

DISTRICT NEWS

APRIL 2021



District Governor Mark Scolnick

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District Leadership

Mark Gilbert Scolnick
District Governor

Deborah L Williams
DG-Elect

Debbie Meegan
DG-Nominee & AG

Darren Kipnis
iPDG

Tom C. Wagner
District Rotary Foundation Chair

Edward A. Odom
District Membership Chair

DG Mark's Message for April

By Mark Gilbert Scolnick



My Family of Rotary-

What an exciting time District 6890 clubs are having!

Some of you are starting to transition to hybrid meetings that were Zoom only before now. Rotarians are so happy to be meeting in person again, but we all need to remember to follow CDC Guidelines in everything we do. Please stay safe!

Also exciting is the new Rotary Club we are adding to District 6890 - The Satellite Club of New Tampa. This is fabulous! With this new club we have 13 new Rotarians in our District. Welcome to you all! Thank you to New Tampa for increasing the reach of Rotary and enhancing your club. There are many other clubs in the District that could find this model helpful for their club and Rotary. If you want more information please call me!

In our effort to eradicate polio, we have seen how Covid spreads so we know that if we don't eradicate Polio it will be back. Remember it's only a plane ride away! Your club can help by contributing \$1500 to The Rotary Foundation for End Polio Now. This will be matched by the Gates Foundation 2 to 1, so your \$1500 becomes \$4500. How great is that!

The Rotary theme for April is Maternal and Child Health and Welfare. An estimated 7 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation all of which can be prevented. Rotary members expand access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. Members provide education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics.

The Rotary Foundation does this through grants that come from the donations from its members. Have you given this year? Go to [Rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate). It's easy and painless. You can make a one time contribution or set up automatic monthly withdrawals. Can you do \$10.00 a month?

Here are some ideas of ways you and your club can help locally or with a project somewhere else in the world:

- Address the issue of Malnutrition in Children and Pregnant Women
- Develop a Hygiene Education program for school aged children
- Conduct Awareness Seminars
- Provide low-income women with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to improve their diet, physical activity, and other life habits to prevent, delay, or control chronic diseases
- Promote School Health
- Promote the adoption of physical activity in early child care centers, schools and work sites

Thank you and please share your ideas and projects on Facebook @RotaryDistrict6890 .
Have a great month!

Yours in Rotary Service-
DG Mark

Membership Challenge

By Mark Gilbert Scolnick



Rotary Membership Challenge

Let's infuse some new life into our District and dispel some of the myths of Rotary!

What's the #Rotary Membership Challenge? The goal is to add 100 new members to District 6890 before the end of June! We have 37 Rotary Clubs and 9 Rotaract Clubs in District 6890. This is so doable! As further incentive, there are prizes....hey, what's a good challenge without some reward, right? DG Mark will honor the club and individual Rotarian who bring in the most new members with Paul Harris points! Woo hoo!

We want to reach out to people in our communities that have a service heart. Here's how:

1. Rotary members should "tag" their friends on Social Media.
2. Do posts and emails that invite friends, family, and coworkers to our club meetings.
3. Tell why you joined Rotary by letting people know what Rotary is and why you care so much about it!

Need more ideas...here ya go....

1. Clubs or individual members can post a video or a picture of what their club means to them and what it is that attracted them to Rotary. They can discuss any number of things, whether they enjoy the fellowship or the service to the community or the global collaboration. Within their post, they should use the hash tag: #RotaryMembershipChallenge.
2. The individuals doing the posting can "tag" their social media friends that they think would be well suited for Rotary.
3. Tell people when your club meets and where. If we do this like the ice bucket challenge from a few years ago, the invitee should also be able to get on social media to pledge that they will attend the meeting and perhaps tag even more friends and challenge them.

Here is a template you can use to announce new members on social media;

Michael Broussard
Assistant Governor
Steve Carey
Assistant Governor
John M. Eason
Assistant Governor
Linda M. Johnson
Assistant Governor
Olivia Minshew
Assistant Governor
Steve Overton
Assistant Governor
Laura Simpson
Assistant Governor
Lesley S. Zajac
Assistant Governor
Susan Ann Smith
District Secretary
L. McQueen
Small District Treasurer
Leighann Davis
Area Emerging Leader
Bob Thompson
District Sgt-at-Arms
Belvai Vinnie Kudva
International Service Chair
Douglas A. Roderick
Paul Harris Society Coordinator
Angela Jane Cowden
Rotary Leadership Institute Chair
Dawn R Carson
Youth Service Coordinator
Elizabeth Roach
District Rotaract Representative
Gary Michael Gunter
Training Coordinator

WELCOME OUR NEW ROTARIAN



Bernie Sanders US Senator Rotary Club of Anywhere USA



Winnie M.
Marvel
Newsletter
Editor

Nathan D
Marvel
DCO-District
Comm. Officer

Larry Becker
District
Creative
Director

Rotary Speech Contest



Rotary Speech Contest for 2021

Many vocations require skills in good communication, the ability to research and deliver information and ideas confidently. The Rotary Speech Contest provides a platform to build those skills. The program promotes public speaking in a competition for high school students in District 6890. Benefits to participating students include exposure to the ideals and ethical values of Rotary, proficiency in the art of public speaking and confidence and self-esteem gained from presenting to large audiences.

COVID can't keep us from making a positive impact in the lives of future Rotarians! This year's Rotary speech contest chairperson is Sarah Breed from The Lakeland Rotary Club. Sarah is a prior winner of the District Speech Contest and we are fortunate to have her leading this project for the second year. The theme this year is "Rotary Opens Opportunities".

The contest is open to all high school students in District 6890. Each contestant is asked to speak on the same theme: Rotary Opens Opportunities. A panel of judges evaluates the contestants on delivery, originality, and content.

The speech must be between five and seven minutes and will be judged on the following elements: content (40 points), organization (30 points), and delivery (30 points). Notes are allowed but discouraged during the Club Level competition. Notes are not permitted during the

Group Level and District Finals.

There are three rounds of competition. The first round is at the Club Level completed February. The winner proceeds to the Group Level competition, competing against four or five other Club Level winners. This phase will be completed no later than March 26, 2021. The winner of the Group Level proceeds to District Finals that will be conducted the evening of April 12, 2021.

Typically, first prize at the Club Level is \$100. The winner of the Group Level usually receives \$250. The District Finals winner will receive \$1,000. There are lower monetary awards to the 2nd and 3rd place winners as well.

Please join us on April 12th for the exciting finish to this year's District 6890 Rotary Speech Contest!

[Find more details here!](#)

Rotary Really Does Care a Ton!

By Linda M. Johnson



DISTRICT 6890 ROTARY CARES A TON CHALLENGE (RCAT) VS STONEHENGE (50 TONS -vs- 50 TONS)

Stonehenge

Stonehenge really was the most incredible accomplishment. It took five hundred men just to pull each of the biggest stones known as sarsens, plus a hundred more to dash around positioning the rollers. Just think about it for a minute.

Can you imagine trying to talk six hundred people into helping you drag a 50 ton stone eighteen miles across the countryside and muscle it into an upright position, and then saying, 'Right, lads! Another twenty like that, plus some lintels and maybe a couple of dozen nice bluestones from Wales, and we can party!' Whoever was the person behind Stonehenge was one dickens of a motivator, I'll tell you that.

Fun Facts About Stonehenge:

Some of the stones used to build the Monument were transported more than 150 Miles

The largest stones (sarsens) weigh an average of 25 tons.

The sarsens are topped by connecting horizontal (lintel) stones.

The smaller stones (bluestones) weight up to 4 tons.



District 6890

Our Project Goals:

Collect and donate 50 Tons to Local Charities

100% District Club Participation

Deadline: May 31, 2021

Fun Facts about District 6890:

We have 1590 Members; 37 Rotary Clubs; 9 Rotaract Clubs & numerous Interact Clubs.

If Stonehenge could be built by 600 men sometime between 2000 and 3000 BC, and just two of their sarsens together weigh approx. 50 tons JUST IMAGINE what 1590 ROTARIANS in District 6890 can do between now and May 31st!

Surely, we can clean out our closets, garages, etc., and donate items to charities in OUR communities to help those less fortunate.

Members are limited by their imagination on what they donate clothes, food, furniture, books, dishes, appliances, anything a charity will accept. It ALL counts.

Using the Four Way Test method, estimate the weight of the items you donate, and report it to your club's RCAT Challenge Chair. If your club doesn't have one yet, send me an email with your name, the weight of your donated items, and your club's name.

The club who donates the most weight (per capita) by May 31st, 2021, will win a prize (to be determined). The member, in the winning

club, who donates the most reported weight, will be awarded a Paul Harris Fellow (by the District Project Chair-Linda Johnson) so far, the following clubs who have members participating, as well as their club's contact for member reporting are:
Auburndale ♦ Linda Johnson
Lakeland ♦
Brandon Global - Sharon Jakobi
Avon Park - David Flowers
Rotary on the Ridge ♦ Sara Irvine
Temple Terrace ♦ Hazel Hall
Lake Wales Breakfast - Marissa Story
Hardee County ♦ John Eason
Tampa - Caroline Wilkinson
Lakeland South - Bob Ettensohn
Carrollwood - Mariah Marvel
New Tampa ♦ Lesley Zajac

As of 03-26-2021 we have donated: *8043 lbs*** (1 Ton = 2000 lbs)**

District 6890 Project Chair:
Linda Johnson
lmjbear09@aol.com
863-660-1223



The Author of this story and creator of the "Rotary Cares a Ton" challenge, Linda Johnson, is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Auburndale. She is a Paul Harris Fellow, a major donor, and District CART chair. Linda is a tireless and motivated Rotarian and we appreciate her efforts on behalf of Rotary and District 6890.

Infinite Possibilities Series

Infinite Possibilities: Series 2

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Presented by Rotary District 6960

Infinite Possibilities Speaker Series
Presents
Rotary International President Holger Knack



Feel the Positive Energy, as RI President Holger Knack shares his perspective on membership growth & retention by: **CELEBRATE DIVERSITY!** Infinite Possibilities: April 30th, 2021, 1:00 pm EDT.

If you missed them, recordings of all previous programs are available at: <https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities-videos/>

This multi-part webinar series offers you the opportunity to hear from dynamic speakers who will offer vision, encouragement, enthusiasm and motivation to grow your membership. We encourage you to invite not only your fellow Rotarians, but prospective members as well.

Non-Rotarians can register at: [rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/](https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/)

You can find the registration on the DACdb calendar or go here: [Registration](#)
[Read More](#)

WASH Mississippi Project

The Mississippi River Runs Through U.S. ♦ A Rotary Initiative

It is not often that a Global Grant has a Host Club from the United States. With the Areas of Focus being Environmental Sustainability and Clean Water, a group of passionate Rotarians are working on an initiative to have Rotary clubs work together to clean the waste along the Mississippi River. This major waterway transports 40% of our global food supply, and 60% of the world's grain supply. With an active [Facebook page](#) and some very informative videos, this initiative is gaining some traction.



[Read More](#)

Clubs in 6890 Making an ECO Difference

By Neal Steiger



See how clubs in our District are working to bring awareness about the environment with this story from The Brandon South Global Rotary Club

At a recent meeting (coincidentally World Water Day), the first EcoMinute was read, a new feature suggested by President-Elect Mike as part of the club's 2021-22 plan. The idea is to encourage members and guests to contribute about 250 words on a favorite topic about the environment to be presented at the bimonthly gatherings and in the media. They will be published on social media and elsewhere.

Here is the text of the first Brandon South Global Rotary EcoMinute:

Did you know the important role that mangroves play in Florida's ecological health? Did you know, for example that Florida mangroves prevented \$1.5 billion in direct flood damages and protected over half a million people during Hurricane Irma in 2017?

According to The Nature Conservancy,

"Mangroves are important to people because they help stabilize Florida's coastline ecosystem and prevent erosion. Mangroves also provide natural infrastructure and protection to nearby populated areas by preventing erosion and absorbing storm surge impacts during extreme

weather events such as hurricanes.

"Mangroves are important to the ecosystem too. Their dense roots help bind and build soils. Their above-ground roots slow down water flows and encourage sediment deposits that reduce coastal erosion. The complex mangrove root systems filter nitrates, phosphates and other pollutants from the water, improving the water quality flowing from rivers and streams into the estuarine and ocean environment. Mangrove forests capture massive amounts of carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and then trap and store them in their carbon-rich flooded soils for millennia. This is an important ecosystem service as we face climate change. This buried carbon is known as **blue carbon** because it is stored underwater in coastal ecosystems like mangrove forests, seagrass beds and salt marshes.

"Mangrove forests also provides habitat and refuge to a wide array of wildlife such as birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and plants. For more about the many roles mangroves play in sustaining our environment, see <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/florida/stories-in-florida/why-mangroves-important/>

Rotary's Continued Response to Covid-19



Rotary ramps up COVID-19 vaccination efforts

by **Ryan Hyland**

Rotary clubs around the world are mobilizing in their communities to support the introduction and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations. Rotary leaders are urging members to connect with their local health agencies to determine how Rotary can support COVID-19 vaccine efforts.

Rotary has decades of experience in supporting the distribution of polio vaccines as well as highlighting their power and efficacy, which is a critical reason why polio is on the brink of eradication. It's this expertise, along with strategic partnerships and innovation, that Rotary members can tap into to protect communities from COVID-19

Back-up for health officials

Rotary International President Holger Knaack and Foundation Trustee Chair K.R. Ravi Ravindran have called on Rotary members to take action on a number of levels. Rotary members in North Carolina, USA, quickly organized to offer assistance to health officials. District leaders contacted the state's secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to strategize support efforts.

The six district governors in North Carolina joined the state's health department in conducting [a webinar](#), open to the more than 12,200 Rotary members in North Carolina, to provide information about the available COVID-19 vaccines, how they will be distributed, and answer their questions so they can serve as role models and instill confidence in the vaccines in their community.

Rotarians are leaders who are looked upon for guidance, and the more information and opportunity to share ideas with health officials, the better, said Dawn Rochelle, governor of Rotary district 7730 (North Carolina).

Members volunteered at local vaccination sites across the state to help health officials with logistics including data entry, crowd control, and check-ins. Members also provide health workers and volunteers with food and beverages. In addition, the districts provided the state health department with a spreadsheet that included a Rotary member contact for each of the 100 counties in North Carolina.

Nancy Barbee and Rochelle, past governors of the same district, volunteered together during National Immunization Days in India. It's those experiences with mass immunization for polio that helped them identify specific needs for how members can help support COVID-19 vaccinations.

The polio eradication initiative gives a blueprint that provides strategy that is effective in any community, says Rochelle, who took part in two polio immunization drives in India. Governments take the lead on immunizations there and here in the U.S., but what's critical to the success is the additional layer of support Rotarians bring. We are here to back-up the frontline workers with anything they need. It's amazing to see the response of North Carolina Rotarians.

New joint COVID-19 taskforce gives direction to clubs

Clubs: Share your COVID-19 efforts on [Rotary Showcase](#).

At a meeting in December, the Rotary International Board of Directors and Rotary Foundation Trustees created a joint taskforce that will help guide upcoming efforts to distribute the COVID-19 vaccines and advocate for people to get vaccinated. The newly formed group will also share information promoting vaccine acceptance, and encourage service projects to stop the spread of the disease, such as social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands frequently.

In a joint letter to district leaders, Knaack and Ravindran said members have a successful history of getting things done when help is needed. Through the hundreds of global grants and projects, Rotary members have demonstrated what we can accomplish to raise

awareness, deliver critical personal protection equipment, and provide support to frontline health workers, they said in the letter.

The two Rotary leaders called particular attention to the importance of one specific call to action: combatting vaccine hesitancy. Help us combat the powerful, growing force of vaccine resistance and misinformation. Our advocacy in our communities will be critical we need to spread the message about the power of vaccines to save lives, they urged.

Other ways clubs can mobilize around COVID-19 vaccine introduction and delivery at the local level include community education, ensuring equitable distribution of the vaccine, helping stop the continued spread of the disease, and aiding local health authorities to get prepared for mass vaccinations.

The infrastructure created by Rotary and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners is already supporting efforts to combat COVID-19. The GPEI recently announced that it is ready to support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

[Read More](#)

2021 Virtual Convention



The Rotary International Convention, scheduled for 12-16 June 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan, will now be a virtual event in response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

We are sorry that we will not see you in Taipei this year, but this decision, made by the Rotary Board of Directors, is necessary to protect the health of everyone involved. We will share more details about the 2021 Rotary International Virtual Convention soon. Here's what you need to know now:

Virtual Convention Registration

The Virtual Convention will be open to all Rotary members and participants. Event registration will open in mid-April and will include a promotional fee of \$49 for 21 days, with an increase afterward to \$65. The cost of each preconvention event is \$20. Both the convention and preconvention events include access to the House of Friendship. Please continue to check back for more details and updates.

Convention, pre-convention, and ticket refunds

RI is currently in the process of automatically cancelling and refunding all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and Intercountry Committees preconvention events, and ticketed meal events.

We kindly ask that you NOT contact RI Registration to inquire about registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as they work diligently on finalizing the process of those cancellations and refunds. Those who had already canceled prior to today will receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee.

Host Organization Committee (HOC) ticketed event registrations

The HOC event ticket fees will be refunded by the Taipei HOC. For more information, please visit rotarytaipei2021.org.

Hotel rooms

No action is required from those attendees who made accommodations secured within Rotary's official housing block. Maritz, formerly Experient and Rotary's official housing partner, has already cancelled all individual and group room block reservations and refunded the groups who made partial payments.

Rotary International District 6890

West Central Florida

Hillsborough, Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties

www.Rotary6890.org

