



Welcome New Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Zone 21b

Director's Message

Welcome Home:

A Letter to the Newest Clubs in Rotary Zone 21.

Dear friends,

There is a special joy in opening a magazine and finding, page after page, **stories of new beginnings**. That is what you are holding. **It is not simply a report, but a roll call of courage.**

Every club featured in these pages began with someone who believed that their community deserved better and decided to do something about it. **Someone** made the **first phone call**. Someone **invited** a few friends. Someone booked a room that felt far too large for the number of **people expected**. And someone kept showing up, even after the excitement of the first meetings had faded **and the real work had begun**.

Those people are the reason this edition exists. I hope they are reading it today, seeing their names in print and feeling proud of what they started.

To every new Rotary and Rotaract club in Zone 21: welcome home.

I want you to understand what you have joined, because a charter certificate, important as it is, cannot fully capture it.

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028



Rotary has set an ambitious **goal for 2030: to grow to 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary.**

Read those numbers again, and then look around at your own club.

You are not a small footnote in that ambition. You are how it will be achieved. There is no other way. **Rotary grows one invitation, one member and one new club at a time**, in rooms exactly like the one where you meet. Your club is already part of that story.

So be proud. Not quietly proud, but properly proud.

From this moment, you will never have to serve alone. When you plan your first project, there are Rotarians and Rotaractors across the world who have attempted something similar.

Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

They have made mistakes, learned valuable lessons and would gladly help you avoid some of the difficulties they faced.

There may be **moments** when your club struggles, perhaps not in your first year when the **excitement** is still fresh, but later when **consistency** is required. When those moments come, reach out. There are people in this Rotary family who will notice, call, listen and walk with you.

Wherever you travel, you will find a **club** ready to welcome you and save you a seat. That is what membership truly means. It is more than wearing a pin. It is knowing that, **wherever you go, there is a place where you belong.**

My congratulations travel in two directions:

First, to **each of you** who said yes to membership, leadership and service.

Second, to the **district leaders, club advisers and extension teams** whose patient and often unseen work made these new clubs possible. They travelled long distances for small meetings. They followed up when no one responded. They encouraged people who were uncertain and kept believing when progress seemed slow. Much of that work may never appear in a report, but its impact will be felt for years.

Their stories in these pages are not merely decoration. They are **lessons**. **I encourage every district to read them carefully, learn from them and build upon them.**

If I may offer one piece of advice, it is this: **your first year will shape many of the years that follow.**

Listen to your community before choosing your first project. **Ask** people what they genuinely need instead of assuming that you already know.

Choose something meaningful and achievable. **Complete** it well. Then **tell the story** clearly, proudly and with good photographs. **Do not apologise for sharing your impact.**

When people can see that a club is changing lives and improving the place it serves, they will want to become part of it.

You belong here. You belonged from the moment you said **yes**, and there is nothing temporary or provisional about that.

Now go out, serve boldly and do something worth writing about.

We are already looking forward to telling your next story.

**With warm regards,
Emmanuel Katongole
RI Director 2026 - 28.**

RPIC's Message

Welcome Home, Friends

In Bulgaria, where I come from, it is like this. When the house next door stands empty, something is missing in our own life too. Passing by on our way home, we glance at the silent windows, at the empty garden, then hurry inside and close the door behind us.

Then, suddenly, a little miracle happens.

The windows open. Voices come from inside. Light appears. The garden fills with the little chaos of a place alive again, and our own world somehow becomes richer.

At first, we watch the new neighbours from a distance.

A day or two later, those of us nearby, a little shyly, gather the courage to speak. We begin with a few simple words that draw us closer and create that warm feeling in which you are not arriving somewhere new, but somehow returning.

That is how belonging begins. New people arrive with more than their names. They bring memories from other places, photographs of happy moments, habits, little rituals, dreams and hopes for the future. They come with their own emotions, experience and skills. They bring a whole world with them.

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)

RPIC 2026-2029, Zone 21B, Region 25



Then, little by little, we begin to take care of the space we share. We mow the grass together. We clean the street together. We keep an eye on the school. We notice what is missing. We ask what could be better. The neighbourhood is no longer simply a place where we live side by side. It becomes a community.

That's how Rotary happens. Every new club brings light into our Rotary home. It brings voices, questions, courage, local knowledge, friendships and dreams. Rotary grows stronger every time new people find the courage to come in, stay, serve and build.

Every new person in our communities is a joy. Every new club expands our capacity to do good.

This special issue grew from a simple wish: to let our newest clubs know that we see them. To give them a little more visibility, certainly, but also a moment of joy and pride.

RPIC's Message

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)

RPIC 2026-2029, Zone 21B, Region 25

We want you to open these pages, find your club, your people and your story, and feel that what you have started matters.

And behind every new club there are people whose work deserves to be seen too. Usually, there is not one person but a whole team — people who invite, connect, encourage, follow up, solve problems and keep going. We have invited some of the leaders who have been part of this process to tell us how it happened: what worked, what they learnt and what helped a group of people become a new Rotary or Rotaract club. Their experience belongs in this story as well, and perhaps it will make the next new beginning a little easier somewhere else.

Rotary has also given us an ambition for 2030: to grow to 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors. The numbers give us a direction. The deeper goal, to me, is what we build around them — clubs and communities that people are drawn to, where they feel welcome, included, cared for and free to bring their own ideas, experience and energy. Communities people want to join, contribute to and stay in.

That is where growth really begins. And every new club in these pages is already part of it.

And that is why I want to say to every new club in Zone 21: welcome home.

Give yourself time to discover your place in Rotary.

No one knows a new home completely on the first day. First we discover the rooms, then the people, then its rhythm, then our own place within it. It is the same in Rotary. Its meaning reveals itself little by little — through the first project, the first time we reach out a hand, the first conversation in which we realise that we are no longer guests, but part of the community.

Be brave as you begin. Ask questions. Learn. Find friends. Tell your stories. Share the good you create. It may inspire another club, another person, another community.

Keep your windows open. Let there be light in them, voices, work, friendship and hope.

Welcome home. We look forward to your next story.

**With friendship, pride and a warm welcome,
Tanya Georgieva
RPIC, Zone 21B
2026-2029**

Meet the
Gamechangers

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***





Champions

Knowledge and Experience Transfer with Altan

District 2430 found 10 New Clubs in the 25-26 Rotary Year

One of the strongest legacies a club, a Rotarian, and even a Rotaractor can leave in the community is to lead the establishment of a new club.

The new roadmap developed for club types, club models, and founding methods is not only about today; it is the beginning of a lasting change that will also shape the future.

In Turkish, the expression “it comes like a pulled thread from a sock” means that once the first step is taken, everything moves forward quickly and easily. Starting a new club is very much like this. The journey often begins with just one person; but with belief, determination, and persistence, it soon becomes a shared dream for many people and ends in success.

The main point is to truly believe in what we do. But even more than that, it is to combine confidence with deep respect for the organization we belong to and for ourselves. When this understanding is embraced, the founding of new clubs really does happen one after another, like a pulled thread from a sock.

In fact, every new club that is founded is a clear example of the lasting impact Rotary wants to create. Because lasting impact is possible not only through completed projects, but



also through strong clubs that will continue to serve for years, develop new leaders, and create value in society. Every new club is a lasting gift to the future.

Now we invite you to listen to the inspiring journeys of the founding presidents of the clubs established in District 2430 during the 2025–2026 Rotary year. In each story, you will see how an idea becomes hope, how one step becomes transformation, and how a beginning becomes a lasting impact. Let us listen to this exciting journey together.

With love and respect,

Rtn. N. Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

PDG 18-19 D.2430

Memberships Committee Chair 26-27 D.2430



Champions

Knowledge and Experience Transfer

with Plamen

Expanding the Rotary Family: District 2482's Experience in 2025-2026

Rotary's growth is never simply a matter of numbers. Behind every new member is a person with professional experience, ideas, connections, energy and a willingness to serve. Behind every new club is a new community of people who can expand our capacity to make a difference.

Numbers do matter, however, because sometimes they are the first sign that something needs to change.

We started with the facts

While still Governor-elect, I carried out a detailed analysis of membership development in District 2482 over the five-year period from 2019 to 2024.

The picture was not encouraging.

In our **Rotary clubs**, membership had **fallen from 1,952 to 1,773 by 1 July 2024**. During the same period, **five clubs were terminated**, another **two were at risk of termination**, and **only two new clubs were created**.

The trend in **Rotaract** was even more concerning. In just the final two years of the period, membership dropped from **322 to 212**. **Ten clubs were terminated**, another **5 - at risk of termination**, and no new clubs ...



Rtn. Plamen Tsvetkov
PP 12-13 Rousse Danube RC
PDG 2025-26 D2482

The figures made one thing clear: simply waiting for the trend to reverse was not an option. We needed focused action.

Following the District Strategic Plan, we identified three areas in which we needed to work at the same time:

- retaining existing members;
- attracting new members;
- creating new Rotary and Rotaract clubs.



From analysis to clear goals

Following the Governors' training in Orlando, I set District 2482 clear and achievable goals for the 2025–2026 Rotary year:

- **5% growth in overall membership;**
- **2 new Rotary or Rotaract clubs;**
- **3 new satellite clubs.**

As Governor, I also had to decide where my own involvement could make the greatest difference. Given the responsibilities and demands of the role, I chose to focus primarily on **the creation of new Rotary and Rotaract clubs.**

It was a deliberate choice.

Where is the potential?

One of our first practical steps was to create a **map of Bulgarian towns and communities with potential for membership development.**

We identified **14 locations** for work towards establishing new Rotary clubs and **60 locations** with potential for satellite clubs.

We gave particular attention to places where Rotary clubs had existed in the past.

This proved to be an important lesson in itself. In such communities, some memory of Rotary often remains — personal relationships, former

members, local contacts or people who remember the work of the previous club. That does not make rebuilding easy, but it means the conversation does not always begin from zero.

Clubs are built by people

There was no single formula. The process was different in every community.

Several elements, however, proved essential.

The first was identifying local leaders.

We were looking for people who would do more than accept an invitation to join. We needed people who shared Rotary's values and were willing to build something sustainable in their own community.

The second was personal contact and mentoring.

We had many conversations with many different people across the country. We used personal contacts and gradually involved experienced Rotarians as advisers to the Governor in the process of developing new clubs.

That became particularly important. Their own clubs later became sponsor clubs for the new ones. Support therefore did not end with the first introduction; it developed into a real relationship between an established club and a new one.



The third element was training and practical support.

The new teams needed to understand not only the chartering process, but also how to build a club community with a real chance of remaining active and sustainable once the excitement of the beginning had passed.

The results

During the 2025–2026 Rotary year, we had the pleasure of welcoming:

New Rotary clubs:

- Rotary Club Sveti Vlas International;
- Rotary Club Pernik;
- Rotary Club Kozloduy.

New Rotaract clubs:

- Rotaract Club Sevlievo;
- Rotaract Club Karnobat;
- Rotaract Club Dobrich.

New Interact clubs:

- Interact Club Yambol;
- Interact Club Panagyurishte;
- Interact Club American College – Sofia.

Rotary Club Hisarya is currently in the chartering process, while our friends in *Gorna Oryahovitsa and Lom* are already at an advanced stage of preparing new Rotary clubs.

These results are a source of pride. But they do not belong to one person.

Behind every one of these clubs are local initiators, Rotarians, mentors, sponsor clubs and whole teams of people who held conversations, searched for the right people, returned after meetings that had not gone as hoped, and kept going when the result was still nowhere in sight.

For me, this is one of the most important lessons from our experience:

a new club rarely grows from one good idea alone. It grows when a team forms around that idea and someone has the persistence to keep moving it forward.

Chartering is the beginning

Creating a club is an important moment, but it is not the final goal. Over the next two years, my main focus will be on active cooperation with these new clubs, helping them strengthen their sustainability and become fully integrated into the wider Rotary community.

Because real success will not be measured only by the number of clubs chartered.

We will see it over time — in whether these clubs remain active, whether they attract new people, whether their members find purpose and friendship in Rotary, whether they understand their communities, and whether they create projects that respond to real needs.

That is when a new club stops being a result in an annual report.

It becomes part of Rotary's future.

The experience of District 2482 in 2025–2026 has shown me that growth can be planned and supported. We cannot simply tell people to join Rotary. We can, however, deliberately look for local leaders, create opportunities, stand beside them in the early stages, and build clubs where people want to stay.

With persistence, the right people and a shared vision, those efforts can become sustainable growth for the whole district.



Champions

Knowledge and Experience Transfer

with Alex



Meet ARPIC **Aleksandar Radojicic** - Alex
Rotary club Beograd Skadarlija
District 2483 - Serbia and Monte Negro

District Membership Chair (2024-2027)
District Governor (DG) (2023-2024)

**Being District membership chair PDG
Alex is one of the champions in the
region towards goal 2030.**

Rotary District of Serbia and Montenegro
(2483) has **recognized membership
challenges** for many years, especially
considering that **a significant number of
clubs operated with fewer than ten
members.**

Based on the residents' belief that **larger
and more organizationally stable clubs**
can more effectively fulfill their mission
and implement humanitarian activities,
the **initiative to connect clubs and
introduce them was launched.**

During this Rotary year, the
aforementioned initiative was successfully
implemented. **The Rotary Clubs of
Belgrade Danube, Belgrade Center and
Belgrade Dedinje** ceased operations, and
their members continued their activities
within the **Rotary Club of Belgrade
United.** In this way, a unique and
organizationally **significant club** with
more than 20 members was formed,
which has a greater capacity to achieve
social impact and provide a quality
member experience.

This example indicates that **the
association of clubs can represent a
sustainable model for future
development.** A larger number of active
members contributes to dynamic work, a
greater number of ideas, strong mutual
support, and a greater capacity to
implement a project of importance to the
local community.

Support must continue after the charter
celebration. **We will encourage every
club chartered in 2025–2027 to have a
mentor, regular follow-up and a 12-
month review of its health, visibility and
member experience.** A practical support
package will also be developed for the 195
clubs in the region with fewer than 15
members, covering public image,
partnerships, club experience and flexible
development options. The purpose is not
simply to create clubs, but to help them
become active, attractive and resilient
communities.



Champions

Knowledge and Experience Transfer

with Gaye

The future of Rotary is in all of our hands.

Dear Rotary Family,

August is designated as Membership and New Club Development Month in our Rotary calendar. On this occasion, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to each and every member who chose to be a part of Rotary and who shares their time, knowledge, experience, and effort in service.

Rotary's true strength lies not only in its membership numbers, but also in the camaraderie, service, ethical values, and positive impact its members have on the community.

Rotary International has set a significant membership goal for 2030. By 2030, the year we celebrate Rotary's 125th anniversary, the aim is to reach 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaract members worldwide. This goal is not just about numerical growth; it aims to create stronger clubs, produce more services, and make a greater impact on our communities.

This global goal is inspiring for all of us, but it also brings with it an important responsibility. It can only be achieved if individual regions, and especially our clubs, take ownership of it, develop their membership programs accordingly, and contribute to the common goal. A global goal can only become a reality when it becomes a shared goal of our clubs.



Gaye Binark, PDG
District Membership Chair,
District 2420

This is precisely why membership matters are not solely the responsibility of membership committees. Every club and every Rotarian has a role to play, a contribution to make on this journey.

Membership means not only attracting new members to our club, but also ensuring that our existing members feel valued within Rotary, strengthening our friendships, and continuously improving the club experience.



Inviting a new member to our club is an important step. But the real success is ensuring that, years later, they can still say with the same enthusiasm, "I'm so glad I joined Rotary."

People may join Rotary with different ideas, expectations, and goals. However, what keeps them in Rotary is the sense of belonging, friendship, the meaning of serving together, and a powerful Rotary experience where they feel valued.

It's not just our projects, events, and meetings that tell a new member about Rotary; it's their experience within the club. The attention they receive, the friendships they form, their participation in service, and feeling like a valuable part of this organization all form the foundation of their relationship with Rotary.

Therefore, every Rotarian is a natural part of membership work. When we invite a guest to our meeting, when we support a new member in their first project, when we call a Rotarian friend we haven't seen in a long time, when we support our Rotaractors on their Rotary journey, or when we properly explain Rotary values and service to those around us, we all contribute to the growth of the membership.

Perhaps the most important question we should ask ourselves this August is this: "What can I do to contribute to my club's and Rotary's 2030 membership goal?" The answer to this question may be different for each of us.

Whether it's introducing a friend to Rotary, helping a new member feel like an integral part of the club, keeping the

enthusiasm alive for our long-time members, strengthening friendship and belonging within the club, or contributing to more people discovering Rotary through new ideas ...

Every step taken is valuable.

Because strong clubs create strong membership; and strong membership builds the future of Rotary.

I believe we can reach our 2030 membership target. We can achieve this not just by having more members, but by creating clubs that value each other, see differences as a strength, wholeheartedly embrace newcomers, and where every member feels like a valuable part of this large family.

The realization of this great goal set forth by Rotary International will ultimately be possible through the steps taken by each and every one of us, in every region and every club.

The future of Rotary will not be shaped by one big leap, but by the combined efforts of small but determined steps taken by our individual clubs and the thousands of Rotarians.

This August, I invite all of us to ask the same question, starting with our own clubs:

"What can I do?"

With love and respect,

Gaye Binark
Chairman of the District 2420
Membership Main Committee



Meet the New Clubs in District 2430

Presented by **PRPIC Altan Aslan, PDG**



New Club New Story

Q&A • Inspiration

Ankara Kent RC
Gazipaşa RC
Etik Teknoloji RC
Ankara Yaşam RC
Gölbaşı RC
Antalya Termessos RC
Anadolu Arkeolojisi RC
Side RC
Bilecik RC
Kütahya 30 Ağustos RC



The Charter Presidents

INTERVIEW COMPILATION

PARTICIPATING CHARTER PRESIDENTS

- Rotary Club of Etik Teknolojileri • Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir
- Rotary Club of Termessos • Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu
- Rotary Club of Gazipaşa • Rtn. Ümran Uygun
- Rotary Club of Gölbaşı • Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz
- Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam • Rtn. Murat Topçu
- Rotary Club of Ankara Kent • Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin
- Rotary Club of Bilecik • Rtn. Özge Öztürk
- Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi • Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı
- Rotary Club of Side • Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

01 What did you think when you were first asked to become the founding president?

Rotary Club of Etik Teknolojileri Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

My first thought was, “This is truly a major responsibility.” Laying the foundations of a club is not easy. At the same time, however, the idea of bringing together two important and complementary concepts such as technology and ethics under the Rotary umbrella excited me greatly.

Rotary Club of Termessos Founding President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Actually, my friend Soner was going to be the first president. However, for technical reasons, all the arrows suddenly pointed toward me, and I found myself holding the baby. I felt both great excitement and an important responsibility; in my view, the greatest capital in this work is enthusiasm.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

We were very excited that Gazipaşa had been given this opportunity.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

My first feeling was one of being honored by the offer. Let alone serving as a founding president, I had never held a position such as president within an organization. Because the offer came from the Governor’s Special Representative, I accepted it without hesitation despite the unknowns.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

I felt great excitement and responsibility. The idea of creating a new family that would bring Rotary’s understanding of service to wider audiences affected me deeply. I felt proud to be laying the foundations of a club in which we would build strong friendships and make lasting contributions to society.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

It was an offer I had not expected, and I was surprised. The moment I heard the offer, my experiences in other associations of which I had been a member, the difficulties I had faced, and the solutions passed before my eyes. After our experienced Past Presidents emphasized that they would support me, and because I believed I would succeed, I accepted the presidency.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

I was very excited, but at the same time I also felt that it was a major responsibility. Then I said, “Why not?” I believed that Rotary culture would be very well received in Bilecik. I also believed that an organization like this could find a wonderful place for itself in Bilecik.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dökkancı

First of all, I was very excited that a Rotary club would be established around a unique theme such as Anadolu Arkeolojisi. When I first heard the offer to become the founding president, I honestly thought, “I think my heart is going to stop.” This excitement was then replaced by a powerful sense of responsibility, because what lay before us was not merely the establishment of a new club, but the highly valuable task of laying, together, the foundations of an original structure that would serve Anatolia’s heritage of thousands of years.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Eran Petekkaya

At first, I felt an important responsibility together with great excitement. Leading the establishment of a new Rotary club was both an honor and a task requiring serious effort. I believed that this offer was a meaningful beginning on the path of producing goodness together.

02 What was the most important reason you accepted this role?

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

The most important reason was my desire to establish a lasting culture of service in our region. I believed that we could create a structure that would embody Rotary's values more strongly in Side. I saw that people acting together could make a great difference.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Thanks to my wife's 24-year Rotary background, I had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with Rotary culture. I wanted to use this knowledge and experience to take part in the establishment of a new club and contribute to the formation of a structure that would add value to society.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Having had the opportunity to serve for the benefit of society.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

I considered it a sacred duty and was pleased to have been deemed worthy of this position. When I conducted my own SWOT analysis, I believed that communication was one of my strengths and foresaw that I would strengthen my leadership ability, so I accepted this role.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

It was my love for and commitment to the Rotary family. Rotary's understanding of friendship, solidarity, and service to society has always impressed me. By establishing a new club, I wanted to bring these values to more people.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

I have been in the technology sector for many years. I see how technology is changing our lives. However, I believe this change must progress together with ethical values. This club offered me the opportunity to bring together both my professional experience and my desire to serve society.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

The trust placed in me and the support of all the members were very important to me.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

I wanted to bring to Bilecik the understanding of friendship, solidarity, and service that I saw in Rotary. The idea of bringing together people who wanted to do good around a common purpose excited me greatly.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

For years, as a professional tourist guide, I have been explaining Anatolia's history, civilizations, and cultural richness. Knowing that we could bring this experience together with Rotary's understanding of service and contribute not only to telling the story of the past but also to protecting it and carrying it into the future was the most important reason I accepted this role.

03 What was your greatest responsibility during the establishment process?

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

Our greatest responsibility was to bring together people united around a common field of interest in pursuit of a strong and sustainable purpose. I was never alone in this process; the support, guidance, and experience of our Past District Governor Altan Arslan and our Governor's Special Representative Azize Kalkavan were with me at every stage.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Eran Petekkaya

My greatest responsibility was to build a trustworthy team around a common vision and move the process forward in a healthy manner. From official procedures to communication with members, we took care to work regularly and transparently at every stage.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

I believe the most important task was bringing together people who shared the same dream. Buildings are easy to construct, but building strong teams takes time.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

During the establishment process, while trying to recruit new members on the one hand, I also made a point of attending every meeting and keeping the team's motivation high on the other. Establishing the club on solid foundations was my most important responsibility.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

The belief that we could bring together idealistic and right people and work in harmony required a serious sense of responsibility.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

For a newly established club, the greatest responsibility is to keep people who have just come together united and persuade them to move toward the same goal.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

It was recruiting new members to our club and ensuring that the team that had formed bonded in strong harmony. Bringing together our members, who had different experiences and backgrounds, around common Rotary values became one of our most important goals.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

Meeting the expectations of members who had come together from different professional groups, family backgrounds, and age groups, and ensuring their unity within the framework of Rotary's written and unwritten rules.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Not merely establishing a club, but creating a sustainable structure with solid foundations and a strong sense of belonging that could continue on its path after me.

04 What did you pay attention to when forming the first board of directors and working team?

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

I tried to bring together people who had different perspectives but could meet around common values. The most important thing for me was for everyone to feel that they were a genuine part of this club.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

When forming our Board of Directors, our priority was to benefit from the experience of our Rotaractor founding members, who knew Rotary closely. Our friends who carried great enthusiasm for contributing to our club then also joined our Board of Directors. As we got to know one another, our committees took shape almost by themselves in line with our areas of interest and strengths. Today, both our Board of Directors and our committees are working sincerely to move our club forward through the strength of bringing different perspectives together around a common purpose.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekaya

I paid attention to working with people from different professions and with different perspectives who nevertheless came together around the same ideal of service. Trust, volunteerism, willingness to take responsibility, and team spirit were the most decisive elements for us.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

Above all, I paid attention to bringing together people who were reliable and willing to share. Even if they came from different professions, I wanted to set out with friends who could meet around common values and who enjoyed producing and working together.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

When forming the board of directors, we prioritized merit and continuity. We took care to select people experienced in the relevant field for each role. For example, the position of treasurer was undertaken by one of our members who is a retired banker.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Bringing together friends who possess a sense of harmony and belonging.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

The formation of the board of directors and the working team was achieved with the support of the Governor's Special Representative, who had brought the members together.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

I took care to bring together people who had embraced Rotary values, were responsible, and valued team spirit. We made use of the knowledge and experience of our members from different professional groups in ways that would contribute to the development of our club.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

I tried to prefer members who had held management roles in the institutions or companies where they worked, or in their previous professional lives.

05 What was the issue that challenged you the most during the establishment process?

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

It was the uncertainty of the establishment schedule. The establishment process on which we began working in July 2025 was postponed from September to November 2025 and ultimately took place in January 2026.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

While building a structure from scratch, managing many processes simultaneously was challenging. Yet the greatest challenge, and at the same time the most beautiful aspect, was bringing different people together around the same dream. This challenge also created space for getting to know people.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

While creating a new structure, it was sometimes challenging both to carry out the official processes and to ensure that everyone participated in the process with the same enthusiasm. However, our belief in the common goal made this process easier.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

In fact, the most difficult part was explaining to people why we say “Etik Teknoloji.” Technology is everywhere today, but its ethical dimension often remains in the background. We want to establish precisely this balance.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

The greatest challenge was time. We had to hold our Charter ceremony in May, and completing both the membership work and the establishment processes within such a short period required an intense pace.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

The issue that challenged us most during the establishment process was the association formation procedures. Because we are a club composed of founding members living in different cities and meeting online, the signature processes in particular took longer and were more demanding than we had expected. While carrying out the official procedures, we also tried to keep our club’s excitement, sense of belonging, and vision alive. We developed our own method and overcame this process through collective effort; every difficulty we encountered further strengthened our ability to act together.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Bringing together reputable friends who have strong professional knowledge and a high sense of responsibility and who are well liked by the public.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

When there was not even an “R” of Rotary in my life, being given the role of founding president and becoming part of such a large-scale organization brought many unknowns with it. The organizational structure, terminology, formations, new profiles of people, and trying to get to know them became a primary task.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

It was ensuring that our members who were encountering Rotary for the first time embraced Rotary culture and values. Over time, however, through stronger bonds of friendship and joint projects, we succeeded in creating a strong team spirit.

06 What motivated you the most?

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

Because of my aptitude for communication, the thought that I would expand my network by meeting new people, the satisfaction that would come from providing moral support to people in need, and the pleasure of achieving things by keeping the club members together were among the primary reasons that motivated me.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

My desire to contribute to Rotary and my belief in the power of goodness always motivated me. Developing projects that would benefit society and touching people's lives gave me great excitement.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

The energy of our members; their 90% attendance at meetings despite intense work schedules, Ankara's traffic, and transportation difficulties; the interest shown in social meetings; and the sincerity with which they expressed what they thought.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Seeing something that had initially been only a dream turn step by step into a real club. Being able to say at every stage, "There is now Rotary in Bilecik," was a very special source of motivation for me.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

Seeing the same excitement in the eyes of the people with whom we shared our idea, and seeing every

new member add a new voice and new strength to this journey, encouraged us even more. Knowing that while touching the present we could also leave a mark on the future kept our excitement alive throughout the journey.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

What motivated me most was the feeling of leaving a mark together. Seeing the growing excitement at every meeting, our members' desire to contribute, and the club gradually taking shape gave me great strength.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

Young people... Seeing them engage with technology not merely as consumers but as people who produce truly makes me happy. If we can touch the lives of even a few young people, I will believe that we are on the right path.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

The excitement in the eyes of our prospective members, who joined us to develop projects and build friendships despite not knowing Rotary very well, gave me great strength. That excitement was the most important source of motivation showing us that we were on the right path.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Bringing under one roof the friends with whom we already came together on various occasions.

07 Is there a moment from the establishment process that you will never forget?

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

I now realize that holding our Charter ceremony at an organization attended by RI President Francesco Arezzo and receiving our charter document from his hands was extremely valuable both for our club and for me.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

It was the first day I went to see my District Governor, Can Çığırman. When I explained my goals to him, his saying, "I am with you all the way," became one of my greatest sources of motivation on this journey.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

A team of 12 people who had met only a very short time earlier attending the "Rotary Orientation Camp" held in Zonguldak. Although nearly a year has passed, the moments and memories during the minibuss journey and throughout the camp that strengthened our unity are still before my eyes.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

In fact, for me, everything began long before Rotary, in a hospital room. I met Aylin because of Atakan's accident, and that day I did not know how this encounter would change my life. We lost Atakan, but the bond I formed with Aylin introduced me to Rotary. First I became part of this culture, and then I found the courage to bring it to Bilecik. For this reason, Atakan has an invisible but very precious trace for me in the story of the Rotary Club of Bilecik. The most unforgettable aspect of this story for me is that a friendship that began after a loss turned, years later, into a movement of goodness that would touch other people's lives.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

I was at the Ankara Provincial Directorate of Civil Society Relations to complete our club's association establishment procedures.

At the exact moment I was called to sign our establishment declaration, Sara Dariz called and congratulated us, saying that our Charter document had been approved and would be sent to us after it was signed. Thus, the official establishment of our association and the approval of our identity in the Rotary world occurred at almost the same second. For me, this was no ordinary coincidence; it was a very special sign whispering that the path we had taken was right and meaningful.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

The moment when we felt that the necessary steps for the establishment had been completed and that our dream had now transformed into a tangible structure was very special to me. It was the moment when we saw the true return on effort and solidarity.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

I will never forget the first meeting we held with our founding members. Everyone came from a different profession, but they all carried the same excitement. That day, I felt that this would not be an ordinary club.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

In fact, every instance of inexperience during the establishment process has become a sweet memory when we look back today. We enjoyed learning together, producing together, and overcoming every difficulty with a smile. That was the most beautiful part of this journey.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

During the establishment phase, the district governor of our district at the time, Mr. Can Çığırman, stated that he would embrace all of our club's projects and always stand by us. The sincere feeling of being embraced and supported was unforgettable for us.

08 How did you feel on Charter Night?

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Being together with our friends who attended from many parts of Türkiye brought the excitement and the responsibility created by a major organization to their peak.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

It was a night on which it was difficult not to feel excited. Having our establishment become official in a magical atmosphere in the presence of the RI President and our Governors made us feel special.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Pride, happiness, and gratitude... When I looked around, I saw that what we had once only dreamed of had become real, and I truly said to myself, "We did this."

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

Charter Night was much more for us than receiving an establishment document. Seeing an idea on which we had all worked together for months become an official and living part of the Rotary family was an indescribable source of pride. That night, we felt happiness, gratitude, and the responsibility of the period ahead all at once. I must also admit with a smile that my excitement was so great that I feared I might have a heart attack.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

I was filled with indescribable excitement and happiness. I felt proud to receive the reward for months of effort and dedication. The moment the Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam officially came to life was unforgettable for me.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

I was very excited. Although I had delivered speeches and presentations before large audiences countless times in my professional life, the atmosphere here was very different. Looking back, I realize that I missed a great many things from that night.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Eran Petekkaya

Charter Night brought me both great pride and a deep sense of gratitude. Seeing months of effort, friendship, and belief find their response in the same hall was truly very meaningful.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

It was a feeling that is difficult to describe. I felt immense pride. At the same time, however, I thought, "The real work begins now." A charter is not a destination; it is the beginning of a long journey.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Seeing the reward for months of effort was a great source of pride. Seeing the Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos officially come to life was an unforgettable and emotional moment for our entire team.

09 What is your greatest source of pride as the founding president?

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

My greatest pride is having laid the foundations of a club that is open to growth, built on strong friendships, and looks confidently toward the future.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Seeing on Charter Night that what I had told the friends whom I invited into the club during the establishment process had been confirmed.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

The sincere approach of our Governor, Mr. Altan Arslan, and the support of the Governor's Special Representative, Mr. Murat Caner Yavuz, especially during the establishment phase, make us feel that we are not alone on this path we have only just begun to walk. Knowing that, with such approaches and support, we will be able to touch people's lives easily provides great spiritual strength.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

My greatest pride is having established a new club under the umbrella of this great family, as a member of the Rotary family to which I have belonged for years, and being able to leave a lasting mark. Leading the establishment of the Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam is a great honor for me.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

Although we had been a Rotary club for only four months, my greatest pride was the plaques we received for the projects we carried out and the "Outstanding Service Award in Club Service" presented at the Conference held in Antalya in April 2026.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Having planted the first seeds of Rotary culture in Bilecik. Seeing, years later, a strong club that continues to produce goodness will be my greatest source of pride.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

We are Türkiye's first Rotary club that both meets online and has a thematic focus. My greatest pride is that we have succeeded in bringing together people from different cities and disciplines around Anatolia's cultural heritage, because I believe we have opened an entirely new area of service. Building a structure that takes the past as its subject while turning its face entirely toward the future is very precious to me.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

My greatest pride is having been able to bring the Rotary Club of Side to life together with valued friends who shared a common dream. I believe this club will become the means for many good works in the future.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

Hearing people say, "There really was a need for a Rotary club like this." I think that is the greatest happiness.

10 How would you summarize your club's founding vision in one sentence?

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

"To produce technology for people, together with ethical values, and transform it into benefit for society."

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

To be an exemplary Rotary club in Antalya's rapidly developing Döşemealtı district, centered on friendship and service and adding value to its region.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Those who do good find good.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

To create beautiful things that will have a lasting impact on people's lives.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

We envisioned the Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam as a family that brings lasting value to society through the spirit of friendship and solidarity and expands goodness and service.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

To take someone by the hand and speak to their heart through the projects we carry out.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

To create in Bilecik a sustainable Rotary culture that transforms friendship into goodness and goodness into lasting impact.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

The Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi aims to combine science, education, and social benefit with universal Rotary values in order to protect Anatolia's rich cultural heritage, promote it through sustainable projects, and pass it on to future generations.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

"To create a Rotary club that strengthens friendship, adds lasting value to society, acts together for goodness, and leaves a lasting impact."

11 Which projects or areas of service are you prioritizing for the new term?

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

Education, youth initiatives, environmental awareness, and sustainable projects that touch the local community will be our priorities. We especially believe in the long-term impact of work that will contribute to the development of young people.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

We want to develop projects that touch society in the fields of artificial intelligence, digital ethics, technology education for children and young people, cybersecurity awareness, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Our priority this term is to successfully implement the Runtalya and Four-Way Test projects. In addition, we will continue to grow our club selectively and strengthen it with qualified members.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Developing projects in the fields of health and education and carrying out work for children with special needs.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

The projects we carried out between our establishment and the beginning of the new term involved supporting students in the field of education. In the new term, we will also have projects through which we will serve in the field of health in addition to education. I believe that during the term we will also carry out projects addressing Rotary's seven Areas of Focus.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

In the new term, our priority will be to develop projects that touch people's lives and benefit society. From education to health, from the environment to social responsibility initiatives, we aim to leave lasting impacts in every field.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

Making the "RotaÖykü" competition, which we held for the second time this year, permanent and organizing it every year. Our priority is to carry out projects that will extend a helping hand especially to children with special needs or children in need.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Children, young people, education, and health are among our priority areas. In addition, we want to carry out sustainable projects that highlight Bilecik's cultural values and support the development of young people.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

We aim to strengthen awareness of cultural heritage by reaching all segments of society, especially young people, and to create lasting impact through education, peace, and environmental protection. Through work ranging from academic talks to field studies, from digital content to community service projects, we want to bring the accumulated knowledge of the past together with the needs of today and the responsibilities of the future.

12 What kind of picture would you like to see for your club at the end of the term?

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

At the end of the term, I would like to see a club that has embraced Rotary values, strengthened its bonds of friendship, and increased its membership. My greatest wish is for the Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam to become a strong family that continues to exist for many years.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dükkancı

At the end of the term, I would like to see a club whose membership structure and service capacity have grown stronger, whose work reaches all Rotary clubs in Türkiye, and that has gained visibility on international Rotary platforms. Anatolia's archaeological and cultural heritage is a shared value and a shared responsibility belonging not only to our country but to the entire world. Therefore, we aim to grow by establishing collaborations that cross borders, produce lasting projects, and move forward while leaving a meaningful mark on the future.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekaya

At the end of the term, I would like to see a Rotary Club of Side whose members have built strong bonds, that regularly develops projects, and whose positive impact is felt in its region.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

I would like to see a club that is known for its projects, inspires young people, is held up as an example in the field of technology, and represents Rotary's understanding of service in the best possible way.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

At the end of the term, I would like to see a club that has reached at least 20 members, successfully completed the Runtalya and Four-Way Test projects, and made significant progress toward becoming one of the region's most active and effective Rotary clubs.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

To be a club of at least 25 members that has realized its dreams and goals.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

At the end of the term, I hope to enter the new term as a club that continues its life with the same excitement and motivation it had at the beginning of the term; that has achieved successful results in many projects through team spirit; and that has been present in many areas where we have touched people's hearts and brought smiles to their faces. I also hope it will have been a term in which loyal members who are happy to be in the club and feel that they belong to it have been provided with areas of development that will benefit them.

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

I would like to see a club whose members trust one another, enjoy producing together, and possess a strong sense of belonging. My greatest goal is to leave behind a solid structure that will continue on its path with the same enthusiasm after me.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

My greatest wish is to be a club that has increased its membership, completed its short-term projects, begun projects that will continue in future terms, and carries out joint work with a Rotary club from Türkiye and one from abroad.

13 What is your most important advice to those considering becoming a founding president?

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Believe in your dream before anyone else does, but do not try to do everything alone. When you set out with the right people, after a while that dream belongs not only to you but to everyone.

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

They should be patient and attach great importance to friendship. They should embrace the new friends who join the club, make them feel that they are not alone, and allow them to experience the greatness of the Rotary family.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

I believe that the most important ability of a founding president is “to know.” Whom and what will we know? Along with understanding Rotary’s structure and operations, discovering the abilities of club members, establishing connections among subjects, situations, and members, and being able to manage them in the capacity of a leader are, in my view, the founding president’s most important roles in initiating the club’s work and ensuring its continuity.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

I recommend that they attach importance to teamwork, take care to share information, and maintain the same distance from all members. It is also very important that they know the “Associations Law,” the “Rotary Constitution,” and Rotary’s written and unwritten rules.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dökkancı

I think a strong establishment begins by bringing the right people together around a common purpose. Then, in my view, it is very important to be patient, share responsibilities, try to produce constructive solutions in the face of problems, listen attentively to the members, and transform the excitement of establishment into a sustainable vision.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

Do not focus solely on establishing a club. First, build a powerful dream. If people believe in that dream, many wonderful things will naturally emerge together.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 Founding President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Never lose your enthusiasm, and set out with the right people. When you build a competent team and believe in a common goal, even the most difficult processes turn into an enjoyable journey.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

They should regard this role not merely as a title, but as teamwork and a responsibility to serve. When people move forward with the right individuals, patience, and a common vision, a highly valuable structure emerges.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

I wish that everyone who desires it may experience this responsibility by truly feeling it.

14 What message would you like to give to newly established Rotary clubs?

Rotary Club of Ankara Yaşam Founding President Rtn. Murat Topçu

They should never give up. When they bring love and friendship together, they will see that the Rotary family is always by their side. By building strong bonds, they can create a lasting and successful club.

Rotary Club of Etik Teknoloji Founding President Rtn. Selçuk Özdemir

We are living in a period in which the world is changing rapidly. Rotary should also be one of the pioneers of this change. Do not fear innovation, trust young people, and always pursue projects that will add value to society. True success is the benefit you leave behind.

Rotary Club of Gazipaşa Founding President Rtn. Ümran Uygun

Goodness is good.

Rotary Club of Ankara Kent Founding President Rtn. Mustafa Erçetin

They should be able to give clear answers to the question, “Why are we establishing a new Rotary club?”

Rotary Club of Bilecik Founding President Rtn. Özge Öztürk

Do not wait to be perfect; be sincere, learn together, and begin with courage. A story that starts with one small step can, over time, turn into a very great and lasting act of goodness.

Rotary Club of Anadolu Arkeolojisi Founding President Rtn. Arzu Uysal Dökkancı

I believe what makes a club valuable is not only the

number of its members, but the common purpose that brings those members together. They should not hesitate to draw strength from different ideas, try new methods, or take courageous steps in areas where there is a need. A small step taken with a solid purpose can, over time, turn into a very broad path of service.

Rotary Club of Antalya Termessos 26-27 President Rtn. Hulusi Kaan Şişmanoğlu

Under the leadership of my friend Soner, we saw that there was a need for a Rotary club in Antalya’s rapidly developing Döşemealtı district, and we set out with this dream. My advice to newly established clubs is to analyze the needs of their region well and place friendship and the understanding of service at the center. The rest will naturally follow through effort, enthusiasm, and the right team.

Rotary Club of Side Founding President Rtn. Ersan Petekkaya

The establishment process requires effort, but when sincerity, solidarity, and the ideal of service come together, a very strong club can emerge. Rotary’s greatest strength is the will to produce goodness together.

Rotary Club of Gölbaşı Founding President Rtn. Ömer Gürbüz

A newly established club will enter a process of creation and production. In addition to creating benefit as a club, each club member will discover abilities of which they were unaware on their personal development journey. Along with creating benefit for society, we will be on a journey toward our true identity.



Meet the **New Clubs in District 2440**

Presented by PP Ömer BAŞBUĞ,
Member of Zone 21B public image team

İzmir Denizyıldızı Rotary Club

Traditional club, ID: 227088

One Starfish, One Life, One Beginning

Sometimes lasting impact begins with one small act of care. For İzmir Denizyıldızı Rotary Club, that belief is carried in its very name. Denizyıldızı means “starfish” — a reference to the well-known story of a child returning stranded starfish to the sea. When someone asks what difference one person can make, the child answers that the action mattered to the one starfish that was saved.

This simple idea gives the club a deeply human identity: service does not have to begin with grand numbers. It can begin with one person, one community need, one life touched with attention and dignity. Publicly introduced in July 2025 as the 72nd Rotary club in District 2440, İzmir Denizyıldızı Rotary Club brought together experienced Rotarians and younger professionals from different fields. Its charter president was Tevfik Turna, and the official district directory lists Talip Aksakal as president for 2026–27. From the beginning, the club has presented intergenerational membership as a strength — combining Rotary experience with the energy and perspective of younger professionals.

One of the club’s clearly documented early actions was its Vocational Service Award to retired teacher and artist Necla Karakaya, who has helped preserve filography, a traditional art made with nails and coloured wire. Her work, created over more than a decade and shared through teaching, reflects the kind of cultural memory that can easily disappear unless someone chooses to protect it.

The club has also identified forest restoration, tree planting and environmental awareness as priorities, alongside education scholarships, women’s and children’s rights workshops, youth mentoring, entrepreneurship, leadership development and international cooperation. Some of these remain announced priorities rather than completed projects, but they show a clear direction. İzmir Denizyıldızı Rotary Club is still young, yet its message is already strong: one meaningful action may not save everything, but it can change the future for someone.



İzmir Longevity Sağlıklı Yaşam Rotary Club

Traditional club, ID: 227679

Healthy Living as a Shared Rotary Cause

Health is not only the absence of illness. It is the ability to learn, connect, breathe, create, move, belong and live with dignity. İzmir Longevity Sağlıklı Yaşam Rotary Club was created around this broader understanding of wellbeing.

The club's full name means "İzmir Longevity Healthy Living Rotary Club." Its public profile gives 21 January 2026 as its establishment date. The official District 2440 directory lists it in Group 12 with RI number 227679. Its charter president and 2026–27 president is Associate Professor Didem Dereli Akdeniz.

From the beginning, the club stood out as a cause-based Rotary club. It began with approximately 50 members — an unusually strong start for a newly chartered club. Many members are physicians, but the wider membership also includes lawyers, engineers, teachers, businesspeople, artists, breathing instructors and yoga instructors. This multidisciplinary structure gives the club a rich foundation for work that connects health, education, art, sport and social solidarity.

Its early work reflects that philosophy. The club has supported the creation and equipping of a dedicated classroom for autistic students in a disadvantaged area, including books, educational materials and improvements to the learning environment. It has also organised or supported ceramic workshops, breathing practices, yoga and arts activities intended to strengthen physical and emotional wellbeing. A smaller fundraising action collected 60 kg of food for animals in need.

The club has also prepared for a broader public health festival in İzmir. Because the available record presents this as a future goal rather than a completed event, it should be described as planned, not achieved.

The importance of İzmir Longevity lies in its model. It shows how Rotary can grow through a clear cause, a diverse professional community and a human understanding of health. Its message is simple and timely: when people care for body, mind and community together, service becomes a pathway to a healthier life.





Izmir Sahilevleri RC



İzmir Sahilevleri Rotary Club

Traditional club, ID: 225099

Access, Care and the Power of Practical Partnerships

A community becomes stronger when more people can participate in its life — by reading, learning, moving freely, caring for animals, and joining public spaces with dignity. İzmir Sahilevleri Rotary Club has built its early service identity around practical partnerships that turn this belief into visible action. The club was established as the 71st Rotary club in District 2440. Its charter ceremony and first club assembly were held in May 2023 under charter president Dilek Alat. The founding message focused on transforming ideas for people and nature into practical projects, guided by the belief that small contributions can become the foundation of larger change.

One of the club's best-documented service areas is its partnership with TÜRGÖK, the Library for the Visually Impaired in Türkiye. Through this cooperation, the club has supported audio and Braille books, accessible educational materials and tactile maps of Türkiye and its regions.

TÜRGÖK's own 2023–25 activity report identifies Sahilevleri Rotary among the partners helping to produce and distribute accessible books. This is more than a donation story. It is a story about access — about helping people who are visually impaired reach information, geography, culture and education in formats designed for them.

Another recognisable initiative is Patili Dostlarımıza Destek, supporting animal companions. A public event in Urla on 1 June 2025 brought together the municipality, the local animal-rights platform, Sahilevleri Rotary and Bizim Bahçe Yoga. With concerts, theatre, art workshops, children's activities and conversations about responsible animal care, the event aimed to help dogs from the Urla shelter find families.

Sahilevleri's strength is its ability to connect public experience, fundraising and a clearly identified beneficiary. Its story shows Rotary at its most practical: building partnerships, widening access and turning compassion into structures that others can recognise, trust and join.



Iyonya Rotaract Club, District 2440

Traditional and E-Club, ID: 8828284

Young Energy Becoming Community Purpose

A new Rotaract club begins with a promise: that young people will not wait for change to happen, but will learn, organise and serve together. Iyonya Rotaract Club carries exactly this early promise.

The official Rotaract District 2440 directory records the club's charter date as 30 April 2026 and its establishment date as 11 May 2026. It lists Pürülen Alp as president, with RI number 8828284, and regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in İzmir. The public charter celebration took place at Kaya Prestige Hotel and was reported in July 2026, with district officers and leaders from Rotary and Rotaract clubs present.

Because the club is very new, its story should be told honestly. The available public record does not yet show an independently documented, completed standalone service project. That does not weaken the story; it simply places the club at the beginning of its journey. Ethical storytelling means respecting that stage and focusing on what can be verified: its formation, its leadership, its stated purpose and its potential.



The club presents itself as young, energetic and solution-oriented. Its founding message is not about organising events for their own sake, but about identifying problems, developing solutions and leaving a lasting mark. Publicly stated areas of interest include the environment, education, children, youth development and transforming young people's energy into community benefit.

This is where Iyonya's story becomes meaningful. Many communities need not only resources, but also young leaders who are willing to learn how to listen, cooperate and act responsibly. Through Rotaract, friendship can become service, and idealism can become disciplined action.

Iyonya Rotaract Club's greatest current impact may still be ahead. But its beginning already matters: it creates a place where young people in İzmir can turn concern into service, leadership into responsibility, and energy into hope.



Kültürpark Rotaract Club District 2440

President: Eylül Dila Pancarcı

A New Space for Service to Grow

Every new club needs more than a charter date. It needs trust, guidance, friendship and the patience to grow with purpose. Kültürpark Rotaract Club is at that beginning — a young club taking its first organisational steps with the support of the wider Rotary family.

The official Rotaract District 2440 directory gives 2 June 2026 as the club's charter date and 7 July 2026 as its establishment date. It lists Eylül Dila Pancarcı as president, with meetings scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in Çiğli, İzmir.

The club's name connects it symbolically with Kültürpark, one of İzmir's best-known cultural and civic spaces. That name carries a quiet suggestion: service is also culture, belonging and public life. It is about the places where people meet, exchange ideas and imagine a better community together.

The available public record shows that an early board meeting was held on 8 July 2026 with the participation of the president of Kültürpark Rotary Club, youth-service representatives and experienced Rotary members.

This is important. It shows that the new Rotaract club is not starting in isolation, but within a supportive Rotary environment where experience can help young leaders build confidence.

At this stage, no separately described and verifiably completed project attributable to the new Rotaract club was found in the available public evidence. For that reason, the club should not be presented as if it already has a long service record, nor should its work be confused with the longer-established Kültürpark Rotary Club. But a beginning can still be powerful. Kültürpark Rotaract Club represents the moment before action becomes visible — the meetings, conversations and first decisions that shape a future service culture.

Its story is one of potential: young people gathering around Rotary values, supported by mentors, preparing to turn ideas into projects and friendship into community impact.



Meet the New Clubs in District 2452

Presented by **ARPIC Faisal Juma**

Delmon School EarlyAct

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain

Chartered January 2025



Interact Club of Aflec School

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Dubai Al Wasl

Chartered December 2025



Interact Club of RotArd Gyumri

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Gyumri

Chartered April 2026



Sacred Heart Interact Club

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Salmaniya

Chartered September 2025



Rotaract Club of Ras Al Khaimah

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Ras Al Khaimah
Chartered January 2026



Rotaract Yerevan Ararat

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Yerevan Ararat
Chartered April 2026



11 July 2026 2:37 pm



11 July 2026 2:37 pm



Meet the **New Clubs in District 2475**

Presented by ARPIC **Elena Janniki**



Rotary Club Athina-Kolonaki

Club ID: 226608, Traditional club

Milestones

- Charter Presentation: February 26, 2025, by Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick (Rotary Year 2024–2025).
- District Governor (District 2475): Rotarian Nikos Margaropoulos.
-

Club Service Project – 2025

Donation of 1,300 books to establish a public library for the Municipality of Didymoteicho.

Club Service Project – 2026

Donation of school supplies, medical supplies, and clothing to the non-profit organization MERIMNA.

The Story Behind Rotary Club Athina-Kolonaki

Every Rotary Club has a founding date. Ours also has a story.

The idea of establishing the Rotary Club Athina-Kolonaki was born as a vision nearly three years before the Club officially received its Charter from Rotary International. It began as a shared initiative of three Rotarians—Dr. Mary Marouli Zilemenou, who conceived the original idea, Tereza Delia, and Stathis Paraskevas—who shared the conviction that there was room for a new Rotary Club distinguished by a unique identity, high standards of operation, and a meaningful presence in society.

From the very beginning, the goal was not simply to establish another Rotary Club in Athens. Rather, it was to create a community of people who would unite humanitarian service with knowledge, education, scientific thought, and culture. The vision was to build a Club that would draw upon the experience, professional expertise, and diversity of its members to develop initiatives with lasting social impact and make a meaningful contribution to the advancement of society.

During the 2024–2025 Rotary year, under the leadership of District 2475 Governor Rotarian Nikos Margaropoulos, this vision became a reality. On February 26, 2025, the Club's founding President, Dr. Mary Marouli Zilemenou, received the Charter from Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick, officially welcoming the Club into the worldwide family of Rotary International.

The choice of the name "Athina-Kolonaki" was entirely deliberate. Kolonaki is not merely one of Athens' historic neighborhoods; it has long been a center of intellectual, academic, and cultural life.

This rich cultural and intellectual heritage reflects the very essence of the Club's identity: a community where service is inspired by knowledge, leadership is grounded in responsibility, and culture is recognized as an integral pillar of social development.

Today, the Rotary Club Athina-Kolonaki comprises 29 members—including physicians, attorneys, archaeologists, philologists, economists, communications specialists, political scientists, and business leaders—and continues to attract accomplished individuals who wish to join its ranks. Guided by the power of collaboration, the Club actively develops initiatives in education, science, research, culture, environmental stewardship, and youth development, while remaining steadfastly committed to the enduring values of Rotary International.

We did not create just another Rotary Club. We created a community of people who believe that knowledge, culture, and service together can shape a better future. For us, receiving the Charter was not the conclusion of a journey. It marked the beginning of a lasting commitment: to demonstrate every day that when knowledge meets service, when culture strengthens leadership, and when people work together with shared values, they create a meaningful and enduring impact on society.



Meet the **New Clubs in District 2482**

Presented by ARPIC **Arkan Nihat**



Rotary club Pernik



Rotary club Pernik, District 2482 - Bulgaria

Traditional club, ID: 227890

Rotary Returns to Pernik: A New Beginning Built by Local People

Rotary has returned to Pernik because people from the local community recognised a need, raised their hands and chose to act together.

For many years, Pernik had a Rotary story waiting to continue. A Rotary club had operated in the city between 2003 and 2011, and in the years that followed, several attempts were made to bring the club back. The real turning point came in the middle of the 2025–2026 Rotary year, when District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov and Dimitar Mandrazhiev of Rotary Club Sofia Capital saw that the time was right — not because of an administrative plan, but because there were active people in Pernik ready to serve their community.

The initiative found a strong local voice in Hristian Daskalov, a cybersecurity expert who believed that Pernik needed a club connected to a global network and dedicated to local development. During a public event in the city, he shared this vision openly and identified Rotary International as the organisation that could bring such people together around purpose, friendship and meaningful community action.

Then he asked a simple question: ***“Is there anyone here who would become a member of Rotary Club Pernik?”***

Nearly twenty people raised their hands.

That moment became the beginning of a new Rotary chapter for the city. One week later, the first preliminary meetings of the future Rotarians began. Dimitar Mandrazhiev supported the process as club adviser and representative of the District Governor, helping transform the first expression of interest into a structured path towards chartering.

Several months later, this shared effort led to the official re-establishment of Rotary Club Pernik. **The club was chartered on 12 May 2026** with Rotary Club Sofia Capital as its sponsor club and began its journey with 16 members.

The story of Rotary Club Pernik is a reminder that lasting impact often begins with a question, a hand raised, and people who are ready to belong to something larger than themselves. It is also a story of continuity — of a city reconnecting with Rotary after 15 years, and of a new group of members stepping forward to build friendship, trust and future service. Photographs from the club’s charter ceremony during the Rotaract Assembly in Dryanovo and from the presentation of the Rotary International charter certificate during the District 2482 Conference capture the joy of a community beginning again.

Rotary Club Pernik now carries both a legacy and a new responsibility: to turn the energy of its members into projects, partnerships and visible impact for the people of Pernik.



Rotary club Sveti Vlas International



Rotary club Sveti Vlas International,

District 2482 - Bulgaria

Traditional club, ID: 227794

Rotary Club Sveti Vlas International: A New Club with an Open Horizon

A new Rotary club has brought together people from Bulgaria and other countries around a shared wish to serve the local community, support children and young people, and create meaningful opportunities in Sveti Vlas.

Rotary Club Sveti Vlas International began its journey almost two years before receiving its official charter. During that time, the club grew from an idea into a community of committed people who believed that Sveti Vlas could become home to a Rotary club with an international spirit and a strong local purpose.

The main driving force behind the club's establishment was Nadia Siienieva from Ukraine, who has lived and worked in Bulgaria for many years. Her Rotary path began in her home country, where she was a member of RC Kharkiv Mriya. After moving to Bulgaria, she carried with her not only her Rotary experience, but also the belief that people from different backgrounds can come together through friendship, trust and service. Recognising the potential for a Rotary club in Sveti Vlas, Nadia contacted Asparuh Karastoyanov of RC Sofia Vitosha. Together, they began the careful work of building the club, inviting prospective members and shaping a group united by shared values.

In April 2026, then District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov submitted the charter application to Rotary International. Shortly afterwards, the club officially received its charter under the name Rotary Club Sveti Vlas International.

The name was chosen with intention: it reflects the club's international character and the fact that its members include Bulgarian citizens as well as representatives of several other countries.

RC Sveti Vlas International was chartered on 9 April 2026, with RC Sofia Vitosha as its sponsor club. The club began its official journey with 27 members — a strong foundation for future action.

From the beginning, the club has focused on initiatives that speak to real community needs and future potential. Its first areas of work include **rehabilitation programmes for children with autism, opportunities for young people to take part in sports activities, festivals supporting gifted children, and environmental protection initiatives.**

These priorities show a club that is looking in several important directions at once: inclusion, youth development, talent, health, nature and community belonging. They also reflect the value of a Rotary club that is both local and international — rooted in the needs of Sveti Vlas, while open to people, ideas and friendships from beyond one country.

The photographs from the charter ceremony on 29 May 2026 and from the club's organisational meetings capture more than formal moments. They show the beginning of a shared journey — one in which friendship becomes structure, intention becomes action, and a new Rotary club begins to create its own impact.

RC Sveti Vlas International now starts its work with energy, diversity and purpose. Its story reminds us that Rotary grows when people bring their experience, open the door to others and choose to build something meaningful together.



Rotary Club Kozloduy



Rotary club Kozloduy, District 2482 – Bulgaria

Traditional club, ID: 228145

Rotary Returns to Kozloduy with Experience, Purpose and Community Commitment

Rotary has returned to Kozloduy through a new club built on local commitment, shared experience and a clear wish to serve the community. Rotary Club Kozloduy–Augusta had been active in the town from 2004 until 2020. Six years later, a new opportunity emerged during a visit by then District Governor Plamen Tsvetkov to Rotary Club Vratsa. There, it became clear that Vladislav Evstatiev, a member of Rotary Club Vratsa who lives and works in Kozloduy, wished to help restore Rotary in the Danube town.

This became the beginning of a new Rotary chapter for Kozloduy. The process was actively supported by Georgi Stanishelski, President of Rotary Club Vratsa, and Rotary Club Vratsa later became the sponsor club of the new organisation.

During the preparation phase, the prospective Rotarians met with several former members of Rotary Club Kozloduy–Augusta. Their involvement added an important sense of continuity and honesty to the process. They welcomed the return of Rotary to Kozloduy, shared their experience and spoke openly about the reasons behind the closure of the previous club.

This conversation became one of the most meaningful moments in the club's formation. Instead of simply starting again, the new members had the opportunity to learn from the past.

The advice they received helped them think carefully about how to build a more sustainable, resilient and successful Rotary club.

The new club brought together people from different professional backgrounds who are connected by their engagement with the local community. Among them are local government representatives, entrepreneurs and teachers — people who know Kozloduy, understand its needs and are ready to contribute with time, ideas and action.

Rotary Club Kozloduy was chartered on 30 June 2026, with Rotary Club Vratsa as its sponsor club. It began its official journey with 15 members.

One of the club's first initiatives is a fundraising campaign to support a young resident of Kozloduy who is battling cancer. This first action reflects the spirit with which the club begins: close to the community, attentive to human need and ready to turn compassion into practical support.

The photographs from the **charter ceremony on 4 July 2026 and from the organisational meetings show more than the formal creation of a club.** They show people choosing to continue a Rotary story with greater awareness, stronger roots and a renewed commitment to lasting impact in Kozloduy.



Rotaract club Karnobat



Rotaract club Karnobat, District 2482 - Bulgaria

Traditional and E-Club, ID: 8828025

Rotaract Club Karnobat: A Hybrid Pathway for Young People to Stay Connected

Rotaract Club Karnobat was installed to help young people continue their Rotary journey, even when life takes them in different directions.

Over the years, Rotary Club Karnobat recognised a repeating challenge. Some members of Interact Club Karnobat reached the maximum age limit and remained in the town, but there was no local Rotaract club where they could continue growing, serving and belonging. Others moved to larger cities to pursue higher education, and little by little, their connection with Rotary became weaker.

The idea of establishing Rotaract Club Karnobat came as a practical and caring response to this reality.

Instead of allowing young people to lose contact with the organisation after Interact, the club looked for a model that could meet them where they were — in Karnobat, in other cities, in person and online.

This led to the creation of a hybrid club model, combining traditional in-person meetings with online participation. The format gives young people flexibility, while preserving the sense of fellowship, responsibility and shared action that makes the Rotary family meaningful.

The main driving force behind the initiative was the club's current President, Elif Sabri. She helped bring together two important groups:

former Interactors who had remained in Karnobat and young people from the town who were studying elsewhere.

In this way, Rotaract Club Karnobat became more than a new club. It became **a bridge between stages of life, between places, and between the experience of Interact and the opportunities of Rotaract.**

Rotaract Club Karnobat was chartered on **12 January 2026** and began its official journey with 12 members. One of its first initiatives was the beautification of an area within the **Karnobat Youth Center**, implemented jointly with Interact Club Karnobat. This project reflected the spirit of the new club: young people working together, improving a shared public space and showing that service can begin close to home.

The club's formation also reflects an important lesson for Rotary: **belonging should not end when circumstances change.** Young people may move, study, work or build their future in different places, but with the right club model they can remain connected, active and inspired.

Photographs from the charter ceremony and from the presentation of the Rotary International charter certificate during the District 2482 Conference capture the beginning of a modern Rotaract story — rooted in Karnobat, open to the wider world, and shaped by connection, adaptability and young leadership in action.



Rotaract club Sevlievo



Rotaract club Sevlievo, District 2482 - Bulgaria

E-Club, ID: 8827930

Rotaract Club Sevlievo: Staying Connected to Home Through Service

Rotaract Club Sevlievo was created to help young people **remain connected to their hometown, their friendships and their desire to serve, even after life takes them to different cities.**

Over the years, Rotary Club Sevlievo observed a familiar pattern. After graduating from high school, members of Interact Club Sevlievo often moved to larger cities to continue their education.

Some found local Rotaract clubs and continued their Rotary journey there. Others, however, gradually lost contact with the organisation, even though their connection with Sevlievo and their interest in community service had not disappeared.

The idea of creating Rotaract Club Sevlievo came as a thoughtful response to this challenge. Instead of accepting distance as a reason for young people to drift away, the club looked for **a model that could keep them close to their community while respecting the reality of their studies, schedules and new lives.**

The initiative came from the club's current President, **Yana Fileva**. She proposed that former Interactors and young people from Sevlievo could continue serving their local community through a Rotaract club that meets online — a format permitted under Rotary International regulations.

This decision gave the new club both flexibility and purpose. As an E-Club, Rotaract Club Sevlievo allows young people to participate from wherever they study or live, while still keeping Sevlievo at the heart of their service. The model shows that belonging does not depend only on physical presence. It can also be built through commitment, communication and a shared wish to contribute.

Rotaract Club Sevlievo was chartered on 15 December 2025 and began its official journey with 13 members. Information about its first projects and initiatives is currently unavailable, and further details should be requested directly from the club.

Even at this early stage, the club's formation carries an important message. Rotary and Rotaract can adapt to the lives of young people without losing their values. By using an online format, Rotaract Club Sevlievo creates a pathway for continuity after Interact and offers young adults a way to remain active, responsible and connected to their hometown.

Photographs from the charter ceremony during the Rotaract Assembly in Dryanovo and from the presentation of the Rotary International charter certificate during the District 2482 Conference capture the beginning of this new journey — a modern Rotaract story shaped by flexibility, loyalty to community and young leadership in action.



Rotaract club Dobrich



Rotaract club Dobrich, District 2482 - Bulgaria

Traditional club, ID: 8828560

Rotaract Club Dobrich: Rebuilding a Pathway for Young Leaders

Rotaract Club Dobrich resumed its activities because young people in the city were ready to **reconnect, rebuild and continue** the Rotaract movement with new energy.

For several years, Dobrich did not have an active Rotaract club. This created a missing step in the Rotary family's natural pathway for young people — from Interact to Rotaract and later, for some, to Rotary clubs. Young people who wanted to remain involved after Interact had fewer local opportunities to continue developing their leadership, friendships and service experience within the same community.

The revival of Rotaract Club Dobrich became possible through the initiative and commitment of Preslav Neychev. He helped bring together young people who shared the wish to restore Rotaract in the city and build an active club once again. His role was not only organisational, but also motivational: he helped show that the absence of a club did not have to mean the end of a Rotary journey for young people in Dobrich.

van Devetakov was elected as the first President of the re-established club, taking on the responsibility to lead this new beginning. With the club's revival, Dobrich restored an important bridge between generations in the Rotary family.

Rotaract Club Dobrich was chartered on 30 June 2026 and began its renewed journey with 12 members.

Information about its first projects and initiatives is currently unavailable, and further details should be requested directly from the club. No photographs are currently available. Even without a long list of completed projects yet, the re-establishment of the club already carries meaning. It shows that continuity matters. It shows that young people need spaces where they can grow, take responsibility and remain connected to their community. It also shows that Rotary and Rotaract can regain momentum when someone steps forward and others are invited to join.

The story of Rotaract Club Dobrich is a story of return — not to repeat the past, but to continue it with fresh commitment. It restores a pathway for young people in Dobrich to serve, learn, lead and belong.

This new beginning gives the city a renewed Rotaract presence and opens the door to future projects, partnerships and community impact led by young people who are ready to act.

Interact club Yambol

Sponsor club Rotary club Yambol



Interact Club Panagyurishte

Sponsored by Rotary Club Panagyurishte



Interact Club American Colledge

Sponsored by Rotary Club Sofia City





Meet the **New Clubs in District 2483**

Presented by ARPIC **Aleksandar Radojicic**

Rotary Club Beograd Pobednik

Club ID: 228036, D2483 - Serbia

Rotary Club Beograd Pobednik: Building a Club Like a Ship

Rotary Club Beograd Pobednik began with five people who believed that lasting impact is built patiently — through **trust, friendship and a shared vision**.

From that small beginning, the club has grown into a community of 23 members from different professions, experiences and backgrounds. They are united by Rotary values: service to the community, fellowship, integrity, diversity and leadership. The club is officially recognised by Rotary International, belongs to District 2483 in Serbia, and carries Club ID 228036. The club was established in 2026, with its Charter Celebration planned for autumn 2026. During its first phase of development, the focus has been on **creating a strong foundation**: connecting members, building team spirit, learning about Rotary principles and preparing for future service projects.

A personal reflection by **Milica Stojković**, Secretary of Rotary Club Beograd Pobednik, captures the club's spirit. She compares its development **to building a ship** — a process that takes time, care and every person's contribution.

The members are the crew: one keeps the course, another cares for the sails, another builds friendships, and someone else offers support when challenges arise. They are not sailing against one another, but together. This approach has shaped the club's first months. **Before launching projects, members have invested in trust, belonging and shared responsibility.**

The first humanitarian and community projects are planned for October 2026. The first joint gathering of members and friends took place on 15 June 2026 at Lola Bistro in Belgrade. Rotary Club Beograd Pobednik is still at the start of its voyage, but its direction is clear: to grow with patience, serve with purpose and create lasting impact together.



Rotary Club Nikšić

Club ID: 227980

District: 2483

Country: Montenegro

Rotary Club Nikšić: Building a Strong Foundation for Lasting Community Impact

Rotary Club Nikšić was created to bring together responsible people who want to serve their community with purpose, friendship and long-term commitment. The club was established through the shared initiative of professionals, entrepreneurs and community-minded leaders from different sectors in Nikšić. Their common ambition was to create a strong local platform for service, positive change and sustainable projects that respond to real needs in the community. The formation of the club was not a single moment, but a careful process. Over several months, the future members held meetings, took part in Rotary education, completed administrative work and coordinated closely with the District and other Rotary clubs. This preparation helped the new club begin with structure, understanding and a clear sense of responsibility.

Special support was provided by the sponsor club, Rotary Club Podgorica, as well as by members of the wider Rotary community in Montenegro, Serbia and the region. Their guidance helped the new members connect local enthusiasm with Rotary experience and international friendship.

Rotary Club Nikšić was chartered on 12 June 2026 with 24 charter members. The Charter Certificate was officially presented on 28 June 2026 during the presidential handover ceremony of Montenegrin

Rotary clubs at Besac Fortress in Virpazar. The club belongs to Rotary District 2483. Its President is Nemanja Pejović.

As a traditional, community-based Rotary club, Rotary Club Nikšić meets twice per month, every second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., at Hotel Onogošt in Nikšić. The club is also completing its national registration as a non-governmental organisation and establishing its internal governance, committees and operational procedures.

During its first phase, the club has focused on building a stable organisational foundation. This includes adopting the Club Statute and internal governance documents, establishing the Club Board and seven permanent committees, organising regular meetings, involving charter members in Rotary education, preparing the official visit of the District Governor, participating in District events and developing cooperation with Rotary clubs in Montenegro and abroad.

The club's first service projects are currently being developed, with a focus on youth, education, health, social inclusion, support for vulnerable groups and initiatives that can create measurable and sustainable impact in Nikšić.

Rotary Club Nikšić begins its journey with a clear approach: to avoid one-time activities without lasting value and to build well-organised projects rooted in the real needs of the local community.



Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing



Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing

District: 2483, Country: Serbia

Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing: A Cause-Based Club for Health, Nature and Community

Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing was created around a simple and timely idea: wellbeing is essential for every person, and communities can become healthier when people work together with care, knowledge and purpose.

The club was founded as a cause-based Rotary club in District 2483, Serbia, bringing together 30 female members who share a commitment to wellbeing, environmental awareness and positive community action. From the beginning, the founders recognised that wellbeing in the 21st century is not only a personal matter. It is connected with health, education, the environment, belonging and the quality of life in the city.

Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing was chartered on 8 April 2026. From its first steps, the club began planning visible action for the community. One of its first planned initiatives is “30 Cherry Blossom Trees for the Wellbeing of Belgrade City”, to be implemented in November. The project symbolically connects the club’s 30 members with beauty, nature and a healthier urban environment for Belgrade.

The club also quickly opened itself to international Rotary friendship. In April 2026, Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing signed its first twin club agreement with Rotary Club Ljubljana Julija from District 1912. This partnership reflects the club’s wish to grow through connection, exchange and cooperation beyond borders.

The club has also taken on a strong environmental role. Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing is an Ambassador Club for the major Rotary ecological project “End Plastic Soup” in District 2483 and is a member of the Danube Rotary Alliance.

Its first club project, “End Plastic Soup and Music”, was held on 25 July 2026 with young musicians attending a seven-day masterclass camp in Progar, Belgrade. Club member Olja Jacobs has worked with young musicians for the past ten years, leading masterclasses for students who play different instruments and conclude their training with a concert.

For this project, the club created an educational workshop for the young musicians. The participants were first introduced to the idea of Rotary, and then took part in a quiz on plastic pollution and its impact on health. Through this first initiative, Rotary Club Beograd Wellbeing connected music, education, health and environmental responsibility — showing how wellbeing can become a shared community action.

Meet the
**New Clubs in
District 2485**

Presented by **DPIC Nora Siqeca**



Rotary Club Tirana East



Rotary Club Tirana East

Club ID: 227443, Traditional club
District: 2485 - Albania

Rotary Club Tirana East: A Shared Journey of Service and Lasting Impact

Rotary Club Tirana East was created by people who wanted to make a difference together — through friendship, leadership and service to the community.

The club was born from the belief that positive change becomes stronger when people from different professions, experiences and backgrounds unite around a common purpose. More than the creation of a new Rotary club, it marked the beginning of a shared journey shaped by compassion, responsibility and the desire to improve the lives of others. Rotary Club Tirana East is a regular Rotary club in District 2485, Albania, officially recognised by Rotary International under Club ID 227443.

From its first days, the club embraced the spirit of Service Above Self and brought together dedicated professionals and community leaders who believe that ideas become meaningful only when they are turned into action.

The club is guided by Rotary's values of service, integrity, diversity, fellowship and leadership. These values are not presented as abstract principles, but as

the foundation for how members meet, plan, build partnerships and serve. Through every conversation and every act of service, the members are shaping a club culture based on trust, optimism and shared responsibility.

Rotary Club Tirana East has defined its mission clearly: to create lasting impact through service, fellowship, leadership and community engagement. This mission reflects both the club's local commitment and its connection to the wider Rotary family.

During its first months, the club has focused on building a strong internal foundation. Members have invested time in fellowship, connection and identifying meaningful opportunities to serve the community. Guided by Rotary's Areas of Focus, the club is developing projects related to education, community well-being, environmental sustainability and local development.

This early stage is important. Before visible impact comes shared understanding. Before long-term projects come trust, planning and a clear sense of purpose. Rotary Club Tirana East is using this time to prepare carefully and to ensure that its future initiatives respond to real community needs.

The story of Rotary Club Tirana East is a story of new energy in Albanian Rotary — a club determined to build friendships, strengthen communities and create a legacy of positive and lasting impact.



Rotary Club Klina



Rotary Club Klina

Club ID: 227306, Traditional club

District: 2485 - Kosovo

Rotary Club Klina: Carrying a Community Spirit into a New Chapter

Rotary Club Klina was founded to turn a strong local tradition of service, knowledge and responsibility into meaningful action for the community. Klina is a place shaped by people who have dedicated their lives to others — educators, physicians, entrepreneurs and professionals whose work has helped strengthen society over generations. Rotary Club Klina was created to carry this spirit forward through a new Rotary chapter, rooted in friendship, compassion and the desire to create lasting impact.

The club is a regular Rotary club in District 2485, Kosovo, officially recognised by Rotary International under Club ID 227306. Inspired by Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, it brings together individuals who believe that leadership is measured not only by professional success, but also by the positive difference one makes in the lives of others.

Built on Rotary's core values of service, integrity, diversity, fellowship and leadership, Rotary Club Klina reflects many of the qualities that have long defined the community itself. It is a place where people can bring their knowledge, experience and networks

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Siqueca

together, transforming ideas into initiatives and partnerships into opportunities.

The club's mission is clear: to serve the community through sustainable projects that promote education, health, environmental stewardship, youth empowerment and local partnerships. This mission connects the club's local identity with Rotary's wider purpose — to bring people together in action that responds to real needs and builds stronger communities.

As Rotary Club Klina begins its journey, its first initiatives are being shaped around the values that brought its members together: service, collaboration and community. The club is preparing projects that will support education, youth development, health, environmental responsibility and stronger local cooperation.

This careful beginning matters. Before sustainable projects can grow, a club needs trust, shared purpose and a clear understanding of the community it serves. Rotary Club Klina is building that foundation with the intention to create impact that is meaningful, practical and lasting.

The story of Rotary Club Klina is a story of continuity and hope — a community with deep roots in service now connected to the global Rotary family, ready to inspire new generations of leaders and strengthen the Dukagjini region through compassion, collaboration and action.



BARCELONA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE

BARCELONA, SPAIN | 26-30 JUNE 2027

Registration opens in September 2026 at convention.rotary.org.



New beginnings

Starting a club takes a mix of inspiration and good planning

Based on a Story by Tom Gump. What it takes to start a successful Rotary club.

Step 1 SET EXPECTATIONS

Chartering a club takes time — you can't rush developing new relationships — as well as careful planning and dedication. Be prepared, but don't be overwhelmed. *Look at what the clubs that are already in your community are working on, what the community needs that those clubs might not be addressing, and what potential members are missing from those clubs. Think about different times, locations, and formats for meetings.*

Step 2 EXPLORE OPTIONS

Today's Rotary is flexible. Do you want to start a Rotary, Rotaract, or satellite club? Will meetings be in person, online, or a combination? In addition to traditional and cause-based clubs, options include passport, corporate, and alumni-based clubs. *Whatever you do, make sure it is the members of the new club who make the decision, and not you. After all, it is their club and not yours.*

Step 3 FIND MEMBERS AND SUPPORT

Reach out through traditional and social media and invite the community to informational meetings, keeping diversity and inclusion in mind. Look for new ways to find members. Rather than bringing potential new members to existing clubs and adding them incrementally, we brought potential new clubs to people, to their organizations.

Club and District Support staff at Rotary International are multilingual professionals who help guide the formation of hundreds of Rotary clubs every year.

stage, the club will define its name, vision, and values. Cause-based clubs help attract volunteers, especially younger ones, to Rotary projects. Many volunteers today want to have great impact in one area of service, such as ending human trafficking.

Step 5 CHOOSE CLUB LEADERS

Elect your club officers and work with RI staff to approve the club name. Sponsor clubs can play an important role in answering questions and providing guidance at this stage. Get two or three members from the sponsor club to become members of the new club whenever possible. Clubs with all new members face challenges and need support.

Step 6 CHARTER, CELEBRATE, PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Have your district governor sign the new club application before submitting it to RI. Once it's approved, your club is official. As you celebrate, be sure to share the excitement on social media. Draw up a strategic plan and maintain contact with your club's support network to help it grow and thrive. Nurturing the new club in its early period of growth is just as important as, if not more than, setting up the club. *Form committees to share responsibilities such as creating a strategic plan, organizing projects, and planning club meetings.*

This transcription preserves the information and wording presented on pages 58–59 of Rotary magazine, April 2021. Illustration credit in the original: James Graham.

*Meet
The Team*

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

Meet the TEAM



RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



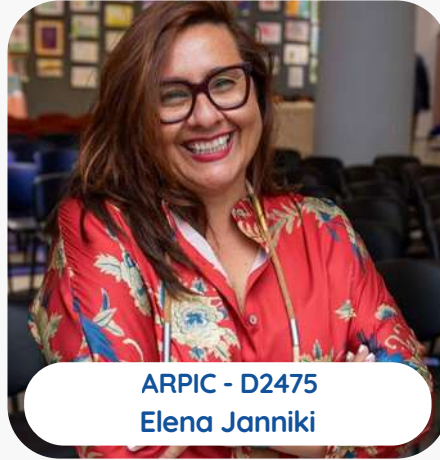
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PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, d2440
Serdar Aydın

Meet the Advisors & Supporters



Past RPIC 2023-2026
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Past RPIC 2020-2023
PDG Nijad Al Atassi, D2452



Past PRPIC
PDG Gunes Ertas, D2440



Past ARPIC - D2475
Maria Mastora



Past ARPIC - D2452
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Technical advisor
Cengiz Turgay



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Rtn PP Gergana Georgieva
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🇧🇬 You are welcome to contact the assistants assigned to your districts and send in your questions or projects to be featured in the Zone 21B newsletter.

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August, 2026