



Vittoria, 01 maggio 2019

Dear friends,

Rotary International dedicates the month of May to Youth Action, which is the fifth avenue of Rotarian action and underlines the importance to be given to the new generations. Our District too had given and continues to give importance to youth as in the coming Forum on Youth Action to be held at the Federico II Palace Hotel in Enna on 4th may 2019. This will be the occasion to get to know the young people in our youth clubs better in order to become acquainted with their extraordinary capabilities and to get to know what has been done so far and what can still be done for them. I hope that many of you will attend this meaning to express the interest of Rotary Clubs for the young and for their clubs. What is the use of sponsoring Rotaract or Interact clubs if then no attention is given to them? Districts and Clubs are encouraged to develop projects in favour of the basic needs of the new generations regarding health, human rights, education and self-development. The world of Rotary can represent great opportunities for our youth offering them chance for professional and self-improvement as it is an international organization founded on sound principles. Every Rotarian has the duty of guiding young people towards a better future by helping them develop their individual abilities and by taking into account the diversity of their needs.

Youth action sees the importance of giving young people and young professionals a voice and a chance to develop the abilities of leadership through service projects, both local and international, and also through youth exchange programs which promote peace in the world and understanding among different cultures.

Rotary International has a historically taken an interest in the training of youth. Back in 1949, the Central Council proposed the motto 'Every Rotarian to be an example for youth' and since 1950 Service to Youth has been among the objectives of all Rotary International Presidents.

In 1962 Interact was founded and Rotaract followed soon after, in 1968. In April, 2010 the Legislative Council approved the insertion of a fifth route of action – Action for the New Generations. This is one of the fields on which Rotarian action concentrates most effort as it believes in youth and the new generations. This multi-faceted action goes through Interact, Rotaract, RYLA and the Youth exchange programs which count on the importance of training future leaders and giving young professionals the chance to progress through Rotarian programmes for students and young people whose lives are changed by these opportunities. Through these programs, young people can obtain scholarships, they can travel for cultural exchange experiences and help within communities through service projects.

Actually, few clubs take part in these initiatives carrying a strategy involving the persons who have taken part in these youth activities and this is a lost occasion. Young people who have benefited through Rotarian programs are a huge investment for Rotary and they should be followed up and seen as constituting the future of Rotary. We have to look at the problems of an increase in the numbers of Rotarians not only from the point of view of numbers but by looking at the quality of young and well-trained leaders for the future of our organization.

Recently, Rotaract has been transformed from being a program to being an actual partner of Rotary, so as to encourage more co-operation and to build a bridge between Present and Future in Rotary.

Allow me, before closing this letter, to remind each Rotarian that Rotary International attributes the highest importance to the security of those participating in its activities. It is therefore the duty of Rotarians, their wives and partners and of all volunteers to avoid and impede, within their possibilities, any form of physical, sexual or psychological violence on the children and youth with who they may come in contact.

I wish you all to enjoy your Rotarian activities and look forward to meeting you all at Giardini Naxos (Me) for the 41st District congress.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sallemi'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a cursive 'Sallemi'.