



ROTARY CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS

WHITE PLAINS, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

2021-2022

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May 4, 2022

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Fellow Rotarians,

The members of the Rotary Club of White Plains are proud to be part of an organization that is dedicated to “Service Above Self” and, in Rotary International’s words, “is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.” RI also states that members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our most persistent issues to, among other matters, promote peace.

It is with such missions in mind that we reach out to Rotary International to make a vigorous, vocal stand in opposition to the Russian war against Ukraine which is now a genocide of all Ukrainians of all faiths and backgrounds. In a matter of weeks our brother and sister Ukrainians, including fellow Rotarians, have been killed or displaced in devastating numbers, and their young Democracy may soon disappear.

Rotary has done so much over the years to make the world better in so many ways. We believe that our voice must be added to the many brave world leaders who have condemned Russia and have taken overt action to isolate Russia by not “doing business” with Russia.

Most countries have made this choice, but a few have not, and their abstention from making a stand should not be tolerated. We are only one club, but we are part of a respected international organization that should speak out against Russia’s war and lead the way for individual clubs across the globe to request their governments to stop doing business with Putin’s Russia.

Now is the time for Rotary International to act in support of its many members who want their voices heard.

Rotary International has had a powerful voice since its founding in 1905, and it is our hope that it will use that voice by taking a courageous stance against Russia. Such action will demonstrate RI’s leadership and valuable endeavors and will serve as a great example to young prospective members and other organizations around the globe. It is our fervent hope that Rotary International will embrace the concerns of its 1.4 million members and speak out and against Russia on their behalf.

Board of Directors
Rotary Club of White Plains

cc: Mr. John Hewko, RI General Secretary and RI Foundation CEO
Mr. George C. McKinnis, District Governor, Dist. 7230