bicycles (26" – Eros)
- 11 boys' bicycles (24" – in 2 different colors)
- 9 boys' bicycles (26" – in 2 different colors)
- 3 girls' bicycles (20" – pink)
- 7 boys' bicycles (20" – in 3 different colors)

With the unifying power of art, we continue to grow kindness and work in solidarity to bring a smile to our children's faces. 🚲🌟

RSS

Tuba Subaşı

Antalya Olimpos Rotary Club



NEW ERA, NEW EXCITEMENT: READY FOR OUR GOALS FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT 2420 ROTARY ASSEMBLY!

My dear fellow travelers,

The Regional Assembly , which we completed with great excitement and motivation we return to our club with new ideas in our pockets and a passion for service in our hearts. The new ideas we received and the shared vision at the Assembly have once again proven that the coming period will not only be a calendar year, but also a "period of opportunity" in which we will leave a lasting mark on our community.

Our focus this term is clear: In line with the goals set by our Rotary International president and our district, we will channel our energy into the areas where it is most needed.

Our Primary Goals and Stance:

1. Commitment to a World Without Violence: As Rotarians , we take a clear stance against all forms of violence (physical, psychological, economic, or cyber) in all segments of society . In our projects, we will prioritize peacebuilding and conflict resolution, fostering a climate of love and respect. The first step to creating a lasting impact is building a safe and peaceful society. As Rotarians , we unequivocally oppose all forms of violence we encounter at home, in the workplace, at school, or in the digital world . We see peace not merely as the absence of conflict, but as the presence of justice, equality, and mutual respect. I want to emphasize that in our projects this term, we will place special emphasis on raising awareness against violence and strengthening social peace.

2. Our Fourfold Self-Regulation Guide: In every step we take, in every decision we make, we will be guided by Rotary's unwavering ethical compass: the Fourfold Self-Regulation .

- Is it realistic?
- Is it fair to everyone involved?
- Will it foster goodwill and better friendships?
- Is it useful for everyone involved?

By carrying the Four Principles of Self-Control like banners in our professional and personal lives, we will set an example for those around us and for young people. These four questions are not just principles; they are our ethical filter that ensures the "lasting" impact we create.

3. Impactful Projects: We will implement sustainable and measurable projects that address local issues.

4. Foundation Contributions and Visibility: As we continue to be a part of the great change in the world, we will accelerate our communication efforts to strengthen Rotary's image as a "partner in solutions" in the community.

5. Membership and Friendship: We will grow our club as a family united by shared ideals and viewing diversity as a strength. We aim to grow our club not only in numbers but also in intellectual richness. Every new member means a new project and a wider sphere of influence.

6. And, Our 7 Focus Areas : We will continue to provide our services in our essential service areas.

We saw at the assembly that when we come together, there is no problem we cannot solve, no goal we cannot achieve. I am fully confident that by combining the knowledge we refreshed in the trainings with the friendly atmosphere of our club, we will have a wonderful period.

NEW ERA, NEW EXCITEMENT: READY FOR OUR GOALS FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT 2420 ROTARY ASSEMBLY!

's not leave these goals merely on paper ; let's be a voice for peace against violence in every project and set an example with our Four Principles of Self-Regulation .

the Regional Training Assembly , which we completed with great motivation , we are returning to our club with more determination and visionary energy than ever before. This year's assembly not only provided us with technical information; it also reminded us once again of the profound meaning at the heart of everything we do: our responsibility to "Create Lasting Impact."

Rotary International 's motto for this term , "Create Lasting Impact," aims to ensure that our projects don't just remain on the list of "completed works," but create sustainable change in the collective memory of communities, the quality of life for people, and the balance of nature.

Dear Friends, we are filled with the knowledge we gained at the assembly, we are visionary with our motto, and we are strong with our principles. Let us ensure that this period goes down in history not just as a year in which we fulfilled our duties, but as a period that will be remembered with kindness even years later, a period that touched people's lives and truly "Create lasting impact . "

With a love for friendship, peace and service,

DGE. Erden GOKMEN

D.2420 2026-27





As the Charter President of Yaşam Rotary Club, I had the great honor and pride of leading our club through its official Charter Ceremony during the conference. This meaningful event marked the beginning of a new journey dedicated to service above self, friendship, and community impact. With the participation of esteemed Rotary leaders, distinguished guests, and fellow Rotarians, the ceremony reflected the excitement and commitment of our founding members as we officially joined the global Rotary family.

The Charter Ceremony was not only a formal recognition of our club's establishment but also a celebration of shared values, collaboration, and future service projects. Our vision as Yaşam Rotary Club is to create sustainable projects that support education, social development, and community well-being while strengthening international Rotary connections. We are proud to begin this journey with strong enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility, and we are pleased to share a selection of photos capturing the spirit and memorable moments of this special occasion for publication in the Zone Monthly Newsletter.

Murat Topcu Charter President Yaşam Rotary Club



2 DISTRICTS, 2 TWIN CLUBS: UNITED FOR GOOD IN HATAY SERINYOL

District 2420 İstanbul Bebek Rotary Club and District 2430 Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club came together at Serinyol Primary School in Antakya, Hatay, uniting for good and strengthening the bonds between their twin clubs through this meaningful collaboration in a container school setting.

At Serinyol Primary School, which continues its education as a container school following the earthquake, a comprehensive support program was carried out under the leadership of Fatma Özdemir, President of Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club, and Merve Karakoç, President of İstanbul Bebek Rotary Club.

A library established by İstanbul Bebek Rotary Club in memory of Artun Saro Asaduroğlu was brought to life as a special space where children can once again dream, learn, and reconnect with hope. It was a great honor for us to accompany our twin club and jointly celebrate the opening of this meaningful project.

Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club contributed by distributing storybooks, coloring books, and art sets to the students, while also meeting the school's essential hygiene needs. Toothbrushes were additionally provided to promote personal hygiene awareness among the children.

One of the most valuable and lasting elements of the project was the afforestation of the school garden. With the participation of students, parents, and members of both twin clubs, 75 saplings were planted, creating the "Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club Grove." This grove represents not only an environmental contribution but also a lasting symbol of hope, continuity, and growth alongside the children.

The visit also included an assessment trip to Semiha-Mehmet Karaali Secondary School to evaluate its needs on-site.

Following the Hatay project, the 7th anniversary of Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club was celebrated together with our twin club in Adana.

We extend our sincere thanks to all Rotarians who contributed to this meaningful project, which stands as a strong example of solidarity.

We are proud and happy.

Fatma Özdemir
President
Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club

2 DISTRICTS, 2 TWIN CLUBS: UNITED FOR GOOD IN HATAY SERINYOL



ASSEMBLY 2026 - DISTRICT 2430

Dear Rotary Family,

We successfully held the District 2430 Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PELS) and District Assembly in Antalya on April 2–5, 2026, with the participation of our incoming district leaders who will guide our clubs with vision, courage, and a commitment to creating meaningful change.

More than a traditional training event, this gathering—aligned with Rotary International’s strategic priorities—became an interactive platform for sharing knowledge, strengthening connections, and inspiring new ideas. As we prepare for the 2026–2027 Rotary year, it marked an important milestone where our motto, “Create Lasting Impact,” truly came to life.

Hosted by the Ankara Anittepe Rotary Club, the Assembly stood out with its dynamic format and engaging sessions. Rotarians from across the district came together to exchange ideas, explore new project opportunities, and build stronger bonds of friendship and collaboration.

Through thought-provoking panels, roundtable discussions, and inspiring keynote speeches, participants explored how we can increase our impact, expand our reach, strengthen engagement, and adapt more effectively. The central message was clear: what defines Rotary is not the scale of what we do, but the lasting impact we create together.

As we step into the new Rotary year, we will build on this strong foundation—working collaboratively to develop sustainable projects that respond to the needs of our communities. Together, we will continue to strengthen Rotary’s presence and amplify our collective impact.

Orhan Uludağ

District Governor 2026–2027



ASSEMBLY 2026 - DISTRICT 2430



HATAY...

A place that reminds us, in the deepest way, that a city is not made of buildings alone, but draws its true strength from its people.

After the earthquake, it was not only walls that were destroyed; there were unfinished lives, silenced dreams, and thousands searching for the courage to begin again. Yet Hatay is a city that knows how to rise, no matter what. And now, one of the most meaningful steps in this recovery is being taken with the support of ROTARY. Under the leadership of the Ankara Tandoğan Rotary Club, and through the generous contributions of clubs from Poland, Germany, Italy, the United States, Canada and of course Türkiye, this project has been completed.

The sewing workshops to be established in five districts of Hatay (Samandağ, Antakya, İskenderun, Reyhanlı, and Payas) through Global Grant No. GG 2684381 are not merely places of production...

They will be places where hope is stitched back together.

The sound of each sewing machine will accompany a woman's journey toward standing on her own feet.

Every piece of fabric cut will shape not the pain of the past, but the hopes of the future.

Every item sewn will carry the effort of strong women saying, "I am here too."

Through these workshops, women will not only learn a profession;

they will learn to become the masters of their own lives.

They will gain economic independence, provide a stronger future for their children, and most importantly, dare to dream again.

Because sometimes, a city heals best when its women grow stronger.

Hatay is rising again—

this time more resilient, more hopeful, and stronger than ever...

And at the heart of this story are the hardworking hands of women—and ROTARY. The Hatay Metropolitan Municipality –Akademi Hatay, which contributed to the provision of the venues and the realization of the project, and the SINGER company, which expanded the scope of the project through the supply of equipment, have also been valuable supporters of this meaningful story.

This project has been completed with the approval of The Rotary Foundation, under the leadership of the Tandoğan Rotary Club, in cooperation with the international partner Warszawa Fryderyk Chopin Rotary Club, and with the financial support of the following clubs:

Adana Güney, Ankara Beysukent, Antalya Aspendos, Bernau bei Berlin, Eskişehir Yazılıkaya, Fellowship Cycling to Serve, New Hampshire, North Scarborough, Pavia Minerva, Cities Greater Mount Prospect Area, Saco Bay Sunset, Summit County Colorado, Warszawa International, Warszawa Józefów, Warszawa Konstancin, RID2430, RID2231, RID7780, RID2050

Rtn.Zeynep Kürklü

Ankara Tandoğan Rotary Club

President 25-26

HATAY...



THE BILECIK ROTARY CLUB PROUDLY HELD ITS CHARTER CEREMONY WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT, PRIDE, AND HOPE.

This special moment was not just a formal event for us. It was a meaningful beginning where people who share the same dreams, common values, and a passion for service came together.

During our charter ceremony, held as part of the District 2430 Conference, we received our flag, charter certificate, and bell. The excitement we felt was unforgettable. The flag and pin ceremony became one of the strongest symbols of our unity. Each pin represents not only membership, but also a commitment to serve society, to work together, and to create lasting value.

The Bilecik Rotary Club brings together experienced Rotarians and a younger generation eager to contribute to society. Our club includes professionals from different fields, united by a shared purpose and an inclusive spirit of service.

Guided by the belief that “Every good deed leads to another,” we aim to start from our city and expand our impact, making a difference in every area we touch and leaving a lasting mark.

We sincerely thank our families and fellow Rotarians for their support throughout this journey.

As the Bilecik Rotary Club, we will follow Rotary’s principle of “Service Above Self,” and continue to create, grow, and serve together.

Together, we will achieve great things.

Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Founder President of

Bilecik Rotary Club



Rotary International District 2440 Prepares for the Future with the Vision of “Creating Lasting Impact”

The President Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) and Club Leadership Learning Seminar / District Assembly of Rotary International District 2440 was held with the participation of nearly 300 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors. Hosted by RC of İzmir Gündoğdu the three-day gathering served as an important platform for defining the strategic priorities, leadership vision, and service goals for the 2026–2027 Rotary year.

Organized under the leadership of District Governor Elect Aylin Olut Ötken, the assembly was shaped around the theme “Create Lasting Impact.” Throughout the program, participants focused on strengthening Rotary’s sustainable social impact through collaborative projects, leadership development, and innovative approaches to community service.

In her address, Aylin Olut Ötken highlighted the symbolism of the pomegranate as a representation of unity and solidarity. She emphasized that the upcoming Rotary year will prioritize long-term and sustainable initiatives in environmental protection, education, and the empowerment of girls. Stressing that Rotary’s strength comes from collective wisdom, volunteerism, and a culture of collaboration, she noted that clubs aim not only to respond to local needs but also to create meaningful and lasting social transformation.

One of the most notable sessions of the assembly featured author and speaker Mümin Sekman, who addressed the concept of success from a multidimensional perspective. Sekman emphasized that success is not solely an individual pursuit, but also a responsibility that carries social impact, inspiring participants with his insights on leadership and personal growth.

In his closing remarks, District Governor Adnan Sözeri underlined the importance of continuity in leadership and Rotary’s culture of learning. He stated that gatherings such as the District Assembly play a critical role in strengthening clubs’ service capacity and reaffirmed that Rotary’s greatest legacy lies in its commitment to selfless service to society.

The District Assembly held in Kuşadası once again demonstrated Rotary’s dedication to leadership development, sustainable community impact, and service above self, while establishing a strong roadmap for the 2026–2027 Rotary year under the vision of “Create Lasting Impact.”

Rtn. Aylin Olut Ötken
DGE District 2440



Rotary International District 2440 Prepares for the Future with the Vision of “Creating Lasting Impact”





**ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452**

**VISITING OF ROTARY CLUB OF
WASHINGTON DC” IN DISTRICT 7620 BY
RTN. ERDAL SARPER OF RC NICOSIA
SARAYÖNÜ- CYPRUS D2452**

During RC Nicosia Sarayönü member Rtn. Erdal Sarper's short visit to Washington DC, he reached out to two of the Rotary Clubs and was able to coordinate and attend a meeting with one of them; "Rotary Club of Washington DC" in District 7620. He had contacted the president, Donnie Shaw, and the secretary, May O'Brien, via email.

The lunch meeting was crowded with a large number of club members, guest speaker and three guests including me. President, secretary and the club members welcomed Erdal with open arms. Erdal exchanged flags with the president after the reading of the agenda. During the club exchange Erdal talked about his club RC Nicosia Sarayönü , their projects and expressed his gratitude for welcoming him, also he invited them to come visit Cyprus.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC NICOSIA LEFKOTHEA DELIVERS HUMANITARIAN AID TO LEBANON

The Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea (RCNL), continuing its commitment to humanitarian service beyond borders, has successfully coordinated the dispatch of essential medical supplies to Lebanon in response to urgent needs arising from the current hostilities.

This latest initiative includes the delivery of medicines valued at €78,000, with a total weight of approximately 200 kilograms, aiming to support healthcare services and vulnerable communities affected by the ongoing crisis.

The initiative was made possible through the generous contribution of Medochemie to whom we are most grateful.

Medochemie, the leading pharmaceutical company in Cyprus, has proved once again its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and we acknowledge their pivotal contribution.

Acknowledgements to the Air Trans Group for handling operations at Larnaca Airport, Middle East Airlines (MEA) for transportation, and the Rotary Clubs of Lebanon coordinated by AG Emil Moawad, for ensuring the effective distribution of the supplies on the ground.

This marks the fourth humanitarian mission undertaken by RC Nicosia Lefkothea to Lebanon since the tragic Beirut Port Explosion in August 2020, reinforcing the Club's sustained commitment to solidarity and international cooperation in times of crisis.

The Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea is pleased to formally announce the successful delivery of the shipment to Lebanon.

"Service Above Self" remains at the core of Rotary's mission, guiding actions that bring meaningful impact to communities in need.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

JOINT MEETING OF RC KYRENIA ST. HILARION AND RC KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN - D2452 CYPRUS (1/2)

On 9 April 2026, the Rotary Clubs of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan and Kyrenia St. Hilarion came together for a joint meeting held at the Dome Hotel in Kyrenia. The evening was well attended, with 15 Rotarians from both clubs, reflecting a strong spirit of fellowship and collaboration.

The meeting commenced at 19:30, with both Club Presidents, President Alpay Çelebi and President Dicle, ringing the Rotary bell and formally opening their respective 154th and 488th meetings.

The programme unfolded in line with Rotary protocol:

Sergeant-at-Arms Olgun warmly welcomed all attendees and led the formal introductions.

Immediate Past President Ayten Benoit delivered a brief and inspiring reflection on Rotary's Four-Way Test, reminding members of its guiding principles in both personal and professional life.

A review and evaluation were shared following the recent meeting featuring MP Doğuş Derya, who spoke on "The Role of Women in Our Society."

Members were also informed of several important upcoming Rotary events and encouraged to participate:

PELS – 25 April

Rotary Peace Forum, Limassol – 30 April

District 2452 Conference, Larnaca – 21–24 May

Additionally, upcoming Fellowship Dinners organised by RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan and RC Kyrenia Liman were announced.

New Member Induction Ceremony

A highlight of the evening was the pinning ceremony of Mert Sanıl as a new member of RC Kyrenia St. Hilarion, conducted by Past President Vural Vural.

In a meaningful and solemn ceremony, PP Vural emphasised the honour and responsibility of Rotary membership within a global service organisation. Mert Sanıl formally affirmed his commitment to:

Uphold the values and objectives of Rotary

Support the Club's leadership and governance

Abide by the Club's constitution and bylaws

Promote fellowship, understanding, and service

Live by Rotary's guiding principle, "Service Above Self," and the Four-Way Test

The ceremony concluded with a warm welcome from all members.

The evening also marked the return of Past President Emir H. Kaynak to RC Kyrenia St. Hilarion, who was greeted with great enthusiasm and appreciation.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

JOINT MEETING OF RC KYRENIA ST. HILARION AND RC KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN - D2452 CYPRUS (2/2)

Rotary Public Image Presentation

The meeting continued with an insightful presentation by ARPIC Sertaç, Chair of the Public Image Committee of RC Kyrenia St. Hilarion, who shared key learnings from the District 2452 Public Image Seminar.

Engaging members through an interactive discussion, Sertaç explored how Rotary is perceived by the public and highlighted the importance of consistent branding, storytelling, and member actions in shaping this perception.

Key takeaways included:

Definition: Rotary Public Image reflects how the organisation is perceived by the wider community.

Purpose: To strengthen Rotary's reputation, inspire members, engage communities, attract donors, and build partnerships.

Core Components: Maintaining a consistent and professional brand identity across all platforms—ensuring unified use of logos, messaging, tone, and visual identity through tools such as the Rotary Brand Center.

The presentation reinforced the importance of each member's role in representing Rotary and amplifying its impact in the community.

Overall, the evening was marked by strong fellowship, meaningful exchange, and a shared commitment to Rotary's values and service mission.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CYPRUS ROTARY PELS 2026 - D2452 CYPRUS

The Presidents Elect and Secretaries Elect Learning Seminar (PELS/SELS) for the 19 clubs in Cyprus, one of the nine countries of District 2452, took place in Nicosia on Saturday 25th of April 2026. The seminar was attended by both the current District Governor Peter Ashdjian and the District Governor Elect May Monla-Chmaitilly, who flew in from Lebanon.

The seminar was organised by the Incoming Deputy District Governor Michalis Avraam, Incoming Country Secretary Annie Hadjimarkou and the Incoming Country Learning Facilitator Taştan Altuner. The learning facilitators were Deputy District Governor 2025-2026 Yiannos Pissourios, PDDG Dinçer Çağın, PDDG Litsa Aresti, ARPIC/PAG Sertaç Gümüş, PP Yiannis Tomasides and PP Adib Monla.

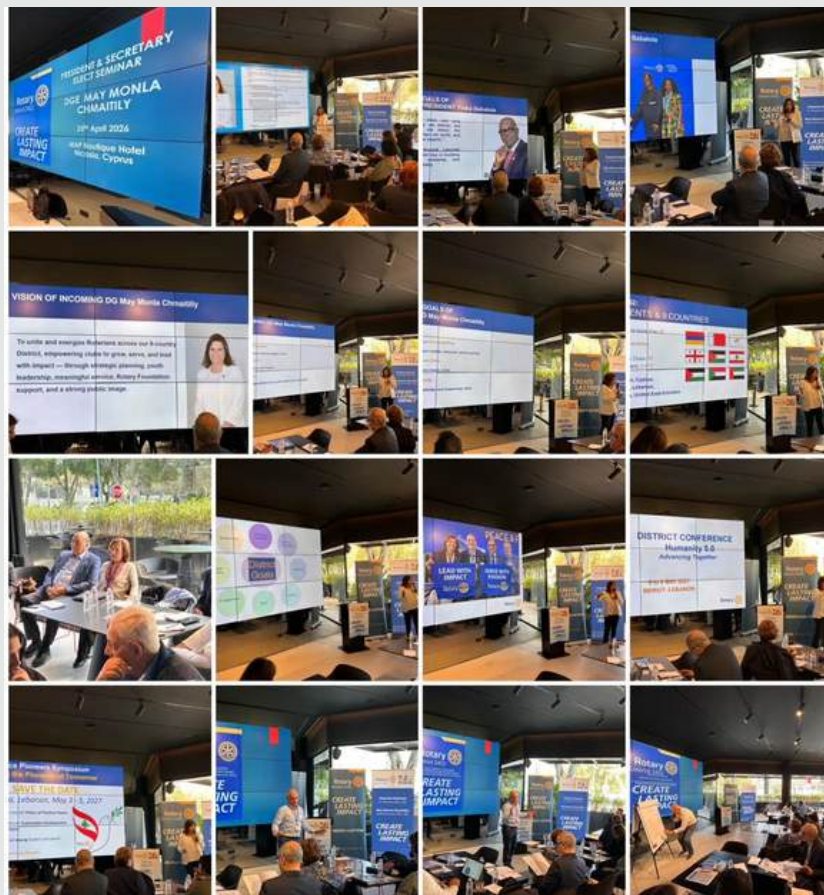
There were 38 persons in attendance.

After the welcoming addresses of DG Peter and IDDG Michalis, DGE May presented her program for the Rotary year ahead and announced her targets, primary target being the retention of current members and the growth of membership by 10%.

Past District Governor 2012-2013 Kevork Mahdessian joined the morning session for an hour, and addressed the seminar briefly.

The sessions were conducted in an interactive way, with the facilitators engaging the participants by asking questions and getting their inputs. The interactive format was much appreciated by the participants.

The seminar succeeded in its three main objectives of imparting some knowledge about running a club, bonding among the different clubs leadership teams and receiving the message of DGE May and her goals and priorities for the Rotary year ahead.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



**ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475**

**MESSAGE OF RID 2475 DG STEFANOS
ANASTASOPOULOS
APRIL 2026 (1/3)**

Dear members of our great Rotary family,

The month we are going through and which is now coming to an end has been a month full of intensity, creativity, and deep emotion—a month that confirmed in the most meaningful way that when we unite for the common good, we can achieve truly great things and leave a mark that goes beyond today and reaches into tomorrow.

With great joy and pride, we all look back on the completion of the 66th Panhellenic Conference of our District, which took place in Rhodes from April 17 to 19. It brought together more than 280 participants from Greece and abroad, creating a unique experience that went beyond the boundaries of a conference and became a celebration of friendship, collaboration, and inspiration. In an environment of high aesthetics and impeccable organization at the iconic Rodos Palace, with the decisive contribution of the Conference Chairperson PDG rtn Ioannis Iliakis, the Conference Coordinator rtn Rachel Topalidou, and the two dynamic clubs of Rhodes—RC Rhodos and RC Rhodos Colossos—who worked with dedication, passion, and countless hours, we succeeded in creating a result worthy of our District and the values we serve.

The innovation of the modern conference website, which facilitated registrations and communication, the high-level topics, the dynamic thematic panels, and the presence of international participants and five sitting Governors from other Districts strengthened the international character of the conference. A special honor was the presence of the representative of the President of Rotary International, our dear friend of Greece, Lino Pignataro.

The social events, including the Welcome Gala and the Main Gala with more than 430 participants, highlighted the true face of Rotary: the joy of togetherness, the power of friendship, and the deep human connection that unites us. They confirmed that Rotary is not just an organization, but a living community of people with shared values and a common vision.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

MESSAGE OF RID 2475 DG STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS APRIL 2026 (2/3)

The organized excursions in Rhodes and the enchanting island of Symi, as well as the tour and guided visit to the uniquely beautiful Medieval City of Rhodes, completed this exceptional experience in the best possible way. Through these moments, participants did not only discover places, but shared emotions, created bonds, and experienced the true essence of Rotary fellowship, leaving lasting memories that will accompany them forever.

This conference was not simply a well-executed event, but a meaningful expression of the work and dynamism of our District. Three new ICCs were signed, further strengthening international cooperation and connections between peoples, while the establishment of the new IYFR South Aegean fleet highlighted the vibrant dimension of Rotary fellowship. At the same time, the overall outstanding work of the District was showcased, with record numbers of more than 260 significant projects registered, along with the strongest support ever achieved for the Rotary Foundation.

These achievements are not accidental; they are the natural result of unity, cooperation, and our shared belief in a common vision of service and creation.

At the same time, the conference left a meaningful social impact, as the proceeds will be allocated to support a basketball team of athletes with disabilities in Rhodes—an act of deep symbolism that highlights the true meaning of service.

The General Assembly proceedings were carried out with absolute success, transparency, and institutional integrity. Within this framework, rtn Christina Kartiotou, a member of RC KifisiaPoliteia, was nominated as District Governor for the Rotary year 2028–2029. Additionally, PDG rtn Maria Delivoria, a member of RC Koropi, was elected as the District's representative to the Nominating Committee for the election of the Director of Zone 21. Warm congratulations are due to both, as well as to their fellow candidates for their dignified and meaningful campaign, reflecting the culture and ethos of Rotary.

The month of April is dedicated to the environment, and Rotary demonstrates its commitment through actions that go beyond theory and turn into practice. A characteristic example is the emblematic “Plant Our Future” program, an extensive tree-planting initiative across the country, in which dozens of clubs participated, planting a large number of trees and creating a strong environmental and symbolic impact—because every tree planted is an act of responsibility and hope for the future.

Our journey continues dynamically with the next important milestones. From May 8 to 10, the RYLA program will take place in Rhodes, with the participation of more than 40 young people from 12 countries—a program that strengthens leadership skills, fosters cooperation, and builds bonds of friendship and fellowship, offering young people a life-changing experience and a strong foundation for the future.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

MESSAGE OF RID 2475 DG STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS APRIL 2026 (3/3)

Furthermore, from May 22 to 26, our District will have the special honor of welcoming the President of Rotary International, Francesco Arezzo. This visit is a clear recognition of the strong position our District has now achieved within the international Rotary community, with a rich program that will allow him to get to know our people, our clubs, and above all, our work—because Rotary is proven not by words, but by actions.

As we close this letter, let us keep within us what truly matters: Rotary is not titles or procedures, but the moments when one person reaches out to another. It is the small and large acts that change lives. It is the deep belief that we can make the world a better place. Ultimately, it is the power of the heart that transforms “I” into “we.” This is the greatest message we received from this conference and the one we are all called to carry forward—united for good.

With appreciation and deep Rotary love

Stefanos Anastasopoulos
DG 2025-26 / RID 2475



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - DTLS, PELS, LEARNING ASSEMBLY

With absolute success, PELS and Learning Assembly of RID 2475 for Athens and Thessaloniki were held, confirming the strong spirit of collaboration and continuous development.

Organized under the responsibility of RID2475 Governor-Elect Charalampos Tinginagkas, the event highlighted in the best possible way the importance of participatory and collaborative education, as expressed through the Learning Institute currently under establishment.

Particular value was added by the active participation of representatives from nearly all clubs, who, through creative dialogue and teamwork, collaborated effectively in approaching and resolving real challenges faced in the daily operation of their clubs.

A meaningful gathering of knowledge, experience, and inspiration that lays strong foundations for the future!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS AND RHODOS KOLOSSOS (1/2)

The Awareness Seminar on Voluntary Bone Marrow Donation held in Rhodes was completed with great success—an event that served not only as an important informational initiative but also as a meaningful reminder of the power of human generosity.

The event took place within the framework of the nationwide collaboration between RID2475, the Volunteer Bone Marrow Donor Recruitment Center of the University of Patras (KEDMOP – “Give Life”), and with the co-organization of the University of the Aegean.

The seminar was opened by rtn Vaso Moutafi, Coordinator of the Bone Marrow Donation Action for D 2475. Warm thanks were extended to the University of the Aegean for its hospitality and support as co-organizer, highlighting the vital role of the academic community in social awareness initiatives. At the same time, the two Rotary Clubs of the city were honored:

- Rotary Club of Rhodes
- Rotary Club of Rhodes–Colossos

Their Presidents, rtn Beatrizi–Kalliopi Servou and rtn Spiros Dalianis, contributed significantly to the excellent organization of the event.

Special recognition was given to RID 2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, who played a key role in bringing this initiative to life. With his sensitivity as a physician and his strong belief in the value of service, he signed the Cooperation Agreement between RID2475, the University of Patras, and the organization “Give Life”—a collaboration already expanding across the country.

The important role of the Kalithies Social Service Team was also highlighted, while nurse Vera Kiottou demonstrated the process of collecting buccal swab samples from new prospective donors.

Keynote Speech – The Role of Science and Dedication

The keynote speaker was Professor of Hematology at the Medical School of the University of Patras and Director of KEDMOP – “Give Life,” Alexandros Spyridonidis. With deep scientific knowledge and a human-centered approach, he analyzed the importance of voluntary bone marrow donation, accompanied by the screening of the video “We Changed the Data.”

KEDMOP – “Give Life” was founded from a meaningful vision to strengthen voluntary bone marrow donation in Greece. This need became evident in 2006, when the case of a child with leukemia revealed the lack of available donors. Today, it stands as the first licensed Volunteer Bone Marrow Donor Center under the National Transplant Organization. Its work continues to inspire and strengthen the national effort for more volunteer donors, confirming the value of collective action.

Following his speech, DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, together with the Presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Rhodes, presented the professor with an honorary plaque in recognition of his valuable contribution.

A Testimony of Life – The Power of Personal Experience

Ms. Dikaia Mavroudaki, a bone marrow donor, shared a deeply personal and moving experience. Through her story, she touched the audience and highlighted in a meaningful way the invaluable impact of offering life to another human being.

A Memorandum of Cooperation Opening New Paths

At the end of the seminar, DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos presented the Memorandum of Cooperation between RID 2475 and KEDMOP – “Give Life,” building a partnership that reaches every corner of the country and supports the search for new volunteer donors. An initiative that acts as a bridge of hope, strengthening the collective effort to save more lives.

Practical Demonstration & New Donor Registrations

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS AND RHODOS KOLOSSOS (2/2)

Practical Demonstration & New Donor Registrations

The seminar concluded with a live demonstration of saliva sample collection by the Kalithies Social Service Team, while dozens of attendees registered as volunteer donors at specially designated stations outside the hall.

The event was honored by the presence of RID2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, Rotary officials, numerous Rotarians, and local authorities of Rhodes.

We warmly thank all attendees for their support and participation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RCs Anoixi–Semeli, Athens Filothei, Amarousio, Kifisia–Politeia, Kifisia–Kefalari, Corinth, Parnitha, Penteli, and Psychiko (1/2)

The conference on the topic “Demographic Issue – Consequences,” held under the auspices of RID 2475 I, was successfully completed. It was co-organized by the Rotary Clubs of Anoixi–Semeli, Athens Filothei, Amarousio, Kifisia–Politeia, Kifisia–Kefalari, Corinth, Parnitha, Penteli, and Psychiko, attracting strong interest and a large turnout of Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

With an impressive presence and active participation, the response exceeded all expectations, highlighting the importance of collective effort and meaningful dialogue.

Distinguished speakers included:

Ms. Alexandra Tragaki, Professor of Economic Demography at Harokopio University

Dr. Laura Alipranti, Sociologist, Honorary Director of EKKE and Adjunct Professor of Demography at NKUA

Mr. Akis Skertsos, Minister of State

◆ RID 2475, DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, stated in his concluding remarks:

“...The demographic issue is not merely a matter of numbers.

It is not percentages, curves, and statistics. It is something much deeper. It is the way a society envisions itself in the future.

And perhaps, ultimately, our greatest contribution as Rotary is this:

To create societies where people want to live.

To create environments where people want to create.

To give young people reasons to believe.”

The Children’s Choir of Agios Stefanos, with its outstanding performance, captivated us and brought the conference to a beautiful and emotional close.

Special congratulations to the organizing club, Anoixi–Semeli, and especially to its President, Aspasia Martini-Vardaka, for the excellent coordination and flawless organization of the event.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RCs Anoixi–Semeli, Athens Filothei, Amarousio, Kifisia–Politeia, Kifisia–Kefalari, Corinth, Parnitha, Penteli, and Psychiko (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - "GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0" PROGRAM - DELIVERY OF A WHEELCHAIR TO THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF GREECE (OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING)

On March 14, as part of the "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" Program, representatives of the eight Rotary Clubs involved in the Program (e-Club of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi Semeli, Kifissia Kastri, Patras Kostis Palamas Preveza, Halandri, and Psychiko) had the pleasure and honor of delivering yet another wheelchair to the National Historical Museum, housed in the iconic Old Parliament Building.

This particular wheelchair was a generous donation for the purposes of the Rotary Program by Natassa Moschovaki, a member of RC Halandri .

During our visit, we were warmly welcomed by the Museum Director, Ms. Papanastasiou, who spoke to us about the site's remarkable history and the noteworthy educational programs being implemented, as well as the curators Ms. Zygoori and Mr. Mazarakis, who gave us a tour of the Museum's galleries and unique exhibits.

Their gratitude and positive response fill us with the strength to continue our work, with the goal of ensuring equal access to culture for all. Accessibility is not a luxury—it is a right

We extend our warmest thanks for the hospitality and look forward to future joint initiatives with Rotary, further strengthening inclusion and social contribution.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RCs Athens–Lycabettus, Maroussi, Anoixi–Semeli, Bodrum, Dionysos, Heraklion, Heraklion–Nikos Kazantzakis, Heraklion–Candia, Kifisia–Politeia, Corinth, Kos, Marathon–Nea Makri, Parnitha, Piraeus–Anatoli, Rethymno, Filothei, and Chalandri. (1/2)

As part of the major environmental program of RID 2475, “Plant Our Future,” the following Rotary Clubs joined forces:

Athens–Lycabettus, Maroussi, Anoixi–Semeli, Bodrum, Dionysos, Heraklion, Heraklion–Nikos Kazantzakis, Heraklion–Candia, Kifisia–Politeia, Corinth, Kos, Marathon–Nea Makri, Parnitha, Piraeus–Anatoli, Rethymno, Filothei, and Chalandri.

During this event, RID 2475, in collaboration with We4all, people of all ages came together—Rotarians and friends, families and children—to do something simple, yet profoundly meaningful: to plant the future.

The presence and valuable contribution of the Municipality of Vrillissia—with equipment, support, and human resources—was truly significant.

Particularly moving was the educational activity organized by the We4all team for the children. Their eyes were shining, not only because they learned how to plant a tree, but because they felt—perhaps for the first time—that they can change the world. And that is where everything begins.

At the same time, the Charter for the creation of a new Interact Club, Interact Pegasus, was officially presented, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Corinth.

The day concluded with a warm meal, filled with smiles, fellowship, and that sweet sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves.

Warm thanks go to all the Rotary Clubs that participated, to everyone present, to the project coordinator and Assistant Governor Rachel Topalidou, to our young friends who taught us the true meaning of hope, to We4all for their guidance and vision, and to the Municipality of Vrillissia for its essential support.

It was a wonderful day, on March 29th, at the Vrillissia Fire Watch Tower, with great company and excellent organization by We4all—full of action and contribution!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RCs Athens–Lycabettus, Maroussi, Anoixi–Semeli, Bodrum, Dionysos, Heraklion, Heraklion–Nikos Kazantzakis, Heraklion–Candia, Kifisia–Politeia, Corinth, Kos, Marathon–Nea Makri, Parnitha, Piraeus–Anatoli, Rethymno, Filothei, and Chalandri. (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 AUSPICES & RCS OF CRETE (1/2)

The conference titled “The Importance of Bone Marrow Donation” was successfully held on April 1st, at the Central Auditorium of the School of Health Sciences of the Hellenic Mediterranean University.

The event was organized by the Rotary Clubs of Crete, in collaboration with the Evidence-Based Health Care Laboratory – EDUCATE of the Hellenic Mediterranean University and KEDMOP – “Give Life,” under the auspices of RID 2475. Its aim was to inform and raise public awareness about bone marrow donation and to attract new volunteer donors.

The keynote speaker was Professor of Hematology and Director of KEDMOP – “Give Life” at the University of Patras, Alexandros Spyridonidis, who highlighted the importance of voluntary bone marrow donation and its contribution to the treatment of serious hematological diseases. Greetings were also delivered by Athina Patelarou, President of the Department of Nursing at the Hellenic Mediterranean University, while rtn PAG Michalis Zografakis conveyed the message of RID 2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos.

A particularly moving moment was the presentation of a donor’s personal experience, which powerfully demonstrated the significance of bone marrow donation and how a single act of giving can offer life and hope to a fellow human being.

At the end of the event, new volunteer donors were registered, and buccal swab samples were collected from those who wished to join the bone marrow donor registry, sending a strong message of contribution and social solidarity.

We thank everyone who attended the event. We would especially like to express our gratitude to our Club member and Associate Professor of Nursing at the Hellenic Mediterranean University, rtn Michalis Zografakis, for the excellent organization and coordination of the event, as well as to all speakers, collaborating organizations, volunteers, and everyone who supported this important initiative. Members and friends of Rotary also honored the event with their presence, actively supporting the message of service and solidarity.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 AUSPICES & RCS OF CRETE (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

RC Rhodes–Colossos responded with great pleasure to the call of the Community Center and the Roma Branch of the Municipality of Rhodes, offering toys that will bring smiles to children during these festive Easter days.

The gifts were delivered by the Club President, Spiros Dalianis, the Chair of the Club's Committee for Supporting Vulnerable Social Groups, rtn Sandra Nezi, and club members Elena Gianniki, Katia Kanari, Katia Zachariou, and Stamatina Ster, to the Deputy Mayor of Preschool Education, Social Policy, Solidarity, and Equality, Savvina Papageorgiou, as well as to the department staff, Vasiliki Mantikou and Evangelia Tsattaliou.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PIREAS ANATOLI

Tree Planting action

With great pleasure, RC Piraeus-East participated with a significant presence of its members in the great action of RID 2475 "Plant our Future", which took place on Sunday, March 29, 2026 in Vrilissia.

Together with other Rotarian clubs from Southern Greece and beyond, we joined forces in a substantial action by planting 150 trees, as first part (650 more remain), protecting the environment giving hope for a better tomorrow.

Tree planting is an action of contribution and environmental sensitivity for today and tomorrow.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - Thessaloniki East, Panorama, Thessaloniki Alexander the Great, Thessaloniki Metropolitan, Kalamaria

The Kalochoi Lagoon is part of the delta complex of the Gallikos and Axios rivers and belongs to the protected Axios Delta National Park.

At this unique location, Rotarians from five clubs in Thessaloniki (Thessaloniki-East, Panorama, Thessaloniki “Megas Alexandros Hellas”, Thessaloniki Metropolitan, and Kalamaria) participated in a program of RID 2475 and planted 100 trees—firs and tamarisks—contributing to the ecological enhancement of the area.

We were honored by the presence of former Governor Nikos Margaropoulos. We were welcomed and thanked for our contribution by Kostas Gioutikas, Deputy Regional Governor for Development and Environment, and Andreas Choidis, President of the Municipal Council.

We would also like to thank We4all, which once again organized and coordinated our initiative.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PREVEZA Rotary Club of Preveza in Messolonghi! (1/2)

RC Preveza participated in the commemorative events marking the 200th anniversary of the heroic, tragic, and glorious Exodus of Messolonghi.

In collaboration with a similar initiative by RC Ioannina, a five-member delegation from our Club visited the Sacred City of Messolonghi, following an independent, multifaceted, and thoroughly enjoyable program.

We laid a wreath at the Memorial of the Fallen of the Exodus, paying our due respects, and walked through the Garden of Heroes.

This was followed by a guided tour of the “Diexodos” Museum, rich in exhibits related to the Exodus, the Greek War of Independence, and Philhellenism, led by our Club’s honorary member and collector, Nikolaos Lyros.

Next, at the Xenokration Archaeological Museum—with its impressive exhibits, including the colossal Heads from Actium—the official handover of another wheelchair took place, as part of the program “Donate the Gift of Mobility 2.0,” in which our Club participates along with seven other Rotary Clubs (a full press release will follow). There, we also had the privilege of being among the first to admire the renowned painting “Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi” by Eugène Delacroix, recently arrived from France and newly exhibited.

Amid all these activities, we also had the pleasure of visiting the local Trikene Distillery, one of the few in Greece—along with the Roumpou Distillery in Preveza—that have preserved their authentic traditional character.

The flow of new impressions and knowledge continued at the salt flats, culminating in a visit to the Salt Museum, where yet another fascinating guided tour elevated our day.

As is customary, this rich and memorable Sunday concluded with a Rotary fellowship lunch on the islet of Tourlida—a place deeply connected to the historical struggle, and in modern times, also to gastronomy!

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PREVEZA
ROTARY CLUB OF PREVEZA IN MESSOLONGHI! (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PSYCHIKO

On Sunday, March 29, with the participation of more than 25 Rotarians and friends, and with the help of the sunny spring weather, we enjoyed an excellent guided tour of the National Garden, led by the Managing Director of the National Garden, rtn Nikos Fournarakis.

We learned about the history of the National Garden, discovered hidden corners, and were informed about the tireless efforts for its maintenance, as well as the new initiatives for its modernization.

We warmly thank rtn Nikos Fournarakis for the outstanding tour.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ANOIXI SEMELI

ROTARY CLUB ANOIXI-SENELI AT THE PENTELI INFANT CENTER

Continuing its long-standing tradition of annual donations of essential items to the Penteli Infant Center, which hosts infants and toddlers awaiting adoption, our Club offered this year three highchair-feeding tables, with a total value of €300, following consultation with the nurse, Ms. Elli Damaskopoulou.

The delivery took place on April 3rd, at the entrance of the Infant Center.

In the customary commemorative photo are Ms. Elli Damaskopoulou, who thanked us on behalf of the Center; our Club's Secretary, Ms. Natassa Kafetzopoulou; Vice President Mr. Aris Gavriilidis; President Ms. Aspasia Martini-Vardaka; and Ms. Cleopatra Gavriilidou.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Wednesday, April 1

Government House of Thessaloniki

Ministry of Interior (Macedonia–Thrace Sector)

The Rotary Club of Thessaloniki “Megas Alexandros Hellas” offered Easter candles—specially handcrafted for our Club with decorative brooches by Konstantia Giouletzi—as well as gifts of love to the cleaning staff.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINA ARMONIA

From all of us at RC Athina - Armonia, a big thank you for this wonderful experience at WOW Athens, at the magnificent Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

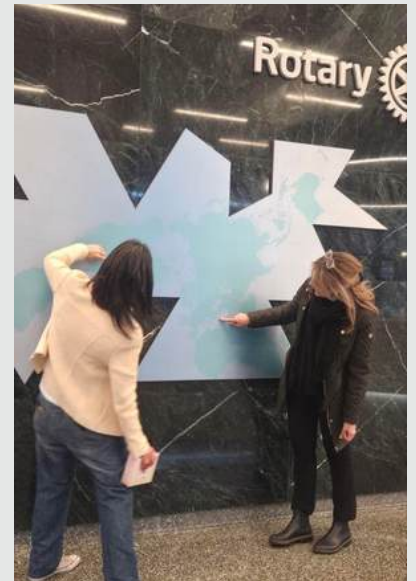
We had the pleasure of participating as mentors in the speed mentoring sessions and meeting remarkable women, listening to their stories, and sharing thoughts, experiences, and a little guidance—from the bottom of our hearts.

Small moments that might make a big difference.

What we at #Rotary call: create lasting memories.

We left with a feeling of warmth and deep gratitude for the venue that hosted so many powerful presences and meaningful connections.

A special moment for us was when the idea of belonging to a large organization like Rotary was embraced with keen interest and enthusiasm.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

RC Rhodes–Colossos once again opened its heart to the children of the Girls' Child Care Center of Rhodes, offering not only personal hygiene products, but something even more valuable: an afternoon filled with care, joy, and human connection.

Sweet and savory crepes became the perfect occasion to share smiles, fill the atmosphere with laughter, and create small moments that warm the soul. What began as a simple outing turned into a celebration of joy and carefree childhood.

President Spiros Dalianis, the Chair of the Committee for the Support of Vulnerable Social Groups Sandra Nezi, and club members Dora Koutsospyrou, Iliana Daliani, Marirena Georga, and Paris Sansoglou express their sincere thanks to the President of the Rhodes Child Protection Branch, Ms. Maria Korakaki, for her steady cooperation and dedication to the well-being of the children, as well as to the staff of the facility who accompanied the children with love and care.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - eClub of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi Semeli, Kifisia Kastrí, Patra Kostis Palamas Preveza, Chalandri, and Psychiko

PROGRAM “GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0” – DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIRS TO THE EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF BIOTIA

In yet another delivery, this time to the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Prefecture of Boeotia, representatives of the program “Give the Gift of Access 2.0” proceeded on March 28, 2026.

Specifically, representatives of the participating Rotary Clubs (eClub of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi Semeli, Kifisia Kastrí, Patra Kostis Palamas Preveza, Chalandri, and Psychiko), as part of an excursion organized by RC purpose of the visit was the delivery of two wheelchairs for use by people with mobility impairments at the archaeological site, which includes the Ancient Theatre of Orchomenos, as well as at the Museum of Chaeronea.

The delivery was received on behalf of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia by the Head Archaeologist, Dr. Alexandra Charami, who, visibly moved, thanked the program’s representatives and praised both the initiative and the importance of the program in ensuring free and unobstructed access to culture for all our fellow citizens.

During the guided tour that followed, archaeologist Ms. Evi Tsota stood out with her vivid and engaging presentation, showcasing the museum’s remarkable exhibits spanning from the Mycenaean period to the Byzantine era.

A particularly moving moment occurred when, at one display case opened especially for the visitors, they were allowed to touch some of the authentic objects from the museum’s tactile collection, offering a unique and immersive guided experience.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

Visit to the Charalambios Nursing Home of Rhodes for the Easter period.

On April 5th, RC Rhodes–Colossos visited the Charalambios Nursing Home of Rhodes, in an initiative that filled the room with smiles, colors, and warm conversations.

Following the kind approval of the President of the Welfare Institutions of Rhodes, Mrs. Maria Korakaki, members of the Youth and Elderly Support Committee and the Committee for Vulnerable Social Groups of the Rotary Club of Rhodes–Colossus visited the elderly residents of the Charalambios Nursing Home to share moments of creativity and care.

The Committee President, artist rtn Stamatia Stergenaki, brought with her materials, inspiration, and plenty of love. Together with the residents, they created Easter candles, giving each piece a personal touch and a small story.

At the same time, rtn Michalis Limberis, a professional barber, along with his team from MICHAEL LIMBERIS BARBER, offered grooming and personal care services to those who wished. A simple act that brought dignity, freshness, and a sense of renewal to the residents of the Nursing Home.

We warmly thank the outstanding members of our Club, rotarians Stamatia Stergenaki, Michalis Limberis and his team, Sandra Nezi, as well as all our members who stood by the elderly with respect and love.

The Club President, rtn Spiros Dalianis, and all members express their sincere thanks to Mrs. Maria Korakaki, the staff, and the residents of the Charalambios Nursing Home for their warm hospitality and the heartfelt welcome with which they received us.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - 8 ROTARY CLUBS

PROGRAM “GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0” – DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIRS TO ORGANIZATIONS IN THESSALONIKI

Following the ongoing activities of the program “Give the Gift of Access 2.0,” and in accordance with the planned schedule, the delivery of five (5) wheelchairs to three (3) important public venues in the city of Thessaloniki was recently completed successfully.

Representatives of the eight participating Rotary Clubs (e-Club of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anixi–Semeli, Chalandri, Kifisia–Kastri, Patras–K. Palamas, Preveza, Psychiko) had a busy three-day visit filled with deliveries and activities in the beautiful city of Thessaloniki.

The deliveries began on March 20, with the first stop at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, where two wheelchairs were delivered.

This was followed by the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle on March 23, where the wheelchair was received by the Museum’s President, PDG Nikolaos Margaropoulos, and descendant of Macedonian fighters.

The final stop on the same day was the Museum of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki, where two additional wheelchairs were delivered.

In all cases, the contribution of the Rotary Clubs was warmly welcomed, as it addressed already identified needs highlighted by the program. This was emphasized by the responsible authorities, along with the shared hope that this initiative will serve as an example for the local community.

Finally, within the framework of these deliveries, proposals for further collaboration were discussed, while particularly interesting guided tours took place in all three venues—true gems of Greek culture and guardians of the nation’s historical memory.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA POLITIA

On April 8th, members of RC Kifissia-Politia delivered tsoureki (greek brioche-like sweet bread), cookies, and red eggs to the Nea Erythraia community social grocery store in Kifissia.



RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

RC Rhodes offered traditional tsourekia for the Easter meal of the Municipality of Rhodes' soup kitchen, providing tangible support to fellow citizens in need.

This initiative was carried out by the Club's Social Welfare and Equality Committee, as part of its broader social responsibility activities.

The donation was made possible through the sponsorship of Rotarian Evanthia Boni, in memory of her mother Aikaterini Boni, her grandfather Panagiotis Theocharis, and her grandmother Georgia Theochari.

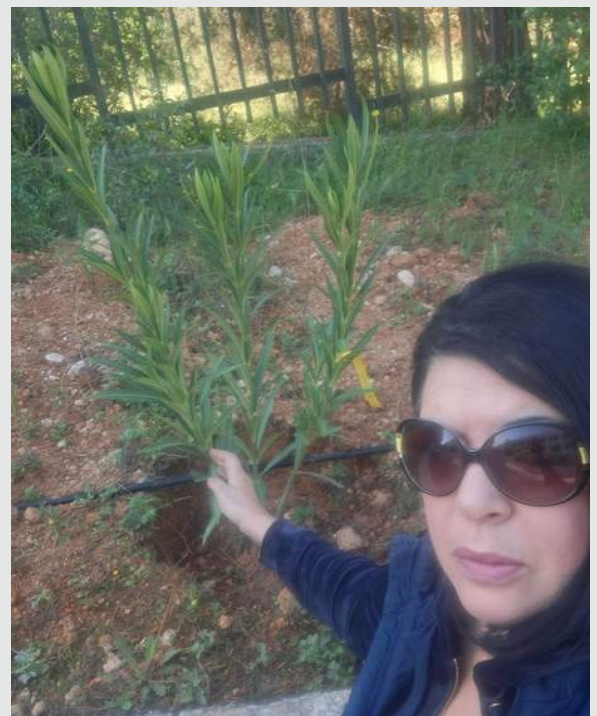


THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos, taking care of the beautification of the PEGKAP-NY premises, donated 25 flowering saplings for the outdoor entrance corridor.

We would like to thank all the members of BOD and the members of our Club, and especially rtn Elda Flega, Club Treasurer, and rtn Potoula Maravegia, member of the Club's BOD, for their contribution.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



**ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482**

**Plamen Tsvetkov
District Governor 2025-2026
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message April**



Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

April in the Rotary calendar is the month dedicated to the environment. It affects us every single day – through the air we breathe, the water we use, and the land on which we live and build our future. When we speak about the environment, we speak about the life around us and the quality of that life.

We adopted the Environment as the seventh area of focus of The Rotary Foundation precisely because without a healthy environment there can be no sustainable progress in any other cause. We may work for health, education, access to clean water, and community development – but if the environment around us continues to deteriorate, everything else gradually loses stability. This is a simple truth that we can no longer afford to ignore.

We all see what happens when balance is disturbed: water shortages, polluted air, disappearing green spaces, dried-up reservoirs, and fertile land sacrificed for short-term solutions. The real challenge is to find a sensible balance where development does not destroy the very resources on which it depends.

Nature always gives us signs when this balance is broken. Every spring, migratory birds travel along Via Pontica and choose where to stop. They do not make mistakes. They show us where the environment has been preserved and where it has not. Sometimes nature sees more clearly than we do.

History, too, has given us its lessons. In 1987, the people of Ruse took to the streets to defend their right to clean air. It was an important moment which showed that when people are consistent and determined, change is possible. It also showed something else – achievements do not preserve themselves. They require constant care, commitment and determination.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Plamen Tsvetkov District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Message - April

That is precisely why the issue of the environment cannot be postponed.

As Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo says:

“Service is not what we do when conditions are ideal. It is what we do when systems are under strain, resources are limited, and the need is urgent.”

In this area, those words ring especially true.

In this regard, Holger Knaack shares the following message:

“Look around your community and you will find a body of water that needs protection.”

Rotary has the strength to act precisely where many people see only problems.

Sometimes it is a river; sometimes a park, a green space, a coastline, or simply a place everyone else passes by. Our clubs know how to recognise these needs and turn concern into meaningful action.

Accepting and overcoming challenges

Accepting and overcoming challenges was at the heart of the training for club boards for the coming year. PELS (Presidents Elect Learning Seminar) took place at the end of March in Plovdiv. It was an important step in preparing those who will carry responsibility for club life and for real action within our communities during the next Rotary year. Strong clubs are built through vision, preparation and clear direction. Strong clubs also create strong projects.

On 12 April, we will celebrate Easter. During these bright and meaningful days, we are called upon to rediscover the value of moderation and responsibility towards the gifts of nature. In times of abundance, it is worth reflecting on how much food remains unused and becomes waste. This is not only a question of our attitude towards people in need, but also towards the resources we consume. A period lies ahead in which our efforts must produce tangible results.

Important district events await us in April and May.

On 25 April, we will hold a Seminar for Newly Admitted Rotarians – an important step towards stronger continuity and a healthier internal environment within our clubs.

On 15 May, we will gather for the Paul Harris Fellows Evening – a celebration of the generosity that enables us to deliver sustainable projects.

On 16 May, the District Conference will take place – a celebration of our achievements and of our community.

On 17 May, the Legislative Meeting and General Assembly will be held – an important moment for the future of the district.

All these events will take place in Burgas.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Plamen Tsvetkov District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Message - March

This month, I would also like to remind you of two other important initiatives.

The first is the Rotary Award in Bulgaria. Nominations matter. They reflect the kind of society we wish to see around us. I encourage you not to miss the opportunity to nominate worthy individuals whose actions bring meaning, inspiration and benefit to society. The more clubs that participate, the stronger and more respected this award will become.

The second is the arts competition:

“Choose Freedom! The Art of Saying NO to Aggression and Addiction!”

Please encourage young people to take part. Let us give them a stage on which to say clearly what they choose – freedom, dignity, respect, and a life without addiction or violence. This too is part of caring for the environment in which we live. Because environment is not only nature. It is also the relationships between people.

Friends, Caring for the environment is not a separate task. It is part of our responsibility as Rotarians. Part of the way we serve. Part of the choice of what we leave behind us. Let us be people who do not wait until a problem becomes irreversible. Let us be people who act in time. And this April, let us once again remind ourselves that when we protect the environment around us, we also protect the future.

With respect and friendship,

Plamen Tsvetkov

District Governor 2025–2026

Rotary International – District 2482

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CREATING LASTING IMPACT - PELS, PLOVDIV

PELS (President-Elect Learning Seminar), brought together Rotarians and Rotaractors around one clear and meaningful idea – how what we do today can truly matter and leave a lasting impact behind us.

The Rotary International President for 2026–2027, Olayinka Babalola, clearly defined this direction through the message: “Create Lasting Impact”. This was not merely a slogan on a banner or a phrase repeated during speeches. It became the real foundation of everything discussed throughout the seminar in Plovdiv.

During the plenary sessions, the goals and direction for the upcoming Rotary year were outlined, but more importantly, attention was placed on responsibility for achieving them – within every single club. Governor-Elect Alexander Petrov strongly emphasised continuity, encouraging future presidents to build upon the achievements of those before them rather than starting from scratch.

Alexander Petrov also brought participants closer to the atmosphere and priorities of the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, where the same objectives had been presented on a global level. Another message was stated clearly: the role of a strong district team is above all to support clubs, enabling them to achieve meaningful results and fulfil their goals.

District Rotaract Representative Stoyan Ganchev from Rotaract Club Plovdiv Philippopolis introduced his team and shared the importance of active collaboration and partnership between Rotaract and Rotary clubs.

A particularly strong focus throughout the programme was the presentation of both international and local examples of impactful initiatives. Among them were guests from Egypt participating in a Rotary Friendship Exchange, as well as the inspiring presentation by Kiril Kandilarov about the Bulgarian Antarctic Base – examples demonstrating how one idea can reach far beyond the local community.

The afternoon sessions shifted the focus from vision to practice.

Future presidents worked through real-life club scenarios and case studies, showing enthusiasm, motivation, and genuine readiness to lead. Participants engaged actively in discussions, debated ideas, and even found moments of humour within the serious conversations. At that point, it no longer felt like “training”, but rather authentic preparation for the year ahead.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CREATING LASTING IMPACT - PELS, PLOVDIV

For the secretaries-elect, the emphasis was placed on organisation, coordination, and structure within club life – the practical elements that often remain unseen, yet keep the system functioning effectively. Most importantly, it became evident that the secretary is not merely a supporting role, but an equal partner to the president within a collaborative leadership team.

At the same time, the Grant Management Seminar invited participants to step into the role of project evaluators. Discussions focused on the quality of ideas, their sustainability, long-term value, and practical applicability.

Yet perhaps the most powerful aspect of this PELS was not found in the presentations or slides. Rotarians and Rotaractors stood together not as separate groups, but as one community. They sat side by side, exchanged ideas, debated openly, and learned from one another. There was no distance, no division, and no generational gap. Instead, there was unity – the kind that does not need to be announced because it is genuinely felt.

This is where “lasting impact” truly begins.

Not in words, but in the confidence participants gained, the ideas they discovered, and the feeling that they are part of something far greater than themselves.

The theme of continuity and renewal naturally continued through the open conversation between current District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov and District Rotaract Representative Nevena Ivanova, together with their successors Governor-Elect Alexander Petrov and DRR-Elect Stoyan Ganchev. Rather than focusing on achievements already accomplished, they spoke openly about what more could still be done and how far we can go together.

On Sunday, the District Assembly completed the broader picture with a strong focus on club leadership. Georgi Malchev from Foundation “For the Good” highlighted a simple, yet often uncomfortable truth: leadership is not a position, but behaviour. And even the best ideas only have value when they reach people and create real impact.

Article prepared by Galya Pencheva, District Public Image Committee D2482.



Rotary Club of Ruse Introduced an Innovative Technological Solution Supporting Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Today, Rotary Club of Ruse officially delivered and commissioned an interactive FluorMat floor system at the “RALIZ” Day Centre. The initiative is aimed at improving the educational and therapeutic environment for children and young people with intellectual disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions.

The project is valued at USD 5,930 and is funded by The Rotary Foundation through District 2482 Bulgaria under District Grant DG2502, with the support of Rotary Club of Ruse, Rotary Club of Berkovitsa and Rotary Club of Zlatograd, as well as through funds raised during the charitable initiatives organised by Rotary Club of Ruse and Rotaract Club of Ruse during the current Rotary year.

The interactive FluorMat floor is a modern technological solution that combines movement and learning. The system will be integrated into the centre’s daily activities, supporting the development of cognitive abilities, fine motor skills and social interaction among its users.

Mrs Biserka Ivanova, Director of the “RALIZ” Day Centre, expressed her gratitude to the Rotary community:

“This is not simply a piece of technology – it is an opportunity for our children to develop through movement and to become more confident in themselves. Thanks to Rotary’s support, innovation becomes accessible to those who need it most.”

Mr Ivo Sonev, President of Rotary Club of Ruse, highlighted the importance of sustainable projects:

“This project is an excellent example of how, through the mechanisms of The Rotary Foundation and the combined efforts of the local community, we can achieve meaningful and long-term impact. Investing in the development of children is an investment in the future of our society. We are delighted to support an organisation with a proven history such as RALIZ.”

The Ruse Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (RALIZ) has been supporting the community since 1998 and is a key partner in the provision of social services in the region. This donation further strengthens the long-standing partnership between the club and the organisation, following the mission of Rotary International to create lasting change both globally and within local communities.



Rotary Club of Nova Zagora – Project “Stay Active with Rotary”

Rotary Club of Nova Zagora has successfully completed another community service project: “Stay Active with Rotary”.

As part of the initiative, the club delivered and installed durable outdoor tables for table tennis and chess in the town park.

The project aims to encourage an active lifestyle and create new opportunities for sport, recreation and social interaction among the residents of Nova Zagora. The donation is part of the club’s ongoing commitment to supporting and developing the local community.



Rotary Club of Nova Zagora – Project “Stay Active with Rotary”

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Rotary Club of Razgrad proudly presents the special exhibition “Distinguished Bulgarians”. The exhibition has been on display since 22 April 2026 in the foyer of the “Prof. Boyan Penev” Regional Library in Razgrad and welcomes visitors to discover a story of achievement, science and national pride.

The exhibition features 20 inspiring canvases dedicated to some of the most prominent Bulgarian scientists whose groundbreaking contributions have shaped medicine and physics, literacy, digital innovation and space technologies. These discoveries not only changed the course of history, but also improved the lives of millions of people around the world, standing as proof of the limitless potential of the Bulgarian people.

Rotary is a global family of more than 45,000 clubs in over 200 countries. For 121 years, Rotary has brought together leaders and professionals around the ideals of peace, integrity and humanitarian service. Rotary Club of Razgrad is proud to be part of this movement and, for the past two decades, has worked in support of the city and its people. Through this exhibition, the club offers Razgrad not simply facts from history, but a reason for confidence and pride.

Let us celebrate these achievements and continue together in building a brighter future.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

One Spirit and Shared Values United Rotary Club Pomorie with the Clubs of Pirot and Niš

In the spirit of friendship and shared values, representatives of Rotary Club Pomorie paid an inspiring visit to Serbia. The meetings in Pirot and Niš were marked by unity of purpose and the “UNITE FOR GOOD” mission, a guiding principle that connects Rotarians across the world.

The event was especially honoured by the presence of Velisa Stamatović, Governor of Rotary District 2483 for the 2025/2026 Rotary year. His participation highlighted the importance of international cooperation and Rotary’s role as a global network of leaders dedicated to serving communities.

In Pirot, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the President of the local club, Goran Mišić, while in Niš they held a productive and heartfelt meeting with fellow members of the Rotary community in the city. During the discussions, ideas for future joint initiatives in support of local communities were explored.

The visit once again proved that, regardless of borders, Rotarians speak the same language — the language of kindness, service and the desire to create positive change.

Rotary Club Pomorie expresses its sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality, which laid the foundations for a long-term partnership.

Because Rotary is not simply an organisation, but a community that builds bridges and inspires people.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club of Razgrad Continues Its Tradition of Enhancing the Green Environment of Razgrad

Rotary Club of Razgrad successfully carried out its annual urban tree-planting initiative. On the last Saturday of April 2026, members of the club planted 21 new trees of valuable broadleaf species in the City Park of Razgrad. The initiative aims to contribute to the sustainable renewal of the town's green system and forest resources.

The overall preparation, organisation and technical coordination of the planting activities were led by Rotarian Vasil Petrov. The President of Rotary Club of Razgrad, Tsvetelina Boteva, expressed her gratitude to the club members for the successful implementation of the project. Maintaining this long-standing tradition reflects the consistent and selfless commitment of the Rotarians from Rotary Club of Razgrad towards environmental protection, the ecological wellbeing of the town and the improvement of public spaces for the benefit of the local community.



Rotary Club of Nova Zagora Donated Historical Books to Local Schools on the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the April Uprising

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the April Uprising, Rotary Club of Nova Zagora donated historical books to the schools in the town.

"My First Book about the April Uprising" presents the most significant event in Bulgaria's pre-liberation history. The book tells the story of the events leading up to and during the uprising, which paved the way for the future War of Liberation. It also includes short portraits of some of the most prominent heroes of that period.

Richly illustrated and engagingly written, the book is an excellent educational resource for young readers and for everyone interested in the true history of Bulgaria.



Rotary Club Bansko–Razlog Supports Inclusive Education in Bansko

On 29 April, a new resource room was officially opened at Kindergarten “Zdravec” in Bansko, located at 6 Muratovo Ezero Street, while the resource room at Kindergarten No. 1 “Goleva” also received specialised equipment. These spaces were created with care, dedication and the belief that every child deserves support, understanding and equal access to education. The resource rooms were established through a project implemented by Rotary Club Bansko–Razlog in partnership with the “AN-BO” Foundation and with co-financing from District 2482. The newly created and renovated spaces will provide a calm and supportive environment for children with special educational needs, where they will be able to learn, develop and discover their full potential.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club of Harmanli - GOODNESS HAS A DIRECTION — AND IT REACHES PEOPLE!

On 24 March, the Rotary Club of Harmanli transformed a large-scale donation into real support for education within our community. When businesses, local communities, and volunteers unite, the results are visible, meaningful, and lasting.

With immense gratitude to the Swiss company IXM Bulgaria Ltd., through Mr Atanas Kopchev, we successfully organised the distribution of valuable office equipment and technology. Desks, ergonomic chairs, monitors, and laptops are now making their way to new classrooms, helping to create a more modern and inspiring environment for our children.

The equipment was delivered to:

- “Hristo Botev” Primary School – Biser village
- “St. St. Cyril and Methodius” Primary School – Ivanovo village
- “Ivan Vazov” Primary School – Slavyanovo village

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

💛 IXM Bulgaria Ltd. and Mr Atanas Kopchev — for the tremendous trust placed in the Rotary Club of Harmanli, as well as for their social responsibility and generosity, which make change possible.

💛 Nedyalka Rossenova — for the support, leadership, and connections.

💛 All friends from the Rotary Club of Harmanli who were “on the ground” today — from organisation and documentation to the physical loading, transportation, and delivery.

Today, we did not simply transport furniture and equipment. Today, we delivered respect and hope for a better future to children in smaller communities. This is the true power of Rotary — service to our community above self!

I am proud of our club and our partners, who continue to prove that, united for good, we can leave a lasting impact.



Rotary Club Smolyan – Women's Health Festival

When we first began planning this event, we never imagined it would become something so emotional, sincere, genuine, and powerful.

Thank you, wonderful ladies, for making it exactly that.
Thank you for the warm words, the smiles, and the shared moments.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Women's Health School with Vanya Stoycheva and Mihaela Shehova for helping us turn it into a true festival together.

Thank you to all the guest speakers and trainers who filled it with meaningful content and inspiration.

Thank you to the media partners who shared the event, as well as to those who attended in person.

And last but certainly not least, thank you for the donations towards a new maternity monitor.
The total amount raised was €310.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Smolyan – Sport, Nature and Community: A Day Filled with Energy and Inspiration

We planned a sports day, but what we experienced became so much more – a true celebration of movement, friendship, and an active lifestyle.

Surrounded by the beautiful nature near Smolyan, participants had the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting and recreational activities. We played tennis, went running, tested our strength in arm wrestling, practised yoga, competed in sack races, and enjoyed walks along the forest trails. After the activities, we shared delicious food in nature, enjoyed the refreshing mountain stream, and breathed in the clean mountain air.

But most importantly – we had fun together.

The event demonstrated in a natural and inspiring way that sport and physical activity can be accessible, enjoyable, and part of our daily lives without needing to leave the city behind. Just a step away from the urban environment, we can discover nature, peace, and opportunities for a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Special thanks go to Milka Maneva, Atanas Tunev





**ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483**

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1. Announcement 1: Global Minga for Peace and the Environment in EUROPE 2026

Distinguished District Governors, Club Presidents, and Fellow Rotarians in Zone 21,

Rotary District 4400 Ecuador, Rotary District 2483 Serbia and Montenegro, Rotary Club Belgrade – Stari Grad, the Intercountry Committee Ecuador – Serbia & Montenegro, and ESRA LATAM, together with the Johannes Kepler School Foundation, the Arcandina Foundation, and the Rotary Club Los Chillos Milenio, cordially invite you to join the international initiative “Global Minga for Peace and the Environment,” to be held across Europe from April to June 2026, in commemoration of Earth Day.

“Minga,” derived from the Quechua word mink’a, embodies the spirit of collective action for the common good, bringing communities together through cooperation, shared responsibility, and joint effort. Guided by this powerful concept, the initiative seeks to mobilize Rotary’s global network and partners to protect the environment while advancing education, awareness, and sustainable practices.

Established through a 2025 agreement with Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, and supported in its early phase by the Honorary Consulate of Ecuador in the Republic of Serbia and the Embassy of Ecuador in Budapest, the initiative continues to expand through the engagement of Rotary clubs, institutions, and universities worldwide.

We warmly encourage your club to take part by organizing or joining activities such as environmental clean-ups, tree planting, recycling initiatives, and educational programs that promote community engagement and environmental responsibility.

On behalf of the organizing partners, we sincerely invite you to join us in this important endeavor and contribute to a shared vision of a more sustainable and peaceful future.

For registration, please complete the following form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaLBa9oRQyn1BZ5a73_b7EPxGXA7oZrU_myKqWoGCPwNgwmQ/viewform

For more information, please visit:

www.mingamundialporelambiente.com

Thank you for your continued commitment to Service Above Self. Together, we can create a lasting and meaningful impact.

Sincerely in Rotary Service,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of Global Minga for the Peace and Environment in Europe initiative

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1. Announcement 1: Global Minga for Peace and the Environment in EUROPE 2026



2. DISTRICT SOLIDARITY ACTION - AID TO LEBANON

During March, on the initiative of Governor Veliša Stamatović, a district solidarity action was launched aimed at helping the population of Lebanon, affected by a severe humanitarian crisis in which between 700,000 and one million people were left without basic living conditions. The governor appealed to clubs to, as many times before, unite and provide support to Rotarian friends and vulnerable families, stressing that solidarity is the foundation of Rotary's activities.

It was especially emphasized that the aid will be directed towards the most vulnerable categories - families, babies and children, through the Rotary network, which ensures that the funds reach where they are most needed.

At the invitation of the governor, the clubs in the District responded in solidarity, once again confirming the strength of unity and readiness for quick and responsible action. Based on the decision and vote of the clubs, assistance was sent to the District of Lebanon in the total amount of 4,000 USD, where part of the funds was provided from the previous district action, while the rest was supplemented by the funds of the District. In addition, some clubs made their special contribution, which strengthened the overall support and confirmed the high awareness of the importance of this humanitarian initiative.

This action reminded us of moments when our District was also faced with challenges, and help came from friends from abroad, sincerely and selflessly. It is these experiences that further oblige us today to be with others in need. The governor expressed his gratitude to all the clubs for their humanity and dedication, stressing that even the smallest contribution can be of great importance and that through joint action Rotary continues to change lives for the better.

3. PELS/SELS seminar, Hotel Hyatt, Belgrade

The seminar for presidents and secretaries of the Rotary District of Serbia and Montenegro was held at the Hyatt Hotel on March 21-22, 2026. year. Our friend and The Rotary Foundation Trustee Pearl Okoro greatly contributed to the positive energy and inspiration that permeated the entire seminar. Many thanks to all participants for the inspiration they shared. It is a great honor to be Governor 26-27 of such a wonderful Rotary district. Daliborka Bradic Governor 2026-2027



RC Kragujevac: Ceremony on the occasion of awarding recognition for contribution to the profession

For almost thirty years of our club's existence, we have tried to make life better for our fellow citizens in every possible way. We helped children without parental care, children with special needs, the elderly, and the sick. We invested in education, art, and rewarded the best. Fifteen years ago, we launched the now traditional awarding of plaques for contribution to the development of the profession. We singled out individuals who linked their lives to Kragujevac, and through their work engagement pushed the limits of the usual and made us proud that this city is our common denominator. The 15th Jubilee Plaque for exceptional results in one's profession and fostering high ethical values is awarded by the Rotary Club of Kragujevac to actor Rade Marjanović.

As dictated by the tradition that has been cherished in our club for many years, the governor of District 2483 planted his tree, leaving a lasting symbol of friendship, togetherness and continuity of Rotary activities. This gesture is a sign of the connection of all governors with our club and city, but also a reminder of the values that we nurture and develop together. We hope that next year, when we celebrate the Rotary Club's 30th anniversary, he will have the opportunity to come again and see his tree grow and prosper, just like the ideas and friendships that Rotary has been building over the years. It will be a special pleasure for us to host him again on that occasion, as well as all previous governors who planted their tree and thus left a lasting mark in the history of our club.



RC Belgrade Čukarica: Training program and donation of 3D printers to schools in Šabac

On March 5, 2026, an accredited training program and donation of 3D printers and 2 kilograms of filaments for primary schools in Šabac was held at the Professional Training Center in Šabac. Through a very interesting and practical lecture, teachers learned how to assemble a printer, what are the most common errors in work and how to fix them, and what types of filaments exist. At the end, they learned how to create and work on ThinkerCad and Slicer. When they have used 2 kilograms of filaments, they will make an exhibition of toys and teaching aids and receive free filaments from the Rotary Clubs of Ruma, Belgrade Čukarica, Šabac and Belgrade Technolgy in order to make the project sustainable.



RC Belgrade International: Women in Rotary: then, today and tomorrow

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Rotary Club Belgrade International organized a panel discussion entitled: "Women in Rotary: then, now and what's next." The discussion explored the evolving role of women in Rotary — from the early pioneers who blazed the trail, through today's leaders, to the future we are building together through service and leadership. Through personal reflections and professional experience, our distinguished panelists Kaća Lazarević (ADG), Ljiljana Lainović (PDG), Daliborka Bradić (DGE) and Aleksandar Radojčić (PDG) shared insights on leadership, service, balance and the legacy of Rotary. The panel was skillfully moderated by Tijana Ristić. On the same occasion, the governor of Rotary District 2483 - Serbia and Montenegro, Veliša Stamatović, officially welcomed our newest member, Dr. Predrag Poleksić, presenting him with a Rotary badge. It was an inspiring conversation that celebrates progress while looking toward the next chapter of leadership and service in Rotary.



RC Beograd Ćukarica: District competition of elementary schools in Niš

On March 7, 2026, a district competition in programming and managing mBot robots 2 and drones was held in Nis. 36 teams with over 130 students participated, and the 3 first-placed teams in both disciplines advanced to the final competition on May 30 in Belgrade. Valuable prizes for these teams (for each teacher and each student from the team) were provided by Klett publishing house and Rotary clubs).



7.03.2026 - RC Valjevo, RC Ruma and RC Belgrade Čukarica: Teacher education and donation of 3D printers for primary schools in Valjevo

In Elementary School "Milovan Glišić" in Valjevo, on March 17 of this year, the Rotary Clubs of Valjevo, Ruma and Belgrade Čukarica organized teacher education and a donation of 3D printers for primary schools in Valjevo. 2 kilograms of filaments were donated to the schools - 1 kilogram for making toys for children suffering from cancer and the other for teaching aids for cabinets in their schools.



. 19.03.2026 - RC Belgrade Čukarica, RC Ruma and RC Subotica: Donation of a 3D printer in Subotica

On Thursday, March 19 this year, the Rotary Clubs of Čukarica, Ruma and Subotica donated 3D printers and 2 kilograms of filament each to primary schools in Subotica. Excellent hosts were the Rotary Club of Subotica and Technical School "Ivan Sarić" from Subotica.



RC Senta: Support to the African school Don Bosco Fambul

In cooperation with a team of participants of the Budapest-Bamako rally, the Zenta Rotary Club supported the African school Don Bosco Fambul. In this way, our club had the opportunity to directly contribute to the education and daily life of children in Africa. The main donors of this humanitarian initiative were Gross ABC d.o.o. and the Mali Napredak bookstore, while the Zenta Rotary Club supported the rally team itself. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this noble cause!



RTC Beograd Skadarlija i RTC Beograd Centar: Successful organization of two joint Pub Quizzes

Rotaract Club Belgrade Skadarlija and Rotaract Club Belgrade Centar successfully organized two joint Pub Quizzes, which brought together a large number of members and friends of the clubs in a great atmosphere of camaraderie, team spirit and good energy. The first quiz was attended by about 60, and the second by about 30 Rotaractors and friends, which once again showed how much such events contribute to connecting, strengthening friendship and joint action in the service of the community. The funds collected through registration fees were directed to the Voždovac Children and Youth Institution, which gave the gathering a strong humanitarian character. The first part of the donation has already been successfully delivered to the Institution, where 40 personal hygiene kits were delivered, adapted to the needs of all residents of the institution. The kits contain: toothpaste, shower gel, hair shampoo, sanitary pads and wet wipes. Given that the Institute currently cares for 40 residents, the donation was carefully planned so that each user would receive their own set, along with a message of attention, support, and dignified care. This joint action by the two clubs is a wonderful example of how knowledge, camaraderie, and humanity can be combined into an event that leaves a concrete and beautiful mark on the community.



RTC Beograd Skadarlija Donation to the Children and Youth Institution

In the spirit of serving the community and nurturing the enduring values of humanity, the Rotaract Club Belgrade Skadarlija, at the invitation of its parent club RC Belgrade Skadarlija, successfully realized a donation to the Children and Youth Institution. On this occasion, 70 sets of bedding were donated, provided thanks to the selfless support of the students of BGD DIF. The donation was given special value by the personal engagement of the Rotaract club members, who washed, ironed and carefully packed each set with great care and dedication, taking care to ensure that the aid was delivered with dignity and with sincere care for the beneficiaries of the institution. The club president particularly stood out in this part. The total approximate value of the donation is 100,000 dinars, while its true significance lies in the message of solidarity, empathy and willingness to work together to contribute to better conditions for children and youth.



CONTACT US!

If you have questions or would like to share projects for publication in the Zone 21B newsletter, please reach out through the contacts below:

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📣 You are welcome to contact the assistants assigned to your districts and send in your questions or projects to be featured in the Zone 21B newsletter.

Tell Our Stories

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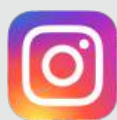
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