

District 6890

APRIL 2024

# TRF Newsletter

District Foundation Chair - PDG Mark G. Scolnick



## **POLIO UPDATE:**

**Sadly, our run of zero Polio cases has ended. There are now four cases of Polio, two each in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Four people paralyzed because of Polio. Efforts to curtail the spread are being undertaken with increased testing and vaccination drives.**

**We are so close to eradicating this disease. It's now in a relatively small area, but the terrain makes it difficult to find these very remote homes. Did you read about geotracking in your Rotary magazine? This is amazing technology that could help a great deal in our fight.**

**"When polio vaccinators fanned out across the Democratic Republic of the Congo last year to stop an outbreak, they carried a powerful new tool: cellphones that tracked their progress as they went from door to door. Equipped with an app, the phones send data back to a command center where staff can see missed homes on a digital map and redirect teams on the ground. The country is helping pioneer geospatial tracking to stop polio outbreaks." Read more about it here:**

**<https://www.rotary.org/en/polio-mapping-goes-high-tech>**

**We cannot give up, but there is a cost of \$1.1 billion each year to support the 164 labs that test 250,000 specimens. In Pakistan and Afghanistan alone, there are at least 10 to 15 positive samples each week. Other countries also do testing despite being declared polio free. This testing is vital to total eradication.**

**We need to reach our \$50 million annual goal so we can receive the Gates Foundation 2:1 match. Please give. It would be great if we had 100% participation! A minimum ask of each club and its members is \$1500. Last year we had 8 clubs in our district that did not give. Do you have any unused DDF that you want to use?**

**Another instance of why continued vaccinating and testing matter: On 27 March 2014, WHO's South-East Asia Region (SEARO) was certified wild polio free – a massive undertaking in a region that is home to one-quarter of the world's population. Now, a decade later, all 11 countries in the region are still free of the virus, thanks to continued commitments to vaccination and disease surveillance.**

**Remembering Paul Alexander, who lived in an iron lung**

**Paul Alexander, a 78-year-old from Texas, USA, who spent most of his life in an iron lung, died on 11 March. Alexander, who contracted polio in 1952, had been a member of a Rotary e-club and spoke at Rotary events. Read more about him here:**

**<https://www.rotary.org/en/remembering-paul-alexander-who-lived-70-years-iron-lung>**

**The easiest way to keep your members engaged and giving on a regular basis is to ask them to sign up for automatic payments. We know this works---members mean to send in their donation but 80% put it off and forget. To sign up for Rotary Direct, use this link - <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>**

**It's easy!**



### TALKING POINTS FOR APRIL-

~Did you know it's Paul Harris' birthday on April 19th? What a great time to give your support to the Rotary Foundation! It's the 156 anniversary of his birth.

-Believe it or not we only have 76 days left for this Rotary year-please remind your members to make their Rotary Foundation contributions so that (if they give to the share fund) your club will get back almost 50% in 3 years.

- Thanks for what you have done so far this year. We have an increase of 17% (5th largest in the Zone) so let's keep at it!

~Do you need to schedule a speaker about Foundation, Grants, Polio, etc. for your Club? We can help you with that!

## POLIO CASES

SO FAR 2024 = 4

PAKISTAN = 2

AFGHANISTAN = 2

2023 TOTAL = 12

2022 TOTAL = 30



## YOUR DISTRICT 6890 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

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