

**Dear Past DG Karakannas DGE Kevork Mahdessian, DDG George Papaleontiou, Ags, Commissioner of the Environment Mr Theopemptou, Past Presidents, fellow Rotarians and Rotary friends,**

**I already knew at the beginning of this Rotary year that being President of the Rotary club Nicosia Aspelia rotary club would not be an easy task as the targets and goals are high due to the high standards set by very successful Past Presidents.**

**The goals of the club this year were:**

- **To improve membership with a target to sustain old members, induct new members and work towards expanding classification.**
- **To Charter one Rotaract and at least one Interact club.**
- **To implement projects helping the communities locally and internationally covering all the areas of service.**
- **twinning with at least 2 new clubs: one in the district and one from another district**
- **To review the by Laws.**
- **Most importantly to promote Rotary image to the public through the Media and the internet.**

**My year as president started by the change-over lunch end of June 2010, having besides me a very strong team of directors and committee chairs.**

**In order to sustain old members we tried to make the meetings interesting by having high profile speakers. Ambassador Johnny Young, from the USA, Jullien Deruffe, from the French Embassy, Archaeologist Dr Despo Pilides, Marine Biologist Antonis Petrou, Economist Marios Mavrides were a few of the speakers that discussed current and interesting subjects.**

**We also had some of our members speaking about their professions or subjects relating to their professions, such as Rotarian Manfred Lange, Nitsa Kiliaris and former diplomat Walter Bopp. We also had District officials training our members on Rotary issues in general. Once a month we had evening fellowship outings that replaced our regular meetings. In addition we introduced happy hour outings once a month, early in the evening, for the members that missed the regular meetings.**

**We have inducted 2 new members Marina Theodotou that was pinned by our DGE Kevork Mahdessian and Dr Areti Demosthenous that was pinned by our DG at the Gala dinner in January 2011. We had one Rotarian transferring to Aspelia, from a Greek club, Vassilis Skronias Economic and Trade advisor at the Greek Embassy. This brought the number of new members to 3 under 3 new classifications. The membership director of the club Dr Savvas Omorphos did a survey for new classifications at the beginning of the year.**

### **Rotary foundation**

- **Our club is 100% sustaining member of the Rotary foundation by contributing USD 100 per member for more than 5 years. This year we continued the tradition by sending USD 4500.**
- **The club secured one District Simplified Grant for our Dyslexia project of**

**USD 1000**

- **The club had an Exceptional representation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cyprus Rotary Conference, in October 2010,**
- **This year we are giving 6 PHF. We got 3 of them on Rotary Foundation date with double recognition points thus saving the club USD1500.**

## **Financial**

- **The budget of the year was approved by the board at the beginning of this rotary year. You can find on your tables the income and expenditure account until December 2010.**
- **The Club's bylaws were discussed in a club assembly and there was no need to revise them**

## **Service projects –**

**Details of the fund-raising events for the projects that will be presented can be found in the Projects and Events Table, on your tables, together with the Media coverage per project**

**Details of this year's projects can be found on the Club's website and a table of the media coverage at the end of this speech.**

**Our Service projects are based on an assessment of community needs**

**This year we had 3 major projects**

- 1. Our recycling awareness project “Clean Cyprus – Let's make Cyprus a Cleaner Greener Place” project, in collaboration with Green dot Cyprus.**

**The official campaign was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> September during a Gala Dinner and in collaboration with Green Dot, under the auspices of Mrs Elsie Christofia, in the gardens of the Presidential Palace and in the presence of our District Governor. Awareness activities took place on various levels by the environmental chair Dr Manfred Lange who presented our project at the international biodiversity conference in Larnaca and also to our club and our Rotaractors. The awareness on recycling continued, by presentations to schools by Green Dot and Mr Loizos Afxentiou.**

**The beneficiaries of the project are unlimited since through the leaflet that was circulated during and after the Gala dinner, as well as with the media coverage, people became aware of the benefits of recycling.**

**In addition 2 schools were the immediate beneficiaries from the proceeds from the Gala dinner:**

- **The International American School in Cyprus and**
- **the 4<sup>th</sup> Aglandjia primary school,**

**that received 40 Recycling bins each school for paper/Carton and PMD worth EUR 3923 and 2 composting bins donated by Blars – Mr Loizos Afxentiou**

**Here I would like to thank the Commissioner of the Environment Mr Theopemptou, Mr Sakis theodosiou from the Green dot, Mr Loizos Afxentiou from Blars and of course AG Elena Tanou.**

**The success of the project was due to the hard work of the board and Aspelia members and especially our committee chair Dr Manfred Lange.**

**Here I would like to thank our Main sponsors:**

**CEI Recycling – Michalis Argyrou**

**Marfin Capital Partners**

**Hania and Farid Ekhtesadi**

**Hilton Hotel**

**Ficardos Winery**

**Epotechniki**

**Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Environmental project was the Tree planting in the Athalassa Park in April, where 500 trees donated by the Forestry department, where planted by our members and our Rotaractors. A fund raising lunch followed at AG Elena Tanou house.**

## **2. DRIVE TO THE LEFT – project**

**Drive to the left is a road safety project initiated by PP Sotos Demetriou and the Aspelia RC in Collaboration with the Cyprus Traffic Police department.**

**The purpose of the campaign was to remind drivers from overseas, whether tourists or foreign residents in Cyprus, that they should drive on the left.**

**For the purpose of the campaign 2000 of PVC Plastic plaques were distributed during the launch of the campaign at Larnaca International airport on September 4<sup>th</sup> and after the press conference held at the Airport, in Ayia Napa on the same night.**

**The campaign had an excellent Media coverage in the press and in the main news of 2 TV stations.**

**The beneficiaries are the tourist and foreign visitors and the numbers are unlimited as the plaques stay in the z cars for a long time.**

**I would like to thank Mr D. Demetriou and the Cyprus Traffic Police Department, PP Sotor Demetriou, AG E. Tanou, PP Masis der Parthogh , PR Director L. Coudounaris, Rtn Loucas Vryonides and his daughter Margarita, Rtns Goran Svensson, Patrick Elston and our Rotaractors for being there and all the hard work they put for the success of the project.**

**Major sponsors: The Cyprus Traffic Police Department.**

### **3 Dyslexia awareness booklet for Cyprus and Train the Trainer project**

Research has shown, that worldwide a 10% of the population have dyslexia characteristics, with a 4% needing Special Education in order to learn read and write correctly. An important part of this problem in Cyprus is created by the ignorance of parents, teachers and the communities in general about the subject. As the problem is wide-spread in all parts of Cyprus a bi-communal approach involving the occupied part of the island as well was decided.

The **Dyslexia Awareness Booklet** was presented to the public for the first time at a press conference organised by the Cyprus Dyslexia Association, the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association (KKDD), Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia and Rotary Club Nicosia Sarayionou. The press conference was held at Chateau Status on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Our club coordinated the project, translated the booklet into Turkish, and undertook the publishing of the Greek booklet and help with the distribution. We printed 2000 copies and we raised the money from 2 fund raising events, and from a District Simplified Grant

#### **Train the Trainer project**

The Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia and Nicosia Sarayonu, have taken the initiative to assist the Dyslexia Associations of the two communities in implementing training workshops for parents and teachers who handle or encounter Dyslexic children. The funding to materialise the project came from Engage NGO Support Centre and the Management Centre and sponsored by the UNDP-ACT by EUR 7000.

The beneficiaries are unlimited as the booklet is making teachers and the public in general aware of the learning difficulty and the train the trainer project is an on going training of parents.

I would like to thank PP Marianna Trokoudes for her efforts and the rest of the team that worked and supported the projects. Of course a big thank you to Ayse Cocart and PR Director Louisa Coudounaris and Masis de Parthogh, that helped with the media coverage.

Of course we have to thank the Cyprus Dyslexia Association for the text and training, Kemanes printing for partly sponsoring the booklet, Athina Efstathiades for translating the booklet from Greek to Turkish.

Major sponsors Engage “ Do your part for peace” program.

The project had an excellent Media coverage and I attended 2 Tv live programs and a radio program.

## **Dulux project**

**Aspelia Rotarians and Rotaractors in collaboration with Dulux that donated the paints, painted Pediki Stegi. Rotarians, Rotaractors and the kids from Pediki stegi enjoyed the barbecue that followed.**

**Beneficiaries the kids of Pediki Stegi. Thank you to Amal El Khoury and her daughter Gada, Loukas Vryonides and his daughter and our Rotaractors.**

## **Secret Santa - on going project**

**In preparation for Christmas, the committee collected money and bought presents based on the children's wishes. The project became a reality this year thanks to the continuous efforts of Director Freidrich Vogel and Director Amal el Khoury**

**Beneficiaries the kids of Pediki Stegi and 4 other youth hostels in Nicosia**

## **International Projects**

### **International Emergency fund - ongoing project**

#### **Disaster Relief Task Force –**

- **Terrorist attack in Alexandria Egypt - The club responded immediately by sending USD 500 to help heal and rebuild. The money came from the International fund that the club has had for the last 4 years from donations from 2 companies**
  
- **Shelter Box is a global Rotary Club project which relies entirely on donations from the public and Rotarians, and responds instantly to disasters all around the world,**

**Aspelia has bought one shelter box and after today's donation by Rtn Nairy Merheje of EUR 500 is buying a second one.**

**The Sponsors of the Emergency fund are 2 companies.**

**Cosmos Insurance Company**

**K&A Insurance Company**

## **hope for Gaza children - project**

**Aspelia decided to offer support to orphan children from Gaza especially those suffering from chronic diseases by adopting a child with heart problems.**

**Fund raising: In the entrance we have a box and anyone wanting to contribute please do so. Even a single euro makes a difference the Sponsorship is through the Children's Relief Foundation (CRF)**

Ongoing projects

## **SCHOLARSHIP foundation:**

The trustees gave 10 scholarships this year, amounting to 18000 euro to needy students from the Nicosia area at a special evening event at "Mondo", together with our Rotaractors.

The aim was to bring the scholars to meet our Rotaractors. Chrysanthi Danou, the president of the club gave a very interesting speech and most of our scholars were interested in joining and are already connected to the club's facebook page.

Main sponsors for this year are:

- |                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| ○ The Russian commercial Bank | EUR 1000 |
| ○ Centrive Holdings           | EUR 2000 |
| ○ DG Guido Paleman            | EUR 2500 |
| ○ Bank of Cyprus              | EUR 250  |

**Alzheimer's day care centre – on-going project and Autistic Children**

We had 2 joint fund raising events with the Nicosia club and the money raised amounting to euro 6000, Euro 3000 for each club will be given mainly to the Day care centre in Kaimakli. A part of the money raised, will be given to the Autistic children association.

**Follow Goran project:**

**As you can see from the leaflets on your tables - One Rotarian: Goran Svensson, one Honda, 2500 kilometres, 5 countries, one cause: To raise money for the Alzheimer's Day care Centre.**

Goran is also covering the cost of the trip. We have raised so far EURO 2060. This is a joint project with the Aspelia Rotaractors

As the completion of the project will be at the end of the month, all details will be uploaded and can be found on the club's website.

## **Rotaract club Nicosia Aspelia**

And speaking of Rotaractors our club for the 1<sup>st</sup> time has chartered a Rotaract club. We started working towards establishing the club, since March 2010 together with the Rotaract committee chair Stefan Peters and the support of AG E Tanou. The certificate of organisation was given by our DG who came from Egypt especially for the occasion, at the Gala dinner of our club, in the presidential palace gardens, in September 2010.

The club is an exceptionally active one. It started with 15 members and now has 25 members. It is one of the best Rotaract clubs not only in Cyprus but in the District 2450, thanks to the efforts of the Club's President Yulia Alekseeva and her team.

Our Rotaractors website has a link to our website. Please take 5 minutes to visit the site and see their year's activities.

**Nicosia Aspelia Interact club – American International school in Cyprus**

This year we also had the Chartering of our 1<sup>st</sup> Interact club at the American International School in Cyprus (AISC) in January 2011.

The club is Involved in the Aspelia Environmental Project in Collaboration with "Green Dot"

The school was one of the 2 schools that received 40 Recycling bins worth EURO 1984.-

### **Ykan – Anti drug unit**

This year the club donated one computer and supported the anti drug conference organised by the anti drug unit in June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Aspelia was the only sponsor of the event and received the appreciation of all the speakers especially the Chief of Police.

A big thank you to our committee chair Petros Petrou for his continuous efforts in helping Ykan.

### **Public Relations**

The public relations committee did an excellent work this year publicising nearly all of our projects in the press, as you can see from the detailed table given to you. The club had also a very good internet and TV coverage that helped to promote Rotary's image to the public.

### **Twinning:**

- 2 twinning's were planned this year, the 1<sup>st</sup> one with the Alexandria club that was to take place during the district conference in Luxor and the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the RC of Kiffissia in Greece. Unfortunately both were postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **CLUB'S WEBSITE**

- Our website is updated with all our projects in detail with live TV spots connected to YouTube, our calendar of events the history of the club etc. We have a facebook page and YouTube page. Here I have to thank our Rotaractor Loris Stavrinides for his valuable support and the work and time he has spent helping and training our members.

### **District Awards**

I want to thank our board and committee chairs that worked for the district awards and made our club the 1<sup>st</sup> club in the district.

Aspelia was awarded 7 shields (highest price).

According to the district resolutions only 2 clubs in the district were awarded 7 shields but Aspelia had better points in all the awards than the 2<sup>nd</sup> club.

Further I want to thank Mr. Emilios Soloumou, the Commissioner of the

**Environment and Directors F. Vogel, Louisa Coudounaris Amal El Khoury Pia Ceder S. Omorphos our Treasurer Carol Xenofontos, Sergeant at Arms Patrick Elston, and committee chairs Manfred Lange and Loucas Vryonides and Petros Petrou.**

**Special thanks to our secretary Eleni Zapiti for all her support through the year.**

**And of course I thank all Aspelians and friends, the Nicosia Aspelia Rotaractors and last but not least my family.**