



Maurizio Triscari
Governatore 2013 - 2014

Taormina, February 1st, 2014

Dear Friends,

I can say now that I have seen almost all of you! And what a pleasure that I had! Great projects and great impact on the areas, Club motivated and proactive. My valuations about the first six months are written in a specific article in this Bulletin, but I want to do a separate discussion on retention of membership.

Last July 1st 2013, our District had 4178 effective Rotarians. We are going through understandable numerical changes related to physiological resignation, but these numbers are balanced by as many - if not greater - entries. The final balancing point will obviously be done at the end of the year, but I can definitely tell you that - unless sudden and unpredictable changes - the numerical strength of our District remains unchanged unless reduced of just a few units! And this is already a great success!

I firmly believe that a healthy and proper maintenance of the actual membership, as opposed to a growth in these times difficult to support, it is the right way to a consolidation that allows us to continue in the near future to new results. The added value of new admissions to which I was able to attend, as well as representing a fair and diverse representation of occupational classifications, lies in lowering the average age of new co-opted, in many cases "*under 40*", and in the presence of significant and qualified women. In all the meetings I had in the Club, I have always said that in the short and medium term, we should work to increase new members of younger age (where possible coming from the Rotaract), and with a particulate attention to an increased presence of women.

I would like to start the second half of this Rotarian year, addressing myself to the two main "actors" in the Rotary Club, the Presidents and Secretary. On their shoulders lies - at different levels and with different implications - the Club efficiency. The President obviously has the greater weight of the "direction", a role which at the same time sees him planning activity, ideas stimulator, sometimes peacemaker too if necessary and weaver of fine relations with other clubs. But the Secretary is the one who "keeps" the life of the Club, its records, its history, regulations, the updating of district and international data bases. Only a healthy partnership - in respect of each other's roles, without one overwhelming the other - is the right mix for the proper functioning of a Club. To them, and to the time that this year took them away from their families and their work, I say, Many Thanks.

Finally, appointment at February 23rd, the "Rotary Day"! 109th anniversary since the foundation of Rotary. On that day I will be committed to the Quirinal in Rome, to the delivery of the restored tapestries of the "Lounge of Don Quixote" donated by all the thirteen District Governors of Italy, and therefore I cannot be with you, but I promise to follow you with my thoughts, but also with Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp!

To all the friends who have managed to have the City Council authorization to display Rotary flag on Rotary Day, I hope that many of you will meet in front of many City Halls showing Rotary ideas, exposing your current and past projects, in order to highlight the most of what has been done by Rotary International in our District. I will look forward to all photos from various clubs for a special issue of the newsletter dedicated to this!

I am with you, with all my friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maurizio".