

# THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



ROTARY DISTRICT 7030. ZONE 34

May 2020

## RI President Mark Maloney's Monthly Message



Increasing our ability to adapt: That is one goal of our new Rotary Action Plan. And wow, have we seen that ability put to the test this year.

In March, Gay and I were to visit Zimbabwe, Turkey, and eight other countries over the course of 30 days. After participating in a medical mission in Zimbabwe and Commonwealth Week activities in London, on the 11th day, we were packing our suitcases for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

While attending a dinner at the High Commission for Pakistan in London, we received word that it would be impossible to travel everywhere on our itinerary. So, instead of flying to Zurich, we returned to Evanston and One Rotary Center.

Throughout early March, the news about COVID-19 became increasingly serious throughout the world. Following the advice of local officials, we canceled UN presidential conferences in Paris and Rome. Soon, the World Health Organization declared the virus a global pandemic, and we consulted with authorities on more critical decisions. We asked all Rotary districts and clubs to curb face-to-face meetings until further notice and to hold virtual meetings instead. To the districts and clubs that have adapted so quickly, thank you.

The Rotary Board of Directors held its first-ever virtual meeting to make the most difficult decision of all, to cancel the 2020 Rotary International Convention. Like the more than 20,000 registrants who planned to attend, I am disappointed. We acted to protect the health and safety of convention attendees and their families, friends, and colleagues, as well as those who call Honolulu home, and I am confident we made the right decision.

I want to thank the 2020 Honolulu Convention Committee, the Host Organization Committee, the 2020 Honolulu Convention Promotion Committee, and Rotary staff for planning what would have been one of the best Rotary conventions yet. I appreciate their hard work.

This issue of The Rotarian was going to press as the decision about canceling the convention was made, and many other decisions across the Rotary world were still up in the air. Future issues of The Rotarian and of Rotary's regional magazines, along with Rotary's social media channels, will keep you informed.

We began this Rotary year promoting the importance of the new Action Plan for all Rotarians and Rotaractors. Today, we are putting that plan into action out of necessity. That includes the possibility of a convention-like experience with you through a virtual event. We will have more to say about this in the near future.

The world is changing rapidly, and so must Rotary. Our adaptability and strength will help us navigate this experience. The world needs our leadership today more than ever. Truly, *Rotary Connects the World*.

April 2020

Mark Daniel MALONEY, President, Rotary International

## May is Youth Service Month

Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Its programs listed below help young leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service.

### Rotaract Clubs

Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18-30 to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service.

### Interact Clubs

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities.

### Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA is a leadership development program for young people who want to learn new skills, build their confidence, and have fun. Events range from one-day seminars to weeklong camps.

### Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

### New Generations Service Exchange

New Generations Service Exchange is a short-term, customizable program for university students and professionals up to age 30. Participants can design exchanges that combine their professional goals with a humanitarian project.

### Inside this Issue

RI President Monthly Message

DG's Monthly Message

District 7030 Activities

Rotary Club of Penal holds its first virtual induction ceremony

District 7030 Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic

Rotaract Corner

Rotary and Rotaract Mentoring Program 2020

## District Governor's Monthly Message



Fellow Rotarians

The novel coronavirus Covid-19 continues to grip the World in its throes, two months after its spread had been declared pandemic by the WHO and six months after it came to the notice of public health officials. Our District has not been spared the effects of the pandemic, but we have not experienced the scale of loss of human life that has been seen in other areas of the world. For that we must be grateful. While no part of the District has remained untouched, the experience from country to country has been mixed. The number of positive cases ranged from 11 in one country to 261 in another. The mortality rate has thankfully remained low, with the highest toll in any one country being 14, and most (in some countries, all) of the cases have recovered. The various States of Emergency, lockdowns, curfews and closure of borders imposed by Governments appear to have worked, assisting in flattening the curve.

Internationally, Rotary has responded well. The infrastructure created by the polio eradication campaign is helping countries in their fight against Covid 19. The Rotary Foundation allocated an initial US\$3 million to provide grants for the Covid 19 relief efforts, and this has since been augmented. RI held a 1-hour global Telethon on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, which raised over US\$525,000 for the relief efforts. Clubs across the Rotary world have been engaged in projects and activities in response to the pandemic.

7030 clubs have likewise responded well. I am indeed pleased to see the response of our Rotarians – true people of action – making a critical and significant impact in their communities with their Covid 19 relief efforts. Most of the clubs have stepped up, and I wish to encourage them to continue these efforts. I urge to those that have been a bit slower to get started, to take action now. Our communities need our assistance and support.

The month of May, in Rotary, is observed as Youth Service Month. This is the time when we focus on the New Generations – establishing new Rotaract and Interact clubs; developing projects that address the needs of the youth; creating awareness of the things that affect young people and that are necessary to ensure their future.

While in the current circumstances clubs are focused on coronavirus relief, some efforts should be channeled into meeting the needs of the youth. Consider those secondary school students whose education has been disrupted, and are forced, perhaps, to depend on online instruction for which both they and their teachers are ill-prepared. Consider those preparing for school-leaving exams such as CSEC and CAPE, in this climate of uncertainty. Consider still those who will leave school or university this summer with little prospects of finding employment in economies spiralling into recession. Consider too those who were eagerly looking forward to attend university this fall, but who now are uncertain of what will transpire. And consider those whose impressionable minds are struggling to make sense of this situation or to cope with the seeming futility of it all.

Disraeli is quoted to have said that “the Youth of a Nation are the trustees of Posterity”. Therefore, in order to secure our countries’ future, we must invest now in wellbeing of our Youth of today. This has never been more imperative than now.

May 2020  
DG Trevor Blake, 7030



John Hewko  
CEO  
Rotary International

Mark Maloney  
2019-2020 President  
Rotary International

**#RotaryResponds**  
**LIVE**

Join a new weekly Facebook Live series to create connections and take part in engaging conversations. The **#RotaryResponds** Live series features Rotary leaders and members, and leaders from partner organizations sharing how they're taking action in their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting 20 May 2020 – 1 July 2020

**Visit the link below to learn more**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/247449286465682/>

**The Zone Committee extended the deadline to **June 30<sup>th</sup>** for both the Video contest and the Z34 PI Citation**

## District 7030 Activities

### May 2020

- DG visits French Guiana clubs ‘virtually’ – 15 to 28 May 2020
- PETS 2020 Training Sessions continue

### June 2020

- June 9 – PETS 2020 Training Sessions end
- June 13 – District Business Meeting

*Also, stay tuned for info on the last District Training Committee training session 2019-2020*

**NOW MORE THAN EVER,  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD:  
THE 2020 ROTARY  
VIRTUAL CONVENTION**  
20-26 June 2020



## Rotary Club of Penal Holds Its First Virtual Induction

On Wednesday 13th May, 2020, the Rotary Club of Penal had its first virtual induction where five new members were inducted to our club.

We congratulated and welcomed Mr. Shawn Boyce (General Contractor), Mrs. Miriam Boyce (General Contractor), Mr. Chandoo Seeraj (General Contractor), Mrs. Indira Birju-Daniel (Educator) and Ms. Nirvana Rambalack (HSE consultant) to our team.

District Governor Trevor Blake attended our Virtual Induction and brought greetings to us on behalf of District 7030. He welcomed the new Rotarians and praised our initiatives as this was the first Virtual Induction he attended.

The Rotary Club of Penal did not want the Covid-19 virus to stop our club's goals as we planned to increase membership to increase our work and presence in the community.



## **Rotary Club of Antigua (RCOA) Launches COVID-19 Food Voucher Programme**

It is without a doubt that COVID-19 has significantly impacted the social and economic lives of many citizens and residents in Antigua and Barbuda.

With this in mind, the Rotary Club of Antigua (RCOA) embarks on a Food Voucher Programme, geared towards bringing relief to approximately four hundred (400) individuals, whose income have been directly affected as a result of COVID-19.

The programme was officially launched on May 14, 2020 and is expected to run for at least three (3) months in the first instance. It caters to single parents and families with children where the income earners have suffered loss of income as a result of the termination of their employment.

The initiative is being undertaken in conjunction with the Mill Reef Fund which has eagerly agreed to join the Rotary Club of Antigua to assist vulnerable persons across the island, during this critical and challenging time.

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, explained how the programme will be facilitated. "We are extremely grateful to the Mill Reef Fund for agreeing to partner with us in this programme which will go a long way in assisting a number of persons and families who are in need of such support. Members of the Rotary Clubs in Antigua, community organizations, district clinics and churches have been encouraged to submit names of persons who could benefit from the food voucher programme. The list of applicants has been compiled and vetted by our Steering committee which has assessed the needs of the respective applicants.

The qualified individuals have been notified of their eligibility and arrangements have been made for these individuals to collect the food vouchers from the Club." The Food Vouchers will be valued at EC\$200.00 each and are redeemable at four (4) major Supermarkets namely: Chase Distributors Ltd, Epicurean Fine Foods & Pharmacy, Cost-Pro and 1st Choice Foods. The total cost of this program is \$240,000.

The Rotary Club of Antigua extends best wishes to all Antiguan and Barbudans who are socially and economically affected by the Covid-19 and asks you to accept our food voucher as a token of good will.

Gratitude is extended to the Mill Reef Fund, the supermarkets, the nurses at the district clinics and Churches which have kindly agreed to participate in this venture.





## District 7030 COVID-19 Response in Pictures ~ #peopleofaction



### COVID-19 RESPONSE

We continue our COVID-19 Response with the packing of hampers and providing items to Organizations such as the Ptolemy Reid Center, the Sophia Health Center, Inner Wheel, Red Thread, the Gentlemen's Home, and to certain families in special circumstances.

We continue to work and are grateful to all our donors who continue to support us.

Rotary  
Club of Demerara





## Rotaract Corner

### Adapting to the Pandemic ~ Rotaract Club of San Fernando-South

The month of April involved the Club adapting to the new circumstances of the current pandemic. Naturally, this was a worrying and uncertain time for many, but the Club has persisted nonetheless.

Our Club and its respective Committees conducted meetings via Zoom. Under the Community Service Committee, RotarActing "Helping You Smile" was executed.

This project aided 13 families, a total of 56 individuals, by providing them with grocery supplies. Amidst the pandemic, the Club acknowledged that Rotary and by extension Rotaract, must shine some light on the situation and serve as our brother's keeper.

All families were appreciative of the efforts and it was a wonderful opportunity for the Club to highlight the theme, "Rotary Connects The World." We may not all be affected in the same manner, but what remains is that we are connected by common values of kindness, compassion and love.

### Movie Night with the Cran-Fam ~ PM Gabrielle Hinds

During this unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine period, the **Rotaract Club of Barbados** found a great way to have an inclusive event while practicing their social distancing.

On Saturday, April 25th 2020, we hosted their first online 'Cranberry Movie Night'. Rotaractors of the Club [*The Cran-Fam*] grabbed their favourite concessions from their cupboards and went online to enjoy some comedies. The double-feature event was a great way for Rotaractors to enjoy the movies and talk to each other.

Photos were shared of our Rotaractors and their at-home cinematic set-ups. Despite all the buffering happening that night, it was loaded with fun! The event was truly a hit with Rotaractors expressing it was a "Great movie night!".



Members of the Club pose for a picture after grocery items were distributed.



One of our Members presenting a grocery hamper to the father of one of the target families.

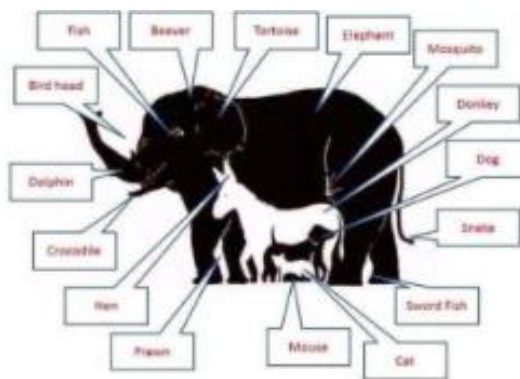


## Rotaract Corner Cont'd

### Autistic, Actually Rotaracter Asha Phillander

In an attempt to facilitate our community outreach sessions, we hosted our first online Autism Awareness Event entitled “*Autistic Actually, Broadening YOUR Spectrum*” utilising the Zoom Video Conferencing facility. Despite some technical difficulties we encountered at the beginning of the event things progressed smoothly. I must give “hats off” to the Club Service committee for always bringing their “A-Game” when it comes to ice breakers. The guessing the number of animals in a picture brain teaser had our attention and focus at one hundred percent (100%). I changed my answers about three (3) times but never guessed that there were actually seventeen (17) animals in the image. If my memory serves me right, no one stated the correct number of animals.

#### How many animals can you see?

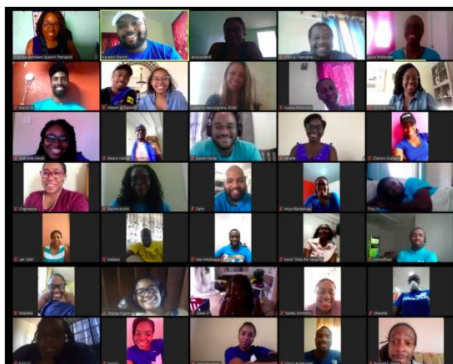


The brain teaser icebreaker set the tone for all participants to really pay attention to the panellists who were experts with extensive knowledge and experience in understanding **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**. Our panellists included a Speech and Language Therapist, **Shareka Bentham**, a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, **Natasha Heaselgrave** and **Jessica Reid**, an Autism Advocate and blogger <https://meandmym.home.blog/>. We also had a bonus panellist, **Jennyle Pitter**, who is an Occupational Therapist.

As the moderator, I had a list of questions that were posted to the panellists but participants joining the session were allowed to send additional questions and comments through the Zoom Video Conferencing Chat. In conducting this job, I improvised but most important was the ability of the panellists to answer all the questions presented to them. The overarching theme for the panellists was to present information in a discussion forum that would allow the participants to grasp a better understanding of ASD, its signs and symptoms.

Some key points and highlights about ASD from the overall discussion were:

- It is a neurodevelopmental disorder.
- It can be thought of as a set of characteristics that a young child displays.
- The word "spectrum" simply represents an umbrella of differences.
- One of the signs and symptoms include repetitive behaviours.
- Signs and symptoms may appear as early as sixteen (16) months in children.
- Parents must pay attention to their child to recognize any differences with their development.
- A diagnosis of ASD is lifelong.
- An individual is not defined by their diagnosis.
- To decrease stigmatization, education and awareness are important.
- Representation of autism within the media is not always accurate



## District 7030 Rotary and Rotaract Mentoring Program 2020



The Rotaractors of District 7030 have expressed an interest in receiving mentoring and career advice from our Rotarians.

To support this request, we shall be conducting a Rotaract needs assessment during the week of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020, which will be followed by a Call for Rotarian Mentors. Guidelines and expectations shall be published, and the program is being run from **June to August 2020** in the first instance.

If you are interested in mentoring a Rotaractor, please email PDG Lara outlining the vocational areas you can provide guidance and advice in. We look forward to your support.

PDG Lara Quentrall-Thomas  
[lara@regencytrinidad.com](mailto:lara@regencytrinidad.com) / 868 678 2181



the rotarian 

2020 PHOTO CONTEST



**Honorable mention**

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Philbert Williams  
Rotary Club of Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

**LOCATION:**

Stone Haven Bay, Tobago

**Winter:** What an amazing scene, with the fallen tree as a backstop for the young goalie as a group of boys play soccer in the misty orange glow of the setting sun. It brings back many fond memories of the best time of day on the beach, when the tourists have gone home and just the people who live there remain. It's a small thing, but I keep wishing I could see if that ball was headed for the goal.