

## District 7600 Alumni Association Complete 9<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference Events

The D7600 Alumni Association had a prominent presence at the October 14-16, 2022 District Conference, with activities including a manned booth at the House of Friendship (HOF), a breakout session Saturday morning, service project Saturday afternoon, and an induction ceremony of the Class of 2022, followed by a reception, late Saturday afternoon.



PDG Debbie Wall and Jan Rawley - Alumni Association Booth, HOF

**HOF** – Alumni Association member Jan Rawley was instrumental in organizing the booth with a display of literature and information about the organization, collection of Beans and Rice for one of our service projects for the Salvation Army, as well as having copies for sale (\$20) of the Alumni Association Cook Book Food and Fellowship. Jan had some help from other Alums through the weekend. It was a collaborative effort and was an excellent venue for Rotarians and guests to explore learning about the Alumni Association, its place in Rotary, and the services it provides to the community.

**Saturday Morning Breakout Panel** - At 11:20 AM there was a very interesting panel discussion led by Dr. Mike Little. Ross Wood, past recipient of a Rotary Peace Fellow, was Zoomed in from Ethiopia. Holly Caboti-Jones, past Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Brazil, who Zoomed in from Viet Nam, and Dinesh Nayak, President of Western Henrico Rotary who talked about his club's global grant in India, were the other two panelists.



Professor Mike Little



Past RI President Barry Rassin & PDG Susan ZW

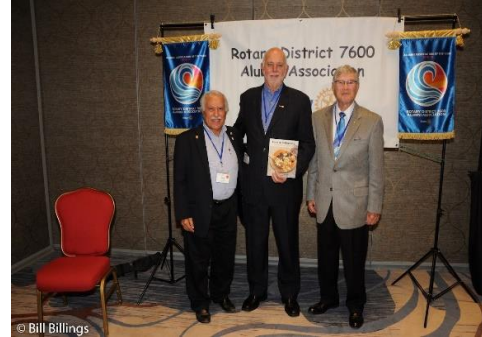
Panelists Ross and Holly shared the positive impact Rotary has had on their lives and careers as professionals, while Dinesh explained the benefits of the global grant he managed at a hospital near his hometown, that specializes in human regenerative skin cultures.

PRIP Barry Rassin and his Aide Susan ZW were in attendance. Technical and Zoom help thanks to Zach Zachinsky, Raghavan, DGE Rudy and Andrea Kojan. At the end of the program PDG John Padgett inducted Ross Wood into the Alumni Association. At Lunch the Alumni of the Year Award went to Adeb Hamzey and was well deserved for his hard work last year.

**Service Projects** – Alumni Association members attending the conference generously contributed bags of rice and beans in support of the District Community Service project. The second service project for the Alumni Association was to place labels in books for the Suffolk School System. This was successfully accomplished Saturday afternoon, with dedicated help from several Alumni Association members and other Rotarians. Rotarian Gary Anderson was instrumental in working with the Rotary Club of Suffolk to bring 700 books to the Conference. There were 8,000 books that were distributed to all elementary schools in the Suffolk Schools Division.



Lastly, we celebrated our Alumni Association with a reception and induction of 8 more new members to make a total of 9 new members. This was a lovely event with appetizers and a cash bar and was well attended. District Governor Kenny Janes, several other members of the District leadership, family members of the inductees, and other Rotarians were also in attendance.



The induction ceremony was conducted by RI Past President Barry Rassin. As a token of appreciation, President Adeb Hamzey presented Mr. Rassin with a complimentary copy of the Alumni Association cookbook.

- Alumni of the Class of 2022 include > Global Grant participants Bill Billings and Priscilla Bele, Group Study Exchange member Katie Garner, Rotaractor Raghavan Sadagopan, Youth Exchange Students Davis Richardson and Donnie Lamar, Rotary Youth Leadership Award participant Nicholas Hess, Interact Advisor Kathryn Garrett, and Rotary Peace Scholar Ross Wood (virtual).

Rotary Alumni are individuals who participated in any Rotary Foundation-sponsored program, including Group Study Exchange, Vocational Training Teams, NID, Peace Fellows, Ambassadorial Scholars, and Global Grants. Alumni members include both Rotarians and non-Rotarians and may include other members of the Rotary Family such as Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange and RYLA.

The purpose of the Alumni Association is to encourage fellowship among Alumni and Rotarians, foster participation, encourage sponsorship, promote Rotary-related projects and activities, and organize events. A close working relationship between Rotary and the Association is encouraged, so that the achievements in both can be enhanced and recognized. An added benefit is always realized, when non-Rotarian Alumni become Rotarians.

The District 7600 Alumni Association was chosen as the Rotary Alumni Association of the Year in 2018-2019. This is such an honor and we are thankful for all the Alumni who have helped us win this award.

Contributed Article

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