

Rotary District 7600 Alumni Association Newsletter

November 22, 2020

Rotary Opens Opportunities for the Alumni Association Class of 2020

The annual Rotary District 7600 conference on Saturday, November 7, 2020 proved to be both a challenging and rewarding day. With a mixture of virtual and on-site participants, it was truly a different day from any other in the seven-year history of our alumni association. Everyone adjusted to the COVID-19 restrictions to properly welcome the Class of 2020 into the world's best Rotary Alumni Association.



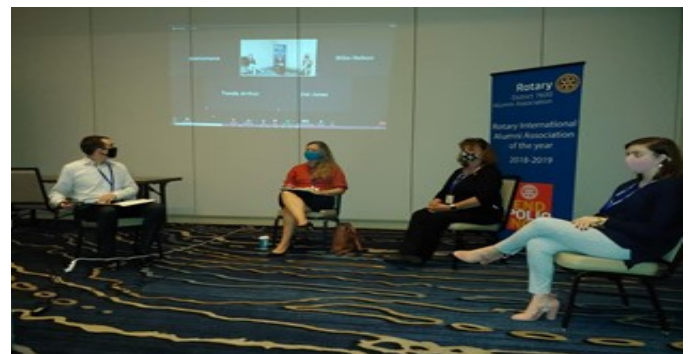
The weekend began with the alumni presence in the House of Friendship (HOF). Here, alumna, Jan Rowley, put together a tremendous 2020 display to provide information on our organization and its mission. Jan passionately attended to the table throughout the

weekend, sharing the story of our association to all who would listen.



This year, the HOF also served as the gathering place for 'Sock Toss' donations to support our service project to benefit the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (JCOC) in Virginia Beach. The JCOC works to empower homeless families, individuals, and veterans to recover

from crisis situations and return to being self-supporting, productive, and independent members of our community.



Alumni also gathered for a breakout panel, moderated by our association president, John Miller. The panel featured four panelists: Peace Scholar, Amy Kay; Global Scholar Zoe Romano; RYLA participant, Christie Douglas; and District Polio Chair Colleen Bonadonna. Our panelists responded to questions from the moderator and the audience on how their Rotary experience 'opened opportunities' in their lives.

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The late afternoon reception in the Calloway Room was well attended by our ‘on-site’ alumni and special guests. President John Miller presided and briefly reminded all that ‘Rotary

Opens Opportunities’ for alumni... opportunities to Share, to Engage, and to Grow. He also reminded Rotarians to take advantage of the Alumni Speakers Bureau to request alumni guest speakers. Visit <https://rotary7600.org/activities/> to learn more.



The ten-member Alumni Class of 2020 included four, on-site inductees and six, virtual attendees. District Governor Judy Cocherell performed the oath and welcomed the new inductees back to Rotary. The group included participants and recipients of Youth Engaged in Service (YES), Group Study Exchange (GSE), Global Grants, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), Peace Scholarships, and Global Scholarships.



The following alumni were inducted into the association:

- Yvonne Bjorklund (YES, Japan),
- Christie Douglas (RYLA)
- Joseph Fink (RYLA)
- Shaunna Hunter (GSE, Australia)
- Shelli Hunter (GSE, Caribbean)
- Jake Jeter (YES, Germany)
- Amy Kay (Peace Scholar)
- Robyn Long (Global Grant)
- Ashley Olin (GSE, Brazil)
- Zoe Romano (Global Scholar)



After the Class of 2020 Induction, Colleen Bonadonna, who chaired our alumni service project,

invited Todd Walker, Executive Director of the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center to come forward. A pile of new socks, mittens, scarves, and hats donated by the Alumni Association awaited him. In addition, Colleen also presented the JCOC with \$350.00 from the association and its membership. As we approach winter, these items will help JCOC support the homeless population of Hampton Roads during the cold winter months that lie ahead.

This event will be long remembered for our ability to hold a “socially distanced conference” that brought together alumni from various locations (as far away as Maine) to share our common bond as part of the Rotary family.