

D7600 Alumni Association Wins Rotary International Association of the Year

Michael P. Desplaines, Sec/Treasurer, Rotary Club of Norfolk

The Rotary District 7600 Alumni Association has been selected by the Rotary International Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees to receive the 2018-19 Alumni Association of the Year Award. This award is given each year to one Rotary alumni association in the world whose achievements have increased the awareness of the role alumni play in Rotary and demonstrated the lasting impact of Rotary Foundation programs.

That's fantastic you say, but you might also be saying, "What's an alumni association?"

Alumni associations are organized groups chartered by Rotary for people who have participated in programs such as Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange, Rotary Scholarships, and Rotary Peace Fellowships. The alumni associations maintain connections between these former program participants and Rotary. There are about 80 chartered associations in 30 countries.

D7600's Alumni Association was organized in Rotary year 2013-2014, and chartered in the next year. The Association inducts new members annually at the District Conference; currently there are over 55 members. The Association's leadership team meets semi-annually at District headquarters in Williamsburg and holds various events throughout the year for the whole Association. These include service projects, break-out sessions at the district conference, socials and digital meetings.

D7600 Alumni Association was cited for this award based on their accomplishments during Rotary Year 2017-2018. These include several service projects, two PolioPlus minor league baseball games (Richmond and Norfolk) and a trip for several alumni to the Duke-UNC Peace Conference in Raleigh.

DGE Clenise Platt, also an alumnus, will accept the award on behalf of the Association at this year's RI Convention in Hamburg, Germany.

Michael Desplaines
Alumni Assoc President
2017-2018