



Rotary carries on despite COVID-19 concerns

Many clubs are meeting virtually.

A letter from District Governor Paul Reinert

Dear Rotarians of District 6080,
So much has happened in our world since our last newsletter just one month ago. The COVID-19 virus has caused a virtual shut-down of all our day to day normalcy. Although we are not able to be with each other in person at our weekly Rotary meetings, I know that our clubs have stayed active and in touch through the marvels of modern technology.

I urge you all to do all that you can to keep connected with those you care about during this difficult time. Reach out to loved ones, friends and Rotary connections to let them know you are thinking of them and looking forward to seeing them when we are able.

Rotary is not sitting idle during this crisis either. The Rotary Foundation has created a Disaster Response Fund and is encouraging districts who are impacted by the virus to apply for Disaster Response grants of up to \$25,000. Clubs are encouraged to apply for district matching grants to address the needs in our communities. Although our published deadline for applications is upon us now, we are doing what we can to make additional matching funds available to support our clubs in making a difference. (continued on next page)

Send your news items and photos to District Secretary Mary Ann Beahon at beahon.rotary@gmail.com



(District Governor's letter continued from page 1)

We are encouraging creative thinking as to how we as Rotarians and Rotary clubs can use our power and resources to respond now. See the following links for more information.

<https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants/rotary-disaster-response-grants>
<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-clubs-help-fight-covid-19-pandemic>

We have had an exciting and successful Rotary year thus far and we can finish strong, even if it is a different type of active strong than we would have anticipated. In this newsletter, we have included a report on where we are on accomplishing the goals that were set forth at the start of the year, along with an update on the projects and programs we are sponsoring.

This weekend was to have been our District Conference and it was a major personal disappointment when we were forced to cancel it due to the COVID crisis. I am pleased to announce that next year's Governor Jacque Howard and I will co-sponsor a gathering for our district this fall in Springfield on the weekend of Nov. 6–8. It will be a combination Conference and Fall Connection for us get together and celebrate our Rotary connection. Please plan on attending.

Stay safe and healthy and thank you for your energy and service,
Paul Reinert
District Governor 2019 – 2020

New District Governor-Designee named



The Nominating Committee has selected John Horton as the designee for District Governor for the Rotary year 2022–2023. John is a member of the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast and was club president in 2010 – 2011. He was responsible for creating the “Don’t Meth With Us” program. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, passionate Rotarian and avid golfer! John will spend the next two years preparing for his term as Governor and will follow the next two in line, District Governor-Elect Jacque Howard (Rotary Club of Pulaski County) and District Governor Nominee Joan Kramer (Jefferson City Evening Rotary Club).

Vocational Study Exchange Suspended

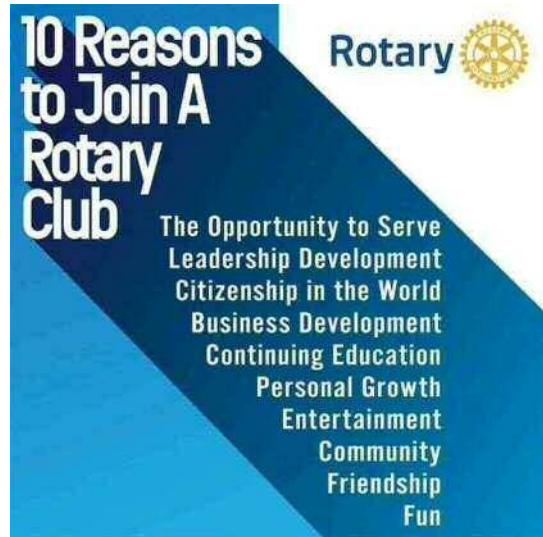
This was to be the last week in Missouri for a four-member team from District 4355 in Southern Chile for their tour of our District and work with a host team to investigate ideas for improving literacy. We have an exceptional team who has been working diligently with plans to leave for Chile later this month and work with our counterparts in Chile to launch a project implement the ideas and address the literacy issues there. Although COVID changed these plans, we are optimistic that we will be able to reschedule the visits at a later date and follow through with our commitment to an international exchange with our Rotary partners in Chile. We will keep you posted.

District 6080 Membership by the Numbers

By Paul Reinert, District Governor

My goal for the district during this Rotary year was to **not shrink**, and so far we are accomplishing that goal. I know that a number of clubs were engaged in a March Madness membership drive competition when the COVID-19 crisis hit us and we were sidelined. The truth is that Rotary continues to do good, and the connections we have as Rotarians are still strong even without weekly in-person meetings.

Consider that those guests who attended a meeting prior to our current hiatus are probably still interested in becoming members of our clubs. There should be no reason not to encourage them to apply and to welcome them as members through a virtual induction ceremony. When we resume our new normal with regular meetings, they will be welcomed and ready to participate as active Rotarians.



Below is a recap of our membership numbers since July 1 through April 13:

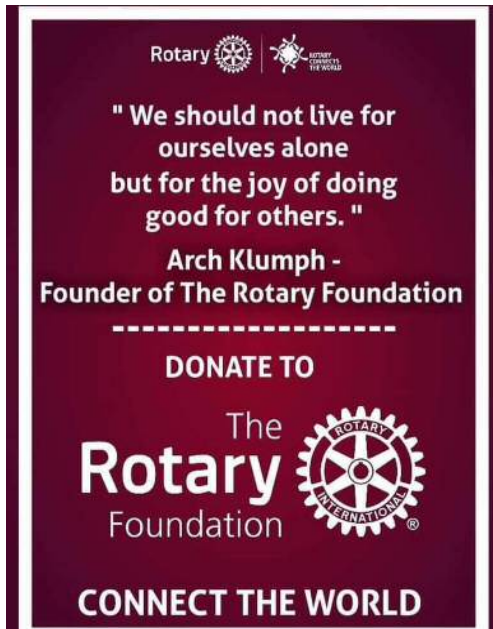
Active Membership - July 1, 2019	2,498
Active Membership -April 13, 2020	2,509
Number of Clubs with Increases	23
Number of Clubs with Decreases	24
Number of Clubs with No Change	4

Clubs with Biggest Net Increase in Members

Ozark	11
Lebanon	8
Camdenton	6
Springfield (Downtown)	6

We have a lot to offer to active leaders in our community. Showcase your Rotary club and welcome new members, even as we “Shelter in Place.”

Support sought for Rotary Foundation



The District goal for this year was a modest per capita increase from what we achieved last year to an average of \$150 per capita donations to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation. We can get there if we encourage 100 percent participation by all of our active Rotarians with a donation of at least \$25. Many will strive to become a Sustaining Member with a minimum \$100 donation.

The Annual Fund is the base amount that our district participates in three years from now when 50 percent of our district donations are returned to us. From these funds, we are able to award District grants to our clubs, fund matching grants both in our communities and in the world, and support our Global Scholarship program along with other programs.

We need your support now more than ever as the needs are great and Rotary is a leader in responding where needs are present.

As of now, roughly one-half of our active members in the district have contributed to the Foundation. We have time to close the gap with much broader participation. Please do your part and consider donating now by writing a check payable to the Rotary Foundation or by logging on to rotary.org and contributing by credit card or through Rotary Direct.

I recognize that a few of our clubs are collecting throughout the year for the Annual Fund and remit these amounts in June, which hopefully will cause a spike in our overall per capita amounts in this last quarter. For now, here are our statistics through April 13:

Annual Fund Avg per capita last year	\$143.18
Annual Fund Avg per capita goal	\$150
Annual Fund Avg per capita YTD	\$90.66
Total Annual Fund \$ YTD	\$226,469
Number of Paul Harris Society Members	75
(PHS members agree to a minimum annual \$1,000)	

Highest per capita Annual Fund

Springfield Sunrise	\$240.22
Springfield (Downtown)	\$231.58
Columbia Metro	\$204.78

RYLA still scheduled, final decision coming soon

Missouri RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) is a joint effort of the three Rotary districts in Missouri and has been recognized around the Rotary world as one of the best examples of youth leadership training. Two sessions are conducted in June/July each year at William Woods University in Fulton with up to 100 students in each session.

As of now, RYLA is still scheduled for this summer. The RYLA Board recently met to look carefully at plans for this year and decided to allow the situation to evolve further before making a final decision whether the program will take place and in what form. A final decision is expected at the next meeting of the Board in early May.

The scheduled sessions are: Session 1, June 28-July 1, and Session 2, July 12-15. Registration fee is \$450 per student, paid by a Rotary club. The registration deadline has been extended to June 10. The registration website is missouriryala.com. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Libey, District 6080 Youth Service chair, at clibey@live.com.



Rotary Youth Exchange affected by COVID-19

Our District has been very active in this outstanding program that allows juniors and seniors in high school to spend an academic year in another country. The worldwide network of Rotary supports this life-changing program where our youth are exposed to different languages and cultures with the coordinated oversight of Rotary.

The COVID pandemic has effectively cut short the experience of our 14 inbound and 14 outbound students who were enjoying their year abroad. Most have now returned to their home countries to be with their families during this crisis. Our District Youth Exchange leadership team has worked overtime to attend to our students and make sure they are safe as this year winds down.

Our district, along with others throughout the world, is closely in touch with the evolving situation and anticipates making a final decision in mid-May on whether we are able to proceed with the exchanges anticipated for next year.

Presidents-Elect training in District 6080 goes virtual

Show Me Rotary (SMR) Presidents-Elect Training (PETS), scheduled for March 27-28, was suddenly cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. District Governor-Elect Jacque Howard used it as an opportunity to create a Virtual Presidents-Elect training for incoming presidents. She partnered with Rita Esterly, D-6080 District Trainer and Rotary Coordinator for Zone 31, to develop four SMR District 6080 sessions into Virtual training sessions.

The covered *Your Role in the World of Rotary, Planning Your Year and District Support, Doing Good in the World and Growing Rotary, and Leading Change*. They included a combination of breakout groups, polling, Q&A; and video recordings of Rotary International President-Elect Holger Knaack, Rotary Director-Nominee Elizabeth Usovicz, Ann Hussey, and several members of D-6080 leadership team. David Bixler, Michael Brady and Susan Hart held a fifth session on District and Global Grants Qualification.



DG-elect Jacque Howard shares information with presidents-elect via Zoom.



Within two weeks, the sessions were developed and shown via Zoom technology, on the same dates as originally scheduled. All five sessions are available for viewing through the following link:

<https://rotary6080.org/district-leadership-conference-2020/>

Presidents-Elect who were not able to attend all sessions and clubs that were not able to send two participants to Grants Qualification may still receive credit by viewing and following the instructions enclosed in each video. A Resource Manual for Incoming Presidents will soon be available on the website for use and reference throughout the year.

“To see a team, pull together, give their best, and the project come to a positive fruition is my greatest reward,” Jacque Howard gratefully expressed. She looks forward to working with the incoming presidents of 51 Rotary clubs and the district’s leadership team in the days and months to come.



Rotary International President-Elect Holger Knaack



RI Director-Nominee Elizabeth Usovicz



Session 5 Grants training

Rotary Club builds greenhouse for food pantry



The Rotary Club of Springfield North built a greenhouse for the local Council of Churches and their Crosslines Food Pantry program. They will use this to teach recipients of their food products how to start their own seeds and raise their own vegetables. They constructed the greenhouse inside the warehouse due to cold temperatures. Then when the wood platform was completed, it was carried to the wood platform and fastened down using lag screws.



From left, Joe Stokes, club president; Paula Montgomery, ADG; Charles Vandivert, projects chair; James Young, past president; and Tom Faulkner, director of Crosslines

Save
the
New
Date

A promotional poster for a Women in Rotary event. The background is a sunset with silhouettes of four women with their arms raised. The text is in white and orange. The top left says "EMPOWERING". The top right says "RESCHEDULED! JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING EVENT!". Below that is the date and time: "AUGUST 15, 2020 • 10am - 3pm". The location is "NH Scheppers Distributing, 1306 Hathman Place, Columbia, MO 65201". The price is "\$30 per person includes lunch". At the bottom, it says "WOMEN IN Rotary" with the Rotary logo and "REGISTER: tinyurl.com/ewrotary".

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Interact Clubs' efforts help their communities

Submitted by Cathy Libey

Last fall, Interact clubs throughout District 6080 were challenged to submit their great service projects to be showcased. In addition to the publication of their project, they were also offered the opportunity to earn \$100 for their club.

We want to congratulate two Interact clubs for their submissions and their efforts to help out their communities, Willow Springs High School Interact and Waynesville High School Interact. Both clubs have won \$100 for their clubs!

Although the COVID19 crisis has closed the schools, we had clubs that submitted their projects before their doors were closed. The clubs could either submit a community/school based project or a project that builds international understanding. They were required to submit a write up of their project as well as pictures of their activity.



Willow Springs High School Interact created a project for the Mobile Food Pantry. Twenty-four Interactors worked hard to hold a pantry during parent/teacher conferences on Oct. 17. These Interactors worked with the local food pantry to learn about ordering food, how much food to give each family, and the best way to make the food bags. They sent out sign-up letters to every family in the school district preschool-12th grade. They had a fundraiser during lunch during the week of Oct. 7. On Oct. 16 the food was delivered to the high school and

the Interactors unloaded the truck and assembled 60 food bags. Then, during conferences, they were set up to hand out the bags. They had several bags of food that were not picked up so they used the leftover food for the weekend backpack program.

Waynesville High School Interact club submitted their project for the Polar Plunge Fundraiser. Polar Plunge benefits the Special Olympics athletes. Interactors created a spirit week to help raise more awareness for their fundraising activities as well as promote Special Olympics events that take place throughout the year. Each Interactor that wanted to plunge had to raise at least \$75 to donate towards Special Olympics.



The club then organized a Cold Water Challenge of their own. Interactors nominated four faculty members who were willing to have an ice cold cooler of water dumped on them. Donation jars were filled for each faculty member. The faculty member with the most money at the end of the week was the “lucky” winner. Also, for all donations over \$2, the Interact club offered a coupon to their school coffee shop that is run by the special needs students. In all, the club raised over \$300 and six Interactors attended the plunge in Rolla. They are looking forward to participating again next year and hopefully to make this an annual tradition!

Congratulations to Willow Springs High School Interact and Waynesville High School Interact for their efforts to support the people in their community. Not only did they gain \$100 for their clubs, they gained a wonderful heart for service.

Rotary clubs partner to donate to food pantries

Three Southwest Missouri Rotary Clubs recently joined forces to assist two local nonprofit food pantries.

Recognizing that the closure of area businesses due to COVID-19 will place added demand on food pantry resources, **the Rotary Club of Hollister, the Branson/Hollister Rotary Club and the Daybreakers Rotary Club** came together to donate \$1,800 to both the Branson Salvation Army and Christian Action Ministries.



“Although we are a small group, we felt it was important to exhibit Rotary’s motto of ‘Service Above Self’ by helping increase the stock in our local food pantries,” said Hollister Club President Xavier Sinniah.

Daybreakers Rotary Club President Gary Sampson added, “We are also a small group, but are onboard with meeting the needs of our neighbors at this tough time.”

Due to the pantries’ partnership with food suppliers, each dollar donated can be used to purchase nearly \$10 worth of food, which makes the donation equivalent of \$18,000 in additional food that will be available at each of the food pantries for area families.

“Rotary is an organization which serves many needs around the world. But our major focus is helping out our community year-round, but especially in difficult times such as we are now facing,” said Branson/Hollister Rotary Club President LaDella Thomas.



Meals for Healthcare Heroes initiated in COMO

The Interact Club at Rock Bridge High School and Columbia South Rotary have developed a Healthcare + Dining Initiative called Meals for Healthcare Heroes. The idea is to assist healthcare workers and local restaurants in Columbia during the Coronavirus.

The initiative addresses two concerns:

1. Healthcare workers are working long hours to take care of the increasing number of patients in local hospitals.
2. Local restaurants are facing decreased business due to the stay-at-home order in place.



Sagua LaGrande Cuban Cafe is a participating restaurant

Interact and Columbia South Rotary decided to raise funds to address the immediate needs of both groups: healthcare workers and local eateries. They first focused on a handful of local restaurants that would receive funds to provide meals to University and Boone Hospitals. They worked with dining and nutrition directors to facilitate the receipt and distribution of meals to medical staff at each hospital.



The Beet Box, a new restaurant in town, is participating.



Bangkok Gardens also is participating.

Money raised through Meals for Healthcare Heroes goes toward supporting restaurants while also providing healthcare workers with free meals. As of April 14, they had raised \$3,585 of their \$5,000 GoFundMe goal, with 69 donors.

In Fulton, the Rotary Club has joined a community initiative to provide meals from local restaurants for Our House, a shelter for homeless families and individuals. Since the club is holding virtual meetings, members are being encouraged to donate the money they would have spent on lunches. The money then goes to buy gift certificates at participating restaurants, which in turn provide meals for Our House: Caring for Callaway's Homeless.



Fulton Rotary uses grant to help Tanzania

The Fulton Rotary Club, in partnership with District 6080 and the Babati Rotary Club (District 9211) in Tanzania, received a Rotary Global Grant in 2019 to reduce the number of mothers and newborns dying during childbirth in two Maasai areas in Northern Tanzania. In the process, they learned the lack of menstrual hygiene education and products was a problem. To strengthen the impact of their global grant, the Fulton Rotary Club submitted another proposal, which was accepted and funded.



Adolescent girls and women in a remote area of Tanzania lack education about menstrual hygiene and have little access to menstrual hygiene products. As a result, women isolate themselves from others during menses. This is particularly harmful to young women who miss 25 percent of their school year due to these absences; plus, when they are in their remote homesteads, they become marriageable and often have their first child before the age of 15. The project addressed these challenges by:

1. providing menstrual hygiene education to 90 girls at the area's only secondary school;
2. establishing an economic empowerment enterprise in the village that makes menstrual pads and other income-generating products (e.g., school uniforms).

The costs included educational materials, training local women to provide menstrual hygiene education, sewing machines, serger machines, and solar panels. Fulton Rotary dedicated \$2,500 towards this project and the district matched it with \$2,500, for a total project funding of \$5,000.

Fulton Rotary's Global Grant focuses on maternal and newborn health and includes seven different components—from adding solar power and laboratories to two clinics to training traditional midwives to creating health education videos that can be taken to distant homesteads. As work continues, they have discovered other problems that need to be addressed. Fulton Rotary is seeking clubs to partner on these projects. A few clubs could go together on a project, so don't let the cost deter you.

1. Only a limited number of Maasai children are treated for parasites, yet almost all of them suffer from nutrition deficiencies from two or more worms. The cost of the overall project would be based on treating 6,000 children, which means approximately \$6,000 per year.
2. The only secondary school serving this area—Loibor-Siret Secondary School—has about 250 students in the four grades, but the school only has enough school desks for 150 students, which means that 100 of the kids sit on the floor. A project to provide enough desks for all students is estimated to be about \$4,000.
3. The two villages lack adequate latrines. Building new ones is estimated to cost \$15,000.

For more information on how your club can lead or join other clubs in one or more of these projects, contact Fulton Rotarians Bob Hansen (bobhansenwc@gmail.com) and Amanda Gowin (amanda.gowin@westminster-mo.edu). The Fulton club has been working in this area of Tanzania since 2009 and will assist any club interested in adding to this international project. This decade-long initiative is dedicated to former District Governor Mike Beahon, who traveled to Tanzania and envisioned this project before his passing in 2014.