

DG Hans Doge September Message

## New Generations

What does it mean to you?

How can your club participate?

Why is it important?

Lots of questions for sure, but you do know we now have **5 Avenues of Service**. So, September is New Generations month. Youth and youth projects and involvement are now more important than ever as Rotary sees the growth of humanitarian projects that need to be addressed. In many countries youth, those under 30 years are a significant percentage of the population.

Here in district 5040, **our youth are without question the future for our economies and future well being of our citizens**. What can Rotary do to help engage Rotarians with our youth, and why is it so important?

Young people are more socially aware than any previous generations. They see conservation and sustainability as cornerstones of their future, open dialogue with their peer groups and new ideas for doing work and helping those marginalized in our society.

Communications for them is more than a phone or newspaper article. They use multiple forms of communications and are prepared to adapt them to get their messages to as many as they can. Their vision of the future will not be defined for them.

OK, so how can we become a force to help and engage these young people and still further the ideals of Rotary?

## Does your club support an Interact Club at a high school?

This is an immediate link with youth who are looking to experience decision making opportunities and collaborative volunteer work.

A club can work to establish an Interact Club easily with the agreement of school administrators and counselors. Invite such individuals to a club meeting and make a presentation of what Interact does and how it can enhance students learning and personal development.

Have an existing Interact club make a presentation at another school. Let them show why it can be beneficial to establish a club.

## Does your club support a RYLA candidate?

There are 3 age specific Rotary Youth Leadership Award camps which you can support. Your club can help develop the future leaders we will need in the years to come. The cost is less than many clubs already give as bursaries or scholarships. These awards need not only go to those with the highest academic scores, but also those who want to make a difference in their community or in the world.

## **What are Rotaract Clubs?**

Rotaract Clubs can be community based, not just for university students. Young people between 18 and 30 can join together to network, identify community needs and seek workable solutions to effectively overcome day to day issues which make life difficult for some many in our society.

Have your club appoint a member to do a Rotaract presentation that the members can then decide if establishing a Rotaract Club is going to be of benefit to your community. Leaders are made, not born, and they need opportunities to demonstrate their learned skills. Why not help these young people develop their skills and put them to use in your community.

## **Youth Exchange programs, ROSE programs? What are they?**

As anyone who has ever travelled outside of Canada will tell you, travel is a life enhancing experience. Whether it is a cultural surprise , language challenges , dietary adjustments , and that is just in the arrival terminal of the country you are about to visit , travel broadens a persons' experience and adds to their future decision making abilities. Knowledge is gained not just through traditional schooling or teaching methods, but in large part by what one has personally experienced. Hosting a student from another culture has tremendous benefits to not just the student but the host families and Rotary clubs as well.

Have a former Youth Exchange student come speak to your club. Have a current exchange student speak to your club. The yearlong Youth Exchange programs or the shorter Rotary Oversees Student Exchange Programs will help bring the world closer to you and your club and will change a young persons' life forever.

## **So do the New Generations make sense to you and your club?**

Only by exploring the programs available can you decide. Do something different. Try something different. Think different. Make your club relevant, today, tomorrow and for the future. There is a New Generation waiting for you to embrace.

Yours in Service,  
Hans Doge  
D5040 Governor 2011-12