



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors in District 2482 – Bulgaria,

Through my virtual visits, I establish the high Rotary responsibility of the clubs. In most places, the right way has been found for full online contact between members, and for community service, despite the complications due to the pandemic. Congratulations to the Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs, which are not losing their tangible presence for the benefit of the communities!



Congratulations to ReC Sofia-Nextum and friends for the start of the current webinar “COVID-19 – Truths and Legends”!

Our 116th anniversary is approaching (February 23). Let us remember that Rotary originated on the ground (USA) and at a time (1905), which historical and cultural context explains the main statements of the organization:

The declaration of independence of the first 13 states, which gave rise to a state in which “government is based on the consent of the governed,” took place exactly one hundred years before the April Uprising in our lands. A little over 280 years have passed since the arrival of Columbus (1492–1776), and “freedom” and “equality” have been proclaimed as core values for more than a decade before the Great French Revolution! Another 90 years followed until the end of the Civil War, which ended slavery and marked the beginning of a remarkable upsurge (1776–1865). From that moment until the appearance of Rotary, there were only 40 years left (1865–1905), during which the so-called Golden Age was established in the USA: former French Louisiana, the Wild West, former Russian Alaska were annexed; more than 22 million immigrants colonized, the population doubled and exceeded 75 million; from the small settlements, three giants grew with more than 1 million inhabitants each: New York, Chicago (increased for the period more than 10 times), and Philadelphia; the new federal state was rapidly industrializing and urbanizing; the total length of the railway lines increased more than 30 times; the technical rise was gigantic – registered patents increased to one million – in the United States, the typewriter, calculator, cash register, and rotary printing machine, were invented; the phone; the light bulb and phonograph of Thomas Edison (later a member of the Rotary Club of Orange, New Jersey) and the Wright brothers’ airplane (older brother Orville Wright, also later a member of the Rotary Club of Dayton, Ohio); the agrarian revolution tripled the number of farms; in 1900, the United States already ranked first in the world in per capita income.

Of course, even with this colossal progress, things were not perfect. Indigenous people and their culture suffered severely, leaving only 0.5 million of the 4.5 million Indians; the speculation of cartels was raging in business; racial discrimination dominated social and political life...

116 years ago, in the situation thus outlined, and in the newly formed shopping center of the already prosperous New World – Chicago – Rotary was born. ***An organization of qualified professionals – guardians of high morals in business, abstracted from racial, religious and political opposition, obsessed with the idea of internal mutual assistance and selfless service for the prosperity of their communities!***

Later in the world, controversy inexorably led to three successive versions of World War II (including the Cold War), culminating in various sinister political ideas based on social engineering. ***But in its design, Rotary stands on sustainable cultural positions, which have been proven to survive the madness of the 20th century*** (which also deprived Bulgaria of Rotary for a period of 60 years). ***Rotary is genetically linked to international understanding*** (remember Rotary's role immediately after WWII) ***and peacekeeping***. The Rotary Foundation maintains a number of programs in this area. I note with disappointment the planned, but not realized due to the pandemic Rotary Peace Forum "Sofia 2020"...

From creation to today's pandemic and virtually conditioned world, our belonging to global Rotary gives us great advantages! ***It is our responsibility and honor to preserve and upgrade these benefits!***

Happy 116th birthday, Rotary !!!

In addition to the toasts to the anniversary, let us not neglect the perfect administration we pursue: all the necessary actions should be taken in relation to the elected members of the Boards of Directors (Boards) 2021-22, club presidents 2022-23, nomination proposals such as the District Governor 2023-24 (until February 14), the transfer of membership fees for the second half of the current Rotary year, the registration of those wishing to participate in the RI Convention in Taipei, Taiwan – June 2021, in response to the consultation for a tourist program (until 15.02.).

Be healthy! Be active because Rotary opens up opportunities!

Rotary
DISTRICT 2482



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iliyan Nikolov".

Arch. Iliyan Nikolov
District Governor 2020-21