



District 5680 News



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Message from District Governor Kurt Harper

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As I suggested in last month’s message, “There will be new growth in the spring.” Little did we know at the time that we would all have to *spring* into a new way of doing business due to COVID-19! Like many of you, I have had to do my usual work (as an attorney) in some unusual ways over these last several months, and now am learning how to safely phase out of the shelter in place order to the next level of engagement professionally. Similarly, our clubs will have to “phase in” to meetings—as their meeting sites become available again, or by altering the permissible size of gatherings, or be mindful of members of “a certain age”, myself included, who have become the Zoomers, rather than the Boomers.



To illustrate how pervasive our attention to the novel corona-virus has become, let me comment on my Inbox. The volume of email I get as District Governor is a bit overwhelming. So much so, that the subfolders of my Rotary Inbox grew exponentially throughout the year. Among them, I have one folder I never expected to have—a

folder on a pandemic, and discussions on how to respond to it, to adapt club and district behaviors, how to stay safe, how to contribute to public health and unexpected public needs. My Covid-19 folder had 177 emails in it, even before the end of April.

Together we sought, at a district level, to define how our district could help clubs, and conducted a survey on things clubs are doing, and things clubs might want from the District in terms of training on ways to stay connected. One of the comments posted sums up the response Rotary can make, and is making, to our complex environment: “I think a great thing about Rotary is that the Clubs are comprised of community leaders from every sector. With leadership responsibilities comes the need for resiliency. I think once these difficult times pass, our members will resume their activity level within the Club.” In other words, Rotarians will still be people of action, will still meet, and will still fulfill Rotary’s mission.

Notwithstanding a few obstacles, we do know that nearly all of our clubs have found ways to stay connected with themselves and their communities. They are meeting virtually, or in small groups, or publishing extra newsletters; they are using calling lists to reach out to club members who may have more trouble connecting. Rotarians across the district are distributing food, making masks, and caring for our communities in new ways, and in familiar ways.



DG Kurt Harper (cont'd)

If there is one theme that comes from all of this, it is that Rotary has, of necessity, moved light-years ahead on the path of embracing new ways to Connect the World. The rapid adoption of virtual meetings has made possible ways to do so that were nearly inconceivable on this scale a year ago, as Kelly and I were scheduling 60 club visits. Our ability to adapt PETS to a virtual experience has so far proved a great success; and the shift to virtual meetings for District Leadership summits, Zone Institutes, and even the Rotary International Convention, will open the door for all Rotarians to experience the length, breadth,

and depth of this organization we love in ways they never imagined. Join Kelly and me for these last few weeks of the current year as Rotary continues to Connect the World; and prepare to rise to the occasion in the next Rotary year, along with DGE Dana Brewer, when you can help Rotary to Open Opportunities!

Kurt A. Harper

District Governor, 2019-20
District 5680



PETS Being Held Virtually—Mark Your Calendars

PETS Training has gone online! To replace our Presidents-elect Training Seminar (PETS) which had to be cancelled, we are conducting valuable training to our incoming officers and others interested in attending PETS.

Our first of three sessions titled “Conquering Social Distance” was held on May 14 via Zoom. If you missed it or just want to see it again to refresh your memory [Click Here](#)

Mark Your Calendars for the next two PETS sessions:

Saturday, 05/30/2020, at 11:00am.

[Click here to register](#)

Thursday, 6/4/2020 at 7:00pm

[Link will be sent later](#)

Be sure to visit the [Resources for Club Presidents](#) link on our district website for other training materials related to PETS and just being a great president.

Are You Rotary Happy? Are your members?



<https://rotary.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAs-setId=oM0683BLdr13&apm>

Jenny Stotts joined Rotary in 2013 and became more and more involved in her club and its service projects. But over the three years that followed, the club’s culture became toxic and unproductive, which eventually prompted Stotts, and several others, to leave.

Not wanting to give up on Rotary, Stotts began meeting once a week with some of the club’s other former members in a coffee shop at the same time that their old club met. The new group grew quickly, and it chartered its own club with 26 members in 2016.

The Rotary Club of Athens Sunrise, Ohio, USA, which now has nearly 80 members, rejects attendance expectations, unwritten rules, and the judging of members based on their contributions. Instead, it focuses on getting members more involved in hands-on community service. During Stotts’ year as club president, 100 percent of club members were

engaged in service. She says this is the fact she’s proudest of.

Why engaging members through service is the key to a great club—Stotts, now assistant governor and membership chair for District 6690, says her experience at her old club, though not pleasant, taught her valuable lessons. She spoke about them to incoming Rotary leaders at the International Assembly in January. (Watch the full video of her talk above.)

“I wholeheartedly believe that we don’t grow Rotary sustainably through quick promotions, extra happy hours, or other gimmicks, but rather through building up the experience and engagement of the members we already have,” Stotts says. “Engaged, happy members become our best tool for recruitment and sustainability.”

Watch this excellent video and evaluate your own club! Are you and your members Rotary Happy?

Source: *Rotary Leader*, May 2020
rotaryleader-en.org

Everyone Can Attend the 2020 RI Convention



Rotary's first ever Virtual Convention taking place 20-26 June 2020.

Convention Schedule

Saturday 20 June

- 8:00 – 9:15 Chicago Time (UTC-5) – *Together We Connect*
Virtual Convention General Session 1

Sunday 21 June

- 8:00 – 9:15 Chicago Time (UTC-5) – *Together We Learn*
Virtual Convention General Session 2

Monday— Friday June 22-26

Featured Breakouts (more details coming soon)

Daily, one breakout will be offered at each of the following times:

- 8:00 – 9:00 Chicago Time (UTC-5)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Chicago Time (UTC-5)
- 18:00 – 19:00 Chicago Time (UTC-5)

Below is a list of dates and times for Virtual Convention programming. Note that the convention does not run the entire day, but instead will be broadcast at a few set times each day. Additionally, if you miss the live broadcasts, they will be readily available on the convention website, providing some flexibility for you and your event attendees to participate at your own convenience. The Virtual Convention is **free** to all attendees, however, there will be a sign in process in order to access the programming. Detailed Instructions for this process will be provided before the event.

We hope that you will participate in some of the fun features of the Virtual Convention: wearing and sharing photos and videos of us in our Aloha wear, the Virtual Walking Challenge, and interacting with others in the virtual House of Friendship. More detailed information about the Featured Breakouts, the platform that will be utilized, and instructions for accessing the programming and transitioning back and forth between events will be shared with you as soon as it is available.

Look for additional messages in the coming weeks and check the [convention website](#) regularly.

Revised Requirements for the 2019-20 Rotary Citation

We know that some of the 2019-20 Rotary Citation goals may be difficult for clubs to achieve during the COVID-19 pandemic, so we've revised the requirements. Instead of achieving five of the nine goals in the Unite People and Take Action categories, clubs can now earn the citation by achieving just three or more goals in each of these categories. The Presidential Distinction requirements remain the same, and clubs still need to be in good standing to be eligible for the citation.



Clubs can refer to the [citation brochure](#) for information about the goals, report their achievements as described in the [Achievement Guide](#), and use the Rotary Citation Recipients report on My Rotary to check their progress. These resources have been updated to reflect the changes.

We appreciate the work you continue to do during this time and are looking forward to seeing all the creative ways that clubs achieve their goals. Questions? Write us at riawards@rotary.org.

May is Youth Service Month



Youth Service Month is a special time in Rotary. Throughout the month of May, members of Rotary Clubs, Rotaract, Interact and those involved in RYLA and Youth Exchange celebrate the opportunities Rotary provides to connect, grow

through service, develop leadership skills, mentor or be mentored, and have fun.

The outbreak of COVID-19 may alter the way we observe Youth Service Month, but it not need dampen our enthusiasm, excitement, and gratitude for this programs and the volunteers who make them possible.

Using Resilience to Strengthen Rotary Clubs during COVID-19

Resilience is the process of adapting in the face of adversity. When we experience a traumatic or stressful event, our brains activate a number of pathways to protect us. These biological processes help keep us safe. It's in the recovery from these events that we grow and change and become stronger.

Many of us are living this reality right now in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is, there are ways to grow our capacity for resiliency. And we can use this time to strengthen Rotary, by working together to grow and foster resilience in our fellow members and our clubs. Here are a few tips:

Connect: A critical building block for resilience is simply connecting with others. Check in with fellow members. Call them, send them a message, work to make sure they can access your virtual meetings. As a club, consider connecting with other clubs to weave yourself further into the global fabric of Rotary.

Perspective: When we experience ongoing adversity, it is far too easy to lose hope. Help members maintain a realistic and positive perspective. Rotary clubs are facing challenges right now including adjusting to new meeting platforms and worrying about membership or giving. Remember that the challenges you face today are not a reflection of your future. How you respond to today's challenges will shape the future.

Wellness: We are living during a time where words like "quarantine," "lockdown," and "zoom fatigue" are common and relatable. Promote and prioritize wellness among your members. Use your virtual meeting to ask members to share ways that they are taking care of themselves and their families. Be gracious when a member needs to take a break, skip a meeting or have an extra few days to respond to an email. Now is not the time to keep points or

compete with who is doing more or less. Speak and listen with kindness.

Purpose: When we give energy to others, it has a way of recharging our own batteries. It fosters a sense of self-worth and gives us feelings of purpose and validation. Plan service opportunities with your fellow members that you are able to accomplish and approach. Offering smaller projects concurrent to your larger, ongoing projects gives everyone in your club an access point to service.

Gratitude: We benefit from mindful and intentional reflections in gratitude. It can promote the release of neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine, which help us feel joy or happiness. Take a moment to share thanks to your fellow members and create opportunities for your entire club to extend gratitude to your community and your partners.

When we collectively care for our members, we help create pathways to grow and foster resilience. When we scale these practices to the organization level, we unlock new potential to strengthen our clubs and enhance the member experience.

The world deserves Rotarians and Rotary clubs that are resilient, adaptable, and strong. Remember to take care of one another. But, take care of yourself, too. You deserve to be your best and most resilient self.



About the author: Jenny Stotts is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Athens Sunrise, Ohio, USA. She is the membership chair of District 6690. She is also a licensed, practicing social worker, child advocate and trauma specialist.

Upcoming Events

June 20-26
Rotary International Convention
Virtual Meeting

Saturday May 30, 2020
PETS Session #2
Virtual Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2020
PETS Session #3
Virtual Meeting

July 13-25
District Leadership Summit (DLS)
Virtual Meeting

Sept. 8-13, 2020
Zone Institute (Virtual Meeting)
"Rotary's On Fire"
Houston, TX

October 23-24, 2020
District Conference
Salina Hilton Garden Inn
Salina, KS

Highlights of RI Board Meeting

Board decision: No in-person meeting or event shall be mandatory for any Rotary participant who may feel uncomfortable attending because of the pandemic. Leaders are *strongly encouraged* to consider all health concerns in deciding whether to hold in-person meetings and shall fully comply with all health and safety rules in effect in that location.

Rules and guidance for specific Rotary activities For the remainder of this calendar year that is until Dec. 31, 2020:

- All RI Board and committee meetings shall be conducted virtually;
- The general secretary is developing contingency plans for the *International Assembly* and will report at the **June 2020 Board meeting**. Plans will include training district governors-elect unable to attend the 2021 International Assembly in-person and conducting the 2021 International Assembly virtually if more than 40% of the governors-elect are unable to attend in-person. International Assembly is scheduled for February 2021 in Orlando.
- 2020 Rotary Institute conveners are **strongly encouraged** to conduct their institutes and governor-elect and governor-nominee training virtually. If con-

veners decide to conduct in-person meetings, a) *no Rotary staff* shall attend an institute, governor-elect, or governor-nominee training in person unless specifically authorized by the general secretary in exceptional circumstances; **and** b) *Directors* shall not be funded to attend an institute that is outside of their zone or region unless specifically authorized by the president;

- Governors are strongly encouraged to use virtual meetings for club visits that occur during calendar year 2020.
- Regional leaders are strongly encouraged to use virtual meetings for training seminars and other events during calendar year 2020.

For the 2020-21 Rotary Year, that is until June 30, 2021:

- The general secretary shall prepare a risk assessment of conducting the Rotary Youth Exchange Program during the 2020–21 Rotary year for report to the Board at its June 2020 meeting.
- In fairness to all districts, *Rotary International shall not fund* the expenses of any president's representative to a district conference for the **2020–21 Rotary year**. If a district requests a president's representative, the president may appoint one at no cost to RI.

Hearts of Europe Initiative



The Hearts of Europe initiative, funded jointly by **USAID and The Rotary Foundation**, is a three-year program that aims to foster collaboration, networking, and friendship among Rotary clubs in select Eastern European countries and the United States. The program will be administered through the Foundation's global grants but will offer additional financial and project support.

In the face of an unprecedented global pandemic, Rotary clubs are called upon to adapt and change the way we connect and serve.

Clubs around the world are providing medical equipment to frontline health workers, raising funds, communicating best practices, and keeping communities connected and resilient.

While we cannot predict with any certainty when we will overcome COVID-19, it is important to plan for the future, and to ensure that Rotary members are still able to pursue

long-term projects that make a lasting change in their communities.

To this end, I am thrilled to announce that Rotary has entered into a new partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Europe and Eurasia called "Hearts of Europe". Both organizations anticipate contributing up to \$1 million each to this jointly funded, three-year grant program. The goal is to foster collaboration, networking, and friendship among Rotary clubs in select Eastern European countries and the United States.

Through Hearts of Europe we will award grants to Rotary clubs, using our existing global grant structure, to support projects aligned with our areas of focus. Hearts of Europe global grant projects must meet global grant requirements as well as additional requirements, with an emphasis on strengthening relationships between members in the U.S. and in Eastern Europe, and involving Rotaractors. The initiative will focus on clubs in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Article continues on next page

West Wichita Club is Reading Children's Books

Last year the RC West Wichita hosted a team of librarians from Russia through the Open World Program. Past club president, DeAnn Sullivan, received a request from Marina Ivanouvn Panasyuk, one of the team members to read a children's book and post the link so she can share the books with children at the Samara Regional Children's Library. Our club is stepping up to the challenge with what the club calls "Rotary Reads."

Club members participating make a recording of themselves reading a children's book to a child. And several have done that.



Being a brand new grandmother, DeAnn jumped right into it by reading the book "Dream Big Little One" to Eila. Her video is posted here <https://youtu.be/Lzfwv8b-mTU>. Other club members have expressed an interest in also recording a video for this fun project.

Last Minute Call for Contributions to Polio Eradication



This is a critical period in our polio eradication campaign. Due to the COVID-19 situation around the world we are experiencing a shortfall especially in our cash contributions. With half of May and June to go, we need to raise US\$16 million to reach our US\$50 million goal. For each US\$1 million we miss the goal by we miss US\$2 million from the Gates Foundation match. We do not want to leave any of the Gates Match on the table.

There is still time to achieve our goal, but we need your help, Rotarians.

- **Each Rotarian** should be part of achieving a polio free world. Did you know that our records show only

9% of Rotarians have given to Polio. Yes, some clubs give on behalf of their members so that number is probably low. However, what if for example 25% of Rotarians have given to polio, that would mean 900,000 Rotarians have not given to polio eradication. What if these Rotarians each gave a US\$10 gift? This would be an additional US\$9 million. Please encourage Rotarians in your area to make a contribution to polio eradication.

- **Each Club** should be part of Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio. Did you know that only 45% of Clubs have given to Polio this Rotary Year? What if half of the remaining clubs each gave US\$1,500? This would be an additional US\$14.5 million. Clubs — please consider making a contribution to polio eradication.



Hearts of Europe Initiative (continued)

Applications are now open for Hearts of Europe global grants, so I encourage you to promote the program in your districts. We welcome all project proposals within our areas of focus; COVID-19 related initiatives are eligible.

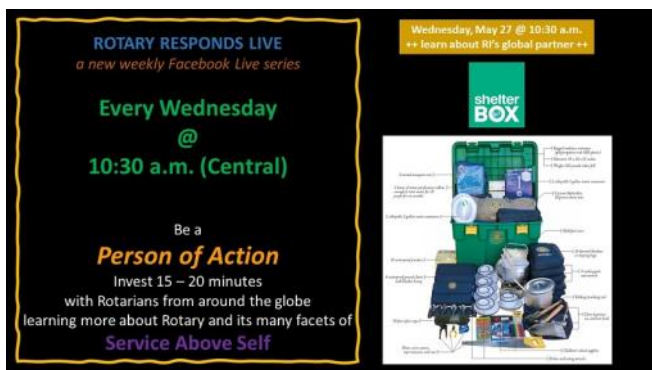
At this challenging time, we believe Hearts of Europe is a fantastic opportunity to rebuild the bonds of cooperation between communities and nations. If we can seize this opportunity, we will pave the way for a healthier and more prosperous future.

Please see [Hearts of Europe Global Grants](#) for more information.

John Hewko
General Secretary & CEO
Rotary International

Watch the video announcement. [Click here](#)

New—Rotary Responds weekly response on Facebook



We encourage you and all fellow Rotarians to take advantage of an opportunity to learn more about Rotary by joining in RI's "Rotary Responds"

Facebook Live sessions

Each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. (Central), for 15 – 30 minutes, you have the opportunity to join fellow

Rotarians from around the world to learn more about RI's many programs, services and global impact . The information from these sessions is indispensable for our success under your leadership.

Each Monday you will receive an announcement about the upcoming "Rotary Responds" session. This week, May 27, we will learn about the RI Global Partner – Shelter Box. District 5680 (our district) has been a supporter of this partnership and we continue to see the important work of Rotary and Shelter Box.

Please join fellow Rotarians this Wednesday for another "Rotary Responds" Facebook Live session. Just go to and like the [RI Facebook](#) page to join in.

Thank you for your leadership. Rotary works because of People of Action – LIKE YOU!

Rotary's Vision Statement

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

The Rotary Foundation News & Reminders

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Rotarians' demand for immediate projects to support their communities, significantly more global grants than during previous years were approved, exhausting World Fund availability for matching global grant awards for the remainder of this Rotary year.
- The Rotary Foundation's year-end is quickly approaching on 30 June 2020. While many of our donors give each year by check, given the circumstances due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation's mail and gift processing has been delayed. With this in mind, donors are strongly encouraged to contribute online at www.rotary.org/donate.

As Rotarians aid recovery, now more than ever, giving to Rotary's Annual Fund is key to continuing these projects.



Club Leaders: (President, Club Foundation Chair & others): Use the [RI online giving platform](#) to access the **online multi-donor feature** to make year-end gifts on behalf of the club or club members easier.

District 5680 Membership Report As Of April 30, 2020

Club	7/1/2019	4/30/2020	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2019-2020
Abilene	56	59	3
Andover	32	28	(4)
Arkansas City	68	62	(6)
Atwood	26	25	(1)
Beaver	19	15	(4)
Beloit	43	41	(2)
Boise City	20	21	1
Cimarron	22	20	(2)
Clay Center	45	47	2
Colby	57	55	(2)
Concordia	31	31	0
Derby	67	70	3
Dodge City	38	38	0
Downs	7	9	2
East Wichita	102	95	(7)
E-Club	18	20	2
El Dorado	41	36	(5)
Ellinwood	20	20	0
Ellis	9	9	0
Garden City	47	45	(2)
Goodland	37	36	(1)
Great Bend	38	46	8
Guymon	25	25	0
Hays	63	65	2
Hays Sunrise	17	15	(2)
Hill City	10	13	3
Howard	14	13	(1)
Hoxie	20	20	0
Hugoton	16	15	(1)
Hutchinson	100	101	1
Johnson	16	15	(1)
Kingman	24	25	1
Kinsley	8	16	8
Larned	17	16	(1)
Liberal	54	46	(8)
Lindsborg	9	8	(1)
Lyons	22	23	1
McPherson	45	39	(6)
Ness City	17	21	4
Newton	57	55	(2)
Norton	13	12	(1)
Oberlin	37	36	(1)
Osborne	13	14	1
Phillipsburg	49	49	0
Pratt	56	53	(3)
Russell	37	39	2
Salina	139	133	(6)
Sharon Springs	10	10	0
Sterling	17	20	3
Sublette	18	18	0
Syracuse	18	18	0
Texhoma	15	15	0
Ulysses	30	28	(2)
Washington	36	37	1
Wellington	12	12	0
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	43	38	(5)
West Wichita	61	61	0
Wichita-Downtown	412	416	4
Wichita-Old Town	8	10	2
Winfield	84	75	(9)
TOTALS	2485	2453	(32)



District 5680



www.rotary5680.org

This is your newsletter!
Send your articles and club information to:

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Phone: 316-841-2592
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2019-20 RI President
Mark D Maloney
Decatur, Alabama USA

