

If you have been keeping up with the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation, you are aware of the many steps being taken to limit its spread. We have been closely monitoring events and information as they become available. One of the most recent recommendations is “social distancing” in an effort to reduce or avoid the spread of infection. We also understand that the most at-risk population is the age group of 60+ and those with other health concerns. Of course, in Rotary, we have a high percentage of members in that 60+ group.

With all these considerations in mind, with concern for the health and welfare of our members and with input from members of the District Executive Committee, **I have made the decision to cancel All Club Conference 2020.** For several weeks I have felt the burden of this impending decision. However, when the time came to act, I found the decision to be much less difficult than I had expected. And, I firmly believe this is the right thing to do. We will find another way to celebrate our success. I appreciate your understanding and support of this decision and look forward to seeing you again in the future.

So, what if you have registered for the conference, have hotel reservations or have contributed to the meal packing event? Here is what you can do:

1. For your registration fees there are two options. First, you can request a refund of your registration fees by sending the request to paulwalter.d7770@gmail.com. Refunds will be processed once per week and paid by check. The second option is to notify us, again at paulwalter.d7770@gmail.com, that you would like to donate those fees to PolioPlus. In this option you will receive Foundation credit for your PolioPlus contribution, and your donation will be matched 2 to 1 by the Gates Foundation to help end this terrible disease.
2. If you reserved your room at the Hilton Columbia Center using our room block code, then your room will be cancelled; and no action is required on your part. If you are in doubt, please call the hotel directly at 803-744-7800. There will be no cancellation penalty. If you reserved without using the room block code, then you MUST call the number above to cancel your reservation.
3. If you donated to the Rise Against Hunger meal packing event there are a couple of options here, as well. First, depending on where you made the contribution, you can allow your donation to remain with Rise Against Hunger for a future District 7770 meal packing event (which we hope to have as soon as possible); or it can remain with the District, again to support a future meal packing event. The second option would be to request a refund. For a refund of donations made to the District Treasurer, please email the request to paulwalter.d7770@gmail.com. For a refund of donations made to Rise Against Hunger, please let us know by emailing me at southmedinc@gmail.com. I will work out the details of the refund procedure with them.

Thank you for all you have done to make this a great year for District 7770. You’ve probably heard me say that the District is only a collection of the clubs that make it up. Therefore, the District is only as good as the clubs that make it up. At the same time, each club is only as good as the Rotarians that make it up. And, I promise you, we are a GREAT District because of the GREAT Clubs made up of GREAT Rotarians!

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Johnny Moore
District 7770
District Governor 2019-2020



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.