

Welcome friends and special guests: ASSISTANT GOVERNOR and President?

Welcome fellow Rotarians. WELCOME ROTARIANS. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve as District Governor. I pledge to serve in the true spirit of Rotary: truthfully, fairly, and to build goodwill and friendship among all that we meet.

As you know, Rotary International is a service organization that brings together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. It brings together people of all races and religions. It is open to men and women around the world. There are now more than 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million members.

I am very fortunate to have international ties to Rotary. The first Rotary Club in Kosova was founded on June 30th, 2000. I am honored to be the founder of the Rotary in Kosova.

Kosova also is the birthplace of a person that epitomized Service Above Self, Mother Theresa. She began the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, with a mission to care for, in her own words, "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."

In many ways, the mission of Mother Theresa is similar to the goals of Rotary International. We strive to help those in need, physically, mentally and spiritually. The efforts of RI have touched the lives of millions in the world that are less fortunate.

Like Mother Theresa, Rotary, places the needs of others ahead of itself. She brought others together as one to help those less fortunate. I think she was a perfect Rotarian.

RI PRESIDENT GARY HUANG finds many traditional Chinese values reflected in Rotary: values of service and responsibility, of respect for family and for others. Sometimes he calls Confucius the world's first Rotarian, because even though he died 2,500 years before Rotary was founded, his ideas are very much Rotary ideas. And one of the things he said was

"It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness."

I think that one line sums up the way we in Rotary approach the problems of the world. There is so much difficulty. There are so many people who need help. Many people look at this and say, "There is nothing I can do." So they do nothing – and nothing changes.

But this is not the Rotary way. The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one candle, you light one candle – and so do 1.2 million other Rotarians. Together, we can do so much more than we could ever do alone. Together, we can light up the world.

NOW I AM GOING TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHY MYSELF I AM ADDICTED TO ROTARY:

ON JULY 11TH, 1999 I FLEW TO KOSOVA, AFTER THE U.S. ALONG WITH THE NATO COALITION FREED MY COUNTRY FROM 100 YEARS OF OCCUPATION, JUST TO FIND OUT THE FATE OF MY PARENTS AND SISTER DURING 4 MONTHS of GENOCIDIAL WAR. I DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY WERE ALIVE OR DEAD.

MY BIGGEST SURPRISE IN MY HOMETOWN OF GJAKOVA WAS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN WERE SAYING THE WORD ROTARY. I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WAS HEARING. SOON I FOUND THE REASON: THE FIRST HUMANITARIAN CONVOY WITH FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL, HYGENIC SUPPLIES THAT ENTERED MY TOWN AFTER 90 DAYS OF COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM THE WORLD WAS A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVOY. FROM THAT DAY I AM IN LOVE WITH ROTARY BECAUSE I SAW ROTARY IN REAL ACTION.

WE NEED TO LOVE ROTARY WITH ALL OUR HEART.

**--YOU ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS, AND ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD—
THANK YOU**

**--TAKE A MINUTE, THINK, IMAGINE WHAT YOUR TOWN WOULD BE
LIKE WITHOUT ROTARY? HOW MANY WORTHY PROGRAMS AND
PROJECTS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED? YOU AND THOSE BEFORE
YOU HAVE MADE YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE**

District Goals

This year, I would like to work with you to accomplish the following goals:

- 1. Increase Membership for minimum 10% more than the District membership on June 30th, 2014 which means that our District on June 30th, 2015 should have at least 1,550 members.**
- 2. Increase Rotary Foundation Donations to largest ever- \$164,195.00.**
- 3. Nine new Major Donors.**
- 4. Increase attendance at District Conference to 300 guests.**
- 5. At least 22 Clubs to receive the Presidential Citation.**
- 6. EREY in 70% of Clubs.**
- 7. Each Club to have a Rotary Day.**

**STAY FOCUSED—POLIO,,,,,THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE REALLY
ARE THIS CLOSE. THE BAD NEWS—WE ARE ONLY A PLANE RIDE
AWAY! WE HAVE TO FINISH.**

**STAY FOCUSED ON THE FOUNDATION, EREY, AND YOUR
COMMITMENTS AS A CLUB. THE FOUNDATION IS THE ROOTS OF
OUR ORGANIZATION. JUST LIKE A TREE. WE ASK FOR ALL TO
PARTICIPATE AT WHAT EVER LEVEL YOU CAN.**

EVERY DOLLAR THAT IS GIVEN, IS GIVEN BACK (EXPLAIN)

THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT ROTARY IS RATED SO HIGH WITH REGARD TO OTHER CHARITIES.

District Governor's Project

We are going to help the Elementary School "Kelmend Rizvanolli" in Gjakova, Republic of Kosova. This school was build in September 2013 by the Rizvanolli family trust.

Elementary School " Kelmend Rizvanolli " in Gjakova , was built by the Rizvanolli and Kusari family trusts and began operations in September of 2013 ..

The school building has an area of about 16,684 SF with 10 classrooms and other support facilities. It provides education for 557 students (from grades 1-5) with 23 classes, 24 teachers, director, administrative employees , and 5 technical - service employees

Its needs are simple

- **Projectors (10, one for each classroom)**
- **Projection screens (10, one for each classroom)**
- **Desktops (10, one for each classroom)**
- **Photocopy machine**
- **Lockers for classroom (12, one for each classroom, library and cabinet of technology)**
- **Projection screens (10, one for each classroom)**
- **Teaching tools for different subject (Math, Man and nature , geographical maps , historical maps, musical instruments, etc.)**



In our District we are going to help the Warren Project “ Free Books for Kids”. This organization has given away more than 10,000 free books for needy children.

“Don’t Meth with Us” is another project that is going to be part of DG Project.

The Don’t Meth With Us project is easy and fun to do, it involves going into the 5th grades and giving a presentation about the consequences of experimenting with Meth in about 40 minutes. All of the 5th graders in each elementary school are assembled in one room. In addition to the presentation, they are given a t-shirt, wristband pledge card and a pencil with a web site on it. These items cost about \$6.00 per child.

This project will not only change your community but it will help change the world. What a wonderful opportunity for our District to make such a huge difference. I believe this project will help build stronger, larger clubs as the public sees what we are doing and will want to be a part of it. Rotary clubs across the USA, Canada, Australia and other countries are now doing this. It is time for us to join in. It will benefit us all. All the help you need is available at www.dontmethwithus.com or contacting Paul McQueary at dontmethwithus@gmail.com or calling him at 505-860- 0189, he is happy to answer all of your questions.

I’M ASKING FOR \$15.00 PER MEMBER FOR THESE IMPORTANT PROJECTS.

I AM ASKING FOR \$50.00/CLUB THAT WOULD BE DONATED IN THE FORM OF A SCHOLARSHIP FOR EACH OF OUR VOC SCHOOLS (7) IN OUR DISTRICT. LAST YEAR WE GAVE \$300 PER SCHOOL TO HELP FURTHER THESE YOUNG PEOPLES EDUCATION.I WOULD BE HONORED TO TAKE A CHECK BACK TODAY FOR THESE IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS, PLEASE?

DISTRICT FALL WORKSHOP

On November 1st, 2014 at Four Points by Sheraton in Cranberry at 10:00 AM we have our annual District Fall Workshop-Foundation Training workshop. We have lined up for you many important Guest Speakers:

Wilfrid Wilkinson- Past Rotary International President

Mary Beth Growney Selene – Rotary International Director

Stephanie Urchick – Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Mary Berge – Zone 29 Rotary Coordinator

This foundation workshop is very important and it is recommended that everyone attend, especially club officers. The cost is \$25.00 per attendee and the club should pay for their members to attend this workshop. It is going to be a great workshop.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Our District Conference will be on June 19-21, 2015 in Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY. This resort is a family resort and has many things to offer. It is going to be a great conference with lot's of fun. On Friday, June 19th golfers will play at upper course which is one of best golf courses in the country. Spouses will have wine tasting tour to three wineries, shopping at Findley Lake Souvenir shops and have access to its famous spas. Until now we have following confirmed speakers:

Frank Devlyn – Past Rotary International President

Wilfrid Wilkinson - Past Rotary International President

Mary Berge – Zone 29 Rotary Coordinator

Neil McBeth – Zone 28-29 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator

Georgene Heldebrand – Zone 29 Rotary Public Image Coordinator

Mark Kriebel – past Zone 29 Rotary Public Image Coordinator

Michael Angelo Caruso – Rotary Motivational Speaker

We are trying to bring more Rotary VIP's and as soon as we have confirmation will inform you in coming newsletters. Above speakers will not be the only speakers in our Conference. Very soon you will be able to register online at District Web Page. Come with your family and have fun at the Peek'n Peak Resort District Conference.

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

This Rotary year we are having a friendship exchange with Rotarians from Kosova. Next year from June 14th to June 23rd, 2015, six Rotarians from Kosova will be coming to visit us and attend our District Conference. They will be hosted by RC Zelionople, Slippery Rock, Grove City and Warren.

On July 6th, 2015 a group of District Rotarians will be leaving to go to Kosova for a week to 10 day trip. Anybody interested to be part of this friendship exchange can contact me. Until now we already have three Rotarians who have registered for this friendship exchange. We will be guest of Gjakova Rotarians, so we just need to pay for the airfare.

In 2014-15, President Huang is asking each of us to light our own Rotary candle – and *Light Up Rotary together*.

There are so many ways to Light Up Rotary. I hope many of you will choose to host a Rotary Day, to show your community what Rotary is and what we do. I hope you will involve your Rotaract and Interact clubs in your service, to bring the new generation of the Rotary family closer to Rotary membership. And I hope you will keep Rotary strong by inviting new members into Rotary – including your own spouses and family.

Perhaps the most important thing we can do to *Light Up Rotary together* is to finish the job we've been working on for more than a quarter of a century: the eradication of polio. We are so close to our goal. But we will get there only if we

keep up the fight, keep up the momentum, and close the funding gap for the polio endgame plan.

***Light Up Rotary together* is our theme for this year, but it is more than just a theme. It is how we in Rotary see the world and our role in it. We believe that no one should sit alone in the darkness. Instead, we can come together, all 1.2 million of us, to Light Up Rotary. This is our goal – and challenge to us.**

Being a Rotarian is about a way of approaching the world and its challenges. There are many people in this world who need help and many changes that need to be made. It can be overwhelming.

Confucius and Rotary share similar ideas, and one idea from Confucius is that “It is better to light one single candle than to sit and curse the dark.” To me, this means that we shouldn’t lose hope and do nothing.

Instead, do something positive in your community, and let people know that Rotarians enjoy being together and working together. Involve your spouse and family in Rotary. Sharing your love for Rotary will recruit new members and keep current ones, and be the action that lights a candle.

In this Rotary year, we will Light Up Rotary by reaching our goal of 1.3 million Rotarians, bringing in new members while working to keep the members we have.

I look forward to working with all of you this Rotary year. I pledge my commitment to serving with others to make our communities better places to live and work.

AND NOW MY FELLOW ROTARIANS IS TIME TO LIGHT UP ROTARY!!!

--THANK YOU THANK YOU VOLUNTEER’S. THANK YOU CANDLE LIGHTERS!