

## Governors Message:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Rotary District 6860. Our District is home to many great Alabama treasures. North Alabama is fondly known for our Rockets, Music, Sports/Recreation, beautiful mountains, lakes, cutting edge industry and so much more. In the Rotary World, District 6860 is thankful for many great Rotary Leaders (past and present). Boasting 4 past Rotary International Presidents as well as many other Rotary Leaders and People of Action, serving in true Rotary spirit in their clubs, communities and around the world.

Rotary International President Gordon McNally chose his theme for the Rotary Year 2023-2024, "Create Hope in the World". He explained that the goal is to restore hope to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and to achieve lasting change. "Peace is the soil where hope takes root", McNally said. He further stressed the Power of Continuity and as an example will continue on with the initiative to Empower Girls, and will uphold emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. Each of us has been challenged to reinvigorate the urgency in Rotary's fight to eradicate polio, seeing this fight to the end! A very personal initiative shared by McNally, is asking Rotary members to offer hope to those suffering mental health challenges. "Any mental health professional will tell you that by helping others, we essentially help ourselves."

This is an exciting time to be a Rotarian. As we continue on *Imagining Rotary*, we will build on successes and pursue new opportunities to **Create Hope in the World**. What can you and your Club do to support this theme and the initiatives set-forth by President McNally? Let's work together, as People of Action, with a new sense of urgency to support PolioPlus and once and for all eliminate this disease from every part of the world! I ask each Rotarian to look within themselves and ask how they can personally support the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation relies on the generosity of Rotarians to continue to provide support, improving our world and its inhabitants. The funding that District 6860 receives from the Rotary Foundation to provide grants, is based on the money donated/invested by those of us in District 6860. Think about the power **you** have, through **your** giving, to directly impact the funding that comes back to **your** District to do great things locally and around the world. Together, **Let's Create Hope in the World!**

Looking forward to a great Rotary Year!

Sincerely,

Mary Grace