



# Weekly Bulletin

Issue 2



## Rotary Club of Nicosia

P.O. Box 22203 CY 1518 Nicosia

Club President:

Katerina Konari

Past President:

Petros Markou

Club Secretary:

Robert Stambouli

Treasurer:

Nick Paraskeva

President elect:

Yioula Papakyriakou

Sergeant at Arms:

Costas Nicolaidis

Club Administration:

Garo Zartarian

Rotary Foundation:

Mike Johnson

Public Relations:

Andrestinos  
Papadopoulos

## Congratulations to our Rotaractors



Congratulations are in order to our Rotaractors, who at the recent Rotaract Awards received the Professional Event Award for 2010-2011.

### 2 – Month Program

August Membership and Extension		September New Generation	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting Cancelled due to Holidays	1 <sup>st</sup>	Regular Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting Cancelled due to Holidays	8 <sup>th</sup>	Inauguration of Interact Club. Induction of New members
18 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting Cancelled due to Holidays	15 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker
25 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting Cancelled due to Holidays	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Assembly
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Barbeque / Beach Party at Cavo Mari -pending
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Casino Night

This week is the last meeting before the holidays and the Club will not be holding any meetings until the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Please enjoy your holidays and come back fresh and ready to participate more in the Club activities, projects and attendance

## Speakers Corner

At our first meeting of the Rotary year, the lawyer Konstantinos Kantounas spoke on the following current and very controversial topic of importance for Cyprus. This was a subject of great interest to everyone especially those with property in the occupied areas and attendance was high – in fact it was the first time in a long time that the Fontana room was full with Rotarians and the meeting was extended to 3 pm due to the extensive questions and discussion being generated.

### **“The Turkish Property Commission – should we go or not”** Konstantinos Kantounas

The European Court of Human Rights ECHR, being so overwhelmed with applications from Greek Cypriots regarding the violation of their property rights in Cyprus, ruled that the "Immovable Property Commission" be set up in the occupied north "to examine applications and decide on the restitution, exchange of properties or payment of compensation". As a result of the landmark ruling, Greek Cypriot refugees seeking compensation or restitution for their properties in the occupied areas now have to exhaust all "domestic remedies" in the occupied areas before applying to the ECHR in Strasbourg.

The deadline for application to the Commission is December and many people have already applied; some for "loss of use", while others, feeling that there will never be a solution to the Cyprus problem and that this is their last chance to salvage something, have applied for compensation. Much discussion is taking place on the subject with mixed feelings; some feel that to apply to this commission is in itself a form of recognition of the north and possible betrayal while others feel it's their last chance to get something after 37 years.

Mr. Kantounas who was the lawyer who won the case against the Orams family gave his expert view and beliefs on whether the people of Cyprus should go to the Turkish Property Commission. He claims that the ECHR decision in essence holds Turkey responsible for any violations of Greek Cypriot human rights and has given us until the 31st December 2011 to apply to the Commission for compensation – and that we forfeit the right to claim after this date. Mr Kantounas like many believe that Turkey is bluffing about giving compensation to Greek Cypriot property owners and that we should all apply en masse to the commission seeking restitution of our property rights. He explained how the procedure for application is handled by a lawyer, how valuations are carried out; the valuations being based on some formula and certainly not those based on today's prices.

All is not clear and certainly no one can guarantee that failing to claim means you don't lose the right to claim your land, under whatever terms are agreed in any settlement that may be made between the south and the north, if you wait for a political settlement. It could also mean that by 1st January 2012 those occupying our property in the north could feel more secure than ever before and this could lead to a surge in property sales in the north. Of course, any form of compensation, should it arise, is opposed to the return of property will in turn reinforce the ethnic division of Cyprus.

## Club Business

• **Meetings and Attendance:** This week is the last meeting before the holidays and the Club will not be holding any meetings until the 1<sup>st</sup> September. We will be organizing some committees for those still in Nicosia to get things ready for September.

• **Roster:** The New Roster is being prepared and will be published and circulated before September so those of you who have not checked yours, please do so and send changes only to our Secretary .

• **Bulletin:** Our new Bulletin (newsletter) now includes a Members Corner which will **include** members news and also a **“Know your Fellow Rotarian”**. profile of a member each week. This week we begin with PP Dimosthenis Severis.

• **Fundraising:** The 29<sup>th</sup> September is a fundraising **Casino night** – keep this date free and you will be receiving details of this fun event.

• **Our Club website:** Please go to the Rotary Clubs of Cyprus website [www.rotary-cyprus.org](http://www.rotary-cyprus.org) where you will find our club amongst the 19 individually listed on the RHS. If you click on our club, you will see there is nothing on any of the pages (it's the only one). I will be placing the bulletin each week on the Bulletin site. We need someone to write a paragraph or so on the following:

- A Home Page – a little about our Club (**volunteer** please)
- The History of our Club – one of the older members with a little knowledge and interest in history (**volunteer** please)
- President page with a small CV, handover pictures. If anyone has handover pictures of recent years, please pass them onto me. (President Katerina)
- An up to date three month calendar (President Katerina)
- Club Roster, Board Members, Paul Harris Fellows (Secretary Robert)
- Contact Details for Club, Board Members etc. (Secretary Robert)
- Projects (**volunteer** to compile list with photos if any of important past projects)

• **Club Finances:** We have just made our first payments of our dues to the District for the year – we have paid our 6month club dues, our 75 dollars for our Interact clubs, our 150 dollars for our Rotaract club. The sum of €3,200 has been given to the Artificial Joints project with the Rotary Club of El Orouba Egypt. This has been from the money raised by fundraising such as the ice cream sale at the Rainbow Club (800euros) during previous years.

• **Club Constitution:** The Standard Club Constitution” as included in the Manual of Procedure of Rotary International has been sent to us as amended to incorporate all changes made as a result of the latest Council on Legislation. The Board will study the changes made and list the important ones at the next Club Assembly in September for adoption.

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## MEMBERS CORNER

This week sees the first ***“Know your Fellow Rotarian”*** article in our Member’s Corner . How many of us know even a little about each other. It is hoped that this weekly article on a member of our club will help us get to know each other better, appreciate each other more and maybe even improve the fellowship within our club.

It is therefore fitting to begin these articles with PP Dimosthenis Severis, whose family has paid an important role in the Rotary of Cyprus and especially in our Club.



### ***PP Dimosthenis Severis***

*PP Dimosthenis Severis is the first third generation Rotarian in Cyprus. His grandfather the late Demosthenis Severis was one of the founder members of our Club in 1938 and his father the late Zenon Severis was President of our Club 1958-59.*

He was born in Limassol in 1945 and educated at the Elementary School of Elenion and at the Pancyprian Gymnasium (High School) in Nicosia. He went onto the study at Millfield School in England in 1963-1965 and subsequently studied Economics and Commerce at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland 1965-1969.

He returned to Cyprus and after his military service, he entered the family business which involved the manufacturing, importation and distribution of animal feed, insurance and real estate development. He has also other business interests and is a member of the Board of Directors of a number of public and private Companies in Cyprus.

He was appointed, as Hon. Vice Consul of Finland in 1973, then as Hon. Consul and appointed Hon. Consul General of Finland in Cyprus in 1987. He served as Hon. Secretary and subsequently as President of the Honorary Consular Corps in Cyprus 1993-1995 and 2003- 2007.

He has been honoured with the decoration “ Officer of the Order of the White Rose of Finland” (1984) and “Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland” (1997).

He has held many key roles in the Cyprus business world serving Cyprus as an elected member of the Board of the Nicosia Chamber of Commerce and Industry 1972-1987, and a member of the Board of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Nicosia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has elected him as an Hon. Member and as an Hon. Member of the Board of the Chamber (September 2007). He has served as Vice President of the Cyprus-Nordic Countries Business Association (2006-2010) which is associated with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and since June 2010 he is the President of this Association. He was President of the Institute of Directors, Cyprus Branch (1995-1999).

He has also served the Rotary Club of Nicosia well, having been Secretary (1984-85) and President of the Rotary Club of Nicosia (1991-1992) and still maintains a great interest in Rotary today.

He has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the APOEL Football and Athletic Club, Nicosia (1986-1991), a post which reflects his hobby of sports especially football; other hobbies include the theatre and history. He is married to Daphne (nee Cotsapas) and they have a son, Zenon who is currently at university in the UK.