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## Message from the President



Dear Fellow Rotarians

November has been a very busy month starting with a very successful fellowship event on the 5<sup>th</sup> November (the Indian food night) followed by two joint events of the Nicosia based clubs and a tree planting event sponsored by our club at the Junior School.

As you are aware and for the sake of the record PP Panicos Nicolaides and I, decided to use our cooking skills and cook Indian dishes as part of the fund-raising activities of our club. The cost of materials including the tables set up expense has been shared between Panicos and me and the only

cost outlay was the renting of the venue.

Drinks were donated by Photiades Group Ltd (Carlsberg) and the sweets were provided by Popi, Elena and Angela. There was also a raffle with three worthy prizes. The turnout was about 50 persons. My thanks to Tony Mamakos and Angela Ergatoude for their help during the evening

**The total net amount we have managed to raise was 1265 euros.**

Equally important was that all those present had a very good time and the event gave the opportunity to reconnect with each other. It has been some time that so many of us with spouses and friends got together.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Anastasia Orphanou as our new member who was pinned during this event by the Deputy District Governor George Psimolophites. I am positive that Anastasia with her experience as a Rotarian (PP, Secretary etc) but also her organisational skills will be an asset to our club.

The other event of our club, which was organised by Petros Stylianou, PP and AG, was the tree planting at the Junior School to highlight the importance of fighting bullying at schools. PP Popi Kanari accompanied Petros at the event. More details are given elsewhere in this bulletin.

### Joint Events

Nicosia – Ledra RC organised a talk by the Governor of the Central Bank Mr. Constantinos Herodotou, at the Landmark hotel on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 supported by all the other Nicosia based clubs including ours. The event was very successful as it

was attended by over 80 Rotarians and their friends. Regrettably I could not attend the event as I was abroad, but our club was well represented by Iacovos Constantinides.

Nicosia – Salamis RC also organised a talk by a distinguished oncologist Dr. G. Astras on “New methods of preventing and curing tumours”. The event included music from Hara Aresti – Liapi and the Dalton Brothers trimmed the moustaches of the volunteers present!

The event was also supported by the remaining Nicosia based RC clubs including ours. About 50 persons were present.

I am pleased to note that our pledge with my Fellow Presidents to hold worthwhile events jointly with the all the RCs of Nicosia participating has produced excellent results until now and Rotary is again in the forefront to create increased awareness of current affairs

to its members, although I must say that we are still lacking in promoting our events in the local press and in our community.

**We have organised our Christmas dinner event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December and we have a target of a minimum of 50 persons from our Club. I urge all of you to attend what is a promising fun event the singer/entertainer for the evening being Giorgos Stamataris. Please respond within the prescribed time. I am particularly pleased to welcome to our Christmas dinner, in addition to the RC of Kyrenia, the RCs of Nicosia Salamis and Nicosia Ledra who have decided to join us.**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November we held our monthly Board meeting at which a number of topics were discussed including the requirement to elect/appoint the officers of our club for the following Rotarian year 2020-2021, the options for a Global Grant project, overdue subscriptions and action to be taken, fundraising activities, and so on. There have been no volunteer nominations following my request in the last month’s bulletin which is disappointing in itself.

**We are obliged by Rotary regulations to upload our incoming board in December and for this we need to organise a Club Assembly in December. It appears that the only available date is the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 however a separate advice will be distributed shortly together with an agenda for the meeting.**

As you may recall, one of our main objectives for this year was to reactivate our Rotaract Club and I am delighted to say that this project has taken significant first steps thanks to the efforts of Iacovos Constantinides and Popi Kanari. Our Rotaract club will be community based and I had the pleasure to meet the core of the group at their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> November together with Iacovos. I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the group and their organisation in running their meeting. They are all young professionals that will make us proud. We already have pledged the full support of our RC to establish themselves. The challenge will of course be to establish and maintain the Rotaract Club and this is a task for all of us. I am sure PP Popi Kanari and PDDG Iacovos Constantinides will lead the way.

Although I expect to see you all on the 10<sup>th</sup> December at our Christmas dinner,

I would like to wish to each and every one of you and your loved ones, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020.

With warm Rotarian regards  
Demetris

Demetris Pantazis  
President  
2019-2020

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## **Fundraising event – Indian food**

Indian food cooked by PP Panicos Nicolaides and President Demetris Pantazis on 5 November 2019.

Our RC wishes to thank Panicos and Demetris for their initiative to cook for us some excellent Indian dishes and at the same time raise money for our club. They have provided and paid for the food ingredients and all the other catering utensils required. After paying for the venue the net income was 1265 euros which includes income from the raffle. The lucky Rotarian of the evening was Polys Michaelides who won two out of the three prizes, an overnight stay for two at the Coral Beach and a massage at Quick Spa. Equally important, all those who attended had a great time and asked that this becomes an annual event!!!!

During the evening we also did some additional Rotary work, the pinning of our new member Anastasia Orphanou. Anastasia was jointly proposed by PP Popi Kanari and PP Panicos Nicolaides. The pinning was performed by our member and Deputy District Governor George Psimolophites.

### **Some photos from the evening.**









# Polio Awareness

Polio Awareness Campaign – 50,000 leaflets Distributed with every delivery order from Pizza Hut, Burger King and Wagamama

Cypriot Rotarians, with the support of PHC Franchised Restaurants arranged for one Polio leaflet to be included in every Pizza, Burger or Asian meal delivery, ordered from Pizza Hut, Burger King or Wagamama. In total 50,000 such leaflets were distributed between the 12th and 26th of November 2019. This unique Polio Awareness Campaign is part of a number of activities organized all over Cyprus to Celebrate World Polio day, increase awareness and promote support of this noble crusade undertaken by Rotary and its partners aiming to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth.

Our RC congratulates all those Rotarians who contributed to the success of the Polio events and in Particular our member PDDG Iacovos Constantinides who led the organisation of this awareness project

**TRIPLE YOUR IMPACT**

For the next three years, the Gates Foundation will match every \$1 Rotary donates to polio eradication 2-to-1, up to \$50 million per year.

Your Donation <b>\$25</b>	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation <b>+ \$50</b>	Total Contribution to Polio <b>= \$75</b>
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Which can purchase:

- 150** beds for vulnerable, at high risk to become paralyzed in a standard early outbreak season
- 75** vaccine courses to keep the polio under control and eradicate
- 600** people eager to learn to rock climb or play tennis

HOW TO HELP

- Learn. [andpolio.org](#)
- Share.
- Donate. [Donate Now](#)

**END POLIO NOW**

**COUNTDOWN TO HISTORY**

"We are **ACTUALLY CLOSE** to getting rid of polio — more than 99.999% of the way there. Finishing the job is a big challenge, but it is **VERY DOABLE** if we keep up the effort." — Bill Gates

Rotary

**FUNDING IS NEEDED TO ERADICATE POLIO**

**TOP 5 REASONS TO ERADICATE POLIO**

There are fewer polio cases today than ever before, but we still need money until one more child, the one 21st Century polio-free world, and we need your help.

- 1 To improve lives.** Polio is a painful, debilitating disease that can cause lifelong paralysis. A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere.
- 2 To invest in the future.** Polio is a childhood disease, which means it never attacks older children. A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere.
- 3 To improve child health.** Polio is a childhood disease, which means it never attacks older children. A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere.
- 4 To save money.** A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere. A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere.
- 5 To make history.** Polio is a childhood disease, which means it never attacks older children. A polio-free world will be a better world for children everywhere.

[andpolio.org](#) [Donate Now](#)



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## Governor of the Central Bank

### As Reported by PAG, PP Emilios Tannousis who attended the event.

On November 19th 2019, the six Rotary Clubs of Nicosia have organized a joint lunch meeting at The Landmark Hotel with guest speaker, the Governor of the Central Bank of CYPRUS Mr. Konstantinos Herodotou.

Mr. Herodotou has said, that the Cypriot banking system has recorded "immense progress" reducing its stock of NPLs from their peak of €28 billion to the current level of €9.5 billion, registering a reduction of 68%. He has presented stressing that Cypriot banks should not utilize their excessive liquidity to rush to give loans without scrutinizing the borrower's repayment capacity. Noting that the current NPL level is at 32% of total loans, Herodotou said that the Cypriot banks need to do more in converging with the 10% which is the threshold set by the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the 3% NPL rate which is the current NPL average in the EU. The Central Governor assured the SSM does not expect the Cyprus NPL rate to drop from 30% to 10% in a year, but noted that "they want to see a credible part sufficient progress so that within a reasonable amount of years you will approach that 10% threshold."

"I think our big banks have been demonstrating that recently and that is every pleasing but I think we need to encourage the smaller banks to do so because now they can see what has worked for the bigger banks," the CBC governor said.

Noting it is "absolutely normal and expected" for bigger to lead the way in NPL reduction, Herodotou added that smaller banks need to plan NPL reduction through their business model.

"But they need to prioritize this and I repeat again the path has been shown by the biggest banks," he added. Smaller banks are directly supervised by the CBC and not by the Single Supervisory Mechanism.

Furthermore, Herodotou highlighted the majority of NPL reduction has been achieved through sale of loans which have been offloaded to credit acquiring companies (CACs).

"One we should never forget that they stay within the economy, so our households, small and medium sized companies and big enterprises continue to have those NPLs," he said stressing that these loans should be resolved in way consistent with the economy and the CBC's code of conduct.

But he added that the positive effect of loan sales is that it "stabilizes further the banking sector as it gives more ability to the management of banks to focus on the actual business of doing banking."

Furthermore, Herodotou referred to the excessive liquidity featuring the Cyprus banking system noting that Cyprus banks should not rush to give out loans, despite the fact that



they are sitting on “piles of liquidity.”

“There is no liquidity issue with any bank in Cyprus, but at the same time there should be no rush in giving out loans, we should not repeat the mistakes of the past. Yes there is excess liquidity, yes our banks are facing two challenges, one is NPLS the second is profitability, but we should not allow the banks to rush to give out loans,” he said.

Banks, Herodotou went on to say, should evaluate the risk of the loans, the capability of the repayment and only when those loans have a sound business case and a sound repayment case then the banks should be left alone without any pressure to give out the loans they deem good for their balance sheet and their operations.

“And if the banks overdo it then is the job of the regulator to change the regulatory requirements either because the banks are over doing it or because we see as Central Bank that certain sectors are overinflating, in order to avoid another curse I think of our country which is going from bubble to bubble, we need to start preventing the bubbles from being created” he stressed;

Stating that bubbles are always happening in every economy and that this is a local phenomenon, Herodotou added “we need to be more preemptive in that respect.”

The event has attracted more than 100 Rotarians and friends while after the speech, a session of Q&A have taken place with the Central Governor giving convincing answers to the fellow Rotarians.







## **Tree planting at The Junior School**

The Junior School Nicosia as part of its Anti-bullying Campaign that took place during the first week of November 2019, had set a special day in an effort to inform its students about this event.

To mark this day, an event was organised in the morning of Tuesday 14 November at the School premises, where our Club presented the students and the school staff (around 700 people) with a short speech by our Past President, Assistant Governor Petros Stylianou passing on the message of friendship and the importance of friendship in our everyday lives. Assistant Governor Petros has stressed the role of Rotary to this end and explained the importance of being a Rotarian where friendship could be developed amongst members not only at the club's level, but also through the country's, district's and other Rotary worldwide clubs.

During this event, that has also been attended by our Past President Popi Kanari, our Club has donated 10 number citrus trees to be planted at the school premises to mark the importance of friendship and at the same time discouraging bullying practices amongst students. 10 more trees will also be planted at a later stage at the Senior School Nicosia. The trees were kindly donated by Assistant Governor Petros.

The School Management expressed their gratitude for our continuous support towards the school's efforts to minimise bullying practices and promoting events that come under the Rotary's six areas of focus.

The following text is part of the email received by the Ms Stella Hadjinicolaou, Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral & Behaviour Management:

“Dear Petros,

On behalf of the staff and management of The Junior School, I would like to send our warmest thanks for your kind donation and for attending today's event. The children were delighted to listen to your kind words and advice and perform for you. It was a really wonderful way to start the day and promote the theme of 'respect, love, honesty and lifelong friendship'. Please also thank Ioanna for her help. I have attached some photographs for you and these will be shared along with a paragraph about the event on The Junior and Senior School Facebook page very soon. Please pass on our thanks to The Rotary Club of Nicosia for their continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to the school in the future.

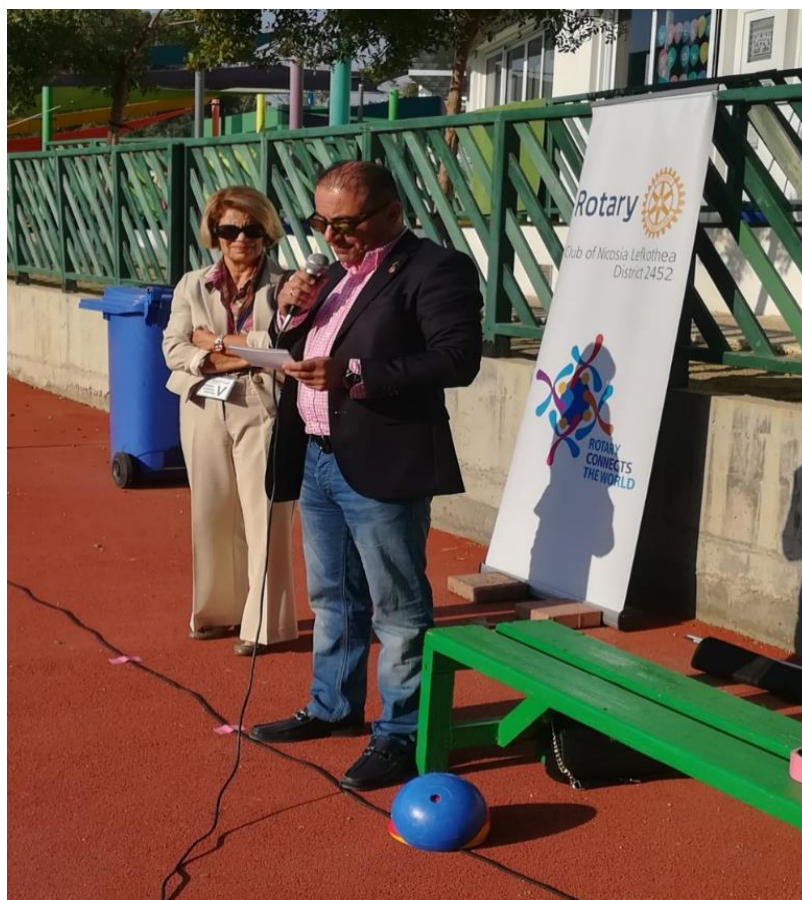
With thanks.

Kind Regards,

Stella Hadjinicolaou

Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral & Behaviour Management”

### **Photos from the event**





## **Christmas Dinner**

**Date : 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Time : 8.30 PM**

**Venue : BUONO (adjacent to Evangelistria Clinic)**

**Entertainment: Giorgos Stamataris**

**Food : Buffet dinner**

**Drinks : local wine, beers, zivania and soft drinks**

**Price : 25 euros per person**

**Confirm your participation to the Secretary and/or the President**

**[pantazis@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:pantazis@cytanet.com.cy)**

**[angela.ergatoude@gmail.com](mailto:angela.ergatoude@gmail.com)**



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## **Rotaract Club Nicosia - Lefkothea**

Two meetings were held of prospective Rotaractors, one on the 19th and one on the 26th of November 2019. The first meeting was attended by Iacovos Constantinides and Popi Kanari and the second meeting by Demetris Pantazis and Iacovos Constantinides. A total of approximately 15 young professionals attended. The meetings have been enthusiastic and very promising that we shall soon have our Rotaractor club up and running.

During the second meeting the following committee was elected. Constantinos Christodoulides – President, Ersi Christodoulidou – Vice President, Marina Kolokotroni – Secretary, Miltos Soutzis – Treasurer. We shall have more news on our Rotaractors in our next bulletin.

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**Thank you**