



District Governor Larry Kubiak Welcome Letter

My dear fellow Rotarians in District 6940,

I am honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as the **108th district governor for 6940**. The faith that you have shown in me, and the rest of our team is gratifying, and the challenge will be met.

In my installation as district governor, I wanted to emphasize that it was an installation not a coronation and that I am but one small piece of the puzzle in the long legacy of service provided by 6940 in our area of Florida and the world. We learned that our oldest club in **Pensacola was founded in 1915** and our newest club, **Emerald Coast, in 2013**. **Women** were first admitted to Rotary in March 1989. In 1990 we finally became known as 6940 consisting of 25 counties from Perdido Key on the west, Lake City the East and Williston on the south for a total of 376.2 miles and making us geographically the largest district in Florida encompassing a five hour and 34-minute drive through two time zones. In 2010 we had our first female district governor Sylvia White who has been ably succeeded by many outstanding women district governors since that time.

Each district governor has goals for their year but as we know in our own lives there are many things that are worth accomplishing but cannot be completed in that short timeframe. They may be begun but the ultimate benefit will be years down the road. With your help and assistance, I know these will take place.

My goals for my year include the following:

1. Encourage service projects that capture the philosophy and skills of club members engaged in fully so that they will remain lifetime Rotarians.
2. Support the innovative club position and encourage consideration and implementation of alternative club models.
3. Encourage all members to be ambassadors to Rotary and be able to articulate their Rotary moments that contributed to them becoming lifelong Rotarians and share those moments with others.
4. Educate clubs on why we must finish the polio effort.
5. As a champion district continue to support the Hanwash Haiti project.
6. Utilize technology to improve the efficiency of our training of Rotarians for their club and district positions in a manner that minimizes the time they must spend away from family and incorporate family in service efforts as much as possible.
7. Continue to support the three youth programs in Rotary: Rotary youth exchange, RYLA and interact. The latter will now have a director at the district level in Jennifer Retherford and her leadership will allow us to greatly expand the reach and effectiveness of that program.
8. Support the diversity, equity and inclusion committee under the leadership of Irvin Clark and encourage each club to have a discussion of how to become the most welcoming club possible.
9. As a mental health professional for over 45 years this is a topic very close to my heart. While the physical effects of COVID may be over soon, the mental health effects will continue to linger on. As a club and district, we must be prepared to address those mental health challenges in the effective manner that Rotary has always done.

10. The environment is the newest focus of Rotary and one that members in our district have long embraced. Each club must look to how they can impact this through service projects and grants in a manner that will be most beneficial to their community.

The Rotary vision statement is that together we see a world where people united take action to create lasting change across the globe in our communities and ourselves. Working together as your district governor I know that we can accomplish much and that has made us a beacon of hope in our part of the world. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve you.

Larry Kubiak, District Governor