

# Heartbeat

June 2021

My dear fellow Heart of America Rotarians,

As we move into a new Rotary year, I look at it as a bittersweet time. Having served as your Rotary International Director for the past two years has been an experience of a lifetime for which few have the opportunity. Even though my term will end, I don't see it as an ending, but a new beginning.



As I think back on the past two years the word that comes to mind is appreciation. To all who allowed me to be part of their Rotary family, I'm thankful. My assignment as a member of the Rotary International Board of Directors enabled me to connect with too many to name for fear that I might unintentionally omit someone.

My assignment was not one that could be accomplished alone. It would be folly to believe that to be true. I always envisioned this assignment, and those with whom I connected a team, with the goal of doing good in the world. It's hard to express just how proud I am to be a part of our team. Each of you serves as a leader in our zones. Each is the key who provides resources and tools to our districts that make the wheel turn. Please know that your hard work hasn't gone unnoticed — it's valuable, and much appreciated.



To the district governor classes of 2019-20 and 2020-21 (Aloha and Opportunity governors) it has been a privilege to serve with you. What a gift it has been to watch you grow and carry out your roles and responsibilities. There are many dozens who have served behind the scenes as confidants, at events, as trouble shooters and trusted resources. Each of you was the glue that held everything together these past two years.

At this writing, we are beginning to emerge from the grips of this global pandemic. At this challenging time for our members, our organization, our communities, and our families, I can't imagine anyone more capable to hand the baton to on 1 July than RID Elizabeth Usovicz. It's my hope that you will show the same support to Elizabeth as you did me. For anyone in a leadership position in our organization, 1 July will show up differently than any could have anticipated. Elizabeth will need support from each of you. There's no doubt you will be in good hands. My sincere best wishes to you, Director Elizabeth.



I look forward to our paths crossing in whatever new role or assignment is in store for each of us. It has been a privilege to serve in the role of Rotary International Director and on the adventure and journey in service of a lifetime. I have deep gratitude and appreciation in this bittersweet time for your hospitality during our time together. My wish is that each of you continue to be the dedicated-and-willing-to-serve-others Rotarian. This unforgettable year will end, but much has been achieved, allowing us to see 1 July as a new beginning in service to Rotary.

*Yours in service to Rotary, Floyd, RID, 2019-21*