



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2020

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

It is time to show **humility** to the things that depend a little on us and **determination** to the things that really depend on us. I believe that we are wise enough to distinguish one from the other and determine our behavior today. And in Rotary, knowledge of the Principles and adherence to the Four-Way Test gives us confidence in our actions.

There comes a month in which – like our organization – education “rotates”. The pursuit of literacy and education is expressed in the coming month – who does not remember his or his children’s “first September 15”! I wish all Interactors and younger Rotaractors a strong motivation to be successful in the new school year!

In our national memory, reading and writing are connected with the legendary Bulgarian rise for the time from Knyaz Boris, until the end of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, when 50% of the population was literate! The sad story that followed until our separation from the Ottoman Empire reduced this number to 5%... We met the XX century with less than 20% literate, to rank today in the top 50 countries in the world with about 98% literate population! Literacy (reading, writing, arithmetic, and today “basic computer literacy”) is a **priority and one of Rotary’s Focus Areas**. Traditionally, we believe that literacy is not a problem of Bulgarian society, but behind our missing up to 100 – about 2 percent – there are at least **120,000 illiterate people hidden in our country!** Let us look for these people, let us find them, let us try to motivate them, let us, for example, through competitions, tournaments, quizzes or something else – live or online – inspire them to love literacy. Our young Interact and Rotaract members can be especially creative in this interaction. Let us also invite our Rotary alumni and members of Rotary community corps to help. Let clubs get the impetus to publish on the district website their successful projects on the topic of “literacy”.

One of the supreme Bulgarian historical achievements – the creation and spread of the Cyrillic alphabet – is part of our pride today. The world’s only regional magazine of Rotary International in Cyrillic is **Rotary in the Balkans**. We need to realize this honor and responsibility and support and help the development of the magazine – let the clubs think about it.

At the District Conference in June, I spoke on the topic of the **Digital District** as an element of global digital transformation. I note that now only about 35% of the population over the age of 55 in the European Union (and in our country, perhaps less) have basic computer literacy. And half of the Rotarians in the District fall into this age group – let the clubs think about that as well.



The Training Committee, chaired by District Coach PDG Valentin, wears with honor the great responsibility to increase the specific knowledge that ensures our effectiveness in Rotary. I am happy to share my satisfaction with today's progress of **the Rotary Academy** – our specific district tool for “Rotary literacy”!

Dear friends, 2021-22 elected Club Presidents,

At the end of September, the first **preliminary PETS** (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) be organized. I wish you and the selected Club Boards of Directors a successful start to the next training in the District! I count on DGE Borislav, the Training Committee, all lecturers, as well, for a worthy performance!

Let us not forget the importance of “literacy related to history” – 135 years since the glorious Union of the Principality of Bulgaria with Eastern Rumelia – a benchmark for determination and historical creativity, and another reason for true pride of us all!

My official visits to your clubs begin in September. The dates are specified and together with the Scenario for holding the meetings (subject to the limitations of the epidemiological situation), you can recall it on the Governor's page on the District's website.

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

I offer you my sincere wishes for a successful start to the truly business part of the Rotary Year, which we are imperceptibly entering and in which, I am sure, we will continue to discover more and more confidently how **Rotary opens up opportunities!**

Rotary
DISTRICT 2482



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

Arch. Iliyan Nikolov
District Governor 2020-21