

NEW ROTARY DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

“Partner for Impact!” Join the new District International Service Committee Network

By DISC Co-Chairs Sharon Taylor, Annapolis Rotary Club and May O'Brien, Washington, DC Rotary Club.

Answering the call of past RI President Ian Riseley, District 7620 has formed a District International Service Committee (“DISC”) to elevate international service within the District and beyond. Started by a group of internationally-minded Rotarians, the DISC organizing committee includes members from the Annapolis, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Metro Bethesda, International Friendship, Parole, and Washington, DC Rotary Clubs.

New Funding Reality. The June RI announcement of shrinking funding streams from The Rotary Foundation as a result of COVID, including ending the 50% match for club cash contributions on global grants, means that Rotarians are faced with a new reality: a much tougher environment to compete for TRF funds.

Accordingly, the DISC is reaching out to clubs to support each other, create a resource network, and encourage them to “Partner for Impact!”

When internationally-minded Rotarians join together, they can create opportunities to interact with other clubs, engage with partner organizations, share international club speakers, and encourage all clubs to get involved in international service.

“Global Service” Trends. The aim is to partner — both inside and outside the District — to better serve communities globally. “Global

service” is the most significant new membership trend, according to RI at District 7620’s June conference. As a side benefit, the DISC hopes that synergistic, inter-club partnerships and enriching international service opportunities will attract new club



[Above] Annapolis Rotarian Chris Spain meeting children on a 2020 Rotarian-led trip to a school founded by Sustainable Cambodia.

members.

You can benefit from the DISC if you:

- Enjoy meeting and networking with internationally-minded Rotarians in our District and around the world;
- Want to participate in hands-on service travel opportunities and in-country friendship exchanges;
- Belong to a club without an international service committee, but would like to form one;
- Desire training on how to apply for District and Global Grants;
- Need help in finding funding partners for international service projects;

- Want to engage in international service, but don’t know how to start; or

- Have experience in international service projects and think other clubs would benefit from that expertise.

First Steps. As its first initiative, the DISC is seeking the cooperation of all clubs in our District to build a District Resource Network of club International Service Committee (“ISC”) chairs and local Rotarians with expertise in RI’s areas of focus, project planning, and Rotary grants. This international service clearinghouse will include a list of international service projects seeking funding partners, links to Rotary on-line tools, and training materials. The DISC hopes that clubs will use the District Resource Network to mentor new club ISC chairs; teach each other best practices for building sustainable, high-quality, high-impact grants; showcase their successful projects; and share news. To that end, the DISC is surveying every club in the District to identify international service needs and resources.

Leadership Support. With the strong support of our District Governor, Jimmie Gorski, and our District Rotary Foundation Chair, Rich Glover, the DISC looks forward to your club’s participation in the network.

If you have any questions about the DISC, please feel free to reach out to the DISC co-chairs: May O’Brien, Washington, DC Rotary Club, and Sharon Taylor, Annapolis Rotary Club, at mayzobrien@gmail.com and sharon400taylor@gmail.com.