

## Welcome to the New Rotary Year!

The 2020-21 Rotary year, the year when Rotary Opens Opportunities, is here. RI President Holger Knaack has said, "Rotary isn't just a club for people to join, but rather an invitation to endless opportunities". We open opportunities for those we serve at home and around the world *and* for us as Rotarians.

We offer others the opportunity to:

- Live a life free from polio
- Have clean water and the positive health benefits that brings
- Have schoolbooks and supplies
- Attend college/vocational training certification through our scholarships
- Help being positive solutions to conflict through our Peace Fellowships
- Have food to eat through backpack programs
- Experience leadership development as 10<sup>th</sup> graders through Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Be better citizens of the world by experiencing another culture through Rotary Youth Exchange
- The list goes on and on

We offer ourselves the opportunity to:

- Make lasting friendships at home and around the world
- Participate in humanitarian projects at home and around the world
- See firsthand the profound way Rotary impacts the lives of others
- Contribute to The Rotary Foundation to make transformational change possible
- Become acquainted with key leaders in the community
- Enhance professional skills
- The list goes on

In the midst of these opportunities our lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But, as Past RI President John Germ (2016-2017) has said, "Disruption leads to innovation". And innovate we must! Even our founder Paul Harris once said, "If Rotary is to realize it's proper destiny, it must be evolutionary at all times and revolutionary on occasion." NOW is the time for us to embrace change and yes, be revolutionary in our approach while staying true to our core values of Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity, Service and Leadership. I look forward to taking on the challenges and working together to find creative ways to overcome. In my 30 years in Rotary I've never seen Rotary International so flexible. Let's use that flexibility to become stronger, more vibrant and more relevant to our communities and to the world.

Thank you for putting your trust in me and allowing me to serve as your District Governor for 2020-21. I look forward to working with each club in District 6940 as we seek to open the many doors of opportunity Rotary offers to us and the world.