

## **DISTRICT 2240 GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS FOR ROTARY YEAR 2017/2018**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Rotarian Year 2017/2018 is the 19th year of the independent Rotary International District 2240 – Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. On the one hand, when compared with other Districts, ours is relatively young, but on the other hand, over the course of our short history, we have gathered enough experience to know in which direction to keep growing and what aspects of our activities we can improve. This is why this past year can also be evaluated as having continued the traditional activities, while also looking for new ways for our further development.

### **ROTARY CLUBS**

Over this past Rotarian Year, District 2240 had 73 regular chartered Rotary Clubs and three Rotary Clubs being founded. (These are the Rotary Clubs Prešov Šariš, Oponice, and Žilina International, all three in Slovak Republic. A special thanks for his long-term commitment and dedication to this effort goes out to Robert Bečica, member of RC Košice Classic.) Over the course of this past year, no new Clubs were chartered. However, there have been positive developments in the form of efforts being led by Svatopluk K. Jedlička (RC Prague City), who was doing research on the history of Rotary in Kutná Hora and is now leading an initiative to reestablish a Rotary Club in this town. Similarly, Petr Javořík (RC Poděbrady) has been trying to revive the Rotarian idea in Mladá Boleslav, where there also used to be a Rotary Club during the first Czechoslovak Republic.

As of July 1, 2017, Rotary Clubs in the District had 1,405 active members. As of April 30, 2018, there were 1,428 active members; i.e., there were 23 additional active members added to our ranks (a growth of 1.64%).

Our Rotary Clubs' projects tend to be longer term, as Clubs carry out the same charitable, social, cultural, and other activities over the long term. This practice definitely is not bad, since the public perceives each Rotary Club by their "traditional activities." On the other hand, this tends to set pace for a conservative approach of the massive majority of our Club members. Perhaps this is partly due to the age distribution of our Club members. It would be useful for Club practice to see more new projects and activities, which would not necessarily need to be time-demanding or costly, but which would be more "visible" to the eyes of the public and which would benefit specific members of a given community. These types of activities could liven up Club activity, help to engage a higher number of Club members in their execution, and Clubs would not need to continue to rely on only their traditionally active members. It is realistic to assume that such more diverse Club activity would also improve the overall public awareness of Rotary in general.

This year, our Clubs received a new aid for planning their activities: the District 2240 Strategic Document for the years 2018-2021. Each Club should think through their own approach in accordance with this strategy. They should set their own priorities, which will be informed by the District priorities, but which will stem from the unique conditions of their own space of influence. One significant challenge for our Clubs is the challenge to overcome their own isolation. We would achieve much better results if we worked in partnership at least with the Clubs in our area and if we developed more cooperation and contact with our partner Clubs abroad.

## DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

As we evaluate the past Rotarian Year, the area of the coordination of the individual District institutions merits some attention. To me, the most significant accomplishment is the fact that we started emphasizing ***continuous goal setting and efforts to meet our goals.***

We started by consistently inviting the DGN to the District Advisory Committee meetings so that he could be familiar with the topic of District leadership from the very beginning, and so that he could actively participate in the decision making.

During this past year, we continued in the closer interconnectedness of the Governor's Assistants (ADGs) with the advisory board. The intent is to make sure the ADGs better understand the intent behind the District's development, to enable them to participate in its formulation, and to have them be more active in advocating for different initiatives in Club life. It is necessary to continue to improve the effectiveness of the ADGs' activity in the Clubs. The Clubs need to see the ADGs literally as "the extended arm of the Governor" and they need to trust his willingness and ability to help them solve their problems.

Over the course of this Rotarian Year, we also organized an independent meeting of the Governor's Council (GC). This may not have been exactly in accordance with the rules of RI (which assumed GC was supposed to have met no later than within a month after the RI meeting in San Diego to adopt its conclusions and recommend their optimal implementation into the life of the District to the new Governor), but we still thought it was very successful. The past District Governors share a lot of experience, wisdom, and ideas that can help propel District life in the right direction.

The main ways that the District leadership presented itself during the past Rotarian year included especially the drafting of the District development strategy for the next three years, the initiative to systematically involve individual District institutions in cooperative partnerships, the new definition of District relationships through the new District Bylaws, the successful preparation of the District for the effectiveness of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the updates of the sample Rotary Club Bylaws separately adapted to conditions in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the acceptance of the District website and member database redesign (also in terms of the new GDPR effectiveness), as well as the preparations for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the District.

Details about the individual areas of District life are briefly summarized below.

## YOUTH EXCHANGE

This Rotarian Year, our District is hosting 94 exchange students, 50 in Slovakia in 18 different Clubs, and 44 in the Czech Republic in 22 Clubs. The students come from 16 countries: 31 from the United States, 12 from Brazil, 8 from Mexico, 7 each from Canada and Taiwan, 6 from Argentina, 5 from Colombia, 3 from India, 2 each from Japan, Peru, and South Korea, and 1 each from Bolivia, Italy, Chile, and Thailand. We also hosted 4 Australian students and one student from South Africa from January to December 2017. These were replaced in January 2018 by 5 more students from Australia.

9 inbounds returned home prematurely, 6 from the Czech Republic and 3 from Slovakia, so there were 85 attending the District Conference.

Out of our District, we have sent 102 students abroad, 49 from the Czech Republic and 53 from Slovakia. Most of them (31) went to the United States, 10 went to Brazil, 8 to Mexico, 7 each to Canada and Taiwan, 6 each to Argentina and Colombia, 5 to Australia, 3 each to South Korea and India, 2 each to Finland and Japan, and 1 each to Bolivia, Chile, Italy, Peru, Thailand, and South Africa.

In Rotarian Year 2018/19, we plan to send 83 students abroad, and we plan to host 88.

We sent 121 of our District's summer campers (78 from the Czech Republic and 43 from Slovakia) to 21 European and 9 non-European countries, and we organized 5 summer camps of our own in the Czech Republic (including 82 foreign participants), 1 specialized

Handicamp in the Czech Republic (with 10 participants), and 2 summer camps in Slovakia (24 participants).

Some 13 students took part in family exchanges, 9 from the Czech Republic and 4 from Slovakia. Three students went to India, two each went to Japan, United States, and South Africa, and one each went to Mexico, Argentina, Italy, and Taiwan. All but one of these exchanges were reciprocal, meaning that 12 foreign exchange students came to our District.

The numbers of participants in short-term youth exchange programs have been consistent for a long time. In the case of the summer camps, we have hit a number of students that cannot grow much more given the limited number of camps organized abroad. In contrast, there is great potential for growth in the area of family exchanges, where we are currently unable to take advantage of all the offers coming in from abroad due to a lack of interested candidates from our District. Given that this exchange program is the least demanding in terms of organization and administration, as well as for individual Rotary Clubs, we will make sure to give it our full attention going forward.

Long-term exchange participation has seen significant growth since 2012/13, when we sent only 53 students abroad from the whole District, until this year's group of 102. For next year, there is a decrease down to 83 outbound students. We can expect that given the number of Clubs in our District, future numbers of outbound and inbound students are likely to fluctuate in the range of 80 to 100 students. Even so, we are one of the Districts with highest numbers of RYE participants in the world.

Great credit for the success of the long-term exchange programs goes to the individual Youth Service leaders in the Clubs, the counselors, and the host families. I would specifically like to recognize Kateřina Ullmannová of RC Praga Ekumena, who diligently served and dedicated much time to her role as a District Youth Exchange Committee member, the main point of contact for the United States Districts, as well as the counselor for her Club's inbound student. This student encountered health issues that led to her hospitalization and subsequent premature return to her home country. Kateřina showed much sacrifice and dedication in this situation, providing care for both the student and even the student's mother, who came to pick up her daughter. During my visit to Rotary Club Praga Ekumena, I personally delivered to Kateřina a written thank-you on behalf of the District.

## ROTARACT

There are 12 active Rotaract Clubs (RACs) in our District, 6 in the Czech Republic and 6 in Slovakia. Although we dealt with the topic of RACs relatively regularly at various District-level meetings as well as during my visits to different Rotary Clubs, we cannot be fully satisfied with the **organization** of RAC Club life. Our RACs are, almost without any exceptions, small, their members being of an age where their main activity is either studies or else the acquisition of their first practical employment or entrepreneurial experience. As a result, they tend to focus on RAC activities mostly only during seasons when they organize projects. One proof of the possibilities of organizing the Club life of our RACs is, for example, the fact that despite my efforts, whenever I visited a town where a RAC exists, meeting with RAC members, even individually (i.e., apart from the Rotary Club), was only feasible in one instance – that of RAC Brno. In all other cases, only a few of the RAC members attended my meeting with their sponsoring Rotary Club.

On the other hand, we have to objectively say that in this past Rotarian year, the relationship between Rotary and Rotaract in our District has improved on the Club level as well as on the District level. For the second year in a row, Presidents Elect of the RACs were invited to the District PETS, and for the very first time this year, the time and location of the District Conference of the Rotary Clubs coincides with that of the Rotaract Clubs. The District Governor of Rotary spoke at the RAC District Conference, and the District Rotaract Representative (DRR) together with the European Rotaract Information Center (ERIC) Representative spoke at the Rotary District Conference. Delegates from the Rotaract Conference also attended the gala dinner at our District Conference.

## IMAGE

Rotary Good News – Maintained the world-class graphic standard and content (recognition from Evanston). The credit for this achievement goes especially to František Ryneš and Svatopluk Jedlička, and of course to the graphic designer Roman Černošous (not a Rotarian).

Website – We have initiated a radical change. After a relatively challenging preparation phase, we terminated the contract with our former District website provider, the company NetBrick from Plzeň, effective April 3, 2018. Prior to that date, we drafted a new contract with the firm Phares from Prague, whose director is Rotarian Jan Kemr from RC Prague Old Town. The focus of the contract is the creation of a new design for the District web portal as well as new, more user-friendly District and Club websites. The work is broken down into four phases, with final delivery planned for the end of 2018. During the District website redesign, we will also increase its security and simplify the member database, whose contents will be limited to the data necessary for merging with the RI member database. The final goal, which is not included in this contract, is the removal of duplicates in member data. In addition to Jan Kemr, the members who contributed to these changes and the drafting of the contract included Stanislav Srnka, George J. Podzimek (RC Prague Old Town), Ivo Machulda (RC Prague), Ota Kovář (RC Telč), Ivo Franc (RC Ostrava), and the past District webmaster Juraj Piš (RC Prague Old Town), with the indispensable legal support of Martina Jankovská, head of the District Committee for Legislative Matters.

PR – Work on increasing the visibility of Clubs is ongoing, and resembles more an evolution than a revolution of how Clubs present themselves. Recognition is due for Jana Jakušev-Šrýtrová from RC Liberec/Jablonec and Saša Uherková from RC Ostrava City.

A significant moment in the effort to increase Rotary's visibility and to improve its relationship with the faith community was the reception of Rotarians, their family members, and their friends in the Prague Archbishop's Palace by His Excellence Dominik Cardinal Duka, the Prague Archbishop and Czech Primate, on September 19, 2017. More than 160 Rotarians and their friends had the opportunity to attend this reception, a tour of the Archbishop's Palace, and a special celebratory dinner. The event resulted in a financial contribution of 110,000 CZK to build a new organ in the Temple of St. Vít in Prague Castle, received by the Prague Archdiocese. An additional contribution of 20,000 CZK was made for this same cause by RC Hradec Králové, and further Rotary Clubs also contributed different amounts to the District account.

One gap in the activities of many Clubs is the publication of information about projects and other Club activities on the District website and in the Rotary Good News magazine and on the Rotary Club Central webpage.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ICC ACTIVITY

The Coordinator of all of the foreign committees is PDG Otakar Veselý, who also represents the District's international service externally. At this time, the District has 10 foreign committees. The newest ones are CZ – SK – Armenia and CZ – SK – Serbia – Montenegro. These committees are gearing up to commence more intensive activity in the upcoming Rotarian year 2018/19. The most active committees are those with Germany and with Ukraine. In cooperation with Ukraine, we managed to have the Yasinia project approved as a global grant. This project came out of the cooperation between the Clubs of Košice Classic and Uzhhorod Skala. At present, the inputs from the remaining donors are being collected. We wish this project all the success.

The Austrian committee is organizing their traditional hike up Třístoličník as the border peak with the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. It is a very popular Rotarian event.

The Hungarian committee has also begun to draw Rotarians together through the interesting project of a three-day cycling tour starting in Slovakia and finishing in Hungary, with a plan

to reverse the route the following year. We have supported the growth of the mutual cooperation with the Hungarian District also through another meeting with Zoltán Mészáros, the Hungarian District Governor, in Dunajská Streda and in Komárno, where there exists a Rotary Club which belongs to the Hungarian District, but which works both in the Hungarian Komárom and in the Slovak Komárno.

We can be truly pleased with the activity of the international committees because thanks to the consistent, methodical leadership of PDG Otakar Veselý, they cover specific activities of individual Clubs in bilateral relationships as well as represent the District as a whole.

## **FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Rotary Fellowships are meant to be additions to Rotarian activities carried out by the Clubs. As one can gather from their name, they unite Rotarians who share typically free-time interests, interests that may not be very common and therefore unsuitable to the setting of the Rotary Club as a whole. Therefore, Rotarians who share these more narrow interests meet through the Fellowships from across the District, or else regionally where that makes sense. During the Rotarian Year 2017/2018, PDG Roman Gronský of RC Olomouc City was in charge of coordinating the Fellowship development.

### **Skiing Fellowship**

Clearly, the most significant event organized during this past Rotarian Year in our District was the Rotary Alpine Skiing World Championship, organized by our District's Skiing Fellowship, which is a part of the ISFR (International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians). This was the first time that the event was held outside of the Alpine Region of Europe. Already being awarded the organization of the event was a success in and of itself, but the success was taken to a completely new level in the actual implementation of the event. Some 151 Rotarians and their families attended, with 115 competitors representing 15 countries from around the world. The proceeds from this event went to visually impaired skiers and nature preservation in the High Tatras. The event received much public recognition, including a feature in the evening news on public television, which significantly strengthened public awareness and positive image of Rotary in our District. The organizers of this excellent event – members of Rotary Club Bratislava Danube Miloš Kmetý and Peter Princ, and members of Rotary Club Liptovský Mikuláš Eva Ohradánová and Pavol Vrbičan – deserve our warm thanks.

### **Golf Fellowship**

The Golf Fellowship is one of the most active and most attractive ones in our District in terms of the number of its organized events. Much thanks goes out to the organizers of the individual golf tournaments, which make up the District golf tour, and especially to the Head of the Fellowship, László Keve of RC Levice. Under his leadership, this past golf season was made up of 11 tournaments, with financial proceeds totaling 28,000 Czech crowns. This sum was used to purchase a golf cart for the paragolfers belonging to the CZDGA (Czech Disabled Golfists Association). President of CZDGA, Mr. Miroslav Lidinský, sent us a thank you letter for this gift.

Tournament on 4/21 at GC Most, organizer Jindřich Vinkler and RC Most, charitable contribution 3,000 CZK  
Tournament on 5/6 at GC Aeroport Šurany, organizer Ladislav Veres and RC Nové Zámky  
Tournament on 5/19 at GC Kotlina Terezín, organizer Jiří Bureš and RC Most  
Tournament on 5/23 at GC Český Krumlov, organizer Jan Trsek and RC České Budějovice, charitable contribution 6,400 CZK  
Tournament on 6/2 at GC Sedín, organizer Katarína Čechová and RC Bratislava Danube  
Tournament on 7/14 at GC Bítovceves, organizers J. Vinkler/J. Bureš and RC Most  
Tournament on 7/28 at GC Telč, organizer Miloš Pop and RC Telč, charitable contribution 15,000 CZK  
Tournament on 8/23 at GC Kotlina Terezín, organizer Jindra Vinkler and RC Most  
Tournament on 9/15-16 at GC Mních and GC Haugschlag, organizer Herbert Patschka and IGFR  
Tournament on 10/1 at GC Grey Bear, organizer Karol Fabián and RC Banská Bystrica  
Tournament on 10/18 at GC Hodkovičky, organizer Marie Jehličková and RC Prague International, charitable contribution 4,000 CZK

## **Yachting Fellowship**

The Yachting Fellowship is the only one in our District that was founded as an independent legal person according to Czech law, under the name “Czech and Slovak Rotary Fleet.” Some 13 Rotary Clubs in Moravia and Slovakia participate in its activities; unfortunately, with no participating Czech Clubs to date. The number of the Fellowship’s members is around 22 (it changes slightly every year). The Fellowship is also registered with IYFR (International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians), the oldest and largest Rotarian Fellowship in the world.

Our Yachting Fellowship organizes its main event, Rotary Sailing Weeek (RSW), as well as an inland fleet meet, every year. The main goal of the fleet meet is the preparation of next year’s RSW.

At the time of this writing, we only have the results of last year’s RSW, which was already the 7th annual meeting of the members and friends of our Yachting Fellowship. At the end of May and beginning of June, crews of 12 charter sailboats met in the Adriatic in Croatia. There were 87 attendees, including 54 Rotarians from 13 Rotary Clubs. In 2018, RSW will be held between May 26 and June 2.

Currently, the head of the Fellowship – the Commodore of the Czech and Slovak Rotary fleet – is Ján Babic, member of RC Banská Bystrica Classic.

## **Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians**

The head of this Fellowship is DGE Zdeněk Michálek. There are 13 members active in this Fellowship, 10 of whom are Rotarians from 5 different Clubs. Over the course of this past Rotarian Year, the Fellowship organized three events. The first one was an international Rotarian Scout camp in v Kopřivnice held in July 2017, attended by 20 participants from 10 different countries. The second was a meeting held as a part of PETS in Olomouc, and the third was a hike up Ivančena (memorial in Beskydy Mountains to the Scouts executed in WWII.) in April 2018.

## **Gourmet Fellowship**

The head of the Gourmet Fellowship is our Rotary friend Vojtěch Havránek from RC Prague City. This fellowship belongs to the most active ones in our District. Over the course of this Rotarian Year, it organized 8 events attended by a total of around 200 participants, during the course of which around 60,000 CZK was raised for Rotary projects.

July 2017 – in Bohuslavice together with the Golf Fellowship and RC Telč, dinner with around 25 participants  
August 2017 – in Terezín together with the Golf Fellowship and a music festival dedicated to Mahler, dinner with around 25 participants  
October 2017 – dinner at Bistrot104 with around 25 participants  
December 2017 – truffle dinner at Jurys Inn with around 30 participants  
January 2018 – “Russian” dinner with 20 participants  
February 2018 – dinner at the training of the National Chef Team of the Czech Republic with 45 participants  
April 2018 – dinner at Le Terroir with 24 participants  
June 2018 – we are planning a South African-style event

There are other formally organized Fellowships in our District (Aviation, Cycling, Tennis, Photography and Visual Arts, History of District 2240, and Sports Shooting and Guns), but they were not active during this past year.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

This District Committee has been well staffed and set up to be able to carry out its work for a number of years. During this past Rotarian Year, it again organized two Rotary Foundation seminars in Martin and in Prague. These were attended by representatives of 37 Rotary Clubs. The Clubs know that in this Committee’s members, they can reliably find experienced partners who can systematically offer methodical help in the planning and implementation of projects cofinanced by grants, as well as in solving any open issues related to the Rotary Foundation. I would like to specifically mention the work of this Committee’s members Hana Gamrot, Ján Popadič, and Daniela Vondrová, the latter having been in charge of the Committee for the last several years.

The implementation of the Global Grant “Happy Classroom” organized by RC Ostrava International and led by Hana Gamrot, has successfully begun. This year, our second global grant number GG1747062, organized by RC Košice Classic, was also approved. This grant, in the amount of USD 159,771 will benefit the Center of Social Services in Yasinia, Ukraine. František Siska, Michal Cehlár, and Ivana Lengová worked especially hard on initiating this project.

In terms of the so-called District grants, we implemented 12 small Club projects, the final reports for which were submitted by all the Clubs already in April 2018. As of March 31, 2018, the Clubs submitted DDF grant applications for 14 small projects for the year 2018/2019. The Committee will consider the applications and submit them to the Foundation for approval by May 31, 2018.

Next year, the Committee would like to organize a Rotary Foundation seminar with the support of a Zone 19 representative who could bring to our members experiences from other Districts in this area. Of course, we will implement District grants and if there is initiative, we will also work to prepare additional global grants.

We should also mention several other projects related to the activities of the Rotary Foundation. In addition to the collection of funds toward a new organ in the St. Vít Cathedral (mentioned above), several Clubs, mostly from the Czech Republic, also participated in the project Memory of the Nation (with the amount of 10,000 CZK), the project “Ď Prize” („ThankYou Prize“) focused on encouraging volunteerism, a relay marathon project for elementary school students, and a project to support the Bone Marrow Foundation.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

During this past Rotarian Year, there was much demand for the work of the District Committee for Legislative Matters. Many sincere thanks are due to our Rotarian lawyers Martina Jankovská and Katarína Čechová for successfully managing the significant legal workload. The results of their work from this year are huge, though only a part of them may be visible to all the Club members.

The first of their accomplishments was the new RI District 2240 Bylaws, which is being presented to be ratified at the District Conference. In addition, these two ladies prepared sample Rotary Club Bylaws, both for the legal environment of the Czech Republic and for the legal environment of the Slovak Republic. These sample bylaws corrected the terminology and made sure to include all the relevant conclusions from the Council on Legislation from 2016. They are also updated to include the rulings relevant to Rotary Clubs based on the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This is a good moment to remind the Rotary Clubs to review their existing Bylaws as soon as possible and to update them with the new sample Bylaws rulings so that their new versions can be approved by no later than the December annual Club meetings and so that they can then be registered with the relevant courts in the Czech Republic, or in the citizen association register in the Slovak Republic.

Preparing the District for the effectiveness of the EU GDPR was an incredibly unique and challenging task. The result of this effort was the drafting of the personal consent forms for use of personal data. The District Secretary should have received all members' consent forms from all the Clubs as of May 10 of this year. Additionally, we also have an internal ruling for personal data protection, which guarantees that the District complies with GDPR as of the first effective day.

The legal side of the administrative agenda of the District definitely is not an area that tends to interest the Clubs. However, I would like to thank Drs. Jankovská and Čechová once again for all their hard work on these documents, the tightening of all the new binding relationships within the District, and their thorough corrections of all the proposed contracts. Their work is a significant element of the quality of our work.

## CONCLUSION

The District Conference is a significant formal milestone in the life of the District. It typically concludes some processes and begins others. This year's Conference, in my mind, is different. We state here that few things have concluded this year, but many tasks and projects are under way.

I am very glad that this year, we have been able to start a new way of thinking and a new approach toward District leadership. The best way to describe it is using two words: ***direction and continuity***. I am very thankful to all the active members of the District Team for their initiative in the strategy drafting process. I thank the members of all the District committees – whether it be the Youth Exchange Committee, the Rotary Foundation Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee for Rotary Public Image, including the editorial team of Rotary Good News, the Committee for Membership Development and for the Alumni, or the Committee for Legislative Matters – for their active stance toward new challenges that we have encountered or that we ourselves have set out to address. On the District level, we would not have been able to accomplish our tasks with the same attention to detail without our District Secretary, Ota Kovář. He is the heart and soul of the District Team, he gathers all the information, he offers a wealth of discernment and a great understanding of people, relationships, and the roles and responsibilities of everyone who does anything for our District.

The District is ultimately all the members of our Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs. I believe that this year, we have been able to start to better understand what we want to achieve in our District, and where we want the District as a whole, as well as all of its Clubs, to grow. I really appreciate the fact that based on our Club discussions of where we have gaps and where we need help, the first active Rotarians promptly stepped up and offered their skills. Among them, I would like to mention people like Jan Kemr, who offered George Podzimek help with overhauling our website; Ivo Machulda, Ivo Franc, Alexandra Uherková, Jana Šrýtrová – and I could name many others, who all said, “If you need me, I'm available and I will help you with what I can do.” It would be great if even going forward, you can continue to be attentive within your Clubs to the needs of the District, and more and more people would volunteer to “pull the District's cart” farther and better.

In conclusion, I would especially like to emphasize that it is very important to continue to develop cooperation with the youth – both with Rotaract and with the Alumni Association. Thanks to PDG Jozefa Poláková and DRR Blahoslav Maršálek, we started reviving the Rotary – Rotaract contacts this year, but we continue to have great opportunities to improve in this area in the future. We can also be proud of how our Alumni Association, under the leadership of Martina Saitlová, commenced its activity, and we wish for this form of building lasting relationships between Rotarians and young people to only continue to succeed.

I am sure that if we manage to bring in more youth into our ranks, we will be better, more successful, and ultimately happier.

I want to thank all the Clubs and all the Rotarians in our District for your understanding of our efforts, and for all your support. Thank you very much for a beautiful, if personally challenging year when I had the opportunity to serve our District as District Governor. I wish my successors, Zdeněk Michálek and Ilja Chocholouš, all the best as they continue to grow our cooperation with all of you, our Club members. I wish us all success in meeting our strategic goals that we have set for ourselves and that we formally ratified at this District Conference. I truly believe that through our team effort, we can do it.

Banská Bystrica, May 30, 2018



Julius Tomka  
RI District 2240 Governor  
for 2017/2018