



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE JULY 2020

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

I share the joy of the coming of the **new Rotary year 2020-21**, in which we enter wiser because we have managed to rethink our optimism. Because we felt how much stronger **solidarity** makes us. Because we showed that we know how important it is to have a good balance of our thoughts, our actions, and our being!

The complicated situation is not over. We postponed the Rotaract European Meeting (REM) in Sofia from October to March. The Zonal GETS (Governors-Elect Training Seminar) & Institute in Athens will be held remotely in mid-November. We scheduled our first seminar for the end of September. At the same time, I postponed my first official visits to the Clubs as well. Despite the hope, we are also preparing an online version of these events.



Beyond the COVID-colored reflections, I thank my club Sofia–Serdika, the Nomination Committee and all of you for the proposal, for the nomination and for the support in taking on my responsibilities as Governor of the District!

I move excitedly to the first of the twelve monthly messages that await me. I strongly believe that I will be able to turn them not into a formal monologue – I will be happy to feel positive feedback.

I have already introduced you to the Presidential theme, the Presidential Diploma, the personality of President Knaak and the **annual priorities of the District**. The materials remain available on the district website. Emphasis is placed on: development of membership and members; strengthening the Rotary-Rotaract partnership and working with Interact; optimizing Rotary projects and working with the Rotary Foundation; improving the training and launch of the Rotary Academy; intensifying international activities, including youth exchanges, RYLA and the role of the ICC; support for the Rotary in the Balkans Regional Magazine; improving the district website and its links, incl. with the new digital archive; launch of the Rotary Annual Award; beginning of compiling the new history of Rotary in our country... I count on the set goals to be known and **perceived as personal** for each of us!

Today I chose to raise the topic of our great dignity – the emanation of the free spirit – **to be volunteers!** To trace the importance of the free spirit, I encourage you to understand the context of the time in which Rotary was born (USA, early twentieth century) and spread in Europe (between the two world wars with the worthy inclusion of the then Bulgaria). For the time that followed, let us remember what led to the ban and then to the restoration of Rotary. Today we have again chosen **to help others voluntarily**, only in exchange for inner satisfaction and possible moral recognition. This significantly distinguishes Rotary from business. And let us always have the motivation to prove that even without coercion mechanisms, as in business, we are able to organize **just as effectively** to achieve our Rotary goals!

I wish all friends – club members and district officers, to be healthy and to build on together all the positive things achieved so far in Rotary!

Because Rotary opens opportunities!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iliyan Nikolov". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Arch. Iliyan Nikolov
District Governor 2020-21