



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2020

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

Obviously, the global spread of Covid-19 will determine our way of life throughout the Rotary year... Let us be patient and ready to adapt. At the same time, let us reach the reasonable highest possible level of Rotary activity. Because in many ways, right now, both our communities and our own members are most in need of our Rotary assistance.



And our assistance includes: activating the high expert potential of the club members; pointing out the significant problems of the communities and the club members, as well as the ways to solve them; partnership in the implementation of Rotary projects with local government and local business. And the essential final step: **NOT to rely on the club members' own funds** (which creates the misconception of Rotary as a charity), but **to enter into a bold partnership with our own Rotary Foundation!**

For this purpose, the mechanism by which the Rotary Foundation operates should be studied. The non-profit organization, which receives **donations from both Rotarians and non-Rotarians** and takes care of both the development of its funds and the formation of grants – financial support for clubs and districts in the implementation of humanitarian and educational projects. For more than 100 years, **the Rotary Foundation has invested over USD 4 billion in Rotary projects!**

Developing a **culture of giving** in favor of the Foundation is essential to Rotary. Those who have donated over USD 1,000, who in our District are already over 1,160 people, receive, to varying degrees, the Paul Halis Fellow recognition, and in Stara Zagora RC , Vidin RC , Shumen RC, Sofia Vitosha RC, Radnevo RC – 100% of the members are the winners of this recognition! In addition, 14 Bulgarian Rotarians are Major Donors (with donations over USD 10,000)! Hats off to all donors!

Some of the donations to the Annual Fund under the SHARE system are returned to the District through the so-called District Designated Fund (DDF). For this year, we have nearly 28,500 USD DDF to distribute among Rotary clubs to implement projects funded by a district grant. It is important to believe in the power of this Rotary opportunity and how, especially by merging several Rotary clubs, including Rotaract clubs, more significant projects can be realized for our communities! During this Rotary year, two global grants have already started with the participation of Burgas RC (supply of hemodialysis equipment in the amount

of USD 30,000) and Petrich RC (rehabilitation center for nearly 40,000 USD) – congratulations!

For the same four-month period, donations to the Annual Fund were made in the District for about 8,500 USD (received from about 12% of the clubs). ***Here the high percentage of as yet unused possible resource is obvious.*** I appeal for mobilization in this regard, which in critical times like today will sound even more dignified!!!

Donations can be directed to the ***World Fund*** or the ***Disaster Response Fund***, as well as to the ***PolioPlus Fund***. In the latter case, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation doubled the initial amount, thus tripling the donation. Here I shall give the following example: if you donate only 10 USD, which after the addition of Gates becomes 30, this is already enough to provide 50 vaccines against polio. In September, the WHO also declared Africa a region free of wild poliovirus! But despite the huge successes, thanks to Rotary's multi-year global program, PolioPlus, we must continue to be active until the complete eradication of polio in the world, which is not a fact yet. For the four months of this year, the donations received from our District to the PolioPlus Fund have not yet reached USD 200 (received from less than 5% of the clubs). ***The unused possible resource is more than obvious here as well.***

Involved in the implementation of our Rotary projects in partnership with the Rotary Foundation, let us not neglect the participation in the training ***Seminar for Vital Club*** (three in one – the topics of Membership, Project Financing, Public Image), which this year we will hold ***online on November 28 – Saturday***. Let the Rotary clubs not forget to activate their members-representatives for participation in the Seminar!!!

But above all else in the calendar, I congratulate the youngest members of our Rotary family with ***the World Interact Week – November 2–8!*** May our Interactors, future Rotaractors and Rotarians, be healthy, inspired and successful in their chosen field! Because they also know early on – Rotary opens up opportunities!



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

Arch. Iliyan Nikolov
District Governor 2020-21