



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

— M O N T H —

Healthy mothers.
Strong children.
Brighter futures.
That's The Power of Good.



SUPPORTING MOTHERS

Access to quality
care and education.



NURTURING CHILDREN

Better nutrition,
health and hope.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Sustainable solutions
for a better tomorrow.



TOGETHER, WE
SAVE LIVES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
IS A PRIORITY. IT'S OUR PROMISE.

Table of Contents

Presidential Message	04	ARPIC Arkan Nihat, D2482	61
Trustee Chair's Message	05	ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic, D2483	75
Director's Message	06	DPIC Nora Siqeca, D2485	93
Public Image Coordinator Message	07	Membership Committee D2430 Ozge Yalcın	100
Meet the Gamechangers	09	RC of Evrensel, Batuhan Keskintaş, President 25/26	102
Our team plan 2026-2027	12		
Knowledge and Experience transfer - ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic	16	District Governor's Corner	103
Zone 21 Regional Leaders Team Learning Seminar, Vienna, 5–7 June 2026	17	END POLIO NOW - Polio talks with Nikola Božić	116
Power of Goodness Award Ceremony 22 June 2026	21	Intercountry Committees	120
Meet the Rotarians - ARMC Konstantinos T. Kotsis	24	Leader's Toolbox	124
Meet the Bridge Team	28	The Structure of RI at Multi-District level	125
Monthly Theme Message - Maternal and Child Health	32	Rotary International Convention - Barcelona 2027	128
ARPIC Faisal Juma, D2452	34	Contact us	131
ARPIC Elena Janniki, D2475	38		

CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Presidential Message

Better than your best

Rotary has a way of surprising you. It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to **Create Lasting Impact**.

Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project. How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own?

How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: "How does this create the conditions for peace?" Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are.



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary International President 2026/2027

Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here

Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace, and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set a goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million Rotarians and more than 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, just in time for Rotary's 125th anniversary.

Sit down with your club and look back over your accomplishments in the last few years. Find your best year. Maybe it was a record year for new members. Maybe you reached a fundraising milestone. Maybe you completed a project that the whole community is still talking about. Once you find that year, I challenge you to do better than your best. In these ways and more, we will Create Lasting Impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. **Thank you, my dear friends. Now let's get to work.**

Trustee Chair's Message



Jeniffer Jones
Foundation Trustee Chair 2026/2027

Leading with gratitude

I love the idea of a gratitude journal. The practice is simple: Write down three things each day that you are grateful for, and watch how it shifts your mindset, your energy, and even the way you move through the world. To me, gratitude is more than a feeling; it is a force. And in Rotary, gratitude is a reflection of who we are. When we thank our donors, we are acknowledging their contribution and honoring their belief in a better world.

I write in my gratitude journal often — not every day but enough to keep me grounded. I want to share with you an entry from January, written during the International Assembly. The assembly is more than our annual learning event for district governors-elect; it's a gathering filled with inspiration and moments that stay with you long after the lights dim. My first entry was in gratitude to Debbie and Russell Doby. In 2022, Debbie, then a

district governor-elect, missed out on that inspiring assembly experience because of the pandemic. Then, a year later, just a few days before the district conference she was excited to host, Debbie and her husband were in a head-on collision. The other driver was killed; Debbie and Russell survived, miraculously.

Out of tragedy, they found grace. They created an endowment fund for their district at the Arch Klumph Society level, choosing to transform pain into purpose.

My second entry reflected on Ravishankar and Paola Dakoju from the Rotary Club of Bangalore, India. At the assembly, the couple pledged \$50 million to The Rotary Foundation, an extraordinary gift representing 85 percent of their wealth. Ravishankar said, "When you give more than you think you can, life returns to you more than you can ever imagine." That single sentence captures the heart of Rotary.

My final entry was in gratitude to Moh Eid and Chuck and Carol Stocking. After Moh's brother, Ibrahim, a humanitarian aid worker, was killed while helping victims of war, Chuck was moved to create the Ibrahim Eid Fund to support Rotary Peace Fellows. Their leverage gift was \$100,000 toward a million-dollar goal. That is what it looks like when grief becomes hope.

And today, my gratitude entry is for you. For longtime members and brand-new faces, for those who give year after year and those preparing to make their first gift.

Thank you. Let gratitude be our compass this year.

Director's Message

When the First Light Breaks - As we begin this new Rotary year, our call is to *Create Lasting Impact*.

At the beginning of every journey, there is a quiet moment before the movement begins. The road is still, the horizon is open, and those who are ready to lead can already see beyond the first step. They see the distance ahead not with fear, but with conviction. They understand that a new year is not simply a change of dates; it is an invitation to choose direction, sharpen purpose, and move together with greater intention.

This is such a moment for us.

A new year has opened before us, carrying with it a gentle invitation to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to the communities we serve.

It gives us a moment to appreciate how far we have come, to honour the work already done, and to look ahead with hope, courage, and shared purpose. Every season of service offers us a beautiful opportunity: to build on what has worked, to learn from our experiences, and to imagine together an even brighter future. We are strongest when we walk this journey together, supporting one another, listening deeply, and moving as one united family of service.

The future we desire will be shaped by the care we show, the partnerships we nurture, the clubs we strengthen, and the love we put into every act of service. Our work must continue to be guided by compassion, wisdom, and a clear understanding of the needs around us. As we serve, let us do so with open hearts, thoughtful action, and a deep desire to leave every community better, stronger, and more hopeful than we found it. As we begin this new Rotary year, our call is to **Create Lasting Impact**.

Lasting impact is not found only in the number of projects completed or events held. It is found in the child who receives better healthcare, the young person who gains opportunity, the family that accesses clean water, the community that becomes more



Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

resilient, and the club that grows stronger because its members feel engaged, valued, and inspired to serve.

This year calls us to think beyond short-term success. It calls us to build systems, not moments; partnerships, not isolated efforts; leaders, not followers; and clubs that are not only active, but alive with purpose. We must grow Rotary because growth gives us greater capacity to serve. Every new member brings a new story, a new skill, a new network, and a new possibility for change.

Our greatest strength has always been people. People who believe that service can change the direction of a life. People who are willing to give their time, ideas, resources, and influence to something greater than themselves. When that spirit is united behind a shared vision, ordinary actions become extraordinary outcomes.

Let us therefore enter this year not as spectators of possibility, but as builders of it. Let us lead with clarity, listen with humility, serve with discipline, and act with the confidence that what we do today can shape generations tomorrow.

The first light has broken. The road is before us. Let us move together with courage, unity, and an unwavering commitment to create lasting impact.

Public Image Coordinator Message

Dear friends in Rotary,

In the age of AI, it is a wonderful privilege to write for humans, to speak to humans, and to be read by humans.

This is my first message as RPIC for Zone 21B, and I write it with a heart full of emotion, responsibility and gratitude.

Only ten days have passed since 1 July, yet I already feel as if I have lived through a whole season of decisions, challenges, opportunities, messages, meetings and new beginnings.

Fortunately, I am not walking this path alone. I am supported by a remarkable team of eight dedicated ARPICs and six wise advisers. Very soon, you will meet them properly. For now, let me simply say that this team has chosen a name with both courage and a smile: **Better than The Best**. It is inspired by the call of Yinka Babalola to do **Better Than Our Best** — and this is exactly the spirit in which we want to serve. We took this call very seriously and decided to start from there.

My own journey to this responsibility began some years ago, at a moment when I was close to leaving Rotary. Not my club. Not my district. Rotary itself. Then, unexpectedly, came a call from my District Governor. PDG Borislav asked whether I was ready to step in and take over the role of ARPIC, after the person previously appointed had to leave. He simply said: "I think you will manage this responsibility well."

This was the start of the best time in my Rotarian life.



Stoyanka Georgieva - Tanya
RPIC 2026-2029
Zone 21b, Region 25

Soon after that, I became part of a wonderful regional Public Image team, led by PRPIC Nijad, whose polite, inclusive and deeply respectful leadership opened a new world for me. It became the beginning of one of the most meaningful periods in my Rotary life. Later came the term of PRPIC Altan, and with it one of my most valuable Rotary friendships — a friendship of trust, everyday support, honest conversations and shared service. Altan became not only a Rotary leader beside me, but also a dear friend and, in many ways, a brother walking next to me.

Thank you, Nijad.
Thank you, Altan.

The invitation to take the responsibility of RPIC for 2026–2029 came from PRPIC Altan and Past RI Director Katerina Kotsali. Honestly, I did not expect it. Yet I felt proud. Really proud.

Public Image Coordinator Message

Proud to continue the great work already done, and proud to serve this region with all its colours, languages, cultures, friendships, sensitivities and opportunities.

What followed was a year of preparation: learning, planning, Zooms, Google Meets, sheets, forms, Evanston and Chicago, conversations, questions, doubts, ideas, AI hints, long discussions with team members, the selection of ARPICs, some very ambitious plans and, finally, one simple conclusion: I must remain myself. Otherwise, I will lose the direction.

Before I introduce our **Better than The Best Public Image Team** and our plan for the year, I feel that we should pause for a moment and honour the month of July. 1 July is the birthday of every new Rotary year. It is the moment when the Rotary wheel begins another turn, carrying with it new leaders, new teams, new hopes and new responsibilities. In this sense, July is the childhood of the new Rotary year — a month of first steps, first words, first commitments and first signs of the road ahead.

It is also the month when Rotary reminds us of one of the most human and essential areas of focus: **Maternal and Child Health**. There is deep symbolism in this. The new Rotary year begins with the theme of life itself — with mothers, children, families, health, care and the future.

For us, as Public Image leaders, this is a theme from the Rotary calendar and a reminder of why communication matters. We tell stories so that people can recognise hope, dignity and real change.

Behind every project there is a child who may grow healthier - a future Rotary leader, perhaps, a mother who may feel safer, a family that may keep its future, a community that may learn to care better for its most vulnerable members.

So, as we begin this year, let us look at July as an invitation. Let us start, continue or complete projects dedicated to maternal and child health. Let us raise awareness. Let us speak about prevention, access to care, education, dignity and healthy beginnings. Let us help our clubs show the human meaning of their work.

Dear friends, I believe we shall have a meaningful and beautiful Rotary year. It will not always be easy. Good work rarely is. Yet if we remain human in the age of AI, united in our purpose, respectful in our teamwork and brave in our storytelling, we shall create public image with real impact.

Let this year bring us joy, trust and satisfaction.

With friendship, gratitude and affection,

Tanya
RPIC, Zone 21B
2026–2029

Meet the
Gamechangers

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Meet the TEAM



RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



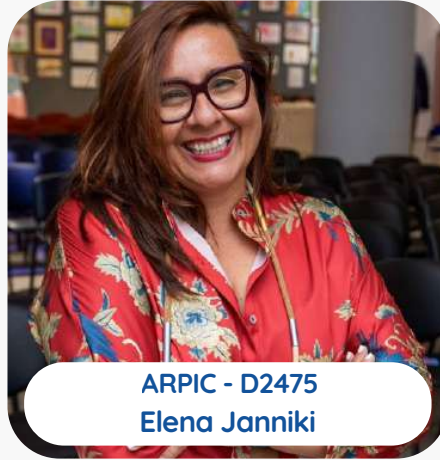
ARPIC - D2483
PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, d2440
Serdar Aydın

Meet the Advisors



Our Team Plan for 2026–2027

A new Rotary year begins with more than a calendar; it begins with a promise to make good work visible, trusted and open to others. Across Region 25, thousands of Rotarians and Rotaractors are already changing lives, yet many of their strongest stories still remain within their clubs and communities. Our task is to bring those stories into the light, connect people across generations and districts, and turn attention into participation, participation into belonging, and belonging into resilience.

Our three goals

The work of the Regional Public Image Team in 2026–2027 will follow three clear goals:

Turn Visibility into Attraction and Membership Growth.

We want Rotary to be recognised as an inclusive organisation offering real opportunities to serve, learn, lead and connect — especially for younger people, professionals, volunteers and Rotary alumni.

Turn Engagement into Belonging — and Belonging into Resilience.

Participation becomes meaningful when people feel seen, trusted and needed. We will show the human experience that helps members stay: friendship, purpose, leadership development, international connection and service with visible impact.

Support New Club Creation, Visibility, Attraction and Resilience.

New-club growth must become more than a collection of isolated successes. We will help make new clubs visible, document working models, encourage mentoring and support clubs through their first years.

A connected regional team

Our first step is to build a strong working network across the region. The RPIC Team brings together eight ARPICs, advisers and volunteers, with clear responsibility for district support, Rotaract, storytelling, digital communication, peace initiatives, End Polio and regional events.

During the opening months of the year, we will confirm responsibilities, communication channels and the annual calendar. We will establish direct contact with every District Public Image Chair and extend the network to district leaders, Rotaract representatives and other relevant committee members.

Practical onboarding will include Brand Center guidance, People of Action resources and short learning sessions on ethical, positive and human-led storytelling. Artificial intelligence will help us work across languages and platforms, while accuracy, consent and human dignity remain non-negotiable.

Stronger communication with a clear invitation

Our existing website, digital publications, social media and mailing systems will be reviewed and improved. The aim is not simply to produce more content. We want communication that people read, remember and act upon.

Regional content will present community impact, inspiring Rotarians, Rotaract leadership, new clubs, End Polio, The Rotary Foundation, peacebuilding, professional expertise and international cooperation. We will also explain the many opportunities available through Rotary — from club membership and volunteering to ICCs, Rotary Action Groups, Fellowships, Friendship Exchange, alumni networks and flexible club formats.

Each communication should offer a clear next step:

Visit us. Join a project. Volunteer with us. Discover Rotary membership.

Learning and events

At least one onsite and one online Public Image summit will be organised during each Rotary year, supported by regular learning meetings with District Public Image Chairs. The programme will include practical sessions on Brand Center use, People of Action, positive storytelling, artificial intelligence and communication that supports membership growth.

The major joint event of the year will be Roots & Wings, the **Public Image and Rotaract Summit**. It will bring Rotary and Rotaract onto one shared stage, with young leaders involved as speakers, moderators, interviewers and programme creators.

Roots & Wings will connect several of our priorities: belonging, intergenerational leadership, peace and forgiveness, The Rotary Foundation, End Polio and the ethical use of technology. We will also support the **Peace and Forgiveness Essay Challenge** and **Book Nominations**, creating space for young voices and thoughtful international dialogue.

The Power of Goodness will continue with its seventh edition. A permanent committee is established, the regulations and promotional approach will be reviewed, and previous videos will be organised into a stronger public archive.

World Polio Day and World Immunization Week will provide two major moments for coordinated End Polio communication across the region.

A regional online Public Image session will take place in the second half of the year, followed in spring 2027 by an onsite or hybrid Public Image Masterclass. Every three months, the team will hold a Lessons Learned discussion to review progress honestly and adjust the plan where necessary.

Online meetings with famous leaders, professionals, will be performed.

New Clubs, New Members, New Ways to Belong

Rotary will not grow by offering one standard club experience to people whose lives, expectations and ways of connecting are increasingly different. During 2026–2027, our team will actively promote the many ways in which people can join, belong and serve through Rotary.

We will present Rotary and Rotaract clubs, satellite clubs, online and hybrid formats, as well as passport, corporate, cause-based, alumni-based, interest-based, service-based and international clubs.

These models will be explained in clear and practical language: whom they may attract, what needs they can meet and how they can complement existing clubs. Flexibility may include different meeting schedules, service or networking activities instead of traditional meetings, and membership options that better suit families, professionals, companies and people with limited time. Rotary's own learning materials underline that no single club can meet everyone's needs and that new and satellite clubs can reach people with different interests, backgrounds and expectations.

Our communication will promote new clubs both before and after chartering. We will tell the story of the need each club was created to meet, the people it hopes to bring together, its service focus and the experience it offers. Every newly chartered Rotary or Rotaract club should receive regional visibility within 60 days, together with a clear invitation to visit, contact or join.

A dedicated new-club learning line will bring together charter stories, interviews with club founders and district leaders, flexible-format examples and lessons from different parts of the region. The aim is to present at least eight new-club cases and four leadership interviews during the year. Successful models will be shared without presenting them as formulas that can simply be copied. Each story should explain the local context, the challenge the club was designed to address and what others can realistically learn from the experience.

Support must continue after the charter celebration. We will encourage every club chartered in 2025–2027 to have a mentor, regular follow-up and a 12-month review of its health, visibility and member experience. A practical support package will also be developed for the 195 clubs in the region with fewer than 15 members, covering public image, partnerships, club experience and flexible development options. The purpose is not simply to create clubs, but to help them become active, attractive and resilient communities.

New members are an equally important part of this work. Rotary's training materials indicate that around 80% of charter members in new clubs are first-time Rotary members. Their first year is therefore a decisive moment for engagement and retention.

We will promote stories such as *Why I Joined Rotary, My First Year in Rotary, What Surprised Me, and Where I Found My Place.*

New members should be invited to speak, create content, join projects and take meaningful responsibility early. They should also be introduced to the wider Rotary world — Rotaract cooperation, ICCs, Rotary Action Groups, Fellowships, Friendship Exchange, The Rotary Foundation and international service.

The result we seek is clear: more people should understand that Rotary can adapt to their lives without losing its values; more new clubs should become visible and attractive; and more new members should move from their first invitation to a lasting sense of belonging.

Region 25 in Figures towards



Rotary Regional Group 25 — Membership Tracking 2026 → 2027 Target

District	Members (1 July 2025)	Members (1 July 2026)	2026 Growth	%	Target 2026 (1 July 2026)	Towards goal 2026	Target 2027 (1 July 2027)	Current Membership	Towards goal 2027	2027 Growth	Current clubs
2420	2 286	2 366	+80	+3,5%	2 361	5	2 438	2380	-58	14	89
2430	2 339	2 541	+202	+8,6%	2 351	190	2 362	2539	177	-2	109
2440	1 789	1 748	-41	-2,3%	1 880	-132	1 975	1748	-227	0	70
2452	1 965	1 926	-39	-2,0%	1 975	-49	1 985	1929	-56	3	96
2475	1 665	1 610	-55	-3,3%	1 673	-63	1 682	1613	-69	3	79
2482	1 775	1 803	+28	+1,6%	1 784	19	1 793	1809	16	6	87
2483	1 091	1 135	+44	+4,0%	1 096	39	1 102	1134	32	-1	69
2485	1 002	994	-8	-0,8%	1 040	-46	1 079	992	-87	-2	46
TOTAL	13 912	14 123	+211	+1,5%	14 160	-37	14 416	14 144	-272	21	645

Rotaract 2025–2026, 2026-2027

District	RAC clubs 2025	RAC members 2025	RAC clubs 2026	RAC members 2026	Member net growth 2026	Avg/club 2026	RAC members 2027	Member net growth 2027	Clubs
2420	38	675	40	762	+87	19,1	762	0	40
2430	52	721	58	806	+85	13,9	812	6	58
2482	28	189	30	226	+37	7,5	225	-1	30
2440	37	641	36	644	+3	17,9	643	-1	36
2485	10	150	10	151	+1	15,1	151	0	10
2452	56	637	49	630	-7	12,9	631	1	49
2475	8	67	7	53	-14	7,6	53	0	7
2483	27	232	21	201	-31	9,6	201	0	21
Total	256	3312	251	3473	+161	13,8	+3478	+5	+251

Knowledge and Experience Transfer with Alex



Meet ARPIC **Aleksandar Radojicic** - Alex
Rotary club Beograd Skadarlija
District 2483 - Serbia and Monte Negro

District Membership Chair (2024-2027)
District Governor (DG) (2023-2024)

**Being District membership chair PDG
Alex is one of the champions in the
region towards goal 2030.**

Rotary District of Serbia and Montenegro
(2483) has **recognized membership
challenges** for many years, especially
considering that **a significant number of
clubs operated with fewer than ten
members.**

Based on the residents' belief that **larger
and more organizationally stable clubs**
can more effectively fulfill their mission
and implement humanitarian activities,
the **initiative to connect clubs and
introduce them was launched.**

During this Rotary year, the
aforementioned initiative was successfully
implemented. **The Rotary Clubs of
Belgrade Danube, Belgrade Center and
Belgrade Dedinje** ceased operations, and
their members continued their activities
within the **Rotary Club of Belgrade
United.** In this way, a unique and
organizationally **significant club** with
more than 20 members was formed,
which has a greater capacity to achieve
social impact and provide a quality
member experience.

This example indicates that **the
association of clubs can represent a
sustainable model for future
development.** A larger number of active
members contributes to dynamic work, a
greater number of ideas, strong mutual
support, and a greater capacity to
implement a project of importance to the
local community.

Support must continue after the charter
celebration. **We will encourage every
club chartered in 2025–2027 to have a
mentor, regular follow-up and a 12-
month review of its health, visibility and
member experience.** A practical support
package will also be developed for the 195
clubs in the region with fewer than 15
members, covering public image,
partnerships, club experience and flexible
development options. The purpose is not
simply to create clubs, but to help them
become active, attractive and resilient
communities.



REGIONAL LEADERS TEAM LEARNING SEMINAR 2026



Zone 21 Regional Leaders Team Learning Seminar, Vienna, 5–7 June 2026

There was a special Rotary moment in Vienna — the kind of moment when people from different countries, different roles and different experiences come together and very quickly begin to feel a shared direction. Conversations started with the programme, continued during the breaks, moved through personal stories and gradually created a genuine sense of team. This was a meeting for preparation, connection and responsibility. It placed before the regional leaders of Zone 21 one clear task: to turn **Create Lasting Impact** into work, behaviour and results that endure.

From 5 to 7 June 2026, the **Zone 21 Regional Leaders Team Learning Seminar 2026** was held in Vienna. It brought together regional leaders and assistant coordinators from the main Rotary areas of responsibility — Membership, Public Image, The Rotary Foundation, Endowment/Major Gifts and End Polio Now. The shared focus was preparation for the new Rotary year, stronger cooperation between roles and a practical understanding of how each area contributes to Rotary's lasting impact.

The main framework of the seminar was the 2026–2027 presidential message of Olayinka Babalola — **Create Lasting Impact**. It sounded like an invitation to all regional teams to think beyond a single activity, a single post, a single project or a single year. Lasting impact requires direction, continuity, trust and a shared language. This was the spirit of the meeting.

The first day began with registration, personal meetings and official opening remarks. Daniel Tănase, Rotary International Director for Zone 21 in 2024–2026, set the frame with the theme Create Lasting Impact. His message focused attention on sustainable leadership, the clear role of each team and consistent support for clubs and districts.

Sunčica Bulat Würsching then presented **Our Roles and Team**. This session focused on the role of regional leaders and their assistants as people who support districts, encourage strategic planning, share resources and connect clubs with the tools and good practices of Rotary International. The emphasis was on teamwork, trust and a clear understanding of responsibilities. Hakan Karaalioglu presented a practical session on travel and expense reporting. The topic was administrative and at the same time important for well-organised regional work. It reminded us that leadership includes responsible stewardship of Rotary funds, accurate documentation, respect for deadlines and clear procedures.

The session **Working Together for Lasting Impact**, led by Haim Kennet and Panayiotis Katrougalos, with Nikola Božić as moderator, placed The Rotary Foundation at the heart of the conversation about impact. The Foundation was presented as an engine that turns good intentions into sustainable results. The message was clear: Membership, Public Image, The Rotary Foundation, Polio and giving have their greatest strength when they work in harmony.

Zone 21 Regional Leaders Team Learning Seminar, Vienna, 5–7 June 2026

The first day ended with a conversation on continuity. Graduating regional leaders shared experience, recommendations and personal lessons. This part added human depth to the programme, because it showed that leadership in Rotary is passed on through trust, example and the willingness to prepare those who follow.

The second day began with three thematic presentations. Haim Kennet spoke about **Supporting The Rotary Foundation** and presented the Foundation as a moral and practical instrument of service through grants, programmes, partnerships and sustainable solutions. Hakan Karaalioğlu presented **Starting New Clubs**, describing new clubs as a path to growth, renewal and stronger Rotary presence in our communities. He outlined different club models — traditional clubs, e-clubs, cause-based clubs, corporate clubs, passport clubs, alumni-based clubs and others — as opportunities for Rotary to become more accessible and closer to different people.

Vlad Popovici presented **Telling Our Story / Leading in the Age of Intelligent Machines**. He spoke about communication in the age of artificial intelligence, algorithms and content overload. The main line was strong and highly relevant: as technology creates content ever faster, human meaning, ethical storytelling, authenticity and trust become even more important. After the morning presentations, participants worked in role-specific groups. These discussions helped turn the general ideas into concrete tasks for Membership, Public Image and The Rotary Foundation.

The afternoon block focused on the different dimensions of Create Lasting Impact. In my presentation, **Annual Message as a Beacon**, I presented the annual message as a beacon — a point of orientation for our shared work. In a world where everything moves quickly, direction matters greatly. **Lasting impact continues through people** — through children, young leaders, new members, donors, clubs and communities that carry change forward through time. I also placed special emphasis on belonging: clubs where people feel welcomed become clubs where people stay and where they bring others.

The following presentations explored the role of The Rotary Foundation, Membership, Rotaract and Alumni, Endowment/Major Giving and End Polio Now. Each topic added an important part to the whole picture. The Foundation gives sustainability. Membership gives energy and future. Rotaract and Alumni bring continuity. Endowment and Major Giving build long-term support. End Polio Now remains a promise to the world and proof of the power of persistence.

The seminar in Vienna showed Zone 21 as a community of leaders who can think together, work together and support districts with greater clarity. The most important conclusion is simple and strong: lasting impact is created when different roles move in one direction, speak a shared language and turn messages into action. This is how Create Lasting Impact becomes real work for our clubs, districts and the people we serve.

Zone 21 Regional Leaders Team Learning Seminar, Vienna, 5-7 June 2026





AWARD CEREMONY

When : 22 June 2026 , 20:00 (Istanbul Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: 936 987 8558 , Passcode: 24302526



The Power of Goodness Video Competition celebrates Rotary stories that move hearts, cross borders and inspire action

By **Sharmila Bhatt**, RPIC Region 28, and **Arkan Apturahman** ARPIC Zone 21B, D2482

“We see a need. We gather people. We take action. We create change. Then we tell the story, so others may believe that change is possible too “

Sometimes, goodness begins quietly. It may start with a club project in a community that needs clean water, a child who needs a safer classroom, a mother who needs care, a village that needs hope, or a volunteer who simply chooses to show up. But when that act of service is captured with honesty, creativity and heart, it becomes more than a project. It becomes a story. And stories have power. That power was on full display at the 2026 Rotary Power of Goodness Video Competition, one of the most inspiring public image initiatives across Rotary Zones 21 and 22.

Created six years ago by **Past Rotary Public Image Coordinator Nijad Al Atassi** and his team, the competition was built on a simple but profound idea: Rotary's impact deserves to be seen, heard, felt and shared. Across communities, countries and continents, Rotarians and Rotaractors are doing extraordinary work. The Power of Goodness gives those stories a stage. This year, that stage grew even brighter. With more than 45 outstanding entries from across the two zones, the competition brought together clubs whose videos captured the true spirit of Rotary: compassion in action, service with purpose, and hope delivered in practical, life-changing ways. Each entry told a different story, but together, they carried one clear message: goodness knows no borders.

The online awards ceremony was a beautiful celebration of creativity, service and fellowship, drawing more than 80 participants from around the Rotary world. It was also a reminder that public image is not only about visibility. It is about meaning. It is about helping people understand who we are by showing them what we do and why it matters. Rotary leaders and guests joined the celebration, including **Trustee Ijeoma Pearl Okoro, Past Rotary Director Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou, Rotary International Public Image Specialist Nina Hazhala, Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, Past District Governors, District Governors, Rotarians and Rotaractors**. Their presence reflected the growing importance of storytelling as a tool for connection, inspiration and membership growth. The 2026 finalists in the general category reflected the rich diversity and reach of Rotary service across the zones.

They were **Rotary Club Casablanca City, Morocco; Rotary Club Cherkassy-Center, Ukraine; Rotary Club Ikoyi Metro, Nigeria; Rotary Club Phoenix, Mauritius; Rotary Club Kampala North, Uganda; Rotary Club Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Rotary Club Accra East, Ghana; Rotary Club Ankara Emek, Türkiye; Rotary Club Paarl, South Africa; and Rotary Club Kardjali**.

Each finalist brought something special to the screen. Some stories were bold and energetic. Some were tender and deeply human. Some revealed the quiet dignity of communities transformed by service. Others showed the strength of partnerships, the courage of volunteers and the joy that follows when people unite around a cause larger than themselves.

After the final round of judging, **Rotary Club Casablanca City, Morocco**, emerged as the overall **winner**. **Rotary Club Cherkassy-Center, Ukraine**, was named **first runner-up**, while **Rotary Club Ikoyi Metro, Nigeria**, took **third place**.

Their winning entries stood out not only for technical quality, but for the strength of their storytelling. They showed that a powerful Rotary story does not need to shout. It needs to connect. It needs to make people care. It needs to move from statistics to faces, from projects to people, from activity to impact.

This year's competition also introduced a special End Polio Now category, honouring one of Rotary's most defining global commitments. For decades, Rotary has stood at the frontlines of the fight to end polio, proving that persistence, partnership and public will can change the course of history.

The finalists in the **End Polio Now category** were **Rotary Club Beysukent Ankara, Türkiye**, and **Rotaract Club Ankara Anittepe, Türkiye**. Both clubs were recognised as winners in this special category, celebrating their contribution to keeping the promise of a polio-free world alive.

The Power of Goodness Video Competition celebrates Rotary stories that move hearts, cross borders and inspire action

The inclusion of the polio category gave the competition even greater depth. It reminded everyone present that storytelling is not just celebration. It is advocacy. It is memory. It is mobilisation. When we tell the story of polio eradication, we do more than look back at Rotary's achievement. We renew the call to finish the job.

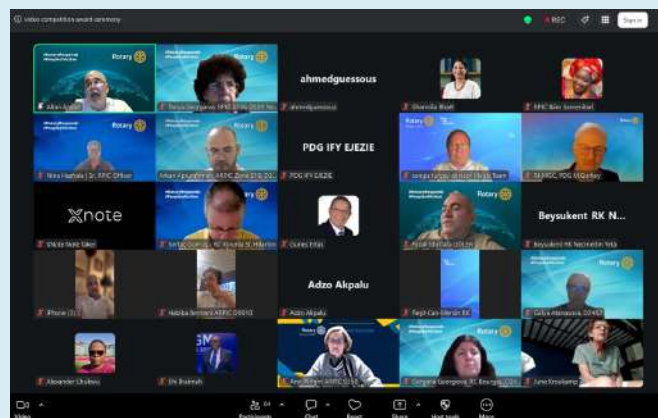
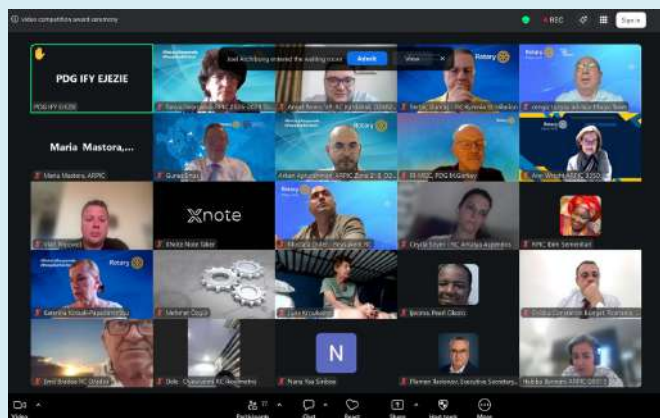
Across all categories, the videos submitted this year proved that Rotary's story is alive, vibrant and constantly unfolding. It is found in classrooms and clinics, in clean water projects and maternal health interventions, in youth empowerment, peacebuilding, disease prevention, environmental action and countless acts of kindness that may never make headlines but change lives every day.

That is why the Power of Goodness matters.

It challenges clubs to think beyond reporting projects and begin telling stories. It invites Rotarians to capture the human heartbeat of service. It reminds us that every grant has a face, every volunteer hour has a purpose, and every act of service has the potential to inspire someone else to act.

Congratulations go to all participants, finalists and winners of the 2026 Power of Goodness Video Competition. Whether or not they received a prize, every club that entered helped strengthen Rotary's public image. Every video added another page to the larger story of who we are and what we make possible when we serve together. Special appreciation goes once again to PRPIC Nijad Al Atassi and his team, whose vision gave birth to this remarkable initiative and whose continued commitment has helped it grow across two Rotary zones. Through their leadership, the competition has become more than an annual event. It has become a movement of stories, service and shared inspiration.

In the end, the Power of Goodness is not only the name of a competition. It is a reminder of what Rotary does best. We see a need. We gather people. We take action. We create change. Then we tell the story, so others may believe that change is possible too. Because when Rotary serves, goodness grows. And when goodness finds its voice, the world listens.



Meet the Rotarians

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Meet Prof. Konstantinos T. Kotsis

Assistant Rotary Membership Coordinator 2024-2027
District 2475, Zone 21



Prof. Konstantinos T. Kotsis

PDG 2003-2004, District 2480

Member of Rotary club of Ioannina, since 1990

Prof. Konstantinos T. Kotsis studied physics at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

In 1985, he was an assistant researcher at Brooklyn University in New York. From September 1987 to September 2000, he served as a Lecturer and Assistant Professor in the Physics Department of the University of Ioannina, Greece.

Since 2000, he has served as a Faculty Member in the Department of Primary Education at the University of Ioannina.

He has been a Full Professor since 2012, specializing in the Didactics of Physics. Head of the Lab of Physics Education and Teaching at the University of Ioannina.

His research interests are Didactics of Physics, Science Education, Physics Teaching and Learning, Teacher Training, and Education Research and AI in Science Education.

Artificial Intelligence as a New Field of Service: What Rotarians Can Do So That No Generation Is Left Behind

By Prof. Konstantinos T. Kotsis, District 2475 Greece

Artificial intelligence has quietly entered our daily lives. It suggests the fastest route home, answers our questions, helps our grandchildren with their homework, and increasingly assists doctors, teachers, and small businesses. Yet not everyone experiences this new technology in the same way. For some, AI feels like an exciting tool; for others, it feels like a locked door.

As an education researcher, I recently completed a study¹ of 460 adults aged 18 to 64, examining how people across generations accept and relate to artificial intelligence. The results surprised even me, and I believe they carry a message that speaks directly to the heart of Rotary.

Artificial Intelligence as a New Field of Service: What Rotarians Can Do So That No Generation Is Left Behind

The first finding was expected: younger adults, those between 18 and 34, are the most comfortable with AI. They grew up with smartphones and digital platforms, and a new AI tool is simply one more application to explore. The second finding was less expected. The sharpest drop in acceptance did not appear among the oldest participants, but among adults aged 45 to 54, people in the prime of their professional and family lives, and, I would add, the age of many of our most active Rotarians. It is in these middle decades that people begin to perceive AI as difficult, and this perception, once established, tends to grow.

The third finding is the most important one for us. When we asked what actually separates the generations, the answer was not access. Almost everyone in the study, young and old, had a computer at home and basic computer experience. The dividing line was not equipment; it was confidence. Older participants did not reject the usefulness of AI. They simply felt it was hard to use, complicated, opaque, made for someone else. In the language of research, the barrier is "perceived effort," not resources. In everyday language: people do not lack the tools; they lack a patient hand to guide their first steps.

This is precisely where Rotary comes in. If the obstacle were money or infrastructure, the solution would belong to governments and companies. But the obstacle is confidence, and confidence is built through human connection, through exactly the kind of person-to-person service that Rotary clubs have practiced for more than a century.

I would therefore like to propose that we begin to see artificial intelligence not only as a technological issue, but as a new field of service. Allow me to share some practical ideas that any club in our Zone could adapt to its own community.

A club could organize intergenerational AI workshops, in which young people, Rotaractors, Interactors, or the children and grandchildren of members sit side by side with older adults and explore AI tools together in a relaxed, friendly setting. Our research suggests that what middle-aged and older adults need is not a technical lecture but hands-on, personally meaningful experience: asking an AI assistant about a recipe, a medication schedule, a travel plan, a letter to a friend. When the first experience is successful and personally relevant, confidence follows, and one successful afternoon can undo years of quiet avoidance.

A club could also offer digital and AI literacy sessions for older adults, held in familiar and welcoming places such as community centers, libraries, or the club's own meeting venue. The emphasis should be on patience, repetition, and encouragement rather than on covering material. The goal is not to produce experts, but to replace the feeling "this is not for me" with the feeling "I can do this."



For families, clubs could host AI awareness evenings for parents and children, where parents learn what their children are already doing with AI and children learn to question what AI tells them. Young people, our study reminds us, readily accept AI, but acceptance is not the same as wisdom. Helping students use AI critically, honestly, and creatively, rather than passively, is a genuine educational service, and one that schools in many of our countries are only beginning to address.

Finally, clubs might consider intergenerational mentoring in both directions: young people teaching technology, older members teaching judgment, ethics, and life experience. Few organizations in the world bring four generations into the same room as naturally as Rotary does. This is an asset that no technology company possesses.

My central message to fellow Rotarians is simple. Artificial intelligence will shape health care, education, work, and civic life in the years ahead. Whether it strengthens or weakens human

connection depends on whether all generations are able to take part.

Our research shows that the people at risk of being left behind are not lacking devices; they are lacking confidence, guidance, and a friendly invitation. Providing exactly that, confidence, guidance, and a friendly invitation, is what Rotarians do best.

No generation left behind: this could be our contribution to the age of artificial intelligence. It requires no large budget, no technical expertise beyond what our younger friends already have, and no resources beyond the ones every club possesses, goodwill, fellowship, and the habit of service. I would be delighted to hear from clubs in Zone 21 that wish to develop such projects, and to support them with materials and ideas drawn from current educational research.

Service above self has always meant meeting people where they are. Today, some of our neighbours are standing at the door of a new technology, unsure whether to knock. Let us open it with them.



Meet our GMX partners



What is MGX?

MGX stands for **Regional Membership Growth and Experience Specialists**. Their role is to support Rotary's membership development by combining **data, regional knowledge, practical resources and operational follow-up**.

MGX specialists work with volunteer leaders, including Rotary Membership Coordinators, district governors, district membership chairs and other regional teams, helping them understand where membership is growing, where clubs are struggling and where new opportunities may exist.

Their work includes analysing membership trends and markets, preparing country SWOT analyses, monitoring progress towards membership goals and identifying opportunities in underserved areas. They also provide information and advice on forming new Rotary and Rotaract clubs, including satellite, cause-based, interest-based and other flexible club models.

MGX is concerned not only with attracting new members, but also with the experience people have after joining. Specialists collect and share good practices in member engagement, club culture, retention and club development. They support training for district and club leaders, promote Rotary tools and reports, and help teams follow up membership leads through the Prospective Member and Membership System.

MGX also produces communications, success stories and practical guidance for Rotary and Rotaract leaders.

It can provide new-club reports, country data, examples from successful districts and support for districts requiring additional attention. In simple terms, MGX helps Rotary move from assumptions about membership to evidence, targeted action and a stronger club experience.

Why were RPICs Invited to Zurich regional visioning meeting?

The Summit was about membership growth and membership experience. That is precisely why Rotary Public Image Coordinators had to be in the room.

People cannot join an organisation they do not see, trust or understand. Public Image makes Rotary's impact visible, explains what membership can offer and helps prospective members imagine a place for themselves within it. It turns new clubs, flexible club formats, Rotaract and alumni pathways from internal Rotary structures into clear and attractive opportunities.

Its role continues after someone joins. Public Image gives voice to new members, communicates the club experience and helps transform participation into belonging — the foundation of retention and resilience.

Membership data can show where Rotary has an opportunity to grow. Public Image helps determine whether people will notice that opportunity, believe in it and respond to it. It turns impact into trust, trust into interest, interest into an invitation, and an invitation into belonging.

RPICs were therefore not supplementary guests in Zurich. They were essential partners in the membership strategy.

Meet our GMX partners



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



ARMC. Ljiljana
Lainovic
D2483 Serbia



ARMC. Konstantinos
Kotsis
D2475 Greece



ARMC. Margarita
Bogdanova
D2482 Bulgaria



ARMC. Bashar
Haddad
D2452 Jordan



ARMC. Kemal
Ketrez
D2430 Türkiye



RMC. M. Hakan
Karaalioglu
D2430 Türkiye



ARMC. Gizem
Bastas
D2430 Türkiye



ARMC. Butrint
Batalli
D2485 Kosovo



ARMC. Murat Çağlar
D2440 Türkiye



ARMC. Özcan
Albak
D2420 Türkiye



ARMC Advisor



Regional Membership Team
Region 25 Zone 21 B 2026-27

DEAR ROTARY FAMILY,

As we begin this new Rotary year under the inspiring theme “**Create Lasting Impact**”, we proudly stand together as the Region 24&25 **Rotary Membership Team** and as dedicated members of **The Bridge Team**.

Together, we are more than a team—we are a community of leaders united by friendship, trust, respect, and a shared commitment to strengthen Rotary through membership growth, engagement, and meaningful service.

Every new member we welcome, every club we support, every leader we inspire, and every connection we build creates an opportunity to make Rotary stronger and our communities better. The impact we create today will become the foundation for tomorrow's Rotary.

As Regional Membership Team, we are committed to being accessible, supportive, and ready to work alongside every district and every club. We believe that collaboration, open communication, and mutual encouragement will help us overcome challenges and achieve extraordinary results together.

Let us lead with enthusiasm, serve with humility, and inspire with our actions. Let us celebrate our diversity, strengthen our friendships, and continue building bridges that connect people, ideas, and opportunities across our region.

Together, with dedication, passion, and the true Spirit of Rotary, we will Create Lasting Impact—one member, one club, one community, and one friendship at a time.

We look forward to working with each of you throughout this exciting journey. Together We Build Bridges. Together We Create Lasting Impact.

With friendship and commitment,

Rotary Membership Team
Region 24 & Region 25
Zone 21a&b | 2026–2027

Proud Members of The Bridge Team



**July, let's promote
Maternal and Child Health**



July, let's promote Maternal and Child Health

July in the calendar of Rotary International is dedicated to one of the most profound and life-affirming areas of service: Maternal and Child Health. It is more than a thematic focus. It is a moral commitment shared across the global Rotary community — a promise that every mother deserves safety in childbirth, and every child deserves the chance to begin life in health, dignity, and hope.

Around the world, maternal and child mortality remains an urgent reality. In many communities, childbirth is still accompanied by risk rather than reassurance, and preventable illnesses continue to claim the lives of children before they reach their fifth birthday. These are not distant statistics for Rotarians; they are human stories that call for action, compassion, and sustained support.

The spirit of Rotary is found in its response — practical, persistent, and deeply rooted in community empowerment. Rotary clubs support maternal health clinics in underserved regions, help provide access to skilled birth attendants, and fund essential medical equipment and supplies. Equally important, they invest in prevention: vaccination programmes, improved nutrition, and access to clean water and sanitation, all of which are critical in reducing avoidable deaths.



Yet the true impact of this service extends far beyond healthcare systems and infrastructure. It is felt in the quiet moments of relief when a mother survives childbirth safely. It is seen in the steady growth of a child who might otherwise not have lived. It is present in the strength of families who are kept whole, and in the renewed hope that spreads through entire communities.

The Rotary month of July reminds us that change begins with compassion in action. It is not abstract, nor distant — it is deeply human. It lives in every heartbeat that is protected, every life that is saved, and every future that is given the chance to unfold.

In the true spirit of Rotary, we are reminded that when we safeguard mothers and children, we are not only preserving lives — we are building stronger communities and shaping a better world for generations to come.

Education remains a cornerstone of this work. By equipping mothers and families with knowledge about prenatal care, hygiene, infant nutrition, and early childhood development, Rotary helps transform vulnerability into resilience. A well-informed community becomes its own first line of defence, capable of protecting the lives of its youngest members.



Bahrain

District 2452



Armenia



Bahrain



Cyprus



Georgia



Jordan



UAE



Lebanon



Palestine



Sudan

A Gatsby Affair by Rotary Club of Salmaniya - District 2452 - Bahrain



ARPIC Faisal Juma
Rotary club Salmaniya, D2452

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya concluded its Rotary year in grand style with a spectacular "Gatsby Night," an evening dedicated to celebrating the club's achievements, recognizing outstanding contributions, and reflecting on a year of meaningful service.

The highlight of the evening was a heartfelt address by Immediate Past President (IPP) Hanadi Al Ansari, who reflected on the club's accomplishments during her presidential year. She spoke passionately about the impact of the Dream Home Project, sharing how the initiative transformed the lives of deserving families and reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to serving the community.

IPP Hanadi emphasized that the success of the Dream Home Project was made possible through the unwavering support, generosity, and dedication of the club's valued sponsors and members. In recognition of their vital contributions, sponsors were presented with commemorative trophies as a token of the club's sincere appreciation.

The evening also celebrated the remarkable commitment of club members who went above and beyond throughout the Rotary year. Members who demonstrated exceptional dedication and support were honored with Certificates of Achievement and trophies in recognition of their outstanding service and commitment to the club's mission.

The celebration concluded on an emotional and inspiring note as IPP Hanadi Al Ansari was presented with a special recognition plaque in appreciation of her exemplary leadership, tireless dedication, and unwavering commitment during her tenure as President. The standing ovation she received reflected the gratitude and admiration of fellow Rotarians for a year marked by impactful service, strong fellowship, and lasting achievements.

Gatsby Night was not only a celebration of the year's successes but also a reminder of the power of teamwork, generosity, and service above self. As the club embarks on a new Rotary year, the evening served as an inspiring tribute to the collective efforts that continue to make a positive difference in the community.



Rotary Handover Dinner Celebrates Leadership, Fellowship and New Beginnings - D2452 Cyprus

On Wednesday evening, 1 July 2026, the Rotary Clubs of Kyrenia Liman, Nicosia Sarayönü, Kyrenia St. Hilarion, and Kyrenia Cosmopolitan came together to celebrate their Joint Handover Dinner. The event was attended by approximately 140 Rotarians and Friends of Rotary, who gathered to celebrate the achievements of the past Rotary year and welcome the incoming leadership for 2026–2027.

The evening was honoured by the presence of Past District Governor Kevork Mahdessian and his wife, together with Deputy District Governor for Cyprus 2026–2027, Michalis Avraam and his wife. Also in attendance were several Past Deputy District Governors, Assistant Governors, Past Presidents, Rotaractors and Incoming Presidents making the occasion a wonderful celebration of Rotary leadership and fellowship.

It was more than a pleasure to welcome the President Ali Sönmez of the Rotary Club of Mersin, PP Tarik Ciğer and PP Cengiz Sönmez who travelled from Türkiye to join in this memorable occasion.

The evening commenced with the traditional toasts to the health and wellbeing of Rotary International President Yinka Babalola, Immediate Past Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, District Governor May Monla, and Immediate Past District Governor Peter Ashdjian, together with their families.

During the evening, several Paul Harris Fellowships were presented in recognition of outstanding service. PAG Hakkı Müftüzade, PAG Derviş Baha, PP Alpay Çelebi, and Honorary Member Işın Ramadan Cemil of the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan were honoured for their dedicated service to Rotary. The awards were presented by Past District Governor Kevork Mahdessian, who also had the pleasure of pinning the recipients and presenting their certificates.

The celebration also welcomed several new Rotarians, who were formally inducted into their respective clubs, marking the beginning of their Rotary journey.



Rotary Handover Dinner Celebrates Leadership, Fellowship and New Beginnings - D2452 Cyprus

The programme continued with brief presentations from each outgoing President, highlighting their clubs' achievements and service projects during the 2025–2026 Rotary year. This was followed by the symbolic handover of the Chains of Office and inspiring addresses from the incoming Presidents, who shared their vision and aspirations for the year ahead. President of RC Liman Hülya Gökoğlu will be continuing as President for a second term. President of RC Sarayönü Hakkı Müftüzade handed over to new term President Aslı Şadi.

President of RC Kyrenia St. Hilarion Dicle Tekiner handed over the presidency to Sertaç Gümüş and President of RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan Alpay Çelebi handed over to Ayten Benoit.

Above all, the evening was a celebration of Rotary fellowship. It was particularly heartening to see many Greek Cypriot Rotarians in attendance, reflecting the friendships and unity that Rotary continues to foster across communities. With excellent food, warm companionship and a spirit of optimism for the future, the event was widely regarded as a resounding success.



Armenia



Bahrain



Cyprus



Georgia



Jordan



UAE



Lebanon



Palestine



Sudan

Rhodes

District 2475



Leadership Change Ceremony A comprehensive feature on the ceremony will appear in our next issue.



ARPIC Elena Janniki
Rotary club Rodos-Kolossos
District 2475

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,
There are days that are not simply marked on the calendar—they become milestones.
The RID 2475 Change Ceremony is one of those occasions.
On Saturday, June 27, we gathered at the historic Parnassos Literary Society, in the heart of Athens—a venue rich in history, culture, and timeless elegance, worthy of the significance of this moment.
A Leadership Change is far more than a formal ceremony. It is continuity.
It is responsibility.
It is service.



It is the moment when we honor what has been accomplished while placing our trust in the future that lies ahead.

This year, the experience promises to be truly exceptional.

Prepare for an unforgettable evening where elegance comes alive through music. Our traditional reception will be enriched with emotion, artistic excellence, and refined sophistication through a special live concert featuring distinguished and beloved performers.

An experience designed not simply to be attended—but to be remembered.

An evening that brings together renewal and art, fellowship and inspiration.

Above all, it is an opportunity to serve.

By joining us, you will also support The Rotary Foundation—the force that transforms our shared vision into meaningful action.

We warmly invite you to be with us.

To honor the present.

To welcome the future.

To continue, together, the work that unites us.

Your presence truly makes a difference.

We look forward to welcoming you.



RID 2475 - District and Global Grand Seminar

The Rotary Foundation Seminar on District and Global Grants was held with great success in Thessaloniki on May 30th, bringing together an outstanding group of Rotarians and highly engaged participants with a strong interest in developing and implementing meaningful service projects.

The high quality of the presentations, the constructive discussions, and the active participation of all attendees contributed to creating a highly productive and inspiring environment for learning and collaboration. The well-structured program provided valuable knowledge and practical guidance on effectively utilizing District and Global Grants for the benefit of local and international communities.

Special thanks are extended to PDG Kosmas Choutouriadis and PDG Dimitris Tsimpoukis, as well as Assistant Governor Miltos Tellidis, for their support, presence, and significant contribution to the success of the seminar.

Particular appreciation is due to RC Panorama and its President, Kostas Katakalos, for their excellent organization, warm hospitality, and outstanding support, all of which played a key role in the successful delivery of the event.

Through initiatives such as this, Rotarians strengthen their knowledge, enhance collaboration, and expand their capacity to create projects with a lasting and meaningful impact on society.



RID 2475 - RC PARNITHA

On Thursday, May 7, RC Parnitha delivered non-prescription healthcare products and baby care items for the young children hosted by the MITERA Foundation. These supplies were purchased with the proceeds from the Entrepreneurship Conference organized by RC Parnitha on February 5, under the auspices of RID2475, with the participation of the following Rotary Clubs:

Athens – Lycabettus, Anoixi – Semeli, Amarousio, Voula, Dionysos, Kifissia – Kefalari and Chalandri

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to RID 2475 for its patronage of the event, as well as to all the participating Clubs that actively supported this important initiative of service and solidarity.

Special thanks are also due to the Director of the MITERA Foundation, who warmly welcomed us and provided a detailed and insightful tour of the Foundation's facilities.

We had the pleasure of meeting the Foundation's staff and witnessing firsthand the love, care, and dedication they generously offer every day to the children in their care.

We thank her wholeheartedly and wish her, together with her entire team, continued success in carrying out their remarkable mission.

For our part, we will continue to support the MITERA Foundation—an organization with a long history, a strong commitment to social welfare, and a truly meaningful humanitarian contribution to society.



RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI

May 21–24, 2026: The Rotary Club of Thessaloniki in Stockholm, Sweden

With great pleasure, members of RC Thessaloniki visited Stockholm, Sweden, as part of its twinning partnership with the Rotary Club of Vallentuna.

We spent three memorable days filled with experiences that allowed us to discover Swedish life, culture, and traditions.

A Letter from His Majesty the King of Sweden:

The Rotary Club of Vallentuna informed His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden about our visit to Stockholm. We were honored to receive his greetings, best wishes, and thanks through an official letter. Followed visit to Uppsala University and the Rotary Peace Center Program.

We also visited the Military Officers' Club, where we received a warm welcome and enjoyed a traditional Swedish meal.

We express our deepest gratitude for the hospitality, friendship, and affection shown toward our Club throughout our visit.

The twinning of our two Clubs symbolizes the ability to transcend geographical boundaries and strengthen international friendship. It reflects and reinforces the fundamental values of Rotary International—service, fellowship, understanding, and peace. Through this partnership, we celebrate the enduring bonds that unite Rotarians across nations and cultures, demonstrating that friendship and service know no borders.



RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO CANDIA

Defibrillator Donation to Moni Village, Malevizi Municipality

On June 6th, RC Iraklion CANDIA visited the village of Moni, in the Municipality of Malevizi, to donate a defibrillator for use in potential emergency situations.

This visit served an important purpose. The Humanitarian Crisis Management Team was invited to conduct practical training on the use of the defibrillator.

Mr. Giorgos Kapetanakis, the instructor, together with his team, demonstrated how lives can be saved through the proper use of a defibrillator and how we can be prepared to assist in an emergency situation.

The President of the Moni Cultural Association, Mr. Petros Kallergis, along with the Association's members, warmly welcomed us. After discussing their volunteer initiatives and community activities, they graciously offered us a wonderful meal as a gesture of appreciation, honoring our Club's commitment to providing the defibrillator as promised.

On behalf of all the members of RC Iraklio CANDIA, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Moni Cultural Association for its hospitality and to everyone who honored us with their presence during this educational event.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Kapetanakis and his team for their valuable training, dedication, and contribution to this important community service initiative.



"Gift the gift of access 2.0" Programme – Wheelchair donation ceremony at the archaeological museum of Piraeus in the presence of the President of Rotary International

On Saturday, May 23, another significant wheelchair donation ceremony took place at the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus.

As part of the "Gift the Gift of Access 2.0" programme, and on the occasion of the visit of Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and his wife, Anna-Maria, to Greece, the participating Rotary Clubs planned and organized the donation of wheelchairs in his presence.

During the event, two additional wheelchairs were donated by representatives of the eight participating Rotary Clubs (**e-Club of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi–Semeli, Chalandri, Kifissia–Kastri, Patras–K. Palamas, Preveza, and Psychiko**), with the aim of facilitating accessibility and independent mobility for visitors with physical disabilities within the museum premises.

Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo expressed his deep enthusiasm, emphasizing the importance and meaningful impact of this initiative, as it opens the doors of culture to everyone without exclusion. With great pleasure, he placed the first official emblem of the programme on one of the donated wheelchairs.

We were warmly welcomed by the museum's archaeologist in charge, Ms. Andromachi Kapetanopoulou, who expressed her sincere gratitude for this valuable contribution and offered us an exceptional guided tour of the museum's treasures. The world-renowned bronze statues of Piraeus captured everyone's admiration, leaving a profound impression on Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo as well as on all members of the Rotary family who attended the event





RID 2475 RC PENTELI - District Grant

In a particularly beautiful ceremony, the “Allotropia” Cultural Center was officially inaugurated in Fourni, Evrytania. The new facility will house a library of 15,000 books, a training and events hall, and a Natural History Museum. The initiative belongs to the “New Life in the Village” Association, with the contribution of Fourni’s priest, Father Konstantinos, and teacher Panagiota Diamanti.

At a time when the revitalization of abandoned mountain villages is a critical challenge, the case of Fourni stands out as a shining example. The relocation of large families under favorable conditions has breathed new life into the village and made it possible for the local school to reopen. The Cultural Center is expected to significantly strengthen and enhance this regeneration effort.

Wishing to contribute to the revitalization of rural areas and the promotion of distance learning, Rotary Greece donated three laptop computers, a television with a mounting stand, and an air-conditioning unit. The donation was made at the initiative of the RC Penteli through a District Grant of RID 2475, with the participation of the RC Komotini and Athina Katsimitrou, spouse of DGE Charalambos Tinginagkas.

The sponsorship was complemented by a donation of office furniture and conference room equipment, further enhancing the functionality of the Cultural Center.

Special thanks are extended to District 2475 for implementing the District Grant and donating office furnishings, as well as to AG Aphrodite Dritsa of RC Piraeus-East, Rotarian Eirini Michalopoulou of RC Athens, and friends of the RC Penteli, Giannis and Manina Pachouli, for furnishing the main hall of the Cultural Center.



RID 2475 RC PENTELI - District Grant

During the inauguration, Rotary officials—including PRID Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou, PDG Lorentzos Chazapis and PDG Christos Kitsos, DGE Charalambos Tinginagkas, and Stamatios Papadakis, President of RC Penteli—briefly highlighted Rotary’s multifaceted service and contribution to society. A message of greeting was also sent by DG Stefanos Anastassopoulos.

During the event, commemorative plaques were awarded to RC Penteli and PRID Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou for their contribution to securing and implementing the grant, and to Dimitra Parascharaki, President of the “Allotropia” Association, for her contribution to the project.

The event was featured on the evening news bulletin of Star Central Greece on Sunday, June 7, and was also covered by other media outlets.



RID 2475 RC ATHINAI DONATION OF 10 HOSPITAL STRETCHERS BY RC ATHINAI TO THE KORGIALENIO–BENAKIO HOSPITAL OF HELLENIC RED CROSS

On June 8, 2026, coinciding with the inauguration of the newly renovated Emergency Department Wing of the Hellenic Red Cross Korgialenio–Benakio Hospital , RC Athinai made a significant contribution by donating ten modern hospital stretchers to the institution. This donation reflects the Club's ongoing commitment to supporting patients and strengthening healthcare services, helping improve both patient safety and the quality of care provided.

The event was attended by the Minister of Health, Adonis Georgiadis, Deputy Minister of Health Marios Themistocleous, and the Secretary General for Health Services, Lilian Vildiridi, along with distinguished representatives of the Hellenic Red Cross and the medical community. During the ceremony, Deputy Minister Themistocleous presented a commemorative plaque to RC Athinai President Anastassios Ballas in recognition of the Club's valuable contribution. The donation of the ten stretchers further highlights RC Athinai' longstanding humanitarian mission and dedication to service, solidarity, and the promotion of the common good through meaningful social action.



RID 2475 RC PENTELI

The official handover of the District Grant, which funded the equipment of the “Allotropia” Cultural Center in Fourná, Evrytania, was combined with a series of community service activities organized at the initiative of RC Penteli.

The Club’s President, Stamatios Papadakis, an Orthopedic Surgeon and Director of the Second Orthopedic Department at KAT General Hospital of Athens, examined children for spinal disorders, adhering to all required medical protocols. At the same time, he provided medical services to adult residents of the area.

Dentist Ivi Polychroniadou conducted oral hygiene lessons for the village children. She also organized a recreational event with creative activities for children in the central square of Fourná. Gifts were distributed to the children through the sponsorship of Elsa Apergi, a member of the Club.

RC Penteli also supported the village’s “Community Wardrobe” initiative by donating children’s clothing to help meet the needs of local families in the area.



RID 2475 ANOIXI SEMELII

On June 12, RC Anoixi Semeli visited the Museum and the archaeological site of Vravra dedicated to the goddess Artemis. The tour was graciously conducted by guide Ms. Spanoudaki, who kindly volunteered her services as guide.



RID 2475 RC ATHINAI

On June 17, 2026, RC Athinai delivered a meaningful donation of consumable supplies and Plexy Glass panels to the 'Dimitreio' Creative Activities Center (KDAP) in Moschato, operated by the Mission of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens. The center provides support and creative activities for 80 children.

During the visit, Rotary members met the children and staff and received a warm welcome. The donation included materials for the center's daily educational and creative workshops, as well as Plexy Glass sheets that will be installed on the walls to create new surfaces for drawing, artistic expression, and learning activities.

The project was made possible through the generosity of RC Athinai members and the valuable sponsorship of ADELCO company, facilitated by rtn Thanos Athanasiadis. Representing the Club at the donation ceremony were President Anastassios Ballas, and rotarians Stavros Katsoulis, Thanos Athanasiadis, and Dimitrios Kavvouris with his daughter. The initiative reflects the Club's ongoing commitment to supporting organizations that provide important social services and opportunities for children.



RID 2475

ACCESSIBILITY GIFT 2.0 PROGRAMME – DELIVERY OF A WHEELCHAIR TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF SAMOTHRACE

As part of the “Gift the Gift of Accessibility 2.0” programme, a wheelchair was delivered to the Archaeological Museum of Samothrace on June 16, with the aim of improving accessibility and promoting equal access for all citizens and visitors to cultural venues. The donation was made by RC Alexandroupolis on behalf of the eight Rotary Clubs participating in the implementation of the programme: eClub of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi Semeli, Kifissia–Kastri, Patras ‘Kostis Palamas’, Preveza, Chalandri, and Psychiko.

The delivery of the wheelchair forms part of a broader initiative to enhance accessibility in public and cultural spaces, facilitating the participation of people with mobility difficulties in cultural life. The “Gift the Gift of Accessibility 2.0” programme continues to implement initiatives with a meaningful social impact, demonstrating in practice that accessibility is a fundamental right for everyone.



RID 2475 RC ATHINAI GOUDI

Rotary Club Athens-Goudi Donates €75,000 Worth of Medical Equipment to Kalymnos Hospital. A significant donation to the General Hospital – Health Center of Kalymnos “Vouvaleio” was made by the Rotary Club Athens-Goudi during a visit by a club delegation to the island on December 5, 2025.

The Rotary delegation, consisting of Rotarians Kosmas Choutouriadis, Nikos Karamfyllis, Christos Gogos, Thomas Karachristos, and Olga Anagnostopoulou, was welcomed by the hospital administrator Pantelis Kongas, the Mayor of Kalymnos Ioannis Mastrokoukos, and Deputy Mayor Kalliopi Koutouzi.

As part of the visit, the Rotary Club donated medical equipment with a total value of €75,000. The donated equipment includes:

Three state-of-the-art NIKKISO DGB-EXA hemodialysis machines to strengthen the hospital's Dialysis Unit.

A surgical electrosurgical unit (diathermy machine).

A medical suction device.

A set of 70 surgical instruments for operating room needs.

A mechanical column scale for the maternity department.

The hospital administrator expressed his sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club, emphasizing that the donation will substantially enhance the hospital's infrastructure and its ability to provide high-quality healthcare services to the residents of Kalymnos and the surrounding islands. The mayor also described the initiative as highly significant for supporting the local community.

Remaining true to its principles and mission, the Rotary Club Athens-Goudi continues to carry out charitable and community service projects, advancing the work of Rotary International for the benefit of public health and society as a whole.



RID 2475 RC PALLINI GERAOKAS

The visit had a meaningful impact by strengthening international Rotary fellowship, fostering new friendships, and creating opportunities for future collaboration between our clubs. The exchange of ideas and experiences provided valuable inspiration for new service initiatives, while reinforcing the importance of working together to address the needs of our communities. Such visits help build lasting partnerships that extend Rotary's positive impact beyond national borders.

In the spirit of Rotary fellowship and international cooperation, members of the Rotary Club of Pallini Gerakas had the pleasure of participating in a meeting of the Rotary Club of Lichfield on 14 May in the West Midlands, United Kingdom.

The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss the common values that unite Rotarians worldwide, and learn more about the culture, traditions, and service activities of our fellow Rotarians in the United Kingdom. We also had the opportunity to present the work of our club and share experiences from our own community projects.

This enriching exchange strengthened the bonds between our clubs, encouraged the sharing of best practices, and generated new ideas for future Rotary action and international cooperation. We sincerely thank the members of the Rotary Club of Lichfield for their warm hospitality and look forward to continuing our friendship through future joint initiatives in the spirit of Service Above Self.



RID 2475 RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos delivered a donation of food supplies to the Church of Prophet Elias. The church supports a community of nearly 300 people, making every contribution invaluable in helping those in need. At present, any type of food donation is welcome except pasta, as there is already an adequate supply available.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support. Every act of kindness helps strengthen our efforts to assist those facing hardship.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer, and may we continue to serve our fellow human beings with compassion, solidarity, and love



RID 2475 RC PERISTERI ANTHOUPOLIS

RC Peristeri–Anthoupoli, in celebration of World Environment Day, carried out its annual flower-planting initiative.

Through this symbolic yet meaningful action, we send a clear message that collective effort can make a real difference. By working together, we contribute to a greener and more sustainable environment for future generations.

We remain committed to serving our community through actions that leave a positive and lasting impact on society. Every small step toward environmental stewardship helps create a better world for all.



RID 2475 RC ATHINAI GOUDI

Korgialenio Hospital – Hellenic Red Cross

Athens, May 20, 2026

As part of its ongoing social and charitable initiatives, RC Athinai-Goudi donated advanced medical equipment to Korgialenio Hospital – Hellenic Red Cross.

The donation, valued at €80,000, funded the acquisition of a UHD 4K Digital Imaging System laparoscopic tower. The implementation of this state-of-the-art digital imaging technology significantly enhances image quality during laparoscopic procedures, contributing to more effective surgical practice and improved patient care.

With consistency and a strong sense of responsibility, the Rotary Club seeks to provide tangible support to healthcare institutions that play a vital role in society. Through this initiative, technology is placed at the service of humanity, strengthening the infrastructure of a hospital with a long-standing tradition of service, such as Korgialenio Hospital – Hellenic Red Cross.

The project coordinators were PDG Kosmas Choutouriadis, rtn Nikolaos Karamfylis, and rtn Thomas Karachristos, who played a decisive role in the planning and successful implementation of the initiative.

At the same time, the Club's leadership and members extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the completion of this donation, whether through financial support or other forms of assistance.

RC Athinai -Goudi reaffirms its commitment to continuing its service activities with determination, responding to the needs of the community through a spirit of volunteerism, generosity, and collaboration.



RID 2475 RC PERISTERI-ANTHOUPOLI & PIREAS ANATOLI

RC Peristeri–Anthoupoli and RC Piraeus–Anatoli, in collaboration with PASSSA, organized a seminar on May 6, at the Peristeri Town Hall, on the topic:

“Violence Against Women and Juvenile Delinquency”

The event was honored by the participation of distinguished and highly respected speakers, who addressed issues affecting modern society with great sensitivity and scientific insight.

A special honor was the presence of the Mayor of Peristeri, Andreas Pachatouridis, who congratulated the organizers on their initiative and expressed his support for actions that promote social awareness and community engagement.

Special thanks are extended for the media coverage provided by STAR Channel and OPEN TV, as well as to journalists Antonis Deonas (Pitsouni City) and Dimitris Lymperopoulos (Anagennisi Peristeriou).

The event was moderated by Tasoula Papanikolaou.(Star Channel)

The seminar was also attended by numerous representatives of organizations and associations, along with many friends and citizens, whom we warmly thank for their presence and support. Rotary continues to serve people and society through meaningful actions, giving a voice to prevention, solidarity, and hope. Through initiatives such as this, Rotary reaffirms its commitment to building safer, stronger, and more compassionate communities.



RID 2475 RC DIONYSOS

As part of our ongoing commitment to serving the community, RC Dionysos proudly donated two water coolers to the PEGKAP-NY facility to help meet the daily needs of its beneficiaries. This contribution aims to provide easier access to clean drinking water, enhancing the comfort and well-being of those who rely on the facility's valuable services.

At RC Dionysos, we believe that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful impact. Supporting organizations such as PEGKAP-NY reflects our dedication to improving the quality of life within our community and promoting solidarity, compassion, and service.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the important work carried out by PEGKAP-NY and remain committed to initiatives that create positive and lasting change.

Together, we can achieve more and continue building a stronger, more caring community for everyone.



RID 2475 RC KIFISSIA POLITEIA

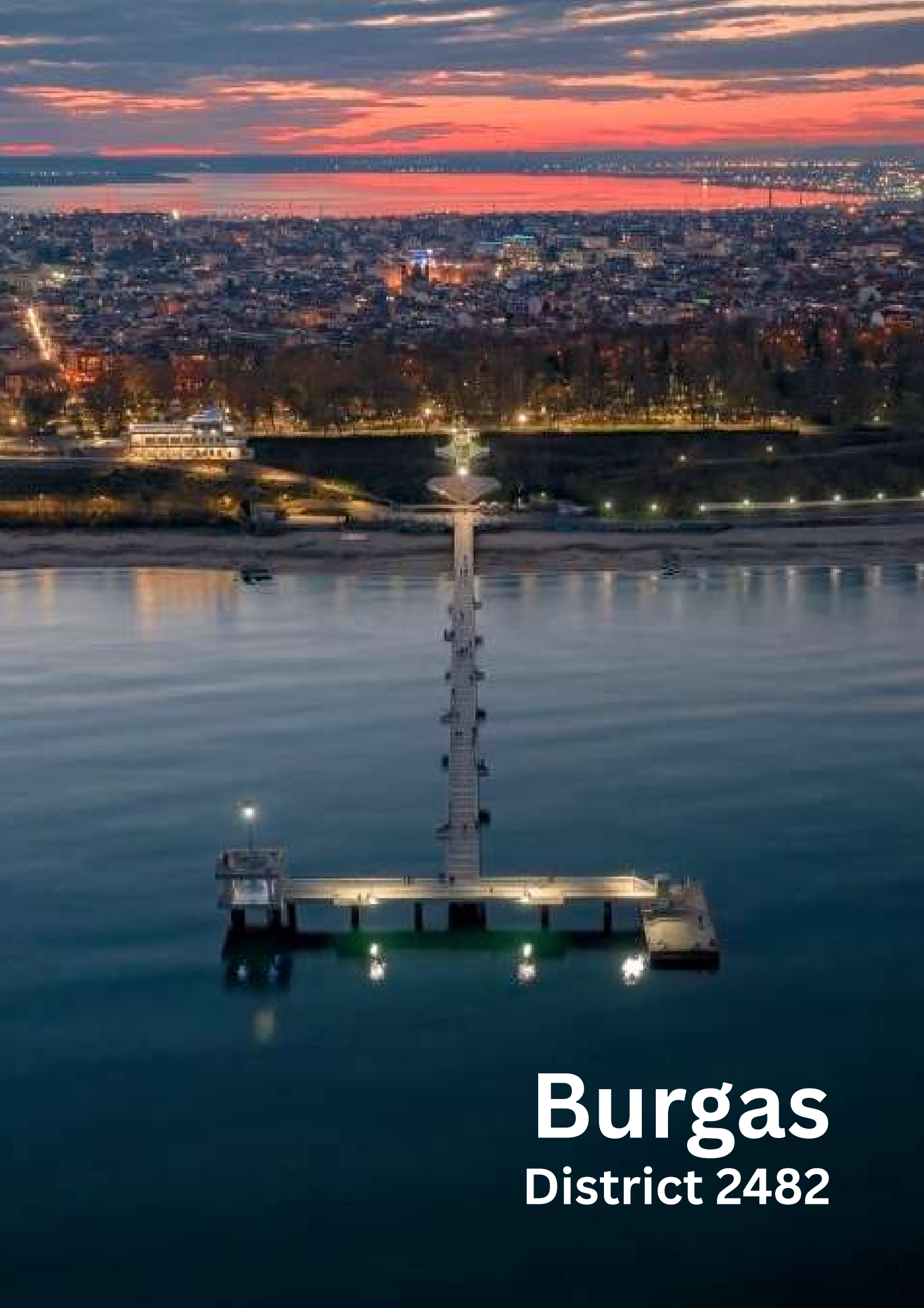
On June 23, RC Kifisia Politeia proudly donated an electrocardiograph (ECG) machine to the Kifisia Community Health Center, contributing to the enhancement of its medical equipment and strengthening the quality of healthcare services available to the local community.

This important donation was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Papapostolou Group, whose valuable support and strong commitment to corporate social responsibility made this initiative a reality. We extend our sincere gratitude for their partnership and their dedication to improving community health and well-being.

By equipping the Health Center with modern diagnostic technology, this contribution will assist healthcare professionals in providing timely and accurate cardiac assessments, ultimately benefiting countless residents who rely on its services.

Through initiatives such as this, RC Kifisia Politeia continues to put the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, into action by supporting projects that address real community needs, promote better healthcare, and create a lasting positive impact. Together with our partners, we remain committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and building healthier, stronger communities.





Burgas

District 2482

Kindness Blossomed at “Grizhovnik”: Rotary Club Bourgas Created an Outdoor Therapeutic Garden for People Living with Dementia



ARPIC Arkan Nihat
Rotary club Kardjali, District 2482

There are places where silence is not emptiness – it is care. Where a simple bench, the scent of herbs, and colourful flower beds can bring comfort, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Such a place now exists in Burgas, at Grizhovnik, a social day garden for older people living with dementia, where Rotary Club Burgas has created a welcoming outdoor space for relaxation, therapy, and activities in the open air.

The project was inspired by a simple yet powerful human truth: when memories begin to fade, human connection remains. Along with it comes the need for security, routine, kindness, movement, and the small everyday moments that help people continue to feel connected to life.

A Garden That Is More Than a Garden

Through voluntary work, determination, and genuine commitment, members of Rotary Club Burgas transformed the outdoor area into a flourishing therapeutic garden filled with flowers, herbs, and greenery. Comfortable, durable benches were installed, quiet spaces for conversation and relaxation were created, and areas for gentle exercise and outdoor activities were developed – a natural extension of the compassionate care provided every day by the team at Grizhovnik.

This space is much more than an attractive garden. It is a place for movement, therapy, social interaction, and shared experiences. For people living with dementia, spending time outdoors in a safe and calming environment often means far more than simply taking a walk. It provides orientation, reduces anxiety, and offers the reassuring presence of nature and other people.



Support That Turned an Idea into Reality

An important part of the project was the generous support of the club's long-standing friend, Christine Dagwell from the United Kingdom. Thanks to her contribution, a shared vision gradually became reality – built step by step with care, dedication, and attention to every detail.

The Impact Is Seen in People's Smiles

At Grizhovnik, every flower represents both beauty and emotion. Caring for the plants, spending time outdoors, creative activities, and music all work together to promote physical movement, fine motor skills, social engagement, and emotional wellbeing. Above all, they help preserve something invaluable: each person's dignity.

The official opening of the new outdoor space was one of those occasions that cannot be captured in a formal programme. Smiles, gratitude, and quiet joy were shared by residents, staff, volunteers, and Rotary members alike. Everyone present witnessed the same thing – a place where nature and human kindness come together.

This project is a reminder of why Rotary matters. Sometimes meaningful change begins quietly: with a flower, a bench, a conversation... and the decision to stand alongside someone when they need it most.



“Green Senses” – Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan Launches Project to Foster Children’s Interest in Nature

On 30 May 2026 at 10:30 a.m., at the Dobri Chintulov 1935 Community Centre, the new educational and environmental project “Green Senses – Discovering Plants through Experience, Play and Creativity” will be officially launched. The initiative is organised by Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan.

The project marks the beginning of a campaign led by club president Ivo Vassilev, aimed at preventing and reducing screen dependency among children through active engagement with nature, hands-on experiences, and creative outdoor activities.

Over several consecutive weekends, children will have the opportunity to explore nature in an interactive and inspiring way – through observation, play, creativity, and practical activities. The project will take place during the spring–summer season, when plants are in their active growth cycle and nature offers its richest opportunities for learning and sensory experience.

Participants will include children from Kindergarten No. 7 “Detelina” and Kindergarten No. 175 “Sunny Rays” – partner educational institutions with which the club has developed active cooperation throughout the year.

Project partners include the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Rotary Club Pirot. The project is led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Glogov from the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with coordination by Eng. Ivo Vassilev, President of Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan.

Learning Through Experience

“Green Senses” is designed as a practical, experience-based project aimed at developing children’s curiosity about nature, sustainable habits for outdoor living, and an interest in the natural sciences.

The programme includes six main educational modules:

Plant Identification in Nature

Participants will learn to recognise some of the most common plant species in Bulgaria and Serbia by their leaves, flowers, fruits, and other morphological characteristics.

Practical sessions and educational walks in natural environments will be organised.

Collection and Processing of Plant Material

Children will collect plant specimens, learn how to properly press and preserve them, and create their own herbariums.

Educational Games and Nature Missions

The project includes ecological games, quizzes, competitions, and team-based missions focused on plant recognition and identification.

Useful Properties of Plants

Through practical demonstrations, participants will learn about the medicinal properties of various plants and take part in workshops for preparing herbal teas, blends, tinctures, and natural ointments.

Wild Food Plants

Children will learn about edible wild species and take part in practical activities preparing food from forest plants.

Planting and Caring for Young Plants

The final part of the project involves planting bulbs and saplings of native tree species, along with training on their care and development.

Expected Outcomes

The main goal of the project is to help children build a stronger connection with nature and replace part of their screen time with active outdoor engagement.

Expected outcomes include:

- Improved knowledge of plants and ecological processes in nature
- Practical skills in identifying over 80 plant species
- Creation of a collective exhibition of children’s herbariums
- At least 40 hours of practical outdoor activities per participant
- Increased interest in biology, ecology, and natural sciences
- Measurable reduction in time spent in front of screens

The project focuses not only on knowledge acquisition but also on building an emotional connection between children and nature – through touch, observation, creativity, and personal experience.

Sustainability and Long-Term Vision

“Green Senses” is conceived not as a one-off initiative, but as a long-term model for experiential learning and building an active connection between children and nature.

Following the completion of the first phase, the organisers plan to conduct annual field-based training sessions and practical environmental activities, involving new groups of children and expanding the partnership network.

The project aims to establish lasting habits of active learning through observation, working with plants, and outdoor practical activities – an approach participants can also apply in their everyday lives.

A key focus is the creation of a youth environmental community, where children will continue to exchange knowledge, ideas, and experience, and participate in future environmental initiatives.

An important element of the project’s sustainability is the “children teaching children” model, through which participants will pass on what they have learned to their peers via demonstrations, presentations, and joint activities in both school and extracurricular settings.

The partnership between Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan, the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Rotary Club Pirot, and educational institutions will continue through new joint projects, exchanges of children’s groups, and practical initiatives in environmental education.

In this way, “Green Senses” goes beyond the framework of a standard educational project and becomes a sustainable platform for fostering environmental awareness, an active lifestyle, and a love of nature among children.

ЗЕЛЕНИ СЕТИВА

ОПОЗНАЕМ РАСТЕНИЯТА ЧРЕЗ ПРЕЖИВЯВАНЕ, ИГРА И ТВОРЧЕСТВО

Научно образователен проект за деца от България и Сърбия

СТАРТИРАНЕ НА ПРОЕКТА:
30 МАЙ 2026 г.
10:30 ч.

в салона на НЧ „Добри Чинтулов-1935“

ОСНОВНИ ДЕЙНОСТИ:

- Образователни разходки сред природата
- Запознаване с местни растения и тяхното значение
- Събиране, пресоване и съхранение на растения
- Изработване на хербарии – личен и групов
- Творчески и образователни работилници
- Екологични игри и предизвикателства
- Споделяне на знания и опит между участниците

Учим. Изследваме. Съхраняваме.

РЪКОВОДИТЕЛ НА ПРОЕКТА:
доц. д-р Пламен Глогов
от ИГ-БАН

ПАРТНЬОРИ:

ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ГОРАТА
БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ

Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan

Rotary Club Pirot

Проектът насърчава любовта към природата, практическото учене и грижата за нашата планета!

Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan

ЗЕЛЕНИ СЕТИВА

ОПОЗНАВАМЕ РАСТЕНИЯТА ЧРЕЗ ПРЕЖИВЯВАНЕ, ИГРА И ТВОРЧЕСТВО

Научно образователен проект за деца

ОСНОВНИ ДЕЙНОСТИ:

- Образователни разходки сред природата
- Запознаване с местни растения и тяхното значение
- Събиране, пресоване и съхранение на растения
- Изработване на хербарии – личен и групов
- Творчески и образователни работилници
- Екологични игри и предизвикателства
- Споделяне на знания и опит между участниците

ЗАПОЧВАМЕ:
30 МАЙ 2026 г.
10:30 ч.

Локация: НЧ „Добри Чинтулов-1935“

Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan

ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ГОРАТА
БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ

Rotary Club Pirot

Учим. Изследваме. Съхраняваме

РЪКОВОДИТЕЛ: доц. д-р Пламен Глогов, ИГ - БАН
КООРДИНАТОР: Ивайло Василев, РК София-Балкан

Проектът насърчава любовта към природата, практическото учене и грижата за нашата планета!

Rotary Club Nova Zagora – Awards for Outstanding Educators

At a formal gathering, Rotary Club Nova Zagora honoured distinguished educators whose dedication has made a lasting impact on education and the local community. The event brought together the Mayor of the Municipality, Mrs. Galia Zaharieva, alongside teachers and school leaders from across the city to celebrate excellence in teaching and public service.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Dinka Hristova and Mrs. Reni Chilikova were presented with the honorary “Teacher of the Year 2026” certificate in recognition of their outstanding professional achievements, unwavering commitment to education, and the positive influence they have had on generations of students. Through their passion, leadership, and years of dedicated service, they have helped shape not only academic success but also the values and aspirations of young people in Nova Zagora.

The annual education awards recognise educators whose talent, professionalism, and civic engagement extend beyond the classroom. By celebrating their achievements, Rotary Club Nova Zagora highlights the vital role teachers play in strengthening the community, inspiring future generations, and driving the continued development of education.



Rotary Club Nova Zagora Traditionally Brings Children's Smiles on 1 June

By fostering curiosity, creativity, and essential learning skills from an early age, Rotary Club Nova Zagora continues to invest in the future of the local community. Through educational resources that encourage learning through play, the club helps create enriching environments where young children can develop their cognitive, creative, and practical abilities.

For another consecutive year, on the occasion of 1 June – International Children's Day, Rotary Club Nova Zagora donated educational and activity-based learning materials to kindergartens across the municipality. The initiative reflects the club's ongoing commitment to supporting early childhood education and ensuring that children have access to engaging tools that inspire exploration and learning.

The children welcomed the gifts with great excitement, expressing their appreciation through songs and heartfelt poems that filled the celebration with warmth and joy. Their enthusiastic response highlighted the positive impact such initiatives have not only on children's learning experiences but also on the wider community.

By continuing this long-standing tradition, Rotary Club Nova Zagora reaffirms its dedication to nurturing the potential of the youngest generation, recognising that investing in children's education today contributes to a stronger, more vibrant community tomorrow.



Rotary Club Pernik Rejoins Rotary Family of District 2482

Under the motto of the Rotary year, “Unite for Good,” Rotary Club Pernik was officially chartered within District 2482. This marks the second new club in the District during the current Rotary year and represents a significant milestone in the continued growth of Rotary in Bulgaria.

The establishment of the club signifies the return of Rotary activity to Pernik after a 15-year hiatus. For the city, it represents a new beginning, and for the District, another clear indication that when there are people committed to service, fellowship, and responsibility toward their community, the Rotary idea naturally finds its way forward.

The formal ceremony was opened by President of Rotary Club Sofia Capital, Irena Nikolova. Rotary Club Sofia Capital serves as the sponsoring club of the re-established Rotary Club Pernik and will support its organisational development, initiatives, and future community service projects.

Charter President Hristian Daskalov received from District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov the official Charter Certificate from Rotary International, along with the club bell and presidential collar – symbols of continuity, responsibility, and readiness to serve.

The evening carried a strong sense of return, but also of new energy. Attendees shared their satisfaction that, after years of absence, Rotary once again has a home in Pernik. The new club begins its journey with 16 members – professionals from diverse fields, united by the desire to contribute to the development of their city and the well-being of its people.



Rotary Club Pernik Rejoins Rotary Family of District 2482

In recognition of their support and contribution to the club's re-establishment, District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov and Rotary representative and advisor to the new club, Dimitar Mandradzhiev, were awarded honorary membership in Rotary Club Pernik.

Even during the ceremony, the club demonstrated that it begins not only with words but also with action. A charitable initiative was launched to raise funds for the improvement of a space in a local park, where a Rotary garden will be created, as well as to support the construction of the new Orthodox church "Sretenie Gospodne" in the Teva district of Pernik.

In this way, the new club set its direction from the very first day – care for the environment, support for spirituality, and active service to the community.

While the current Rotary year moves under the banner "United for Good," Rotary Club Pernik begins its journey toward the next year with the inspiring message "We Leave a Lasting Mark" – aiming to become an active, recognisable, and valuable force in the life of its city.



Rotaract and Interact Clubs Ruse Distribute Nearly 500 Books in the Third Edition of "Plastic for a Book"

By encouraging sustainable habits while promoting a love of reading, the members of Rotaract Club Ruse and Interact Club Ruse continue to demonstrate how community-led initiatives can create meaningful and lasting change. Their annual "Plastic for a Book" campaign inspires people of all ages to protect the environment, embrace recycling, and discover the lifelong value of books and education.

For the third consecutive year, Rotaract Club Ruse and Interact Club Ruse organised the "Plastic for a Book" initiative, bringing together two important Rotary causes—environmental protection and literacy promotion.

Held to mark International Children's Day, the campaign attracted dozens of local residents, who exchanged plastic waste for books and educational materials. Participants collected 15 bags of plastic bottles and other recyclable plastic waste, all of which will be processed through recycling.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers, nearly 500 books and educational resources were distributed, including:

- 50 copies of Slavo-Bulgarian History;
- 80 Danube-themed colouring books;
- around 200 children's books;
- nearly 100 books for adults; and
- approximately 50 mathematics workbooks for different age groups.
-

"Each year we see how a simple idea can bring people together around a meaningful cause. It is inspiring that this initiative promotes both environmental responsibility and a love of books and learning," said Kamen Ivanov, President of Rotaract Club Ruse.

The initiative forms part of the joint activities of clubs within the Danube Alliance and the international environmental programme End Plastic Soup, supported by Rotarians from the Netherlands. This year, "Plastic for a Book" campaigns were held simultaneously in several Danube cities, including Ruse, Vidin, Svishtov, Vukovar (Croatia), Galați (Romania), and Budapest (Hungary).

Through the combined efforts of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs across the Danube region, more than one tonne of plastic waste was collected for recycling, demonstrating the power of cross-border collaboration in addressing environmental challenges.

Rotary Club Ruse congratulates the members of Rotaract Club Ruse and Interact Club Ruse for once again delivering an inspiring initiative that demonstrates how young people can become catalysts for positive change within their communities while serving as outstanding ambassadors of Rotary's values.



Ruse Riverside Comes Alive with Art and Music to Celebrate Danube Day Rotary club of Ruse

On the eve of the International Day of the Danube, the riverside promenade in Ruse became far more than just a place for an evening stroll. Replacing the usual sounds of traffic and hurried passers-by, the waterfront was transformed into an open-air gallery for the "Danube Through the Lens" initiative, organised by the Rotary Club of Ruse with the support of the Municipality of Ruse.

The evening unfolded in three inspiring parts, turning the riverfront into a genuine stage for art and culture. It opened with performances by talented Rotary scholarship recipients and students from the National School of Arts "Prof. Veselin Stoyanov", whose musical programme drew dozens of visitors to the promenade at the very start of the event. Following the performances came the evening's official highlight – the presentation of awards to the winners of the photography competition. The jury, comprising architect Orlin Nedelchev, photographer Yavor Michev, Bozhena Valcheva and Penka Stoimenova, faced a particularly difficult task. After lengthy deliberations, the awards for the most compelling visual interpretations of the Danube were presented to Ziba Chakaryan, Deyan Kolev and Nikolay Kovachev. Architect Nedelchev and Yavor Michev personally congratulated the winners, noting that the standard of this year's entries had exceeded all expectations.

The celebration reached its climax with a performance by Ruse-based band PoPoKATe51. Their distinctive original sound brought an electrifying rock energy to the riverside, filling the quay with music and enthusiasm. Throughout the evening, host Toni Enchev from Rotaract Club Ruse ensured a relaxed and engaging atmosphere, transforming formal proceedings into a friendly conversation with the audience.

For the Rotary Club of Ruse, the celebration forms an important part of the programme marking the organisation's 90th anniversary. Founded in 1936, the club has become far more than a guardian of its own history; it continues to serve as a living link between the city's rich heritage and the emerging talents to whom it actively provides opportunities and a platform for expression.

As darkness fell and hundreds of visitors paused to admire the photographs displayed on large outdoor exhibition panels, one thing became unmistakably clear: the Danube is far more than a waterway. It is a mirror reflecting who we are. Through the lenses of the participating photographers, visitors were offered a powerful reminder of just how much beauty and inspiration the river continues to hold.





INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12
organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary
club of Bourgas



PHOTO: NIKI DINOV

LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria



ROTARY GOLF CUP

СЪБОТА, 08 АВГУСТ | SATURDAY, 08 AUGUST

ФОРМАТ | Скрембъл в отбори по двама
FORMAT | Scramble in teams of two

Допълнително класиране за отбори с поне едни член на Ротари Клуб. Отборите с членове на Ротари клуб участват и в общото класиране!

Additional prizes for Teams with one or more Rotary Club members! Teams with Rotary members are also included in general ranking!

Старт на турнира и закуска
Start of the tournament and breakfast

Регистрация: 8:00

Registration: 8:00

Старт: 10:00

Start: 10:00

Награждаване и коктейл
Prize-giving ceremony & cocktail

Награждаване 16:00

Prize giving ceremony 16:00

Коктейл 16:30

Cocktail 16:30

Турнирна такса: 67 €

(Голф, закуска и коктейл)

Такса коктейл: 45 €

Participation fee: 67 €

(Golf, breakfast & cocktail)

Cocktail only: 45 €

Членовете на Pirin Golf & Country Club ползват 30% отстъпка от турнирната такса. | The members of Pirin Golf & Country Club have 30 % discount from the tournament fee.

СПЕЧЕЛЯТЕ | WIN

Уикенд за двама в хотел "РЕНА", Слънчев бряг
A weekend for two in hotel "RENA", Sunny beach

Rotary
Rotary Club
Bansko-Razlog



CREATE LASTING IMPACT

ЗА РЕГИСТРАЦИЯ | SIGN UP

+359 885 535 506

proshop@piringolf.bg

Belgrade

District 2483



District 2483 Training Assembly and Leadership Handover Ceremony



ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic
Rotary club Beograd Skadarlija
District 2483

The District 2483 Training Assembly took place on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at the Hyatt Hotel in Belgrade. Attended by incoming club presidents and secretaries, the District Governor, members of the District Leadership Team for 2026–2027, past district governors, elected governors, and numerous guests, the event aimed to prepare future club leaders for their roles and facilitate the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and best practices to ensure successful club operation in the upcoming Rotary year.

During the assembly, programs and topics aligned with Rotary International guidelines were discussed, focusing on key areas such as club management, activity planning, district collaboration, and strategic goal achievement. The event featured three thematic panels: the Rotary Foundation — emphasizing its importance, funding opportunities, and increasing club participation; Membership — strategies for attracting, retaining, and diversifying members; and “Lasting Impact” — creating projects with long-term effects, sustainability, and community recognition.

These sessions reinforced the significance of continuous education, cooperation, and joint planning as the foundation for a successful Rotary year.

Additionally, the assembly included the first joint administrative decisions for 2026–2027 and the approval of the district budget, underscoring our commitment to strategic priorities and effective resource management.

The evening was marked by the formal handover of the district leadership at a ceremony held at the Hyatt Hotel, symbolizing unity, friendship, and the Rotary spirit. The event featured performances by the Chamber Ensemble of the Jovan Bandur Music School from Pančevo, guided by Professor Jelena Cvetić, adding a touch of elegance.

Outgoing District Governor Veliša Stamatović and incoming Governor Daliborka Bradić addressed the attendees, highlighting achievements, expressing gratitude, and emphasizing the importance of teamwork, friendship, and humanitarian service in the year ahead. The highlight was the ceremonial presentation of the Governor’s chain, representing leadership continuity, along with the presentation of the chain to the new Rotaract District Representative, Kristina Zejak, symbolizing support for youth leadership and collaboration between Rotary and Rotaract communities.

The evening also included the traditional handover of club presidencies from Sava, Stari Grad, Skadarlija, and Vračar Rotary Clubs, with new presidents assuming responsibility for their clubs for 2026–2027. The event was complemented by a performance by the RES MIRANDA choir, conducted by Duna Huzjan, creating a festive atmosphere.

Two Paul Harris Fellow awards were presented to Rotary Club Beograd Sava members, Sonja Čoko and Milorad Vujačić, by the Governors.

District 2483 Training Assembly and Leadership Handover Ceremony

The celebration concluded with a shared dinner and informal gathering, fostering camaraderie and future planning.

This event reaffirmed that District 2483's strength lies in unity, leadership continuity, and service-driven change. With renewed energy, clear vision, and shared goals, the Rotary year 2026–2027 has begun in the spirit of friendship, collaboration, and inspiration.



From Shanghai to Taipei: Representing Peace, Service, and District 2483

The 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei was a deeply meaningful experience for Tijana Ristić, member of the Rotary Club Belgrade International, District 2483, and Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace for the 2025–2026 Rotary year. For Tijana, it was an honor not only to represent the Rotary Action Group for Peace, but also her club and District 2483 on the international Rotary stage.

Before arriving in Taipei, Tijana visited the Rotary Club of Shanghai, one of the few Rotary clubs in China. She was warmly welcomed by a vibrant international club whose growing focus on peacebuilding made the visit especially meaningful. Seeing peace become a stronger part of another club's service reminded her how Rotary's commitment to peace continues to grow in different parts of the world.

The Convention week began with a special preconvention milestone: the official launch of the Rotary Action Group for Peace Taiwan Chapter at the University of Education in Taipei. As Chair of RAGFP, Tijana was humbled to share the stage with distinguished Rotary leaders, including Past Rotary International President Gary Huang and Dr. Frank Ching-Huei Horng, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation. The event brought together Rotarians and guests from many countries, making it a truly international celebration of peacebuilding, fellowship, and local leadership. For Tijana, it was a proud moment to congratulate the RAGFP Taiwan Chapter and witness such strong energy for peace in Taiwan.

During the Convention, Tijana served as the official organizer of the Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Area of Focus Hub in the House of Friendship. The Hub was created as a space where Rotarians, Rotaractors, Peace Fellows, Rotary Action Groups, partners, and visitors could gather to learn, exchange ideas, and explore practical approaches to peacebuilding. It showed how peace is connected with education, resilience, prevention, empowerment, and long-term service.

A particularly meaningful part of the Hub was the collaboration between the Rotary Action Group for Peace and the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. RAGAS accepted Tijana's invitation to collaborate on this shared space, creating an important example of how Rotary Action Groups can work together across areas of focus. The Hub welcomed inspiring speakers and partners, including Habitat for Humanity and ShelterBox. Tijana was especially grateful to Past Rotary International President Gordon McNally for accepting her invitation to open the Peace Hub, and to Larry Lunsford, Rotary International President 2027–2028, whose presence reflected Rotary's long-term commitment to peace.

Tijana also contributed to the Convention program as one of the speakers in the breakout session "Building Rotary's Brand for Global Impact." Having chaired the Public Image Committee of the Rotary Action Group for Peace for many years, she spoke about storytelling, visibility, and the importance of communicating Rotary's service in a way that inspires action.



From Shanghai to Taipei: Representing Peace, Service, and District 2483

In addition, Tijana organized the breakout session “Women Leading Change: Peace, Wellness and Empowerment,” where she was joined by three remarkable women leaders: Alison Sutherland, Past District Governor from Wales and Past Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace; Rita Aggarwal, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Mental Health Initiatives; and Mary-Ellen Shackleton, Past District Governor and one of the founders of the Rotary Action Group for Girls’ Empowerment. The session connected peace, mental health, and empowerment, while celebrating women’s leadership across Rotary.

Another memorable moment was Tijana’s attendance at the Service Above Self reception, where she had the privilege of meeting Rotarians recognized for their exceptional commitment to service. She was also a special guest at the Rotary Club of Taipei Fu-Jung, where the club hosted an international dinner with its twin clubs from Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea, and Japan. Tijana was honored to address the gathering and experience once again the friendship and hospitality that make Rotary a truly global family.

For Tijana, the Convention in Taipei was more than a series of events. It was a powerful reminder that peacebuilding is strengthened through friendship, partnership, continuity, and shared purpose. Representing the Rotary Action Group for Peace, the Rotary Club Belgrade International, and District 2483, she returned grateful, inspired, and even more committed to supporting Rotary’s work for peace across borders.



District Conference 2483 Serbia & Montenegro

The Rotary District 2483 Conference for the Rotary Year 2025/26 was held from 15 to 17 May 2026 in Petrovac, Montenegro, with the aim of summarizing the results of the Rotary year, exchanging experiences and confirming a common commitment to serving the community.

Governor Veliša Stamatović presented a report on the work of the District, giving an overview of the most important results achieved during the Rotary Year 2025/26. Speaking about membership, he pointed out that the District started the year with 1,091 members, that during the year, despite the closure of five clubs, one new club with 29 members was formed, and that by the end of the year two more new clubs and an increase in membership in the District are expected. Special attention was paid to the work of the Rotary Foundation, where the results of donations to the Annual Fund and PolioPlus Fund were presented, the awarding of 21 new PHF awards, as well as the District's support for Global Grant projects through DDF funds. It was emphasized that the projects of the clubs RC Budva, RC Bor, RC Kotor and RC Beograd Čukarica were supported, and that District 2483 participated in Global Grant projects from Lebanon and Timisoara.

A significant number of Global Grant projects are currently active in the District, from those in the preparation and decision-making procedure, to approved projects and projects that are in the implementation phase. The report also specifically presented the area of Public Image and emphasized that the District received a LinkedIn profile for the first time this year, that a new Facebook profile was activated, and that the Instagram profile recorded significant growth, from about 270 followers at the beginning of the year to about 1,700 followers. The Governor also referred to the 12 goals of the District Leadership Team set at the beginning of the year, expressing satisfaction with the level of their implementation. In the part dedicated to international cooperation, the work of the ICC was presented by Marija Nenadić from RC Belgrade Stari Grad, president of the ICC section Serbia and Montenegro – Ecuador, emphasizing that there are 21 active ICC sections in the District, with more than 70 sister clubs, as well as that there is interest in opening new sections in Scandinavia and South America.

Within the working part of the conference, the right to decide was held by 58 clubs, or a total of 59 votes, taking into account that the Rotary Club Belgrade Skadarlija was entitled to two votes. The delegates adopted the report on the work of the District Governor for 2024/25. IPDG Vladan Mijailović, the decision that the selection of candidates for the District Governor for 2029/30. will be carried out through the Nomination Committee, as well as the proposed composition of the Nomination Committee, which consists of the last five past governors of District 2483: Zorica Jestrović, Nikola Božić, Aleksandar Radojčić, Vladan Mijailović and Veliša Stamatović. Also, the decision was unanimously adopted that PDG Nikola Božić from the Rotary E Club of Serbia be a delegate of District 2483 who will be a member of the Nomination Committee for the election of the Zone 21 director for the period 2028–2030.

The conference had a working and ceremonial segment, and a special place was taken by the awarding of recognitions, certificates of appreciation and awards to clubs, projects and individuals who made an exceptional contribution to Rotary activities, humanitarian work and community development during the year. The event was made special by the international character of dear guests and friends from Greece, Hungary, Austria, the United States of America and Croatia, including the governor of District 1910 Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina Ralf Peters, the past district governor from Greece, the district governor from Hungary, the district governor from Georgia from the USA, as well as the current governor of RD 2475 from Greece, who addressed the event via video message. Their presence once again confirmed the importance of sincere Rotarian friendships and international cooperation, which are built through trust, closeness and shared values.

District Conference 2483 Serbia & Montenegro

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojčić

Governor Veliša Stamatović emphasized that this Rotary year was very dynamic and successful, and that he would like to take this opportunity to highlight individuals and clubs that have made a special contribution and present them with awards.

Governor Stamatović presented the "UNITE FOR GOOD" certificates of appreciation to: Ljubiša Lešević from the Rotary Club Kraljevo for great effort and excellent results in promoting the Rotary movement, Aleksandar Letić and the Rotary Club Šabac, Gradimir Trifunović and the Rotary Club Belgrade Sava, as well as Dušan Velimirović and the Rotary Club Podgorica for great progress in club activities and increasing membership during the 2025/26 Rotary year. A certificate of appreciation was also presented to Nenad Vidović and the Rotary Club Belgrade Singidunum on the occasion of a great jubilee – 30 years of existence and dedicated work on the spread and promotion of the Rotary idea, then to the Rotary Club Smederevo for great regional and international activities and promotion of District 2483 outside the borders of our countries, as well as to Jasmina Đokić, charter president of the Rotary Club Belgrade Wellbeing, for the greatest refreshment and return of smiles on the district scene during 2025/26.

Governor Veliša Stamatović presented "UNITE FOR GOOD" certificates of appreciation and gold medals to Assistant Governors Kaća Lazarević, Ranka Krivokapić, Lidija Radulović Cvjetinović, Vladimir Radosavljević, Dušan Goločevac, Rade Petrović, Nenad Jovanović, Danilo Guberinić, Aleksandar Dobromirov, Miša Maksimović, Ivan Janjušević, Sonja Romić Švec, Saša Petrović, Vladica Tošić, Nenad Milašinović and Jovan Momirski for their great effort, contribution and dedication to achieving the goals of District 2483 during the 2025/26 Rotary year.

Governor Stamatović awarded the "UNITE FOR GOOD" charters to Jelena Stjepčević from the Rotary Club of Kotor for full dedication, quality implementation and excellent results of the public image of District 2483, to Goran Bajazetov from the Rotary Club of Novi Sad Alma Mons for creative ideas and great branding of the District, as well as to Aleksandar Budošan from the Rotary Club of Sremska Mitrovica and DGND Vladimir Lalošević from the Rotary Club of Ruma for their dedication and great contribution to improving the work of the District through the development of mobile and web applications. Charters were also presented to AG Lidija Radulović Cvjetinović from the Rotary Club of Podgorica for the effort and energy directed towards the formation of the Rotary Club of Nikšić, as well as resolving challenges in the work of individual clubs in Montenegro, to ICC Coordinator Marko Mitrašinović from the Rotary Club of Smederevo for supporting the organization of the event "Ex Yugoslavia UNITE FOR GOOD" and international activities, and to Predrag Milašević from the Rotary Club of Budva for his great contribution to building quality relationships among members of the Rotary movement in District 2483.

Governor Veliša Stamatović also presented charters to Milijana Vukotić, President of the Rotary Club of Budva, Anita Radulović from the Rotary Club of Bar, Dušan Velimirović and Ratka Sekulović from the Rotary Club of Podgorica for their great effort, dedication and implementation of the largest and most significant Global Grant project in District 2483 during 2025/26. The Charter was also presented to Danko Bjeković from the Rotary Club of Pljevlja for his great contribution to the spread of Rotary values, international cooperation and regional networking.

Governor Veliša Stamatović presented the "UNITE FOR GOOD" plaques to PDG Vladan Mijailović, PDG Zorica Jestrović, PDG Ljiljana Lainović, PDG Aleksandar Radojčić and DDG Nikola Banović for their selfless help, sincere advice and great contribution to the work of the Governor and the achievement of the goals of District 2483 during 2025/26, as well as for the successful implementation of educational programs, projects and events.

District Conference 2483 Serbia & Montenegro

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

Governor Stamatović awarded the “UNITE FOR GOOD – Vesna Baur” award to the Rotary Club of Belgrade Skadarlija for the best public image video “END POLIO NOW” and the excellent promotion of Rotary values. Governor Stamatović awarded the Rotary Club of Niš for the implementation of a district humanitarian action aimed at families from fire-affected areas in southern Serbia.

Rotary Club Novi Sad Alma Mons was named the best club in District 2483 in the Rotary year 2025/26. The club was awarded a large "UNITE FOR GOOD" plaque, while all club members were awarded gold "UNITE FOR GOOD" medals in recognition of their joint contribution to achieving exceptional results during the year. The large "UNITE FOR GOOD" plaque was also awarded to Rotary Club Budva for the strongest support to the Governor in achieving the goals of District 2483 during this Rotary year, and all club members were awarded gold "UNITE FOR GOOD" medals for their dedication, energy and continued support for district activities.

Governor Veliša Stamatović expressed special gratitude to his closest team of associates, with whom he worked intensively throughout the year on the implementation of numerous District activities and projects. On this occasion, Maja Kovačević, District Events and Conference Chair, and Per Duletić, Assistant Governor Coordinator, were presented with Paul Harris pins, while Aleksandra Ivanović, District Secretary, was presented with a double Paul Harris pin for their exceptional contribution, dedicated work, and selfless support throughout the Rotary year.



District Conference 2483 Serbia & Montenegro

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

In the spirit of this year's Unite for Good message, a Conference and Training Day were held, bringing together Rotarians and Rotaractors in an atmosphere of togetherness, friendship and inspiration for future projects and cooperation. During the day filled with education, exchange of experiences and planning of future activities, a special ceremony was marked by the ceremony of awarding certificates of appreciation to all individuals and clubs who, with their work, dedication and energy, left a significant mark on the community and the organization.

Important decisions for the future of the organization were also made at the assembly part of the conference. Martina Perišić Jokić was elected as the DRR of the Rotary Year 2027/28, while Nikola Jelenković was elected as the Country Representative of Serbia in the European Rotaract, and Ksenija Otašević as the Country Representative of Montenegro. The conference once again demonstrated the power of togetherness, leadership and service, confirming that through friendship and a shared vision we can truly — Unite for Good.

The evening continued in the elegant atmosphere of a gala dinner and socializing, where participants had the opportunity to further strengthen friendships and celebrate the successes of the past year, with lots of emotions, smiles, and Rotarian spirit.



Rotary Climate Action: Webinar: Our Planet – Rotarians for Planetary Health

Rotary Club As part of the European Public Health Week and the Rotary initiative

Climate Action RD2483 – Unite for ECO Good, a webinar entitled "Mental Health & Environment" was held on May 6, 2026, dedicated to the connection between climate change, urban environment and mental health. The webinar was organized by the Rotary Club Novi Sad Eko-Art in cooperation with experts in the field of public health, urban development and environmental protection, and was also promoted on the Climate Pact and European Public Health Association websites.

The participants had the opportunity to hear presentations by experts who presented contemporary findings and examples of good practice in the field of urban health and climate action:

- Prof. Dr. Vanja Vasiljev (University of Rijeka) presented the HORUS project, with a special focus on the connection between the urban environment and mental health. It was emphasized that the quality of the space in which we live significantly affects the psychological well-being, stress levels and quality of life of the population.
- Dr. Vlatka Matković spoke about the importance of investing in public health and sustainability through urban development policies. The need for the integration of health aspects into city planning was particularly emphasized, as well as the importance of active citizen involvement through approaches such as citizen science, participatory planning and joint creation of healthier urban environments.
- Prof. Dr. Marija Jevtić presented the activities of the Rotary Climate Action RD2483 and the Rotary initiative for urban greening with the aim of improving mental health. The district action "Miloduh za mio duh" was especially presented, which encourages the involvement of children, youth and local communities in planting activities, urban gardening and the preservation of green spaces.

Numerous examples of Rotary and Rotaract club activities aimed at sustainable development, environmental protection and climate responsibility were also presented. Climate change represents one of the most significant challenges of modern public health, with consequences that go beyond physical health and include the mental well-being of individuals and communities. The key role of parks, urban green spaces, tree-lined avenues and other natural environments in preserving mental health was highlighted. In this context, the development of green infrastructure and the active involvement of citizens were recognized as important mechanisms for building healthier, more resilient and sustainable communities.

The role of Rotary as a global network dedicated to serving the community was emphasized, which through education, climate action, greening and the promotion of healthy lifestyles can significantly contribute to improving the health and quality of life of citizens. By actively connecting experts, institutions and local communities, Rotary creates space for concrete and long-term changes. The webinar confirmed that caring for the environment also means caring for people's health, and that investing in green and sustainable communities means investing in a better future. In line with the motto "Unite for ECO Good", Rotary will continue to encourage initiatives that connect climate action, public health and community well-being.



RC Belgrade Čukarica and RC Ruma: Visit to Rotary Club Chicago 1

On Tuesday, May 12, PDG Danilo Ljevnaić organized a visit by PDG Vladimir Matić, DGN Vladimir Lalošević and Jelena Lujčić from RC Ruma to Rotary Club Chicago 1. PDG Vladimir Matić informed the attendees about ICC activities and implemented Global Grants. He especially thanked RC Chicago 1 as an international partner for the successfully implemented Global Grant with RTC Stara Pazova.



RC Belgrade Čukarica and RC Ruma: Visit to Rotary International Headquarters

PDG Vladimir Matić, DGE Vladimir Lalošević, PDG Danilo Ljevnaić and Jelena Lujčić used their stay in Chicago to visit the Rotary International headquarters in Evanston near Chicago. Aleks Iričanin from PI RI was an excellent host.



RC Kruševac: Traditional action to help the monastery of Sveta Petka Izvorska

The Rotary Club Kruševac continues its traditional action to help the monastery of Sveta Petka Izvorska and the inpatient facility for children and adults with developmental disabilities. This time, we donated the most necessary funds for the operation of the inpatient facility in the form of clothing, food, hygiene products and money, considering together with the nuns the needs of the people cared for in the inpatient facility.

With deep respect for the selfless love, care and sacrifice with which the sisterhood of the monastery serves the most sensitive among us every day, we remain committed to being part of this noble mission, in the spirit of solidarity and humanity.



RC Sremska Mitrovica: Awards for young artists

On 23.05.2026., the Rotary Club Sremska Mitrovica traditionally presented awards to the best at the Piano Festival held at the Lazar Vozarević Gallery. Young artists had the opportunity to present themselves in different categories, and they performed their works on a piano that was donated by RC Sremska Mitrovica a few years ago. It is an honor to be in the company of such talented people.



RC Sombor: CanAll Festival

Another wonderful event filled with humanity, togetherness and support for those who need it most is behind us. Rotary Club Sombor organized the humanitarian action "CanAll Festival" with the aim of providing support to the UG "Maslačak" Sombor, an association that helps people with autism and their families on a daily basis.

In a pleasant atmosphere, with a great response from citizens, friends and members of the local community, together we showed how small and large gestures can make a significant difference. The funds collected will be directed to the further work of the association and improving support for people with autism.

Thank you to all visitors, friends, partners and donors who contributed to the success of this action with their presence, support and goodwill. Your solidarity and willingness to help have shown the power of togetherness in action.

We continue to build a more inclusive and humane community - together we can do more.



RTC Belgrade Čukarica and RTC Belgrade Skadarlija: BLIND BOOK DATE

Rotary Club On 24.05.2026. in the premises of the ASK center in Belgrade, the Rotaract clubs Belgrade Čukarica and Belgrade Skadarlija organized the Blind book date action for the eighth time in a row, a kind of poetic drama evening with the sale of pre-packaged books.

The action was successfully implemented, with the participation of about 40 Rotaract members, Rotary and friends. The special guest of the evening was the writer Darko Tuševljaković, this year's winner of the NIN award, which is the first time that the action has hosted a NIN resident. Mr. Tuševljaković, with his direct participation, donated copies of his award-winning novel, "Carrot" for the needs of the action. After collecting registration fees and selling books, the final result of the campaign was 53,000.00 dinars, which funds were intended for the purchase of necessary kitchen machinery for the Belgrade Institute for the Education of Children and Youth.

Since the funds collected are not enough, but represent approximately half of the required amount, the Rotaract clubs of Belgrade Čukarica and Belgrade Skadarlija are ready to continue their mutual cooperation in order to collect a sufficient amount of funds in order to help the Institute for the Education of Children and Youth.

This campaign, and especially its preparation through weekly rehearsals, will remain a great memory for all participants of how, by simply enjoying masterpieces of the literary scene, socializing and practicing texts, one can do a good deed, make great friends and help those who are less fortunate in life.

RTC Belgrade Skadarlija: Reception of 2 new members of the Rotaract club

This month, at its traditional Blind Book Date event, which it has been organizing for the eighth year in a row together with the Rotaract club Belgrade Čukarica, the Rotaract club Belgrade Skadarlija had the honor of welcoming two new members: Bogdan Živojinović and Magdalena Varga.

Bogdan is a graduate professor of English language and literature at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. He is currently doing freelance work for an American company related to keywords and as a private English language teacher to foreign citizens.

After completing her second school of economics, Magdalena dedicated herself to numerous massage courses and working at the Ritual cafe. When it comes to sports, she is the pride of our country in judo and is also involved in numerous other sports. Very dedicated to friends and family, and recently to Rotaract.

We welcome you to our Rotaract family and to achieve even greater things together with you than we have done so far.



RC Stara Pazova: Exhibition of 3D printed toys and teaching aids

Organized by the Rotary Club Stara Pazova, with the support of the Rotary Club Ruma and the Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica, an exhibition of 3D printed toys and teaching aids created within the Global Grant project for the procurement of 3D printers and education of primary school teachers was held. Six primary schools participated in the exhibition, presenting the creative works of their students and teachers.

The project was given special value by its humanitarian character — the schools used the filaments obtained through the project to make 3D printed toys intended for children with cancer. The toys will be donated to the NURDOR organization, which will further distribute them to children. This project has once again shown that knowledge, creativity and technology can together create concrete and humane changes in the community. We are especially pleased with the great interest of students, teachers and media who supported this initiative.

Thank you to all the schools, teachers, students, partners and friends of Rotary who were part of this story. Each printed toy tells a child: "We are with you."



RC Kikinda: Charity play "Children for Children" in Kikinda

On May 28, 2026, the Rotary Club Kikinda organized the charity play "Children for Children", an evening dedicated to art, children's talent and support for the community. This event was not only an opportunity to enjoy the game and stage performance, but also a nice reminder that each of us can contribute to the community - with talent, knowledge, support or simply a good heart.

The special beauty of the evening was given by the children from the Kikinda Ballet School, who showed courage, joy and the inspiring power of children's creativity with their performance. The charity action was supported by Rotarians and friends from Jimbolija, Zrenjanin, Senta and Novi Sad, as well as numerous people of good will, parents and fellow citizens who brightened this special evening with their presence. Their support once again confirmed that great and important things can be achieved when the community comes together around a noble idea.



RC Pirot: First Humanitarian Tennis Tournament

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, the Rotary Club Pirot and the Todorović Tennis Academy organized the First Humanitarian Tennis Tournament in our city. With the participation of 25 amateur tennis players, 21 of whom competed throughout Saturday, we are proud of the results of the campaign, considering that this is the first tournament and that we did not have much experience in organizing it.

This year's campaign and the money raised will be directed to support the most talented children in Pirot, who have achieved notable results in national competitions. "Tennis is played with the heart," said the Rotary Club Pirot after the successful First Humanitarian Tennis Tournament

On the tennis courts in Pirot on Saturday, May 30, 2026. The First Humanitarian Tennis Tournament for Amateurs was held in Pirot, organized by the Rotary Club Pirot and the Todorović Tennis Academy, under the title "Day of Tennis, Friendship and Good Intentions - for Talented Children of the City of Pirot". The tournament brought together 25 participants from Pirot and the surrounding area. The funds raised in this action will be intended for talented school-age children who achieved significant results in republican competitions during this school year.

The President of the Rotary Club Pirot for 2025/26, Goran Mišić, said that they would like this tournament to become a tradition and thanked everyone who supported the action and participated. This once again confirmed that charity brings people together and unites people.



RC Bar: Lake & Wine weekend

Rotary Club The traditional gathering of Bar Rotarians "Lake and wine", in the last week of May, on May 30th and 31st, was held again in the spirit of the true Rotarian idea and mission. This uniquely designed event of the Bar Rotarians represents a symbiosis of constant service to the community and good, while at the same time affirming the tourist, historical and cultural peculiarities of our municipality. This year's event was dedicated to the Global Grant project to support children with special educational needs. More than 24,000 euros were collected and the collection is still ongoing.

We gathered again on the shore of Lake Skadar, in the restaurant "Jezero" of the prestigious company "13. jul - Plantaže", which for more than half a century has been one of the largest and most important producers of grapes, wine and grape brandy in the region.

The President of the Rotary Club Bar, Srđan Grgić, who greeted the guests, emphasized that in the five years it has been running, the event "Lake and wine" has grown into a beautiful tradition of the Rotary Club Bar, but also of the entire Rotary community in Montenegro. "Lake and Wine was created from the desire to combine humanity with what represents the identity of our region. Skadar Lake and wine tell the story of tradition, hospitality and the richness of this region. Last year, we also launched an event dedicated to the Olive Festival, connecting the two shores of our municipality - the lake and the sea. I am especially pleased that every year at this event we have Rotarian guests and friends from different countries, whom I especially welcome. This is the best confirmation that the Rotary movement connects people regardless of where they come from and what life circumstances brought them to our country. Tonight we are together as friends, gathered around universal values. At the same time, we look forward. We can proudly announce the establishment of the Rotaract Club Bar, because we want to include young people in what we do, and enable the new generation to continue developing service to the community.

The donor evening was dedicated to raising funds for the joint Global Grant of the Rotary Clubs of Montenegro, entitled 'Knowledge in Our Hands', which is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, whose goal is to provide children with special educational needs provide better conditions for education, through the purchase of specialized equipment and educational tools. We believe that every child deserves equal opportunities for learning, development and integration into society", said the President of the Rotary Club of Bar, Srđan Grgić.

For the first time, the guests of the Bar club were representatives of the Smederevo and Kaštel Rotary Clubs, with whom, according to tradition, the Rotary flags were exchanged.

On the second day, the Bar Rotarians, as good hosts, organized a cruise on Lake Skadar for friends and guests, and once again pointed out the potential of the National Park and the rich offer of the Crmnica region.



RC Belgrade Čukarica and RC Ruma: Festival "With Knowledge for the Future"

Serbia was held in programming and controlling mBot 2 robots, with 47 teams, and drones, with 44 teams.

Nearly 400 students from schools that won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in district competitions organized in the period January–April 2026 participated. The patron of the "Knowledge for the Future" festival is the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia, which has included the festival in the Calendar of Competitions and Reviews for the 2025/26 school year. The City Municipality of Novi Beograd, as a sponsor and partner, provided great assistance in the implementation of the final competition.

The President of the City Municipality of Novi Beograd Ivana Nikolić visited all the competitors, especially the stands with toys for children with cancer, which were made by students from schools to which Rotary clubs donated 3D printers and 2 kilograms of filaments. The Rotary clubs will hand over these toys to the organization NURDOR, which will forward them to children with cancer who are being treated in hospital centers in Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad and Kragujevac.

The organizers of the festival, the Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica and the Rotary Club Ruma, had significant support from Rotary clubs from Serbia, District 2483 Serbia and Montenegro, and especially Rotary clubs and districts from Georgia/USA, which are the main partners in Global Grant projects for the procurement of digital tools for elementary schools and kindergartens.

The students and teachers from the Secondary Technical School "Milenko Brzak Uča" from Ruma, the Roda Educational Center from Belgrade, OUR FRIEND MRROBOT and the Center for New Technologies from Ruma provided enormous technical assistance in the realization of the festival. Valuable prizes for the teachers and each student from the teams that won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were provided by the permanent partner of the festival, the "Klett" Publishing House. The festival was also supported by the "Trayal" Corporation, the "Jaffa" biscuit factory Crvenka, MIKROE from Belgrade and "Markat Media" d.o.o. from Belgrade.

After the final results of all teams were determined, the first three places and valuable prizes were won by:

Drone discipline

1st place – Elementary School "Svetozar Marković", Kragujevac, with 310 points

2nd place – Elementary School "23. oktobar", Golubinci, with 292 points

3rd place – Elementary School "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj", Sremska Mitrovica, with 290 points

mBot robot discipline 2

1st place – Elementary School "Laza K. Lazarević" II, Šabac, with 395 points

2nd place – Elementary School "Jovan Jovanović", Vranje, with 380 points

3rd place – Elementary School "10. oktobar", Subotica, with 375 points



RC Zrenjanin: 26th Rotary Golf Day

Rotary Club Zrenjanin successfully organized the 26th Rotary Golf Day, a traditional humanitarian event that has been gathering Rotarians, golf enthusiasts, club friends and all those who want to support humanitarian activities in the local community with their participation for more than two decades.

The tournament was held on the course of the Golf Club Centar, in an atmosphere marked by sportsmanship, fair play, socializing and dedication to the values of Rotary. Participants had the opportunity to compete in several categories, while the event also represented an opportunity to strengthen friendships and connect people gathered around a common goal - serving the community.

In addition to the competitive part of the program, activities were also organized for visitors who did not participate in the tournament. Those interested had the opportunity to attend a golf demonstration lesson, learn the basics of this sport and try their first shots on the golf course.

A special novelty of this year's program was the promotion of archery. Visitors could learn more about this sport, its technique and equipment, and under professional supervision they had the opportunity to try their hand at archery.

Rotary Club Zrenjanin would like to thank all participants, sponsors, donors, friends of the club, volunteers and hosts from Golf Club Centar for their support and contribution to the successful realization of the event. Their participation allows Rotary Golf Day to continue to achieve its humanitarian mission year after year and to provide support for projects of importance to the local community.

Twenty-six years of continuity of this event confirm that togetherness, friendship and humanity remain permanent values that connect people and initiate positive changes in society. Rotary Club Zrenjanin looks forward to the next meeting and organization of the 27th Rotary Golf Day.



Prishtina

District 2485



Rotary Friendship opens new Opportunities for Service Across Europe and the World

When Rotary friendships grow stronger across borders, communities gain new opportunities for cooperation, understanding, and lasting positive impact service. That spirit came to life on 6 June 2026 in the historic Monastery of Subiaco, where Rotarians from Italy, Albania, Kosovo, and France came together to celebrate a shared commitment to international fellowship and future collaboration.

Hosted by Rotary Club Subiaco (District 2080), the event welcomed members of Rotary Club Prishtina and Rotary Club Tirana East (District 2485), Rotary Club Annecy (District 1780), and fellow Rotarians united by the belief that friendship and knowing each other is the foundation of meaningful service.

The highlight of the event was the signing of a Friendship Agreement between RC Prishtina and RC Subiaco. More than a ceremony and formal document, the agreement establishes a long-term partnership that will encourage cultural exchange, strengthen relationships between Rotarians, and create new opportunities for joint project benefiting communities in both countries.

District 2485 was represented by Governor-elect Florentina Dushi together with Edmond Shyti, Dafina Turkeshi, Lulzim Zeka, Ardiana Bunjaku, Ridvan Ademi, Ardian Hoxha, Arta Haliti, Nita Shala, and Remo Tucci, reflecting the district's strong commitment to building international partnerships.



DPIC Nora Sigecca
District 2485 (Albania&Kosovo)



The programme also celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the host community. Don Fabrizio Messina Cicchetti, Director of the Biblioteca Santa Scolastica and a member of the Arbëresh community, guided participants through the monastery's remarkable collections, including manuscripts dating back to the 10th century. Guests also learned about the monastery's unique place in European history as the home of Italy's first printing press, established in 1464.

Set within one of Europe's most significant historic sites, the meeting demonstrated how Rotary creates connections between people, cultures, and communities. By bringing together members from different countries around shared values of service, fellowship, and peace, the meeting laid the groundwork for future projects that will create positive and sustainable impact across borders.

District 2485 expresses its sincere appreciation to RC Subiaco for its generous hospitality and to every Rotarian whose friendship, openness, and commitment helped transform this meeting into the beginning of a lasting international partnership.



AJO TECH #4 Encourages Inclusive Innovation and Empowers Future Leaders

When knowledge is shared, diverse perspectives are welcomed, and innovation becomes accessible to everyone, communities become stronger and better prepared for the future. That vision was at the heart of the fourth edition of AJO TECH, organised by Rotary Club Macadam Prizren on 20 June 2026. (AJO? Explain the name please – it is important)

The event brought together professionals, entrepreneurs, students, and technology enthusiasts for an evening of learning, collaboration, and meaningful conversation about digital transformation and the growing role of women in technology. The place - the remarkable backdrop of the historic League of Prizren.

The programme created an open platform for exchanging ideas on emerging technologies, innovation, and the skills needed in a rapidly evolving digital world. Particular attention was given to encouraging greater participation and leadership of women in the technology sector, recognising that inclusive innovation leads to stronger businesses, more resilient communities, and broader opportunities for future generations.

Panel speakers Valdete Daku, Vildane Kelmendi, and Katrin Bujari (who are they? Their background?) shared their professional journeys and personal insights, inspiring participants through honest conversations about leadership, career development, lifelong learning, and embracing new opportunities in the digital age.

The event also highlighted the importance of partnerships between Rotary, the business community, and local stakeholders. Special appreciation was extended to Aria Tech (?), whose support reflected a shared commitment to fostering innovation, encouraging talent, and investing in the next generation of professionals.

With each edition, AJO TECH continues to strengthen connections between people, ideas, and opportunities. By creating spaces where knowledge is exchanged, innovation is encouraged, and diverse voices are heard, the initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to vocational excellence, lifelong learning, professional networking, and creating lasting impact through service and collaboration.



District 2485 Looks to the Future Through Innovation, Leadership and Service

When communities embrace innovation, invest in leadership, and work together across professions, they create stronger foundations for lasting change. Guided by this vision, Rotary District 2485 gathered on 27 June 2026 at Hotel Rogner in Tirana for its Second District Conference under the theme "How Technology and Innovation Are Shaping Our Communities."

Hosted by District Governor Arben Dushi, the conference brought together Rotarians from across Albania and Kosovo alongside leaders from the fields of technology, business, and innovation. Through thought-provoking presentations and interactive discussions, participants explored how technological progress can support sustainable community development, inspire new partnerships, and enhance Rotary's capacity to serve.

The conference was honoured by the participation of Rotary International President's Representative RMC Region 24 Sunsica Bulat Wursching who recognised the remarkable progress made by District 2485 during only its third Rotary year. She encouraged Rotarians to continue building an inclusive, forward-looking district where service, fellowship, and innovation work together to create meaningful and lasting impact.

A particularly significant moment was the presentation of the Rotary International Major Donor recognition to Governor Arben Dushi in appreciation of his exceptional commitment to The Rotary Foundation. His generosity reflects Rotary's belief that investing in community service today creates opportunities and hope for communities around the world tomorrow.

Reflecting on the 2025–2026 Rotary year, Governor Dushi celebrated the district's achievements while acknowledging the dedication of Rotarians whose collaboration, friendship, and shared commitment have strengthened Rotary across Albania and Kosovo. His review highlighted that sustainable impact is not created by individual efforts, but through people working together with a common purpose. The conference concluded with a Gala Evening and the District Leadership Handover Ceremony, marking the transition of leadership to District Governor Florentina Dushi for the 2026–2027 Rotary year.

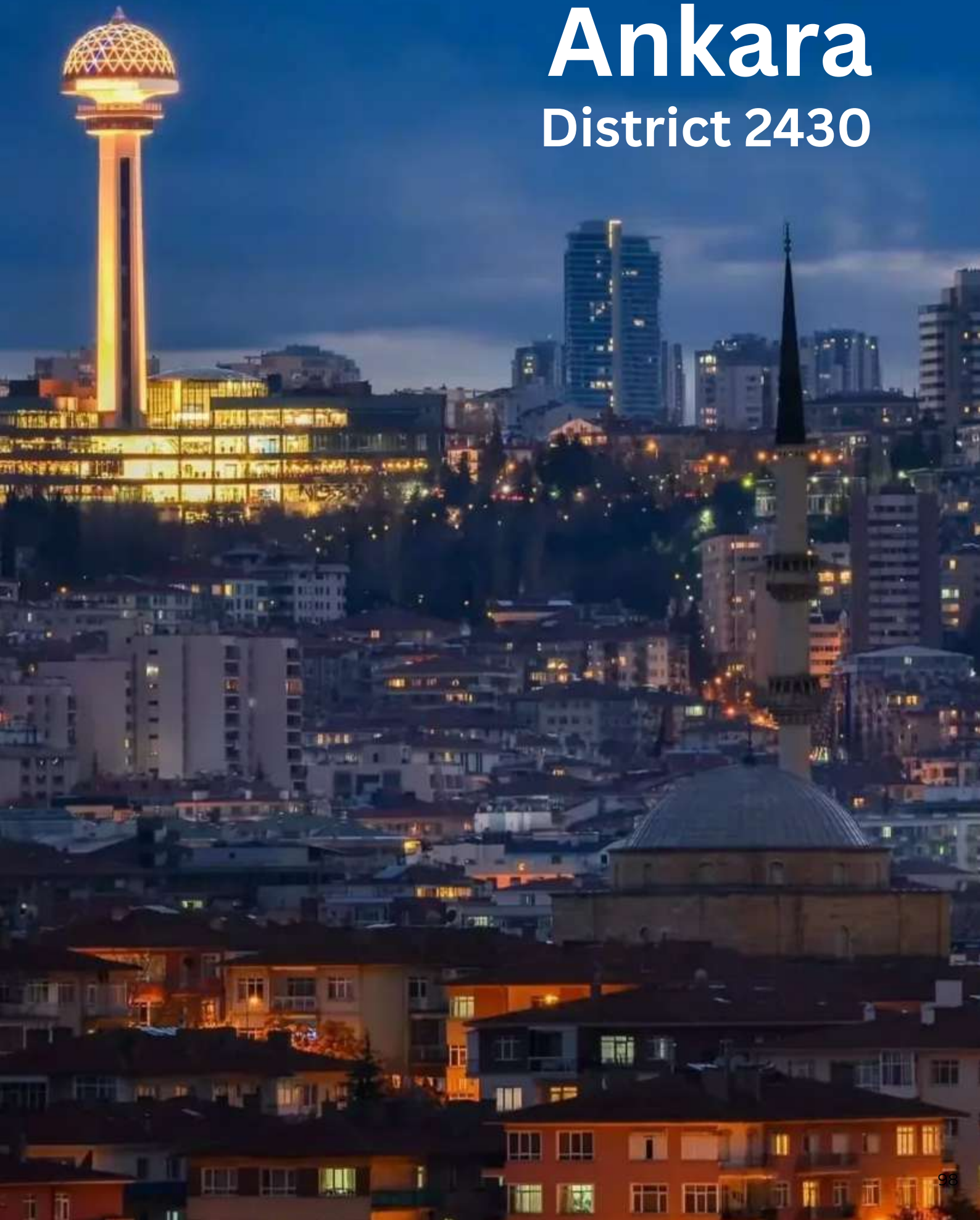
The following morning, Governor Florentina Dushi convened the first meeting of the new District Committee, establishing priorities and beginning the collaborative work that will guide the district throughout the year ahead.

As District 2485 enters a new Rotary year, its members – Rotarians and Rotaractors, are united by a shared commitment to innovation, service, and fellowship—working together to strengthen communities and create lasting impact across Albania and Kosovo.



Ankara

District 2430





LET'S CARRY THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF ANATOLIAN HERITAGE INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER.



As the Anatolian Archaeology Rotary Club; we kindly ask you to recommend individuals who are interested in archaeology, art history, and the preservation of cultural heritage, and whom you believe can add value to our club with their knowledge and experience in these fields.



We would be pleased to invite your recommended candidates as guests to our meetings so they can get to know our club closer and share our fellowship.



Let's build the future together by preserving the past.



baskan@anadoluarkeolojisirotary.org

A Story of Friendship from Baku; The Birth of the Rotaract Club of Baku Khazar

Some journeys are more than simply traveling from one city to another; they are opportunities to witness the birth of an idea, the spark of hope, and the foundation of a new generation of leaders. Our visit to Baku, the heart of Azerbaijan, became a memorable occasion where friendship and the spirit of Rotary came together for District 2430.

Following the official program, the Charter Presentation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Baku Khazar was held during a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Baku International and the Rotary Club of Baku Khazar. Filled with enthusiasm and a strong commitment to serving their community, these young leaders officially joined the Rotary family. The ceremony took place in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, reflecting the outstanding hospitality of the Rotary family in Azerbaijan.

The establishment of a new Rotaract club represents far more than the addition of another club. It strengthens young leadership within our region while bringing fresh ideas, energy, and enthusiasm into Rotary's global network of service. The Rotaract Club of Baku Khazar is already preparing projects that will create meaningful value for both the local community and the international Rotary community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our District Officers, our Assistant Governor Ali Apaydin, District Governor Can Çığırman, and to the new members of the club in Baku for their dedication and contributions throughout this journey.

Our visit to Baku reminded us once again that the true strength of Rotary lies in friendships that transcend borders and in people united by a shared purpose.

As the District 2430 family, we warmly welcome the Rotaract Club of Baku Khazar and wish its members every success in the years of service ahead.



A New Beginning on the Journey of Service Bilecik Rotary Club

Every new Rotary club represents far more than the establishment of another club; it symbolises the growth of service, fellowship, and leadership in a new community. The chartering of the Bilecik Rotary Club is a fine example of this spirit, enriching our Rotary family.

In Bilecik, one of Türkiye's historically and culturally significant cities, the founding members came together with a shared commitment to making a lasting contribution to their community. By embracing Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," they have taken an important step towards creating meaningful and sustainable impact.

The addition of the Bilecik Rotary Club to the Rotary family will strengthen our district's capacity for service while opening the door to new projects, new friendships, and new opportunities for collaboration. We are confident that the Club will make a meaningful difference across a wide range of areas, including education, environmental stewardship, community health, and youth development.

We extend our sincere thanks to our District Membership Committee, our District Officers, our Governor's Representative, our Charter President Özge Öztürk, all Rotarians who supported the chartering process, and the distinguished charter members of the Bilecik Rotary Club. We wish the Club many years of successful, productive, and inspiring service within Rotary.

May the chartering of the Bilecik Rotary Club mark not only a milestone for today, but also the beginning of a lasting legacy for future generations. We firmly believe that Rotary's spirit of fellowship, service, and solidarity will continue to flourish and grow stronger in Bilecik for many years to come.



A New Beginning for the Evrensel Family: The Charter of Evrensel Rotaract Club

Evrensel Rotaract Club... What a proud and meaningful name. As Evrensel Rotary Club approached its second anniversary, we found ourselves celebrating not only our own journey, but also the birth of a new club within our family. For a club that was still young itself, this was a remarkable milestone. While many newly established clubs were still focused on finding their footing, strengthening their identity, and building sustainability, Evrensel Rotary Club took a bold step forward by bringing a new Rotaract club to life.

This journey began with a vision planted during Membership and New Club Development Month, inspired by our 2018–2019 District 2430 Governor, Altan Arslan. His belief in this idea, and his continued guidance along the way, were invaluable. We are deeply grateful for the path he helped illuminate.

What made this moment even more special was its timing. On the very day Evrensel Rotary Club celebrated its own founding anniversary, we also witnessed the birth of Evrensel Rotaract Club. I could not imagine a more meaningful gift for our second year.

After a challenging yet inspiring process, Evrensel Rotaract Club was formed with 23 bright young members. Among them were RYLA participants, young leaders, children of Rotarians, former Interact leaders, and young people who already carried the spirit of Rotary in their hearts. They may live in different cities and countries, but they are united by a shared desire to serve, to learn, and to create positive change.

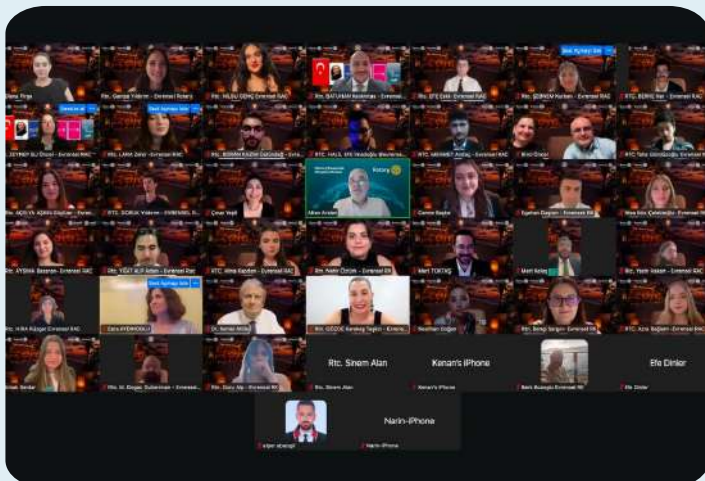
These young members deserved more than congratulations. They deserved our continuous support, encouragement, and mentorship. We had to show them that they were not walking this path alone. I have no doubt that the Evrensel Rotary family will stand beside them with sincerity and dedication.

The online nature of Evrensel Rotaract Club also made this story unique. In today's world, service, friendship, and leadership are no longer limited by geography.

A digital club can bring together young people across borders, time zones, and disciplines. This is not a limitation; it is a strength. Evrensel Rotaract Club represented a new model of connection: one built on purpose rather than place, and on shared values rather than physical proximity. I believe this young club will bring fresh energy, innovative ideas, and a new perspective to both Rotary and Rotaract. Of course, behind this success stood a dedicated team.

To our Governor, past district leaders, Rotaract committees, district representatives, Evrensel Rotary members, and everyone who contributed to this journey—thank you. On that day, we were not only chartering a new club. We were celebrating our belief in the future of Rotary.

Congratulations, dear Evrensel Rotaract Club. May your path be open, your friendships strong, and your service everlasting.





***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

District Governors' Corner

Stefanos Anastasopoulos
District Governor 2025-2026
Rotary International
District 2475 - Greece
Monthly Message June



Dear Members of Our Great Rotary Family,
As the Rotary year draws to an end, I am filled with profound gratitude. It has been a unique honor and privilege to serve as Governor of RID 2475 and to have had the opportunity to travel throughout every corner of our country, visit our clubs, listen to their thoughts, concerns, dreams, and aspirations, and witness firsthand the strength that Rotary can achieve when its members unite around a common purpose. Throughout this year, we had the joy of seeing remarkable projects come to fruition, new partnerships take shape, new clubs be established, new members join the Rotary family, and the voice of our District grow stronger both in Greece and internationally.

Yet, looking back, I realize that the true value of this year does not lie in the projects we completed, the events we organized, or the numbers we achieved. It lies in the people. RIP Francesco Arezzo reminded us in his farewell message that Rotary is not something we simply belong to—it is something we do. Indeed, this is the very essence of Rotary.

We are not spectators. We are people of action. People who choose to serve. People who choose to care. People who choose to leave the world a little better than they found it.

This year, we proved that when we are truly United for Good, there are no limits to what we can accomplish.

Yet our greatest achievement was not the projects we delivered. It was the relationships we built. It was not the funds we raised. It was the trust we earned.

It was not the recognition we received. It was the hearts we touched.

Because at the end of every journey, what remains are not titles or positions. What remains are the people—the friends we made, the lives we influenced, the smiles we created, and the hope we shared.

That is our greatest legacy.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank everyone who walked this beautiful journey with me: our Club Presidents, Assistant Governors, District Committees, District Officers, donors, sponsors, Friends of Rotary, and every Rotarian who generously offered their time, knowledge, energy, and compassion.

No success belongs to one individual. Every achievement is the result of collective effort.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my family, who shared this journey with me. To my children, Rotarian Fokas and Rotarian Tatiana, thank you for your love, patience, and understanding throughout a year filled with countless commitments and absences.

Above all, I wish to thank my wife, Rotarian Rachel—the person who stood beside me every step of the way. She supported me, encouraged me, organized, coordinated, planned, assisted, and shared every challenge and every joy. If this year can be considered successful, her contribution was invaluable. For that, I owe her my deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

As we now pass the baton, I sincerely wish every success to my dear friend and incoming District Governor, Charalambos. I am confident that he will lead our District to even greater achievements, because Rotary is an unbroken chain of service, continuity, and fellowship. Each of us adds our own link and passes on to the next a District that is stronger, more mature, and better prepared to serve.

I leave this office filled with gratitude. Richer in friendships. Richer in experiences. Richer in love. And with the certainty that Rotary's greatest strength does not lie in its buildings, its programs, or its institutions. It lies in its people. Because, in the end, our true legacy is not the projects we leave behind. It is the people we inspire. The lives we touch. The hearts we bring together.

With deep appreciation, love, and gratitude,

Stefanos Anastasopoulos
District Governor 2025–2026
Rotary International District 2475

Charalampos Tinginagkas
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2475 - Greece
Monthly Message July



Dear fellow Rotarians,

There are truths that do not change with time. One of them is that the humanity of a society is reflected in the way it supports and cares for its mothers and children — the people who hold the future in their hands. Maternal and Child Health is not simply an area of social policy or another field of intervention. It is the foundation on which the future is built. It is the starting point of every human journey.

Where a mother feels safe, supported and protected, and where a child begins life with care, dignity and hope, the conditions are created for a world that is fairer, more stable and more humane.

In the world of Rotary, care for mothers and children is deeply connected with the very meaning of lasting service.

And let us make no mistake: this is not only about meeting an immediate need. It is about creating the conditions that allow life to flourish. It is about the belief that real change often begins in the earliest and most vulnerable moments of human existence.

In a world that continues to face inequalities, crises and challenges, the protection of motherhood and childhood becomes even more important.

It reminds us that progress is not measured only by numbers, technological achievements or economic indicators. It is measured by our ability to stand beside people when they need us most.

It is measured by the quality of care we provide and by the value we place on human life from its very first moment.

Rotary, as a global network of People of Action, remains firmly committed to the belief that great change happens when people unite around a common purpose.

Care for mothers and children is not only a humanitarian priority. It is an act of trust in the future. It is a living recognition of the value of every person and of the power a community has to pass on hope.

As we mark the month dedicated to Maternal and Child Health, let us remember that the most meaningful impact is not always the most visible.

Very often, it begins quietly — at the start of a life — and continues to shape families, communities and entire generations.

This is where the true value of service lies.

This is where lasting impact is born.

Thank you.,

Charalampos Tinginagkas
District Governor 2026-27
RID 2475

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

Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

The time has come for me to address you with my final monthly message of this remarkable Rotary year. I do so with great excitement and profound gratitude for the unforgettable memories we have created together.

June is traditionally dedicated to Rotary Fellowship. Let us never forget that Rotary began with the friendship of four individuals who came together in Chicago with the vision of mutual support, integrity and shared values. This genuine human connection became the foundation upon which Rotary was built. When we work together, united by trust and common causes, we truly transform the world around us.

The past year has shown that when we are "United for Good", there is no challenge we cannot overcome together. A wonderful testament to our collective efforts was our 19th District Conference, held in Burgas from 15 to 17 May. There, we witnessed the full strength and energy of our Rotary family brought together in one place.

The emotional highlight of the conference was undoubtedly our young people. They emerged as true winners in the various competitions and as genuine ambassadors of change. Through their certificates, photographs, videos, written works and, above all, their remarkable sensitivity, talent and strong personal convictions, they reminded us that the younger generation is not merely our future—it already has a powerful voice. And that voice deserves, and must be, heard.

Our foremost responsibility is to lead by example through our actions, supporting their initiatives, fostering their leadership skills, and ensuring that these exceptional young people continue to strengthen and develop Rotary in Bulgaria.



As we approach the end of this Rotary year, it is important to reflect on the words of Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, who reminds us that Rotary is not simply something we attend—it is something we do. We are not, and have never been, spectators. We take action, and through that action we transform both our communities and ourselves. Our strength lies in our shared purpose and in our ability to work side by side to create lasting, positive change.

During this final month of the Rotary year, we have the opportunity to turn our words into meaningful action. Through our contributions to The Rotary Foundation, we can support many people who are genuinely in need. Let us remember that every donation returns to us many times over through funding for major, sustainable projects made possible by Global Grants. Every contribution to the End Polio programme is another valuable step towards the complete and permanent eradication of polio worldwide. Let us conclude this successful year with generosity and a clear vision for the future.

The Rotary wheel never stops turning. Every ending marks a new beginning. With great pride and complete confidence, I pass the baton to our incoming District Governor, Alexander Petrov of the Rotary Club of Harmanli. I am confident that under his leadership our District will reach even greater achievements.

The coming Rotary year will be guided by a new and inspiring message: "Create Lasting Impact." To leave a lasting legacy is to give a part of ourselves, to create sustainable change in education, healthcare and our communities, and to inspire those who follow us to continue the journey.

Dear friends, as we celebrate the achievements of this Rotary year and give the next one a strong beginning, I warmly invite you to our final major District event of the year: the Ceremonial Passing of the Collars, which will take place on 27 June 2026 in Kyustendil.

Let us come together to celebrate our Rotary fellowship, express our gratitude to one another, and mark together the symbolic transition into a new Rotary year.

Thank you for the honour, the trust, and for dedicating your time, energy and commitment to our wonderful organisation. It has been an immense privilege to serve alongside you in the service of good.

*With respect and friendship,
Plamen Tsvetkov
District Governor 2025–2026
Rotary International – District 2482*



Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message July

Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

On 1 July, we begin a new Rotary year. It is a time when we take on new responsibilities and continue serving our communities. Each new Rotary year gives us an opportunity to build on what has already been achieved and to leave behind results that will continue to make a difference for years to come.

For me, this day is filled with gratitude, humility and a deep sense of responsibility. Gratitude to all the friends who have placed their trust in me over the years, supported me and walked beside me throughout my Rotary journey; humility before the generations of Rotarians who built District 2482 Bulgaria; and responsibility for the future that we will create together.

The message of Rotary International President Olayinka Babalola for the 2026–2027 Rotary year is **"Create Lasting Impact."** It is an invitation to ask ourselves some important questions:

What do we want to leave behind?

- Stronger clubs;
- More united communities;
- More people who recognise the power of Rotary;
- More partnerships.

True impact is not measured by the number of projects we complete or by statistics. It is measured by the respect our communities have for Rotary, by the lives we have touched, and by the friendships we have built. That is the most valuable legacy we can leave behind.



It is no coincidence that the first month of the new Rotary year is dedicated to Maternal and Child Health. Every child carries the future within them, and every mother deserves safety, care and support.

A few months ago, life gave me its greatest blessing—I became a father. Since then, I have come to appreciate even more deeply how important security and a good start in life truly are. There is no more meaningful investment than investing in the health and future of the next generation.

Through causes such as these, Rotary changes the world—day by day, generation after generation. Rotary changes the world not only through major projects, but also through the thousands of small acts that, every single day, bring hope and create opportunities for a better life.

This Rotary year carries another special significance. In less than twelve months, District 2482 Bulgaria will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its establishment. For twenty years, Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors have been building clubs, delivering projects and leaving a lasting mark on their communities. It is now our responsibility to build on those achievements and pass them on to those who will follow us.

Throughout this year, we will work to strengthen our clubs, develop sustainable projects, grow our membership, raise Rotary's public profile and further increase our support for The Rotary Foundation. Above all, however, we will work together, because the strength of Rotary has never been found in any one individual—it has always been found in people who choose to stand shoulder to shoulder in selfless service to their communities.

Thank you to every one of you for the time, heart and energy you devote to Rotary.

Thank you to your families, who share this service with us. Thank you to everyone who believes that doing good truly matters.

Dear friends,

This year, let us not simply strive to do more, but to leave a lasting impact. Let us create lasting impact together and build a legacy of which future generations of Rotarians will be proud.

*Yours in Rotary,
Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026–2027
District 2482 Bulgaria*



Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary International
District 2485 Albania & Kosovo
Monthly Message July



As we begin the 2026–2027 Rotary year, I am deeply honored to serve as District Governor of Rotary District 2490. This year holds special significance as we continue building the future of our young district and embrace inspirational theme, Create Lasting Impact.

Creating lasting impact means more than completing projects—it means transforming lives, strengthening communities, and ensuring that our service continues to make a difference long after our work is done. Together, we have the opportunity to inspire hope, foster meaningful partnerships, and develop sustainable initiatives that reflect Rotary's enduring values.

July is Maternal and Child Health Month, one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus. It reminds us that every mother deserves access to quality healthcare, and every child deserves the opportunity to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential. By supporting maternal and child health, we invest in healthier families, stronger communities, and a brighter future for generations to come. I encourage every club to consider how its service can contribute to this vital mission.

As our district enters its third year, I am especially humbled to serve as its first female District Governor. I accept this responsibility with gratitude and a deep commitment to serving alongside each of you. The strength of our district lies in the dedication, diversity, and generosity of our members. Together, we can continue to grow Rotary's impact across our communities and beyond.

Let this new Rotary year be one of collaboration, innovation, and purposeful service. May every project we undertake, every partnership we build, and every life we touch reflect our shared commitment to creating lasting impact.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Rotary and for the privilege of serving with you.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027
District 2485 Albania Kosovo

Peter Ashdjian
District Governor 2025–2026
Rotary International
District 2452
Monthly Message June



My dear Rotarian family,

June is Rotary Fellowships Month, a time during which Rotary celebrates the friendships, connections, and **spirit of fellowship** that unite Rotarians across the world.

And as this Rotary year gradually approaches its conclusion, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the extraordinary journey we have shared together across District 2452.

Throughout this year, I had the privilege of travelling across our District, visiting clubs, meeting Rotarians, witnessing projects, sharing moments of fellowship, and experiencing firsthand the incredible **strength, resilience, diversity, and humanity** of our **Rotary family**.

And everywhere I went, I witnessed something truly inspiring:
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things for others.

Not for positions.
Not for recognition.
Not for personal gain.

But simply because they cared.

This year reminded us that Rotary is far more than meetings, titles, or ceremonies.

Rotary is humanity in action.

It is friendship beyond borders.

It is compassion during difficult times.

It is service offered quietly, sincerely, and selflessly.

Throughout this year, parts of our District faced moments of uncertainty, hardship, conflict, and humanitarian challenges. And during those difficult moments, **our Rotary family stood together with solidarity, compassion, and support for one another.**

Across our District, Rotarians and Rotaractors mobilized humanitarian initiatives, service projects, and Global Grants that provided support, relief, education, medical assistance, infrastructure, hope, and dignity to communities and individuals affected by war, displacement, economic hardship, and difficult living conditions.

What made me most proud was not only the impact of these projects themselves, but the spirit behind them.

The willingness of Rotarians to stand beside people in moments of suffering.
To support one another across borders.
And to remind **our communities** that they **are not alone**.

But beyond any figures or projects, what touched me most throughout this year was the human side of Rotary.

The friendships created.
The support offered to one another.
The smiles shared.
The hope restored.
The lives quietly touched every single day through acts of kindness and service.

This Rotary year also reminded us that even in a world often divided by conflict, uncertainty, and fear, **Rotary continues** to build bridges of **understanding, cooperation, and peace**.
And nowhere is that spirit more visible than within District 2452.

Despite our different cultures, languages, traditions, and realities, we continue to stand together as one Rotary family, united through shared values, shared purpose, and shared humanity.

My dear friends,

Serving as your District Governor has been one of the greatest honours of my life.

This journey has changed me personally, emotionally, and spiritually, and I will forever remain grateful for the friendship, trust, kindness, and support you have shown me throughout this unforgettable year.

I would also like to once again express my sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in our District Conference in Larnaca and contributed to the beautiful spirit of fellowship, friendship, and unity that we experienced together.

As we now prepare for the beginning of a new Rotary year, I would like to express **my full support, confidence**, and **warmest wishes** to **Governor-elect May Monla Chmaitilly** as she prepares to officially begin her governorship on the 1st of July.

I know that she will serve our District with dedication, strength, compassion, and love for Rotary, and I would like to personally assure her that I will continue standing by her side and supporting her in every possible way.

And I ask all of you, my dear Rotarian family, to **embrace and support Governor May** in the same beautiful way you embraced and supported me throughout this year.

Because the strength of our District has always been our unity, our friendship, and our willingness to stand beside one another.

As this Rotary year slowly comes to its conclusion, I ask all of us to continue carrying forward the spirit that united us throughout this journey:

To continue **serving with compassion.**

To continue **leading with humility.**

And to continue **remembering the human impact behind everything we do.**

Because, my friends...

We are Rotary.

We are people of action.

United for Good.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Peter Ashdjian

District Governor Rotary Year 25-26



May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary International
District 2452
Monthly Message July

Second Woman to Head Rotary Across Nine Countries

Leading with Impact. Serving with Passion.

Rotary District 2452 has officially announced the commencement of May Monla Chmaitilly's term as District Governor for the 2026–2027 Rotary year, marking a historic milestone as she becomes the first Lebanese woman—and only the second woman in the District's history—to serve in this role.

District 2452 encompasses Rotary and Rotaract clubs across nine countries, and throughout her term Governor Chmaitilly will provide leadership to thousands of Rotarians and Rotaractors committed to advancing Rotary's mission of service, peacebuilding, leadership development and sustainable community impact.

Her theme for the year, "Leading with Impact. Serving with Passion.", reflects a commitment to strengthening clubs while delivering meaningful, measurable results.

"This Rotary year is not about doing more," Governor Chmaitilly said. "It is about doing what we do better—with greater impact, stronger purpose and a clearer vision."

"Together, we will build stronger clubs, inspire more engaged members, empower more young leaders and create positive, lasting change in the communities we serve."

Her strategic priorities include strengthening club vitality, fostering a culture of belonging, engaging young professionals, Rotaractors and Rotary program alumni, expanding support for The Rotary Foundation and the global effort to eradicate polio, investing in youth leadership and peacebuilding, enhancing Rotary's public image, and promoting innovation, strategic planning and responsive community service.



Governor Chmaitilly described her appointment as both a personal milestone and a reflection of Rotary's commitment to inclusive, service-driven leadership.

"I accept this responsibility with gratitude, humility and confidence in what we can achieve together. This is a shared journey for every Rotarian and Rotaractor in our District as we lead with purpose, serve with passion and leave a legacy of lasting impact."

About Rotary District 2452

District 2452 brings together Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Armenia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. District clubs implement humanitarian projects in health, education, peacebuilding, economic development, environmental protection and youth empowerment.

About Rotary

Rotary is a global network of more than 1.4 million members in over 45,000 clubs dedicated to promoting peace, fighting disease, supporting education, providing clean water, protecting the environment and strengthening communities worldwide.



END
POLIO
NOW

End Polio Now Coordinator



Nikola Božić

Rotary E-Club of Serbia, D2483

EPNC 2024-2027, Region 25

Nikola Božić, PDG, is a member of **Rotary E-Club of Serbia** in **RID 2483**.

He is a member of the **Cadre of Technical Advisers for The Rotary Foundation**, specializing in **Basic Education and Literacy and Environment** and Rotary International learning facilitator at the International Assembly.

Nikola is the Director at the **Faculty of Applied Ecology in Belgrade**, Serbia, and a Senior Education Consultant.

Officially reported **WPV1** and **cVDPV** cases as of 23 June 2026

Wild poliovirus (WPV)

- Total global WPV1 cases in **2025: 52**
- Total global WPV1: cases in **2026: 9** (*compared with 14 for the same period in 2025*)

The number of wild polio cases for **2026** as of June 23, 2026, is 9.

There were **3 in Pakistan** and **6 in Afghanistan**.

The total number of wild polio cases for **2025** were 52.

There were **31 in Pakistan** and **21 in Afghanistan**.

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases

- Total global cVDPV cases in **2025: 246**
- Total global cVDPV cases in **2026: 71** (*compared with 77 for the same period in 2025*)

cVDPV stands for **circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus**.

It can appear when the weakened virus from the oral polio vaccine circulates for too long in communities with low vaccination coverage and changes over time.

Simple message: cVDPV is a sign that more children need to be vaccinated.

Polio Talks: Conversation over the Continents

01. June. 2026

Special **Polio talks** edition with TRF Trustees "**Conversation over the Continents**" held on Monday, June 1, 2026. This special global session brought together Trustees of The Rotary Foundation from multiple continents to reflect on the current state of worldwide polio eradication efforts, **the challenges** of the "last mile," and the continued role of Rotary leadership, advocacy, and fundraising.

We were honored to welcome as panelists: **TRF Trustee Vicki Puliz, TRF Trustee Ijeoma Pearl Okoro, TRF Trustee Dennis Shore, TRF Incoming Trustee Ananthanarayanan Venkatesh**. The session was hosted by Nikola Bozic, End Polio Now Coordinator for Rotary International Zone 21 and Polio Talks Host, as part of the ongoing Polio Talks platform, created to keep the conversation about polio continuous, global, and meaningful throughout the Rotary year.

During the discussion, the Trustees shared regional and global perspectives on the final phase of polio eradication. Key topics included the importance of government involvement, sustainable funding, field worker fatigue, the risk of complacency, and the need for strong surveillance and continued vigilance, **even in countries that have been polio-free for decades**.

A clear message emerged from the conversation: **the last mile requires sustained commitment from all of us**.



The panel emphasized that Rotary **must** continue to:

- **keep advocacy and awareness strong**, so that polio does not disappear from our priorities before it disappears from the world;
- **engage governments** at all levels and encourage national ownership of eradication efforts;
- **strengthen institutional advocacy**, using Rotary's credibility and network to protect and expand political and financial support for eradication;
- **support and motivate field workers**, recognizing the pressure and fatigue they face;
- **promote initiatives such as the PolioPlus Society** to maintain long-term member engagement;
- ensure **continuity in leadership** by preparing successors and maintaining commitment through role transitions;
- **strengthen monitoring**, evaluation, and surveillance systems in endemic and post-endemic countries;
- deepen **partnerships with governments**, NGOs, and international organizations;
- **adapt** communication and innovation **strategies** to keep the polio message relevant for both new and long-term supporters;
- prepare to celebrate and document the legacy of polio eradication as one of **Rotary's greatest contributions to humanity**.

A particularly important contribution came from PRIVP Johrita Solari, who shared valuable information and insight on Rotary's advocacy efforts with institutions in the United States. Her intervention highlighted how sustained advocacy and strong institutional engagement helped ensure the continuation of financial support for polio eradication at the same level as before, a powerful reminder of how Rotary's voice can influence public policy and protect critical funding.

One practical message sent from this Polio Talks session for district and club leaders was especially important: during district visits and club conversations, we **must** continue to clearly **communicate the importance of club contributions to PolioPlus** and help ensure that this message leads to concrete action at club level.

This Polio Talks session once again confirmed the importance of connecting Rotary leaders across regions and continents, sharing different perspectives, and translating global commitment into local action. It also reminded us that advocacy is not abstract, when it is persistent, coordinated, and credible, it can directly contribute to sustaining the resources needed to finish the job.

Watch the recording here: <https://youtu.be/ZczopFBoF4g>.



INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Intercountry Committees

Uniting Rotarians Across Borders

The International Rotary ICC Forum & World Peace Forum 2026 IN THE NAME OF PEACE

How a Historic Gathering in Lombardy, Italy redefined the boundaries of Modern Rotary Diplomacy By Elena Janniki ARPIC Zone 21B District 2475, Greece

The International Rotary Inter-Country Committees (ICC) Forum took place from **May 28 to 31, 2026, in Italy**, spanning the northern cities of Bergamo, Como, Lecco and Milano.

This international event served as a major platform for cross-border diplomacy, strategic environmental action plans, and a historic leadership transition. The event convened Rotarians and international delegates to address a foundational pillar of the Rotary experience: advancing peace through cross-cultural understanding, structured dialogue, mediation, and international cooperation. Bringing together hundreds of Rotarians from over thirty countries, the forum culminated in the ICC World Peace Forum on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Nathalie Huyghebaert the Outgoing President ICC, 2024– 2026, brought her two-year mandate to a successful conclusion at the Bergamo event. Her leadership emphasized decentralized, non-bureaucratic, and highly active multicultural networks. She underlined that the efficacy of the ICCs relies on strategic succession planning, shared accountability, and leadership models that leave a permanent operational blueprint for future administrations.

Annemarie Mostert the Incoming President ICC, 2026–2028, introduced a strategic focus on expanding ICC operations across fragmented global borders, aiming to transition the organization from reactive crisis response to a structured, proactive institution of citizen diplomacy. The goal for 2026–2028 is to build a structured, proactive framework of citizen diplomacy. This strategy emphasizes installing institutional dialogues and permanent cross-border agreements in areas vulnerable to social and political fragmentation.

The key initiatives under the new leadership will include expanding peace corridors in Southern Africa and Eastern Europe, as well as fostering environmental peacebuilding through partnerships like EndPlasticSoup. Recognizing that environmental degradation is a primary driver of modern resource conflict, the ICC Executive Council signed a formal Cooperation Action Plan (2026–2028) with the global EndPlasticSoup movement. This strategic initiative commits ICCs worldwide to tangible interventions aimed at eliminating microplastics and plastic pollution from global waterways, charting a green path forward for international service.

Finally, in a great vote of confidence, the General Assembly elected **Alessandro Pastorini the ICC National Chair for Italy, Malta, and San Marino**, as the **President of ICC Executive Council for the 2028–2030** biennium, ensuring that his visionary regional model will soon guide the entire international network.



The International Rotary ICC Forum & World Peace Forum 2026 IN THE NAME OF PEACE

Frontline Perspectives & Intergenerational Leadership

The forum transitioned to operational realities with a presentation **by Monica Napoli, journalist and Sky TG24 correspondent**. Reporting on the frontiers of the Mediterranean and European borders, Napoli brought a data-driven yet deeply humanized journalistic lens to geopolitical crises. She underscored that reporting on conflict and migration is vital to preventing international indifference, noting that accurate journalism prevents human tragedies from being reduced to mere statistics.

An intergenerational panel titled **“Rotaract/Rotary/ICCs – Together for Peace,” moderated via Zoom by Emil Moawad, introduced the strategic vision of emerging leaders Ezgi Batu, Laura Sasse, and Elise Nassim**. This session highlighted the necessity of integrating the Rotaract network into Rotary structures. The panelists demonstrated that long-term peace strategies require the innovation, technological adaptability, and moral clarity of the next generation to remain viable.

Philosophical Foundations & Practical Mediation

The cultural and academic highlight featured a keynote lecture by **philosopher Professor Donatella Di Cesare, entitled “The Responsibility of Peace. A Common Commitment.”** Professor Di Cesare deconstructed sentimental definitions of peace, reframing it as a rigorous ethical and political responsibility. She argued that peace is far more than the temporary absence of military conflict; it is an active, demanding policy of human recognition that requires societies to systematically reject the normalization of violence.

Richard Knowlton, Member of the national ICC Coordination Committee for Italy, San Marino and Malta, and **Professor Giorgio Del Zanna, of the Community of Sant'Egidio**, held a discussion on the theme “Mediation begins with us”. Professor del Zanna brought to the Forum the experience of a community that for decades has been active in processes of dialogue, reconciliation and international mediation. The message that emerged in the discussion was powerful: **mediation is not only a diplomatic technique, but an inner posture**. It begins in the way we listen, in the words we choose, in the daily conflicts we decide not to fuel, and in the willingness to create spaces where only walls seem to exist. **Peace, before becoming a treaty, must become a style**.

Civil Diplomacy in Fragmented Geopolitics

The final panel session, “Peace in a Fragmented World: The Strategic Role of Civil Diplomacy and Global Networks,” was introduced by **DGN Michel Davoudian**. A distinguished panel featuring **Mazin Qumsiyeh, Shab Elawar, Peace Fellow Elise Nassim, and Ambassador Daniele Verga** analyzed the limits of traditional state-level negotiations in a fractured global landscape. The consensus reached highlighted that modern conflict resolution requires robust civil diplomacy networks—encompassing academic institutions, NGOs, local communities, and international bodies like the ICCs—to effectively build trust where formal diplomacy stalemates.



The International Rotary ICC Forum & World Peace Forum 2026 IN THE NAME OF PEACE

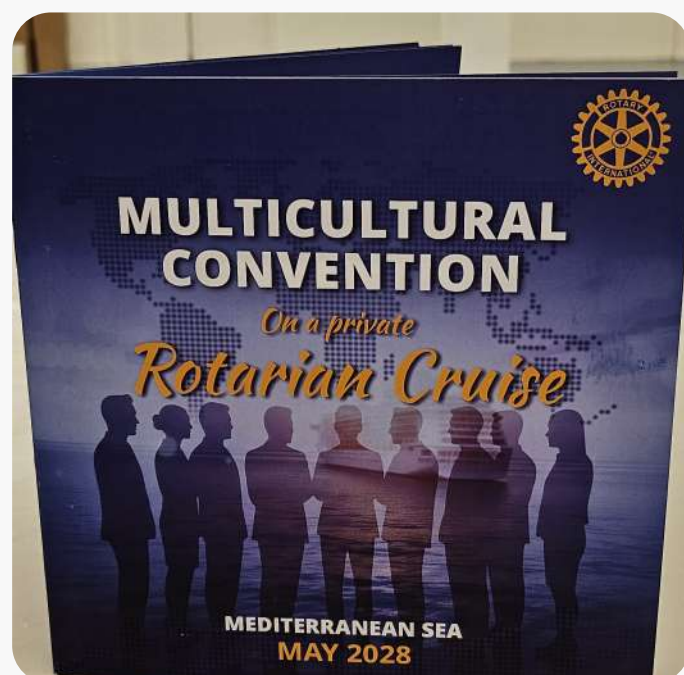
Recognition & Organizational Excellence

The forum concluded with two high-profile awards ceremonies emphasizing organizational merit and the power of exemplary leadership:

-**The ICC Peace Prize:** Managed by **Giuseppe Mosci (ICC Secretary)** alongside **PDG Annemarie Mouchet and Nathalie Huyghebaert**, this ceremony formally recognized individuals whose strategic initiatives have delivered measurable peace outcomes, reinforcing the organizational value of visible role models.

-**The ICC Special Awards:** Led by **Michel Davoudian**, this session extended formal institutional gratitude to key contributors whose work ensures the **vitality of the Inter-Country Committees**. Within an international body, these recognitions serve a vital corporate function: preserving institutional memory, validating high-impact service, and strengthening global organizational alignment.

Stepping into the role of **President of ICC Executive Council for the 2026–2028** biennium, **Annemarie Mostert** brings a sophisticated corporate and humanitarian perspective. Her leadership centers on **fostering "Positive Peace."** She defines this not merely as the absence of war, but as an active, respectful partnership built across cultures and borders. Her mandate is clear: transition the ICC from a reactive network into an indispensable, institutionalized pillar of Rotary's global peace architecture.





LEADERS' TOOLBOX

One practical guide for clubs and district teams

ONE PAGE. ONE SKILL. ONE ACTION.



What is...?



How to...



Practical Guides



Quick Answers

*A practical chapter for ideas,
tools and human-friendly guidance.*

The Structure of RI at Multi-district level

What is a Zone? What is a Region

A few days ago I discovered that the answer to the question "**WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL?**" leads to confused bewilderment even among rotarians who have been members of their clubs for more than 5 years. The structure of our organization is generally known only up to District level.

WHAT COMES ABOVE THAT?

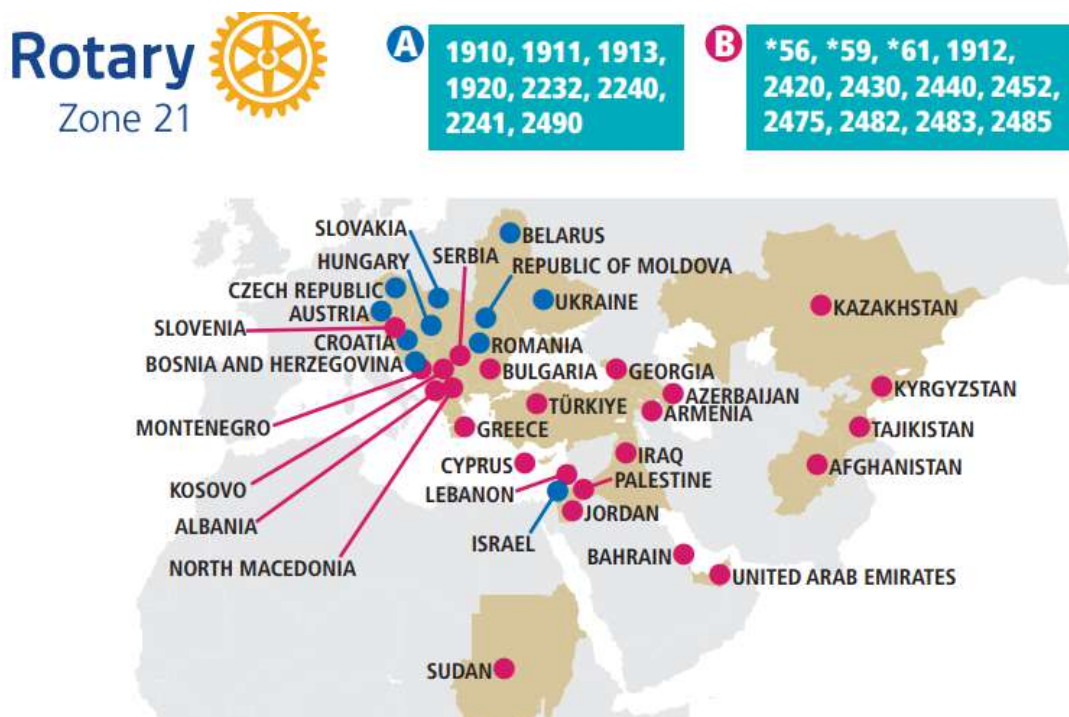
Further in this text I shall adopt a conversational style rather than strict definitions. Terminology comes after understanding.

Members of RI are the clubs – Rotary and Rotaract. Rotarians in them are members of their clubs. There is a peculiarity in RIBI (RIBI is the abbreviation for Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland) with so-called direct membership. Generally speaking, **we say that a person is a member of Rotary if the person belongs to a Rotary or Rotaract club that is a member of RI.**

In the Structure of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL the nesting is as follows:
CLUB < District < Zone < RI.

Separately there exists the concept of "REGION", which we shall also examine. There are minor exceptions and they are not the focus of this material.

The principal multi-district administrative structural unit of RI is called "ZONE". (*The map below will be changed shortly*).



A Zone unites several districts; it serves for coordination, training, strategic support and as a link between the districts and the international leadership; it is used for the election and work of certain international leaders and coordinators.

The Zone does not directly govern clubs and districts. It is a framework for leadership, support and representation. The Zone team has a consultative and unifying role.

There are 34 Rotary Zones.

Every Rotary year, the Rotary International Board of Directors makes slight changes to the list of zones based on decisions to merge or create new districts, or other reasons. In addition, the Board conducts a comprehensive review at least every eight years to comply with RI Bylaws that districts and clubs be divided into 34 zones of approximately equal number of Rotarians. This is done to ensure that Rotary's Board of Directors accurately reflects our diverse and global membership.

Let's talk about Zone 21.

Zone 21 is divided into two equal "sub"zones – Zone 21A and Zone 21B. At present Zone 21 (combined) and Zone 22 (Africa) are "twin zones" or "paired zones" with a shared Director. Following the latest changes affecting Africa in terms of zoning, Zone 22 Africa (northern and western) and Zone 23 Africa (eastern and southern) – further changes are expected in our geographical area as well. They will be announced in short time. The new zone map will also be published then.

So, **Zone 21B** at this stage consists of districts and clubs with special status, covering the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Palestine, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, UAE. As districts these are (*56, *59, *61) 2420, 2430, 2440, 2452, 2475, 2482, 2483, 2485.

Zone 21B is one of the most challenging – with smouldering interstate conflicts on its territory, and Peace is one of the key priorities.

The term "**regional leaders**" (each has a "region" of responsibility – see below) refers to the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinators (**RRFCs**), the Membership Coordinators (**RMCS**), the Public Image Coordinators (**RPICs**), the Endowment/Major Gift Advisers (**E/MGAs**), and the End Polio Now Coordinators (**EPNCs**).

Membership Coordinators and **Public Image Coordinators** are appointed by the **RI President** and have assistants. The **Foundation Coordinators**, **Major Gift Advisers** and **End Polio Coordinators** are appointed by the **Chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees**. RRFCs have assistants; E/MGAs and EPNCs do not.

All roles in the regional team are equally important.

Regional leaders work in close collaboration with **District leaders** and serve as **qualified consultants** who support districts in achieving Rotary's goals and increasing impact, in fulfilment of the RI Strategic Plan.

The last concept we shall examine is "Region":

At first glance this concept appears strange and partially overlapping with the concept of Zone. However, this is not the case at all. **A Region is also a group of districts. They are independent of the Zonal structure of Rotary. A region may consist of an entire zone, part of a zone, or parts of several zones. Regions do not overlap with or supersede the Zones.**

Regions (Rotary Regions) **are not a separate level in the official structure of RI like club, district, zone.**

In Rotary practice this term is used for **a regional framework of support within which the so-called Regional leaders operate.**

For example, we speak about **Zone 21B** (i.e. part of Zone 21) and **Region 25**, and **Zone 21A – region 24**. Put most simply, **Rotary Regions = operational regions for support, not at governance level**. They serve for training and advising districts and clubs; support on membership, public image, The Rotary Foundation and End Polio Now; facilitating regional seminars, training and educational events; and coordination between zones and local leaders. This is in line with the official description that regional leaders "support and strengthen clubs", develop humanitarian service and assist training at various levels.

The **difference** between the two "groupings": **The Zone is an official structural unit of RI and has a role in representation and electoral processes**; for example, zones participate in mechanisms such as nominations for RI President. **The Region** is rather a working territory for supporting district teams, **without independent status as a separate level in the core structure.**

Rotary Regions are geographical/operational areas for the work of regional leaders and for supporting clubs and districts, whereas zones are the official multi-district structural framework of RI.





BARCELONA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE

BARCELONA, SPAIN | 26-30 JUNE 2027

Registration opens in September 2026 at convention.rotary.org.





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:

✉ Main Email for Public Image Inquiries – Zone 21B:
21bzone.journal@gmail.com & RotaryPublicImageZone21B@gmail.com

👤 Public Image Coordinator for Zone 21B:
• Tanya Georgieva – RPIC 2026–2029, Zone 21B
✉ tanya@rotary-bourgas.com

👥 Assistant Regional Public Image Coordinators (ARPICs):

- Aleksandar Radojicic – D2483
✉ radojicic.alexandar@gmail.com
- Arkan Apturahman – D2482
✉ arkannihat@gmail.com
- Ayşe Mine Ergun – D2420, D2430, D2440
✉ mineerg@gmail.com
- Cemre Başkır – Rotaract, D2420, D2430, D2440, D2482
✉ cemre.baskiir@gmail.com
- Elena Janniki – D2475
✉ elejanni@gmail.com
- Faisal Juma – D2452
✉ faisaljuma.rcs@gmail.com
- Foteini Papadimou – Rotaract D2452, D2475, D2483, D2485
✉ foteinipapadimou@gmail.com
- Serdar Aydin – D2420, D2430, D2440 and Team Technical Advisor
✉ radojicic.alexandar@gmail.com

🇮🇹 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

RPI Zone 21 Social MEDIA Networks

Follow us! Visit our page!

<https://rotaryzone21.org/leaders>

www.rotaryzone21.org



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Rotary Public Image

Building Your Online Presence

Find us on



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