

The Lamplighter

Rotary Club of Parker, Colorado
Special Open World Edition
June 20, 2019



Dear Rotarians and friends,

The 2019 Open World delegation from the Republic of Georgia returned home on June 15 with a wealth of useful business, cultural and educational memories on the subject of **rural tourism**.

The program was intense but targeted to the delegates' individual interests within the field of rural tourism. Here are some highlights:

- We attended twenty professional presentations by individuals and organizations, including a presentation by Colorado State University on their graduate degree program in Rural Tourism, the only one in the United States.
- We visited twelve cities and rural towns within Colorado, investigating rural businesses and activities such as an operational dude ranch; an agri-tourist farm and guest house; six production facilities for wine, peaches, cider and beer; a small rural town during its annual parade and professional rodeo.
- We received an official welcome from elected officials at various levels within Colorado government. A highlight was a visit to the Governor's Office at the State Capitol. The delegation received letters welcoming them to Colorado from Governor Jared Polis, US Senator Michael Bennet, and US Congressman Ken Buck. (The letters are available at the end of this document.) Each official emphasized the value of the Open World program and congratulated the Rotary Club of Parker for our participation. The delegates also met the mayors of Parker and Glenwood Springs.

Everything went without a hitch as we covered many miles in the vast state of Colorado.

Parker Rotarians had the opportunity to meet the members of the delegation at two events:

- A welcome potluck dinner hosted at the residence of Parker Rotarian Glenn Petty, attended by over forty people with entertainment by Rotarians Jim Muir and Steve Brown.
- A special Open World event by the Rotary Club of Parker, also attended by over 40 people. The delegates each spoke and introduced themselves, their home region within Georgia, and their interests in rural tourism. This event was attended by the Mayor of Parker and by a representative of our US Congressman Ken Buck. Local media was also present.

On behalf of our Rotary Club of Parker, I want to thank the US Congress for sending us a fantastic group of young people, true ambassadors of their beautiful country of Georgia. The delegates were an impressive group of young people. They enthusiastically participated with questions and interest in their own fields of specialization. They were fun and never tired, always punctual. The facilitator from Georgia and the interpreter from Washington D.C. were also tremendously helpful.

I want to personally thank all our Rotarians who volunteered and helped make this program a success. Thank you for giving me and the Rotary Club of Parker another wonderful opportunity to serve and to experience international delegations through peace and friendship!

Dr. Alvaro Pisoni, D Arch
Open World 2019 Chairman and Program Planner
Rotary Club of Parker

The photos that follow show some of the highlights of the delegates' visit.

Visiting the Colorado State Capitol and the office of Governor Jared Polis:



The welcome dinner and hosting:



Hosts Glenn and Joan Petty with the delegation all decked out in Western wear!



Club minstrels Jim Muir and Steve Brown



Breakfast organizer Janice Beller

**Professional visits and presentations:
Colorado Tourism Office**



The delegates and program organizers at a meeting hosted by the Colorado Tourism Office in Denver.

Visits to rural tourism businesses and agricultural producers



Palisades -- presentation with local wine, cider and peach producers. Fort Collins -- Toasting hops for local breweries to use.



Presentations at a family-run brewery and a guesthouse/event center next to the South Platte River near Greeley.



Visit to a working dude and guest ranch.



Visit to Georgetown, former mining town

Meetings with Chambers of Commerce and economic development offices



Dinner hosted by the Glenwood Springs Director of tourism Lisa Langer, attended by the mayor. Presentation by the Glenwood Springs tourism and economic development authorities.



Presentations by the Fort Collins tourism and economic development team, followed by a presentation by faculty from the Colorado State University graduate program in Agritourism Management.

Special Open World Event of the Rotary Club of Parker, June 13, 2019



The delegates each spoke to the Rotary Club of Parker at this special Open World event. They introduced themselves, their regions in Georgia and their professional interests in rural tourism. Rotary International services and programs were also promoted. The three men are wearing traditional headgear from the nation of Georgia.

Attachments: Welcome letters from Colorado officials



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

June 12, 2019

Republic of Georgia Delegation
4505 Carefree Trail
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Republic of Georgia Delegates:

Welcome to the State of Colorado!

While you are here, you will experience diverse cultures, world-class natural landscapes, and strong, local economies. Most importantly for your visit, you will become keenly aware of the qualities that make our rural communities uniquely Coloradan.

Many of these communities have built strong economic foundations through various forms of tourism. Outdoor recreation tourism, agritourism, and historical tourism help drive many of our rural economies forward, and we look forward to continuing the stewardship of the economic opportunities that tourism brings our state.

During your time in Colorado, I hope you're able to witness the economic success that many of our rural communities have achieved. From thriving local events in Elizabeth, to the wineries of the Western Slope, to resort towns such as Breckenridge: Colorado's rural communities have found innovative ways to drive their economies forward.

My administration works hard everyday to ensure that all Colorado communities can achieve the innovative and economic successes that they deserve, and I'm happy that you have the opportunity to witness first-hand several great examples of our state's rural economic success.

Again, welcome to the great State of Colorado. On behalf of the people of Colorado, I wish you a pleasant and resourceful visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor



MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

June 7, 2019

Alvaro Pisoni, Dr. Arch. U.D.
Open World Chairman
Rotary Club of Parker
6502 Windhollow Court
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Members of the Open World Delegation:

It is my pleasure to welcome this year's delegation, from the Republic of Georgia, to the 2019 Open World exchange program. Since its founding, Parker's Rotary Club has taken an active role to serve the community with integrity and advance world understanding through fellowship.

This year's focus on "Rural Tourism" highlights the Colorado communities that transform and diversify their economy with year-round activities and seasonal attractions. Each year, tourists from around the world visit the state to enjoy skiing and summer attractions, experience life on a dude ranch, or enjoy a refreshing beverage at a local winery or brewery. The men and women you will meet represent the best in the state, and it is my hope that you will learn from each other during your visit.

We encourage you to take full advantage of all that Colorado has to offer while you are here. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and educational event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.F. Bennet".

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BANKRUPTCY
AND CITIZENSHIP
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
CYBER SECURITY AND TRADE

June 11, 2019

Alvaro Pisoni, Dr. Arch. U.D.
Open World Chairman
Rotary Club of Parker
6502 Windhollow Court
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Members of the Open World Delegation,

It is an honor to welcome delegates from the Republic of Georgia to the 2019 Open World Exchange Program. This program is hosted by the Rotary Club of Parker, which has a long history of supporting the community, including through connecting different cultures. Thank you for your participation.

Founded in 1999, the Open World program has enabled more than 28,000 leaders from post-Soviet era countries to interact with Americans. This year's emphasis on rural tourism provides an excellent opportunity to discover how Colorado communities are creating new tourist attractions and supporting economic growth. As part of this program, you will meet with local businesses, trade associations, economic development coordinators and more.

It is my hope that you will not only learn about Colorado's growing tourism industry, but also develop long-lasting professional relationships with business and tourism leaders from across our state. Thank you again for your participation in the Open World program and enjoy your stay.

Sincerely,

Ken Buck
Member of Congress