



ROTARY CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS

WHITE PLAINS, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

2022-2023

Daryl Moss
President
daryl@missiontowellness.com
914-522-3881

Norman White
President-Elect
splash6am@verizon.net
914-261-6524

Amy Via
Vice President
avia@houlihanlawrence.com
914-523-9248

Robert Shaw
Secretary
Robert@RobertWShaw.com
914-414-6590

Jonathan Schere
Treasurer
scherejona@gmail.com
914-980-5206

Jill Owens
Immediate Past President
jco1717@aol.com
917-991-7893

DIRECTORS

Class of 2023
Lars Hierath
Libby Hollahan
Geri Kearns
Paul Schwarz

Class of 2024
Peter DeNicola
George Kontogiannis
Heather Miller
Michelle A. Nicholas

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Cyrille Bétant
Kim Griffith
Ted Weitzenberg

Special Advisors:
Charles Goldberger
Andrew Morzello, PDG
Charles Weill

<https://www.rotaryWP.org>
email: info@rotaryWP.org
Executive Secretary Ted Nygreen
tnygreen@alum.mit.edu
914 420-8802

October 10, 2022

Jennifer E. Jones
President, Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Ave.
Evanston IL 60201

Dear President Jones,

We have enclosed our letter of May 4, 2022, to the Officers and Directors of Rotary International expressing our Club's concerns that RI should make a vigorous and vocal stand in opposition to the Russian war against Ukraine. Our passionate concerns were and still are inspired by the memory of organizations and individuals turning a blind eye toward the Holocaust which in some circles is being repeated today.

What our letter did not specifically state is our concern that certain governments, including, for example, the Indian government, are continuing to "do business" with Russia and, along with 35 other countries, including, for example, South Africa, abstained from the UN sanctions and condemnation vote of Russia. India is the largest democratic country in the world and has over 3,000 Rotary Clubs. Similarly, South Africa, also a democracy, has just under 100 Rotary Clubs. Such countries should be urged to do more to help end the war.

We understand that Rotary has a tradition of caring for the less fortunate and promoting peace in a nonpolitical way, but in today's complicated and dangerous world RI has to do more.

Like other Clubs, many of our members are older, with some being Rotarians for generations. Though older, we realize that we have to change and become more relevant to more local and worldwide

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challenges, and the Russian aggression has brought this to the forefront. We understand that change does not come easily or quickly, but we are asking you to help by stating that these governments should be part of the fight to end Russia's aggression.

The world has changed over the years since Paul Harris founded Rotary, as have the individual challenges we all face. Rotary succeeds in a democratic society! When that democracy is challenged people suffer and die, which is happening in Ukraine. We want to be men and women who care about individual suffering, but we now need to be more vigilant and speak out about governments that should do more to end the war. We are being proactive on a local level to support the democratic defense of Ukraine and we hope RI can join our efforts. We welcome your support and counsel for our concerns and our hope that our grassroots effort will help in at least a small way to end the war.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Rotary Club of White Plains

cc: Rotary International Board of Directors
Mr. Martin Schulman, District Governor, District 7230