



Friends,

Somehow imperceptibly, the holiday months of July and August remained behind us. I would like to thank all the 47 clubs that accepted my meeting invitation, especially on days of the week that are not typical of weekly events. I met real, convinced and active Rotarians, which motivates me even more for my future service.

I make no secret of the fact that I felt real excitement when standing in front of the Rotary moraine at the foot of the Shipka Monument, I watched with delight the arriving groups of Rotarians and their friends, who walked the hiking routes from Sokolski Monastery and Uzana Area. I myself had the pleasure to walk the route from the town of Shipka to the eponymous peak with friends from Kazanlak. The large group of Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and our friends will forever remain in my heart with the inspiring view of the columns of white T-shirts with Rotary symbols persevering in following their goal. The photos from this event will remind us of our Rotary spirit and will call us not to forget the tradition of our campaigns, and will keep the idea to honor the great feat of our ancestors known as the Shipka epic.

With undisguised pride and real satisfaction I enjoyed the wonderful view represented by the large group of Interactors from Interact Club—Sevlievo. These manly and responsible friends reminded me in the best way that the theme for the coming month of September is 'Basic Education and Literacy.'

Many associates of the District-Governors have presented in their addresses statistics on the alarming situation with the literacy of the younger generation in our country.

Unfortunately, the situation in this respect has not improved much in recent years. The great scourge for our society remains the illiteracy of the Bulgarians, as a result of which we suffer great negatives. We have even officially acknowledged the problem determined by the poignant definition of 'functional illiteracy,' which unfortunately applies to a large number of our students.

The good news for us Rotarians is that our clubs continue to be consciously involved in projects in primary and secondary schools that aim to improve and create a more attractive learning environment, adopt modern technological innovations in the process of presenting teaching materials, and create conditions for engaging students in extracurricular educational forms and physical activities.

I urge you to take the opportunity to apply for a district grant in this very important area of focus.

When discussing our activity on this topic, we must not forget that it is no less important to support capable, talented and enterprising children and young people, because they are the future but also current engine of progress; they are the constructive stimulus for development and the much-needed correction of the weaknesses in our society.

And let our minds always be engaged in caring for our child Interact. As responsible parents, let us not forget that creating life is only the first step. From now on, we face the great challenge, the courage to pursue our goals and the need to be responsible. The young daring innovators with pleasure and desire support our good projects, and also sustainably realize their own on this topic. We must also support them, we must encourage these joint projects, because these efforts benefit the whole community. Therefore, I will allow myself to end by quoting a thought:

**"We need to understand that we as citizens and as a government in any community throughout this country have no more important obligation than to educate those who are going to replace us."—Colin Powell**

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