

# CREATING NEW SATELLITE CLUBS ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER AREAS

By Quentin Wodon, District Membership Chair

Creating new clubs – including satellite clubs whose members belong to an existing club, is one of the best ways to grow for Rotary International. With just 8 members needed to create a satellite club, the bar is much lower than the 20 members needed to charter a new Rotary club. Both new clubs and satellite clubs can have members who focus on a specific cause, are from a specific corporation or non-profit, or are from a particular community. In due time, the hope is that satellite clubs will grow into new chartered Rotary clubs, but this can take several years, during which satellite clubs can invigorate their sponsor club as the members of the satellite club are also full members of their sponsoring club. Below are four examples of new satellite clubs or potential new chartered clubs “in the works” to give you ideas in case you would like to create one yourself. You can also help the Rotarians trying to create new satellite or chartered clubs if you know of individuals who might consider becoming members.

## **A New Satellite E-Club on International Development (contact me)**

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank are all based in Washington, DC, as is USAID and a range of INGOs and other groups involved in international development. While we have a few staff from these organizations in our DC clubs, we do not have many. One issue is that with long missions abroad, staff often do not have the time to come to club meetings. At the same time, because staff travel so much, the connections that Rotary can provide in countries through local clubs can be valuable. And staff from development organizations and INGOs could be a resource for Rotary International, for

example for evaluation purposes. To try to harness this resource, we are creating a new satellite e-club (sponsored by Capitol Hill) for individuals interested in international development that would meet at the World Bank but would also provide membership opportunities for those located elsewhere as meetings would be accessible through webinars. When/if we reach the quorum of 20 members, we would charter a new club. The club could also be a great way for experienced Rotarians to mentor young professionals interested in development issues. Membership dues would be set at a very low level



to ensure that cost is not a barrier for entry. If you know of folks who may be interested in joining, please send me an email at [rotarianeconomist@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianeconomist@gmail.com).

## **A New Satellite Club focusing on Issues that Affect Women (contact Sahar Fahmy)**

Sahar from the Gaithersburg Club is creating a satellite club focusing on issues that affect women, and providing flexibility in meetings so that women can attend (men can also join of course). This could mean scheduling times for meetings in the evenings and holding some meetings remotely to attract members who may not be able to join in person, while also keeping membership cost low for example by having potlucks (good food is always a way to attract members!) The goal will be to harness the energy of women, whether they may be retired, empty nesters, homemakers, or working to be agents of change for themselves and

their community. The club would focus in large part on women’s issues in its service work. Sahar can be contacted at [sfahmy368@gmail.com](mailto:sfahmy368@gmail.com).

## **A New Satellite Club at Johns Hopkins University (Contact Geetha Jayaram)**

Providing new ideas and younger members is critical for the future of Rotary. This issue cannot be addressed in a few months - it requires a long term multi-pronged approach. Potential new members, especially young professionals, often do not want to attend weekly meetings with meals and greetings. They want action and fun-oriented activities at an affordable cost. I am exploring the creation of a satellite club at Johns Hopkins University where I work, with a focus on health projects in developing countries where we can make a major difference. The primary targets for members would include nurses and doctors. But others with an interest in those issues would be more than welcome to join. Geetha can be contacted at [districtgovernor2122@gmail.com](mailto:districtgovernor2122@gmail.com).

## **A New E-Club for the District (Contact Kelsey Scanlon or Jennifer Coppit)**

Some individuals interested in Rotary cannot meet at the time clubs in their area meet. The idea is to create an e-club to be able to serve those prospective members, as well as those who may want to meet during weekends. As an e-club, meetings would take place with online formats such as Go To meetings. Events would be held in the various areas of the district where members live and work, using different locations for different events. The club would have a strong website and social media platform to share its work. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kelsey ([kelseyscanlon9@gmail.com](mailto:kelseyscanlon9@gmail.com)) or Jennie ([rotariancoppit@gmail.com](mailto:rotariancoppit@gmail.com)).

*(continued on page 9)*