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RID Floyd Lancia shares a fond memory about "Lifelines Connected to the World."



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PDG and Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor Pamela Stewart shares hope.



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Myriad of service projects triggered and still coming.



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Donations available through April 30.

The Heartbeat

Zones 30-31

APRIL 2020 SPECIAL



Matters not where you are in the Rotary world, our two Zones, 13 states, 31 Districts and hundreds of Rotary clubs. The good and the



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challenging aspects of COVID-19 dominate our lives these days.

Fortunately, the same is true of the Rotary spirit so alive and well among and because of you, in outreach and support to many. This **April 2020 Special Edition of the Heartbeat** can't represent all the good that is active because of you. It's meant to acknowledge — along with your videos, digital meetings, newsletters, and social media posts — how much you care and how much it matters. Please keep sharing!



For much of my childhood, my mother filled the evening hours doing something for someone else. Sometimes she knitted or crocheted hats and scarfs for preemies, older adults, housebound seniors and anyone else in need. At other times she cooked her famous “Marion” soup for a sick or grieving neighbor.

One evening she announced that she thought that calling housebound seniors was going to be her new project. You see, my mother was an advocate for anyone she thought needed a friendly conversation.

Each evening she would go through the list she got from our priest and make her calls. My comment to her each evening was, “You don’t even know these people.”

“Doesn’t matter,” she said. “What’s important is that I listen.”

I don’t remember how old I was at the time, but I couldn’t for the life of me grasp why my mother was willing to spend her evenings talking to strangers. She had friends to call if she felt lonely. “They’ll talk your ear off,” I said. My skepticism didn’t diminish my mother’s enthusiasm one bit.

One evening, following dinner and doing the dishes from supper, she settled on the sofa with a heavy rotary phone in her lap and dialed.

For a while, I listened as she asked the woman on the other end about her day, inquired what she had eaten for supper, and asked if she had noticed that the spring flowers had begun to bloom. When she finished the call I said, “What do you care whether she had Jell-O or rice pudding for dessert?”

My mother grasped one of my hands and gave it a slight squeeze -- along with an unfavorable look. “I’m the only person she talked to today,” she said.

It took me a long time to fully understand the significance of that statement (and the look). Once becoming a Rotarian and seeing how my fellow Rotarians cared about others, I developed a total understanding.

Now that we are in a dilemma with the Coronavirus, I find myself thinking about those nightly calls and all the hats and scarfs she used to make — all while trying to emulate her.

For a long period of time, I was one of the few who telephoned my mother, and sometimes the only person she talked to all day. I would ask what she cooked for supper; but mostly I just listened as she recounted her favorite TV show or most recent knitting project.

I realized that my mother’s calls were lifelines that ensured housebound seniors remained connected to the world. Without her, their world would have been eerily empty. Somehow, she managed to juggle raising a family while improving the lives of others.

That kind of service requires commitment and superior organizational skills — traits and skills I’m working on. She lifted the shroud of loneliness from the lives she touched. While she was with us, I made every attempt each day to call just one — my mother.

Yours in service to Rotary,

Floyd
RI Director
Zones 30-31
2019-2021



Trust in a Brighter Tomorrow

Pamela Stewart, PDG District 6190

Zone 31 Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor, 2018-21

We have all been living through a time unlike any other, as many of our lives have changed due to stay-at-home orders, health concerns, and negative economic impacts. We have heard comparisons to other historical events, including Polio, which led to quarantines, closings of movie theaters, cancelling of meetings, avoidance of public gatherings, and the need of iron lungs. It is particularly fitting that we recently marked 65 years since the Polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk was deemed safe and effective. This vaccine brought hope and chance of a future without the fear of the ravages of Polio.



Rotarians give hope to those in your home communities and communities around the world now and in the future. Thank you for being that hope and for doing what you can, with what you can, wherever you can.

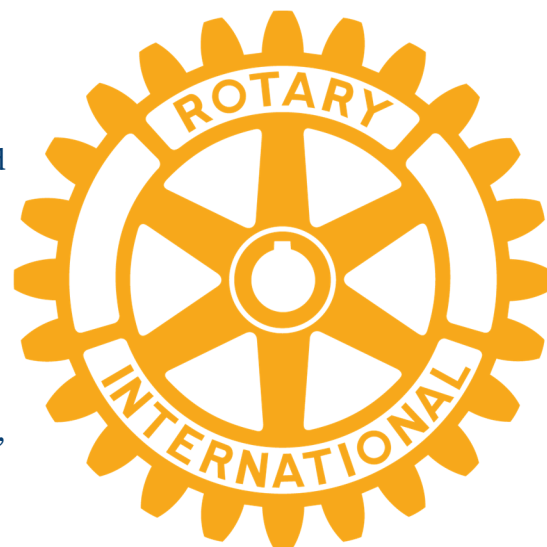
Today may seem filled with much uncertainty, but we can trust in hope for a brighter tomorrow. It is interesting that the Salk vaccine announcement is said to have been purposefully released on April 12, 1955, because it was the anniversary of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Polio sufferer. Roosevelt served our country longer than any other president and had seen the Great Depression and World War II but still reminded us that “Things in life will not always run smoothly. Sometimes we will be rising toward the heights – then all will seem to reverse itself and start downward. The great fact to remember is that the trend of civilization itself is forever upward.” This pandemic will pass, and we will rise from it stronger and together.

I would love to hear if you are involved in an ongoing or planned project supporting our essential workers, providing food for our children and families in need, or supporting another organization in their efforts. I would also love to hear how you are keeping connected with your fellow Rotarians during this time. Remember that we are all in this together and that together we will weather storms and bring hope to our world.

COVID-19 Service Projects Abound

Lance Singleton, DG 5750

Together, We FIGHT COVID-19. District 5750 rallied around a need for first responders...hand sanitizer. The idea stemmed from a news story about a distillery in our district that was impacted by the pandemic but found a way to fill some of the reduced demand by making sanitizer. Within two days, we reached out to the ownership about procuring in bulk; and within a week created a matching grant for our clubs. We were able, while practicing social distancing, to package almost 600 half-gallon units and asked clubs to distribute to first responders in their communities: fire, police, sheriff, hospital, ambulance and nursing home facilities.



The match was \$1 for \$1, with District funds derived from the remainder of District grant funds (two club grants that never materialized) plus some from our operating fund. The District made it easy for clubs to participate by completing a simple one page form; however the commitment had to be made quickly. In fact, we oversold within the first two days. Twenty one of 36 clubs participated and all products distributed within a week. Here is the teaser video we sent to our clubs:

<https://www.facebook.com/Rotary5750/videos/220454482372407/>

In an effort to continue our efforts during this time of need, we are devising a plan to use more of our operating funds that were geared toward our now cancelled District Conference. Even our District Foundation has funds that we may use to support clubs on a matching basis. We're aware of clubs helping their local food banks with funds to support families in need of essentials, and some Rotarians reading stories to students.. Our growing efforts are, no doubt, but examples of tremendous good by all Clubs and Districts in our Zones.

Mark Fields, DG 6820, on recent and current efforts in his District

- ◇ **Picking up and delivering groceries to elderly members**
- ◇ Donating member food spends to local children's services organizations and entities for the homeless
- ◇ **Supporting waitstaff of Rotary meeting-place restaurants**
- ◇ Emailing weekly club bulletin to keep members informed on weekly District Zoom meetings
- ◇ **Supporting Public Schools with food for the needy, using DDF matching grant and staffing a distribution point with Rotary volunteers**
- ◇ Donating funds to feed School District food service workers serving breakfast and lunch to students
- ◇ **Manning a phone tree to check on older, at-risk members on unmet needs**
- ◇ Sponsoring and/or supporting blood drives
- ◇ **Raising money to help feed families of out-of-work area service employees via gift cards**
- ◇ Donating weekly meeting catering cost to adults with developmental disabilities
- ◇ **Distributing Goodie Bags to nursing home patients**

RI Convention Refund Options

For those who registered for the Rotary International Convention in Honolulu and have not yet sought refunds, options are still open.

There are two refund options for convention registrants, either of which is exercised on the Rotary website at www.rotary.org. Sign into your myRotary account, scroll down on the home page to copy regarding cancellation of the RI Convention in Hawaii, and fill out a form.

That gives you two options for refund:

- Receive a full refund of your registration fee and associated fees (refunds processed by the same method you used to register originally); or
- Donate your registration fee and associated fees directly to Rotary's Disaster Response Fund. Those donations will help Rotary clubs support disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts where the need is greatest, including in communities seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Complete the [Donate My Registration form](#) by 30 April to donate the entire amount of your refund, including registration fees and associated fees. You will receive donor credit, recognition (if applicable), and a tax receipt (where applicable).

If you have already received your refund, you can still donate to [Rotary's Disaster Response Fund online](#). Just know that Rotary is unable to reverse refunds already processed or process partial refunds.

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