

Rotations

The Monthly Newsletter for the "People of Action" of District 6910



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By Donald (DIST GOV) W. Martin on Tuesday, June 30, 2020

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Rotary Greetings on the last day of the 2019-2020 Rotary Year.

It seems like just a few days ago that I penned the first issue of **Over The Transom**; but in reality, it has been nearly a year. An interesting, exciting, different, and unexpected year; but, a year never-the-less.

As many of you know, the **Official** journey of a DG begins about 32 months before the actual year of service with selection as DGN by a Nominating Committee of Past District Governors in late October or early November. The preparation for that interview needs to begin years before that and must include service beyond the club level to have a reasonable expectation of being selected. If you have any interest in serving Rotary as a DG, please explore that possibility with a member of the College of Governors - and in our District, we are blessed with a long list of potential trusted advisors including two Past RI Directors. Any of us will be glad to answer your questions and discuss the process. If you are blessed with a spouse or significant other, you will want to include them in that decision-making process. It is sort of like becoming a Major Donor to the Foundation in that it is a decision best made with consultation and preferably consent.

want to include them in that decision-making process. It is sort of like becoming a Major Donor to the Foundation in that it is a decision best made with consultation and preferably consent.

Being District Governor is an experience that I would not trade for anything in the world and I cannot begin to thank you enough for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. Regina and I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many of you and we look forward to staying in touch.

You are, as individual Rotarians, as Clubs, and as a District - to use my favorite word - **Amazing**. Here is a short list of synonyms for my favorite word for you:

astonishing, astounding, surprising, stunning, staggering, shocking, startling, stupefying, breathtaking, perplexing, confounding, shattering, awesome, awe-inspiring, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, phenomenal, prodigious, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable.

And yes, you are **all those things** too.

On the surface, one might think that organizations within a common framework and all located within a 3-hour drive of each other might be very similar in nature. Not remotely true. From 8 person clubs to 200 person clubs, from old line clubs, to clubs so new they have not decided what they want to be when they grow up, to sometimes the only things they have in common are the Rotary sign on the door and the Four Way Test; they are all, in their own special way, striving to be just exactly what their community needs in that time and place. In each issue of *Rotations* we tried to share at least a taste of just how varied, comprehensive, and vital your Rotary service is to your communities; but, I am afraid we have fallen far short of telling the whole story. I encourage you to flood DG Tina's Public Image team with your accomplishments. It is not bragging if it is true and the stories you have to tell are **choose your favorite adjective from the list above**.

It seems that your generosity knows no practical bounds - every club donated to The Rotary Foundation and we passed over the \$500,000 mark in giving once again in the last few days. Almost every club had a Polio event and gave to Polio. The generosity of one of our members places us at the forefront of Polio giving, but the number of Rotarians giving, and the per capita giving is truly - **choose your favorite adjective from the list above**. With just a few more Sustaining Members we could easily become the top District in the world in the percentage of Sustaining Members.

You discovered last year that you have a heart for the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART). In 2018-2019 you set a District Record and this year, against all odds, you beat that record by 10%.

There are a lot of quotes or stories about the **best laid plans** and this year will certainly add some interesting new ones. We were on the way to what looked like an unprecedented year of service and accomplishments culminating in a District Conference that wasn't to be a traditional conference at all but a true **Rotary Family Vacation**. The District Facebook page records hundreds of you smiling and waving out the back window of the Rotary family station wagon heading off to Asheville. Go take a look someday - you are a good looking, fun loving bunch. DGE Tina, and her training team, had a great DTTS and PETS; we had a wonderful College of Governors gathering; we were poised to power right on through to the end. Then all of a sudden, the world got sick and to try to get a handle on that, the government flipped the off switch on the greatest economic engine known to man. For an organization founded on personal business relationships and dependent on the goodwill and generosity of the people who own and manage those businesses, it could easily have been the death knell of our beloved Rotary; however, because you are - **choose your favorite adjective from the list above** you didn't quit or even stop - you just slowed down, caught your breath and then started trying to figure out how to help your fellow Rotarians and then your fellow community members get through this multi-layered challenge.

You figured out how to meet and train virtually, you learned how to make masks and then donated thousands of them, you helped source equipment and PPE from around the world, you donated time, dollars, and sweat equity to food banks, Boys & Girls Clubs, Senior Centers, First Responders, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Schools, the underprivileged, the unemployed, the old, the young, the empty nesters and working parents suddenly home schooling, the list just goes on, and on and on. You dug deep into your personal pockets and your club treasuries, you had fund raisers, you re-purposed grants, you asked for new ones, and when we sent you funds from the District to help your club weather the storm - many of you just passed it right on to your communities. It was - **choose your favorite adjective from the list above**.

Even in the midst of a pandemic and an economic catastrophe, life and Rotary traditions must go on. Your tech team and trainers pivoted in weeks from a live District Assembly to a Virtual one and the result was - **choose your favorite adjective from the list above**. The assembly was the best attended in memory - if not ever - and the quality of the training was exceptional. All those classes are still available to watch. Just use the link on the District Website. [2020 District Assembly](#)

Not to be outdone, your Rotary Family Vacation team scrapped thousands of hours of preparation for your vacation in Asheville and with the help of the technology team turned it into four Emmy Award Winning (well, we can dream can't we) sessions of stories, presentations, a world record holding DGE parade, and well deserved recognition for individuals and clubs. The complete list of Individual and Club winners is on the main page of the district website. (<http://www.rotarydistrict6910.org>) You can watch the entire **Rotary Family Vacation Rain Check Awards** extravaganza by using the link on the District Website or click here: [Rotary Family Vacation - Rain Check Awards](#) I think if you will take the time to review the awards and to watch all or part of the **Rain Check Awards** you will agree with me that it was - **choose your favorite adjective from the list above**.

As we come to the end of the year and the beginning of the next, Regina and I are going to take a little vacation time and reacquaint ourselves with our RV. However, we won't be gone for long as we both have jobs in our home club in Jasper and PDG Bruce has asked us to join one of his new Foundation teams. DG Tina, DGE Mike and DGN Gerry have asked me to lead a team that will seek to effectively integrate all this new technology across training, membership, Foundation, and Public Image. Outside the District, I will serve on the Peach State PETS team as the webmaster and will work with the Sunshine Division of the Rotary Leadership Institute to help manage the delivery of their new on-line offerings. DGN Gerry has asked me to be his Trainer for 2022-2023, so we will plan to use all that new technology to keep you at the forefront of Rotary educational and training opportunities.

Tomorrow District Governor Tina and her leadership team officially take charge of District operations and I assure you that the District is in good hands and that DG Tina is particularly well suited to manage the challenges that face us and to provide that rousing leadership that will be necessary to bring us roaring back. The District Governor Nominating committee in selecting DG Tina, DGE Mike and DGN Gerry has done an exceptional job of choosing the very best talent from a very talented field and I am confident that whatever the future holds for us, you have the right leaders to lead from the opportunities and challenges of the next few years and to bring us out on the other side a better, stronger, more competitive Rotary because **they just like you** are:

Amazing, astonishing, astounding, surprising, stunning, staggering, shocking, startling, stupefying, breathtaking, perplexing, confounding, shattering, awesome, awe-inspiring, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, phenomenal, prodigious, extraordinary, incredible and unbelievable.

You have proven that you understand how  Rotary Connects the World,  now get out there and prove that  Rotary Opens Opportunities. 

Don Martin

June 30, 2020

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can

start where you are and change the ending." C.S. Lewis

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District Events & Reminders

July 15th

[DG Official Visit - Jasper](#)

July 21st

[DG Official Visit - Etowah Cartersville](#)

July 23rd

[DG Official Visit - Calhoun](#)

July 16th

[DG Official Visit - Greene and Putnam Counties](#)

July 21st

[DG Official Visit - Dalton](#)

July 27th

[DG Official Visit - Gilmer County](#)

July 20th

[DG Official Visit - Carpet City \(Dalton\)](#)

July 22nd

[DG Official Visit - Cartersville](#)

July 28th

[DG Official Visit - Lake Chatuge/Hiawassee](#)

District Leaders



[Donald \(DIST GOV\) W. Martin](#)
District Governor



[Tina D. Fischlin](#)
DG-Elect



[Michael L. Berg](#)
DG-Nominee



[David Thomas Upchurch](#)
District Communications Officer



[Bobby D. Hildreth](#)
District Membership Chair



[Tammy Tate Gilliland](#)
District Public Image/PR Chair



[Scott R. Parmenter](#)
District Rotary Foundation Chair



[Douglas E. Bolton](#)
District Service Program Director