

## **Area Two Annual Report 2021**

Without a doubt, 2020 - 2021 has been a year different from everything known. Area 2 was as affected by Covid as the rest of the world. In some countries, we have had an absolute lockdown for several consecutive months. However, many fleets have been flexible enough to quickly adapt to the new situation using technology. Due to the impossibility of traveling, we have all intensified our contacts and virtual meetings, strengthening bonds of camaraderie and friendship.

**Membership:** Using technology, the new Hawaii fleet has been formed, which started with 20 members and today has 31. Some fleets have decreased membership but others have grown. The total number of members in Area 2 has grown 4% in the year.

**Public Image:** The diffusion of public image has been excellent. The creativity and color of the flyers is outstanding. We have made contact with different organizations sharing our Plastic Free Waters program, making strategic alliances. We have lectured in virtual meetings in various districts abroad, publicizing our fellowship and sharing interesting power points. We have participated with an explanatory video about IYFR in the District Conference and published our activities in the Governor's Monthly Letter. In addition, our Area 2 participated in a TV interview on the Emerald Planet channel. We published an article on the RI Blog about our IYFR celebrating the Fellowship's Month.

**Finance:** All but one of the Area 2 fleets have paid the annual fee. This year we have had grants. Three fleets from Area 2 have obtained them. They are San Francisco fleet, Chile Puerto Varas fleet and Guayaquil Ecuador fleet.

This year we have not had our Area 2 AGM. Despite being fully organized with an excellent program, we have decided to suspend it due to the pandemic.

**Activities:** Some fleets completely suspended the activity. Other fleets have held their monthly virtual meetings, inviting prominent speakers. In some cases, the fleets have gathered in groups of two or three fleets for their meetings. The fleets of the Latin American regions took the modality of meeting all together once a month, the host being a different country each time. It was like visiting the country of the host fleet. They received us with typical music, videos about the best tourist places, magnificent narrations of nautical stories and outstanding local speakers, ending the meeting with a toast.

The fleets have developed different community service projects this special year.

Creation of a new Marine Scout Brigade, work on the classification and untangling of ghost nets rescued from the ocean by the Ocean Voyages Institute organization, sanitation of water contaminated with plastics and used for sports practices, adoption of a cenote (underground river ) for their care and sanitation, donation of a sailboat to teaching navigation to low income young people, beaches clean ups with Rotaract clubs (respecting social distance), participation in the placement of plastic waste containment nets in various streams, support for an adapted rowing program, placement of plastic collectors on some beaches, participation in the Environment Council of the Municipality of their city, donation of water storage tanks and provision of photovoltaic panels to an island with a population that does not have essential services, delivery of biosafety protection equipment and medicines, etc.

In summary, despite having been a substantially different year, our Area 2 grew in membership, spread public image, carried out service projects and shared fellowship and friendship meetings.

*Angie Mesistrano  
International Rear Commodore*