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Message from the President



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This month marks the commencement of yet another Rotarian year, the 34th for our club. Every member of our club should feel very proud of our club's history and achievements over the years.

Every year is an opportunity to make a fresh start, adapt to the new environment, and continue to do well what we have done well in the past and improve where we need to in order to reach our goals.

Our primary goal remains: **'through the engagement of our members and devotion to service, to deliver meaningful projects that have a lasting effect in our community'**

We have already demonstrated our ability to deliver.

Our club managed and delivered the Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre 'Mega Global Grant project' for the Karaiskakio Foundation. The project was delivered on time, within budget of \$275.000 and its implementation was acclaimed by the Rotary Foundation Cadre.

Our club is also the host club for Phase II of this project (valued at \$68.012) for which we now have the Rotary Foundation approval to proceed.

We should remind ourselves that we have progressed this GG project to the approval stage during the most adverse conditions of the pandemic Covid 19 with the associated lock downs and other adverse repercussions.

Congratulations to our team and to the teams of our partner clubs Nicosia Salamis and the RC of Aquileila Cervignano Palmanova.

This year we need to enhance our members' engagement and direct our club to a truly vibrant club. This demands greater participation by all the members in all the activities of the club and active engagement in the work of the Committees of the Avenues of Service . Anyone interested in a particular Avenue of Service please get in touch.

Our Membership Director PAG PP Petros Stylianou has undertaken to be the focal point of this effort. Please assist him in this challenging project.

We also need to increase our membership, respecting diversity, with quality Rotarians that are willing to serve our community and the Rotary Ideals in general.

We shall, as a Board, be updating our strategic plan and presenting it to you at the first opportunity of a Club Assembly.

July has been a good start for the new Rotary year with two well attended, excellent events, our Handover evening on the 7th of July at the Aperitivo and the event on the 21st July hosted at the Karaiskakio Foundation premises with Guest speaker HE the Minister of Health Constantinos Ioannou.

The RC of Nicosia Lefkothea honored the Minister with the Paul Harris Fellowship. The pinning was done by RRFC, PDG Christina Covotsou Patroclou

As both events are reported elsewhere in our Bulletin I shall refrain from making any further comments.

Let me wish you and your families a great summer.

Stay safe and well.

With Warm Rotarian Regards
Demetris

Demetris Pantazis
President 2020-2021
RC Nicosia-Lefkothea

2020-21 Handover Ceremony & Event



The Club's Handover Ceremony for the years 2020-21 took place on 7 July 2020 in an event at the Aperitivo Jet Set Lounge in Nicosia. The event was very well supported with more than 70 people attending, which is thought to have been the best attendance ever in a handover event! We were honoured with the presence of many distinguished guests as well as the Presidents and members of other Nicosia based Rotary Clubs.

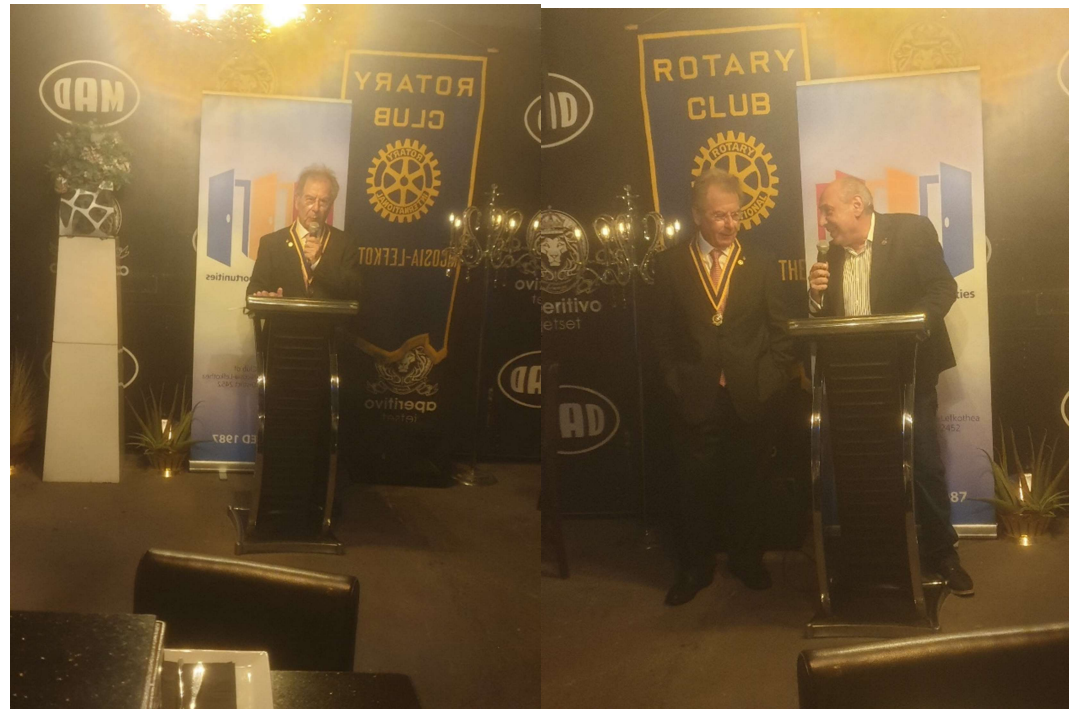
This year's event, alongside with the handover ceremony it also included the pinning of two new members. President Demetris Pantazis gave an account of the work that was carried out in the Rotary year 2019-20 and as he is continuing as the Club's President for 2020-21 as well, he outlined the goals of the club for the year ahead.

The President thanked the Board and each member of the Club for the completion of a very successful Rotarian year in which the club accomplished to fulfill successfully the Global Grant Project of the Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre at the Karaiskakio Foundation.

The President also announced during the event the expected approval by the RF of our current GG project (GG 2012376) for the Karaiskakio Foundation, which was a particularly challenging task because of the pandemic and the

lockdowns and the deadline of the 30th June when the new regulations for the GG would apply. The President explained that effectively this project will be completed and delivered within the next 3 months.

The entire text of the President's speech in which the achievements of the past year are described as well as the targets of the new year are set is given herebelow for the benefit of the members who had not had the chance to attend the event:



**Handover speech by President Demetris Pantazis 2019-2020 & 2020-2021
on 7th July 2020 at the Aperitivo Jet-set Lounge**

Dear Deputy District Governor,
Dear Past Deputy District Governors
Dear Presidents and Fellow Rotarians from other clubs
Dear President of Rotaractor Club of Nic Lefkothea
Dear Fellow Rotarians
Dear Friends of Rotary

I wish to welcome you this evening to our annual Handover Event and thank you for honouring us with your presence.

I have decided to speak to you in English to allow members of English-speaking clubs to join us and follow our deliberations.

The past Rotary Year will always be remembered as the year of Covid 19, the year of lockdowns and the year that humanity suffered a deadly strike and the world economy has plunged to unprecedented lows.

We are fortunate that our small country has managed the crisis better than most which allows us to meet physically without undue fear and to look forward to a positive recovery.

At least these are the indications for now.

The ceremonial part of this year's event will be shorter than other years for the simple reason that the President is unchanged for 2020 to 2021

So, you are stuck with me for another year!

Another characteristic of this year's event is that there are no slides or projections as all our events have been extensively covered in our bulletins, which, have been circulated religiously every month to all the members. Unfortunately, we are having some problems with the Cyprus Rotary Website and we are unable to upload them for now. If you wish to gain access to our bulletins Christos Agapiou will happily send you a link to connect.

Before I give a short account of the main events and may I say achievements of last year, I would like to thank the Presidents of RCs Kyrenia, Salamis, Ledra, Aspelia and Nicosia for the cooperation and support in organising joint events throughout the year. I am sure and indeed hopeful that this cooperation will continue this year also.

Review of 2019-2020

1. One of the key preparatory elements that the Board managed to accomplish was the formulation of the 3-year rolling Strategic Plan covering the period 2019 to 2022. The Strategic plan includes the strategic goals of our club on which we measure our performance but primarily it helps us focus on the priorities we should pursue. **These have been spelled out and have unanimously been approved at a club assembly.**

It is not my intention to analyse the various elements of the strategic plan tonight, this we shall do in a business meeting of our club, very shortly

However, as an account of our last year's work I shall refer to certain elements of it

- a. I believe our vision statement speaks for itself as to where we want to be as a club. It states

To make Nicosia Lefkothea the leading club in Cyprus and through the engagement of its members and devotion to service to deliver meaningful projects that have a lasting effect in our community

- b. I believe that although this is an ambitious goal, I am sure that our club can be rated as second to none already **BUT we still have a**

lot to do to consolidate where we have succeeded and to rectify our shortcomings.

- c. **One of the primary strategic goals we have set ourselves was to formulate and deliver one GG project every other year.**

As you are all aware our club was the host club for our Mega GG project that was delivered to the Karaiskakio Foundation (the Cellular Biomarker for the Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre) The management of this project by our club gave us the knowledge and experience that encouraged us to set and meet this strategic goal.

- d. What was particularly pleasing to us was the audit that followed, by the RF Cadre Dr. Michael Fernandes in February this year, who praised the work that was done and its high professional standard. Just to quote one of his emails

“Dear Demetris and colleagues

Thank you for allowing me to come and visit your inspirational project to help children with cancer get targeted treatment. I was most impressed with the efficiency and effectiveness with which the project was implemented, on budget and in a timely manner. The justifiable pride Rotarians in Cyprus, and beyond, show with regard to this project is obvious and your actions are a credit to the spirit of Rotary.”

End of quote

This project has made Cypriot Rotarians very proud and I personally feel the sediment and the emotion every time I think of this achievement.

Before the dust settled and in line with our strategic plan, we started looking for the next GG opportunity and after various fruitless efforts with the Makarios Children’s Hospital and the School of the Blind we concentrated on another GG project for the Karaiskakio Foundation to enhance the capabilities of the Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre.

The project entails

- a. The purchase of a state of the art, hematology analyser
- b. A cooling system for the Cellular Biomarker Detection Unit to make it more efficient and
- c. A CO2 Incubator.

The total value of the project in approximately \$68.000

In our deliberations with the Karaiskakio Foundation we were made aware that the RC of Nicosia Salamis was of the same mindset and was having discussions with the KF. As a result, Iacovos and I, met with Litsa and Anna and agreed an equitable framework of cooperation to deliver the above GG

project to the Karaiskakio Foundation jointly, with our club acting as the host club.

Iacovos was appointed as the coordinator of the project.

To cut a long story short we have jointly, managed to progress the project even during the lock down period and to submit the application to the Rotary Foundation well before the end of June 2020.

I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to our Italian International Partner club of Palmanova who agreed to be our Partner club for a second time.

The application has been authorised by the DG Shawkat Tadros and by the DRFC PDG Christina Covotsou in a timely manner, and I take this opportunity to thank them both.

The project now awaits the consideration and approval of the RF. Our initial indications from Daniel Weyl from the RF were positive hence we expect the approval to be a matter of time.

The significance of the 30th of June 2020 deadline is that the GG project funding by the Rotary Foundation has changed, from this date. The Rotary Foundation will no longer fund (to the tune of 50%) the donations received from other Rotary Clubs or private contributions. The Rotary Foundation will continue to fund only the District contributions as at present.

We are very disappointed with this development which, although it does not affect the current project, it changes the basis for future GG projects. We shall try and work with the new rules however we shall be asking formally our DDG and DG to make representations against this development.

In any Global Grant project, probably the most difficult part, once the project nature is determined, is to raise the international funding required which is usually a minimum of 30% of the total value.

I would like at this point, to express our deep gratitude to PP Popi Kanari (and Chairperson of the KF) for raising through her contacts with the London Leukemia Cancer Society 15.000 euros effectively covering almost all our international contributions.

We have additional major sponsors whom, at their request we are keeping confidential, and we shall announce at the inauguration of the project

We expect to be able to deliver the project to the Karaiskakio Foundation before the end of this calendar year, a huge achievement timewise from the inception of the project and its delivery.

I would like to refer to two other GG projects in which our club participated in the past year.

The Cyprus Rotary, following Rotary International guidelines has taken action to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Two Global Grant Applications were submitted for a total value of \$150,000, \$108,000 will be donated for ICU Beds and high-quality masks to the Nicosia General Hospital and \$42,000 to support the ICU unit of the Kyrenia Hospital.

We expect approval of these Projects sometime this month

Our Club participated in both applications with an amount of approximately \$6,400.

It should be noted that our club has a track record of supporting the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation \$1,500 to the EREY Program (Every Rotarian Every Year) and \$300 to Polio

Another major achievement of last year was the re establishment of our Rotaractor club which was another strategic goal, and I welcome the Rotaractors who are here with us this evening. Congratulations to PP Popi Kanari and PDDG Iacovos for achieving this goal. The challenge of course is to maintain sustainability of the club and we as the parent club has pledged all possible support.

We started the year with 50 members, and we have admitted 7 new members however our membership increased only by a net number of 3. We now have 53 members. By the end of the evening we shall be 55.

During the past year and before the lock down we managed to

- Organise a speech by the Minister of Foreign affairs with the cooperation of the other Nicosia
- A fellowship at the Kafenio in Onasagorou str
- A family excursion to Kalopanayiotis
- We participated in the Polio event which was organised by our member PDDG Iacovos Constantinides.
- An Indian food evening for fellowship and fund raising. PP Panicos Nicolaides and I, did the cooking and we shared the expenses for the ingredients. That resulted in a net income for the club of 1250 euros. The event will be repeated this coming fall.
- Christmas Dinner at the Buono (together with Salamis and Kyrenia)

- Vasilopita evening at Gefsicleous (again with Kyrenia and Salamis)
- The successful visit of Cadre Dr. Michael Fernandes that effectively concluded our Mega Project
- In March just before the lockdown we were hosting the rotary club of Cambridge Rutherford but their day with us was cut short due to the scare of Covid 19 and our evening event was cancelled. We exchanged banners on the pavement by the OXI square. A Rotary first?
- During the lockdown we had Takis Klerides on the 5th of May and George Theocharides on the 26th of May, delivering two very interesting presentations on the repercussions of Covid 19 on the economy and proposed actions for recovery.
- Last but not least we had the Governor's visit in September of last year and we had an interesting interaction with him commending our club for being fully up to date with our District and Rotary obligations.

At this stage I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their constant support and participation in the affairs of the club. Special acknowledgements for the outgoing members go to Angela Ergatoude, our secretary, who has been tireless despite the challenges she faced in her personal and professional life. I think this is the right time to acknowledge the contribution of PDDG Iacovos Constantinides and thank him for his hard work, his mentorship of all the new Rotarians and to me personally. He is also very much involved in the Cyprus Rotary always willing to help. Thank you, Mr Rotary.

Those of you who are carrying on in the leadership of the club you know what to expect. Hard work, dedication and fun.....

Before we take the customary photos, I would like to remind us of some of our goals for next year.

- a. We shall endeavour to increase member engagement through participation in the Club's committees, family fellowship events and so on
- b. We shall increase our membership, respecting diversity, with quality Rotarians that are willing to serve our community and the Rotary Ideals in general. We are starting the year with two excellent new members that we shall pin later in the evening. Maria Saparilla proposed by PP Panicos Nicolaides and me, and

Michalis Persianis proposed by Vasilis Polemitis. I welcome both of them.

- c. We shall endeavour to start yet another GG project in cooperation with other Cyprus based clubs who share our aspirations.
- d. May I also remind you of the joint event on the 21st of July 2020 with Guest speaker the Minister of Health Constantinos Ioannou. It is an evening event and details will be announced this week. Please pencil in the date.
- e. Before the introduction of the New Board I would like to leave you with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi.

“the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

For me this is the true spirit of Rotary.

- f. May I now introduce the members of the New Leadership team for the year 2020-21
 - (i) Yiannis Tomassides - Vice President and Incoming President
 - (ii) Christos Agapiou, Secretary
 - (iii) PP Panicos Nicolaides Sergeant at Arms
 - (iv) Akis Papachristodoulou Treasurer
 - (v) Dr George Theocharides Dir Community Service
 - (vi) Stella Savva Dir Club Administration
 - (vii) Vasilis Polemitis Dir PR and PI
 - (viii) PAG PP Emilios Tannousis Club Trainer and Advisor.
 - (ix) Iacovos Constantinides PDDG PP Foundation Chair and Executive Secretary
 - (x) Dr Popi Kanari Dir of Youth
 - (xi) PAG PP Petros Stylianou Dir. Membership



Guest Speaker H.E. the Minister of Health Mr. C. Ioannou

In an event organized by RC Nicosia-Lefkothea and supported by RC Nicosia, RC Kyrenia, RC Nicosia-Salamis, RC Nicosia-Aspelia, and RC Nicosia-Ledra, on 21st July 2020, at the Karaiskakio Foundation, H.E. the Minister of Health Mr. Constantinos Ioannou was invited and addressed the event with a speech on ***“The War Against COVID-19, Navigating in Unchartered Waters”***.

In his welcoming address, The President of RC Nicosia-Lefkothea, Demetris Pantazis, inter-alia, stated:

“We have all gathered here to acknowledge and honour the success of our small country in fighting the pandemic of Covid 19. We are proud that our country has performed much better than most, and significantly, it has done so by relying on its own resources of local experts and healthcare providers.

To you, as the leader of this effort, we say THANK YOU.

We also convey our thanks and gratitude to all the health providers, the scientific advisers and the many others who have contributed to this success.

We recognise that battles have been won, but the war is not over. We are eager to hear from you how this has been achieved, how you evaluate the progress made and what the future holds in balancing the health considerations with the demands of the economy.”

The RC of Nicosia-Lefkothea honored the Minister with the Paul Harris Fellowship.

The event was very well attended by more than 80 participants and it was also very well publicised in the social media, the press and the TV with a lot of the media quoting extracts from the Minister’s address and highlighting the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

The Minister’s address was very detailed and indeed very informative as to the policies and actions the government engaged on in the fight against COVID-19 and for the benefit of all our members who would like to refer to the Minister’s speech, the entire text is published here below:



**Address of the Minister of Health, Mr Constantinos Ioannou, at the event
of the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea**

“The war against COVID-19, Navigating in unchartered waters”

Mr Pantazis (Demetris Pantazis, President of the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea),
Dr. Kanari (Popi Kanari, Chairperson of Karaiskakio Foundation),
Honourable Presidents of Rotary Clubs,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure for me to join you today in this special event that brings us together after a long time of social distancing and strict measures due to COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity and thank the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea for putting together this event, giving me the opportunity to stand back and take stock of what Cyprus has achieved over the last six months.

In these unrepresented times, the world faced an invisible ruthless enemy. We all stood united in a common goal of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic limiting its devastating impact on global health, economies and social order.

From the outset of the pandemic Cyprus has closely followed recommendations from WHO and the ECDC. As of mid-January, we received the first report from WHO and ECDC with initial information about the epidemic outbreak in China. Although at the time this was not considered a major threat and no-one could foresee that it would develop into a pandemic, we re-activate the Epidemiological Monitoring Unit. I specifically asked the members of the Unit to re-evaluate our action plan from Ebola and take stock at Personal Protective Equipment. In a weekly basis, we had meetings to assess the situation and all the information from the countries with active epidemic and, by identifying the obstacles that caused difficulties in our strategy, we took the necessary actions to improve the action plan. We acted proactively and this saved us time and resources.

At the same time, through teleconferences, I established communication with the Director of the ECDC and the EU Commissioner for Health, while I was in close contact with my European counterparts. From the very beginning, ECDC evaluated the danger and gave scaled guidelines on how the countries should act, based on factors such as the number of cases, etc. Cyprus, early on, implemented those measures as if there were recorded cases in the country.

Based on the 4-pillar strategy of the ECDC, we adjusted our action plan and prepared for the worst-case scenario. Firstly, we placed emphasis on educating the public on the new coronavirus. We soon established a

mechanism and explained to the public the steps they should take when seeking medical advice. By opening helplines for the public and through a communication campaign, we told people which are the symptoms of the virus, who to contact if they have any of those symptoms, why they should stay in self-quarantine after a trip, etc. Also, we sent newsletters by email, through GeSY's system.

At the same time, with the help of the newly-established GeSY, we engaged health professionals. We brought on board General Practitioners and other health professionals, such as ICU doctors and nurses, to educate them on how they should deal with patients. Information and guidelines were distributed to doctors by email and health professionals in public hospitals were trained to work in ICUs in case of emergency. Also, we proceeded with the establishment of Public Health Clinics for assessment and management of suspect cases of COVID-19, which helped health professionals deal with their patients.

Also, as of February, we took measures at our entry points monitoring passengers according to their country of origin, based on the guidelines of WHO and ECDC. It's worth-mentioning that Cyprus was one of the countries that applied strict measures at the airports earlier than necessary, long before WHO called SARS-CoV-2 a pandemic.

We realized early on that we needed the advice of the experts, so in early March we called on doctors, scientists and academics of various specialties and set up an Advisory Committee that, together with the Epidemiological Unit, contributed in monitoring the course of the pandemic worldwide and advise the Government on the next steps.

When the first two imported cases of COVID-19 were identified on March 9th, as of today 1.038 total cases have been reported. Nearly 85% of these cases (approximately 850) have recovered, 19 deaths have occurred due to COVID-19, while no patient was hospitalized in the ICUs for over a month now (19 June).

We declared a state of emergency on mid-March and allocated 100 million euros emergency fund for strengthening of our healthcare system. At the same time, we imposed strict lockdown measures that restricted the movement of people. People felt upset because of those restrictions, which we expected to happen. We had to be honest with them and we put great emphasis on explaining them, why we imposed those measures and the reasons they should adhere. At this time, we shifted our communication strategy, to explain citizens the reasons of the lockdown and kept reminding them what they should do when they are in need of healthcare services or how to practise personal hygiene measures.

Our policy from the very beginning was to test early, contact trace and isolate the positive cases. Cyprus has one of the highest uses of diagnostic testing with more than 20.00 per 100.000 people.

Great emphasis throughout this period was also placed in the rapid identification of new cases through early testing and active contact tracing, as recommended in ECDC's 4-pillar strategy. During lockdown, we engaged in an aggressive strategy of actively testing large groups of the population. We engaged in random sampling and testing of the population, but also the front-line workers and healthcare professionals and vulnerable groups, through various programs, at the state's expense, having examined approximately 80 thousand citizens. Besides the contact tracing process that still runs since the outbreak of the pandemic in Cyprus, special groups of the population, such as patients prior their operation, pregnant women, prisoners, migrants, etc, are being tested, in an effort to eliminate the possibilities of spreading the virus within hospitals, prisons, and other facilities, and also eradicate the virus from the community.

During the lockdown period and when the epidemiological data were favourable, together with the Ministries of Finance and Labor, we drew up the strategy for the gradual lifting of restrictions. To prevent a new outbreak, ECDC and the European Commission issued a general plan with guidelines on how to restart, inter alia, economies, traveling and businesses. Based on that general strategy and the epidemiological trends internally, each country could build its own national policy to steadily exit the health crisis.

In this line, Cyprus continues its successful policy of massive testing of the population. The progressive opening of the areas of the economy and the targeted re-opening to travellers from other countries helps us better monitor epidemiological indicators and adjust our strategy if needed. We'd rather restart our economy in a slower pace than take big steps and lose control of the situation.

Looking back, we are proud of what we have achieved so far in containing the pandemic. We could certainly do better in addressing specific issues, but we should always take into consideration that no country globally had the means or the knowledge to deal with the pandemic at its early stages.

Our success in dealing with this pandemic was a result, first of all, of the strong political commitment to take robust and proactive measures in line with WHO and ECDC guidance to protect citizens from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, we placed great emphasis on continuous monitoring of Personal Protective Equipment and controlling and procuring stock, equipment and necessary consumables and we actively trained staff in the proper use of PPE.

We took measures to increase the capacity of healthcare system through mobilising staff, decree of requisition for health professionals from the private sector and cancelled all elective surgical procedures and designation of one hospital, General Hospital for COVID-19 patients. We created a new Intensive Care Unit in Nicosia and we improved the infrastructure in the existing ones.

All these measures gave us time to prepare for the worst-case scenario. Fortunately, the early tracing of the cases and their isolation prevented the spread of the virus in the community, and allowed our healthcare system to address the situation with the minimum possible losses.

Distinguished friends,

We plan with a sense of guarded optimism keeping in mind that COVID-19 is a new highly transmissible infection in a population with low immunity. Some of the measures are still in place and there will continue to be until the scientific community develop a safe and effective vaccine. We eagerly wait for the outcomes of clinical trials. We shall continue practicing personal hygiene and protective measures, as well as social distancing, to limit the possibility of spreading the virus within the general population.

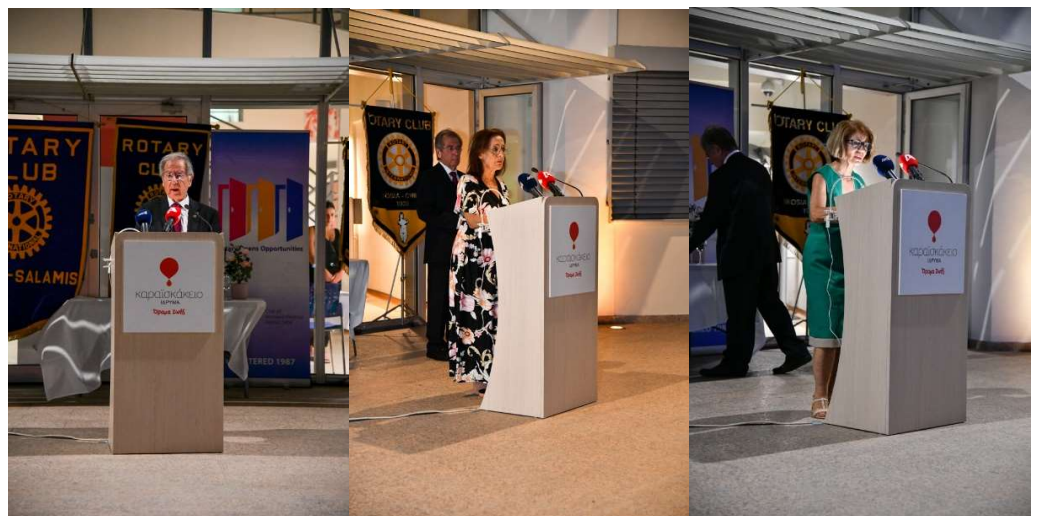
Dealing with the pandemic was a war against an invisible enemy. All Governments around the world navigated in uncharted waters, and Cyprus was not an exception. Under the leadership of the President of the Republic, the Cabinet had to take difficult and painful decisions. There was no successful action plan to base our policies on and, therefore, we had to be flexible to adjust our strategy at all times.

It was clear to everyone in the Government that we had to ensure our people's health was protected at all costs. What happened in many other countries, far more advanced and with better healthcare systems than Cyprus, was not an option for us. We were criticized for being overly strict and unfair as regards the measures we implemented. I assure you that it was not easy neither for the President nor myself or any other member of the Cabinet. We spent long hours trying to make the best decision, bearing in mind that we primarily needed to protect the Public Health. I have no regrets, even now, on how we addressed this health crisis and the measures we imposed.

We still implement strict restrictions, especially regarding social events. We need to be in line with other countries and we have to remain prepared in view of a new outbreak. No cure or vaccine is yet available and, therefore, the recommendations of all competent world and European Organizations advocate for gradual and targeted lifting of the restrictions.

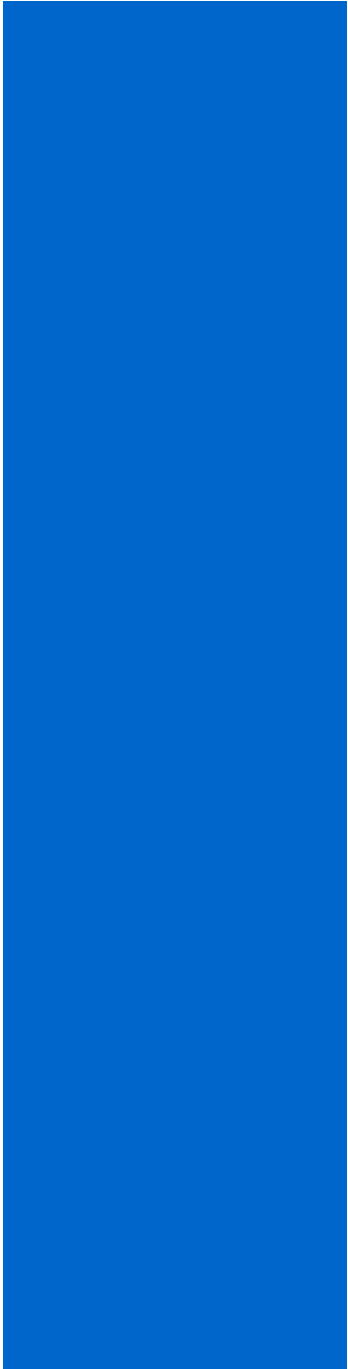
Once again, I would like to reaffirm the Government's readiness to address a new outbreak. We monitor the developments worldwide and we update our

strategy, aiming, of course, at having the minimum impact both to our patients and the healthcare system.











New Club Members

Maria Saparilla



We welcome Maria to our club and we are certain that her contribution will be invaluable.

Maria was born in Kyrenia, in January 1964 but grew up in Nicosia

She is a holder of B.S. degrees in Industrial Engineering and Mathematics from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

She joined Cyprus Airways Public Ltd. in March 1988 and served various positions in the Commercial division of the airline, until January 2015 when she retired early due to the company closure,

At the time she held the position of Manager for Product & Revenue Management.

Throughout her career with Cyprus Airways, she acquired specialized knowledge in the field of airline revenue optimization and pricing through training in the US.

She represented Cyprus Airways at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) - Pricing and International Affairs Division.

She continued her career in the airline industry as a consultant to the founding team of Cobalt, which she joined in February 2016 as Director of Sales, until October 2018.

She currently works as a freelancer of project coordination services and also runs short-term vacation rentals.

Michalis Persianis

We welcome Michalis to our club and look forward to his contribution to the further development of our club by adding a new dimension to its activities.

He is currently employed by the Bank of Cyprus as the Corporate Affairs Director, since 2015.

His mandate includes CSR and Corporate Responsibility, Marketing and UX/CX, Digital Brand and Assets, Press Office, Group Non-Financial Results and Outcomes, government relations and Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre

He has a rich and varied experience working in senior positions for various Organisations and undertaking numerous assignments. By way of examples he worked for the Wall Street Journal, Kathimerini newspaper, Head of Research for the John Kasoulides presidential campaign and so on.

His academic background includes:

Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Washington, DC

M.A., Distinction: International Relations & International Economics May 2005
▪ Graduated with Distinction

Rutgers College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

B.A., Highest Honors (Major in Political Science; Minors in Economics and French) - October 2002

Eagleton Institute of Politics - Associate's Degree in Politics.