

Rotary



District 6860

May 2020

Staying Connected During COVID 19

Saturday, April 25, 2020

It seems that all around the world, not a single person or community is unaffected by COVID-19. In Rotary, the pandemic has changed our daily routines and forced the cancellation of many in-person meetings and events. But for more than a century, Rotary has connected the world through fellowship and service. Even when we can't hold our usual events as planned, we can still stay engaged, connect with one another, and continue to serve our communities.

Here are just a few ways clubs have adapted:

- A psychologist and member of the Rotary Club of Roma Polis in Italy spoke to the club in an online meeting about how to focus on mental and emotional health during the COVID-19 crisis. The meeting was open to everyone.
- To help people stay connected despite social isolation, the Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda in Maryland, USA, is creating a list of members and neighbors who live alone and developing a ♦telephone tree.♦ Volunteers will contact five people by phone, daily or weekly, and drop off colorful plants at their doorsteps, which can be left outside or brought into the home.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates in Illinois, USA, made the difficult decision to reinvent their biggest fundraising event of the year. Instead of an in-person gathering, they hosted a Facebook Live event, which brought in more than \$120,000 ♦ about the same amount they would have raised with their usual fundraiser.
- After canceling its weekly in-person meetings, the Rotary Club of Singapore hosted its first webinar. A medical epidemiologist and an infectious disease specialist responded to members♦ questions and concerns. The club, which plans to continue holding online meetings as needed, is also hosting a donation drive to collect essential items for the community.
- The Rotary Club of Brescia Veronica Gambarà in Italy researched and purchased urgently needed equipment for frontline medical workers at local hospitals.

We encourage you, as leaders in your community, to find creative ways to connect with one another and local residents, and to find innovative, safe ways to provide whatever assistance your community needs at this time. Contact your local health authorities to learn what your Rotary club can do to help respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Check with local education officials to see how you can support teachers or schools offering alternative learning options. Connect with your local labor bureau to find ways to support small businesses and their employees. Research what local nonprofits are doing and explore opportunities for club members to get involved safely. Get inspiration from other clubs♦ projects or share your own service story on [Rotary Showcase](#).

May Membership Tip

By Lori Moler on Saturday, April 25, 2020

Thanks to social media, I, and thousands of others, see how you have stepped up the game in keeping your club members energized in these challenging times♦you give new meaning to Rotarians in Action! Here is a [guide](#) you might find useful as you think about interim virtual meetings, engagement through social media, engagement through service, and creative engagement strategies. As always, I invite you to send your best ideas to lori.moler@childreus.org so I can share them with your fellow Club Presidents.

Meeting On-Line

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Moving your activities online

Services such as [Zoom](#), [Skype](#), and [GoToMeeting](#) are great ways for members to meet online. All three platforms offer robust support, from setting up an account to resolving technical issues. Rotary and Rotaract members get a [discount on Zoom](#) through Rotary Global Rewards. Social media and other tools, such as FaceTime, Google Hangouts, and WhatsApp groups, can also keep members connected.

Get more [tips for meeting online](#).

Considering Donating to the Rotary International Disaster Relief Fund on May 2nd

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Consider giving to the [Disaster Response Fund](#) to help Rotary clubs lead disaster recovery efforts, including projects related to COVID-19. So far, over 150 grants totaling almost \$4 million have been distributed to clubs around the world to assist with COVID-19 relief. [Here is a full listing of those projects.](#)

You might also choose to participate in a COVID-19 #RotaryResponds one-hour Telethon to raise critical funds for disaster response, Saturday, May 2nd.

facebook.com/rotary

10:00 AM - CHICAGO

04:00 PM - LONDON

08:30 PM - NEW DELHI

This Facebook Live event will be simulcast on the Rotary International Facebook page. The goal is to raise more than \$1 million dollars. (the link is now live) Rotary's 1.2 million members across the globe have taken swift action to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than \$3.4 million in Rotary Disaster Response Grants have already been put into action on the frontlines to battle COVID-19. Additionally, millions more have been raised by our [#PeopleofAction](#) - they have responded quickly and are truly saving lives. Now, we need to do more and the need for additional funding is a priority. Join this live event to hear stories of hope, inspiration and gratitude from Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary from across the globe as they share what they are doing to help their communities. The telethon will also showcase how our polio eradication infrastructure is helping to combat COVID-19.

How can you participate:

1. Participate in the telethon on Facebook Live on 2 May at Facebook Page ([facebook.com/rotary](https://www.facebook.com/rotary) The live stream will be simulcast in eight Rotary International's languages.
2. Share this event & spread the word through your social media channels.
3. Invite friends, family, and members of your community to watch and see first-hand what Rotary's People of Action are doing to combat COVID-19.
4. Post on social media during the broadcast and on the day of the event using the hashtag [#RotaryResponds](#).
5. Donate as an individual or as a club at <http://on.rotary.org/df>
6. Encourage your Rotary District to donate District Designated Funds (DDF) at <https://on.rotary.org/ddf-donate>. (Note: DDF received between April 22st and May 3rd will be considered part of the telethon fundraising total.)

Joint Statement from Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist International, and Rotary

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Woven through the fabric of virtually every community on earth, service clubs of Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International are working safely and diligently to maintain connections with each other and our neighbors so that we can cope with and overcome the effects of COVID-19. We are leveraging the strength of our combined networks of 3.2 million members to provide comfort and hope to those feeling the effects of isolation and fear. And we are focusing our collective skills, resources and ideas to support frontline health workers and first responders as they battle this disease and save lives.

In these times of uncertainty, your local service clubs remain committed to meeting the challenge of finding innovative ways to take action together to help communities around the globe heal and thrive and become more united than ever.

The global effort against COVID-19 depends on actions taken in every country. As people of action, this is our time to connect with each other to offer immediate help to people in need. *Mark Daniel Maloney, Rotary International President, 2019-2020.*

"The scale and magnitude of this global pandemic requires our world's citizenry to heed the advice and cautions of the experts. The work and plans of our collective members and volunteers must not cease! Our immediate response after the crisis will be necessary to support local Governments respond to the many social and economic challenges that will ensue in its aftermath." *Adrian Elcock, Optimist International President, 2019-2020.*

Great challenges test us, but they also bring us together. Lions are finding new ways to safely serve. Our Lions Clubs International Foundation has granted over one million dollars to help communities facing extreme rates of COVID-19, and additional grant requests are being received daily. Our communities depend on service clubs, and we will be there, supporting and strengthening them just as we always have together. *Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, Lions Clubs International President, 2019-2020.*

During these difficult times, we're seeing everyday heroism across the globe. I encourage us all to recognize the health and safety professionals who are putting their own health at risk for the greater good. To the educators, grocery workers, delivery drivers and the countless professionals who can't stay home, the Kiwanis family thanks you. We all play an important role in keeping our friends and neighbors safe. Please follow the advice of the World Health Organization, your local health agencies and the instructions given by your Government. Please, stay safe. *Daniel Vigneron, Kiwanis International President, 2019-2020.*