



# NEWS CONNECTION

## ROTARY DISTRICT 7620 NEWSLETTER

### CENTRAL MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON DC, USA

## Rotary District 7620 Newsletter April 2020

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## 38 CHARTER MEMBERS IN NEW DC GLOBAL ROTARY CLUB TESTING A NEW MODEL: NEW CLUB & SATELLITE LAUNCHED IN DC & GLOBALLY

*By Quentin Wodon, District Membership Chair*

Creating new clubs is one of the best ways to grow Rotary. It's also a great way to give the gift of Rotary to new members who may not have access to existing clubs where they live or work. As discussed in previous newsletters, Rotary International gives us ample freedom to be creative when launching new clubs. This has led a group of us – professionals working in international development – to charter a new club – the Rotary Club of Washington Global (<https://www.washingtonglobalrotary.org/>), that will aim to serve as a small “think tank” for Rotarians on international development and other issues.

Our 38 charter members are mostly based in Washington, D.C. and working for organizations such as the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, international NGOs, and other groups involved in international development. With Sahar Fahmy, we just agreed to sponsor our first satellite club with new members in Maryland and Virginia who are passionate about empowering women in their service work. Finally, we are starting to get applications from abroad – the first two were from China and India, but we have on-going discussions with a few other potential

members in other countries. So in total, we went from 0 to 38 (charter) to 52 members in about a month. While short term membership growth does not imply long term growth, and we have a ton of work to make the club successful, early progress is encouraging.

Given our core group in Washington and members globally, we will function as a hybrid club with the ability to meet in-person or online (currently, due to coronavirus, all meetings are online only). We plan to have great speakers in all of Rotary's areas of focus – our program of online seminars until the end of December 2020 is already available, and all are welcome to join. And we plan to practice Service Above Self by using our skills in support of other clubs, Rotarian Action Groups, and nongovernmental organizations. We are also working hard to keep our dues to a minimum (\$250 per year).

In terms of service, while we will fund projects, we also hope to give back in large part by using our professional expertise and volunteering our time. In practice, we will support NGOs, other Rotary clubs, and occasionally even Ministries with their projects, by advising them on the design and evaluation of interventions.

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