

APRIL 2020



JOY

Fun & Fellowship



FULFILLMENT

Service



PRIDE

Personal, Professional
& Career Development

District remains vibrant and connected

District 5950 Members:

This is an update of district leaders' activity over the last couple weeks:

- We postponed the District Conference with minimal financial loss. We will work with the Arboretum to reschedule, but the uncertainty about how long the COVID-19 crisis will last in Minnesota means the date may be in late summer or fall.
- We will have an electronic annual meeting of the clubs in May, as usual. You will receive materials and opportunities for questions and discussion to help you make important votes, either by proxy or during a Zoom virtual meeting.
- Training offerings such as District Assembly and Grant Management Seminars proceed as usual using Zoom. We will have new grant money on July 1, ready to invest in our local and international communities. Our work doesn't need to stop until the crisis passes. In fact, the needs are even greater today.
- We need to end the The Rotary Foundation (TRF) fundraising year strong and encourage electronic donations on [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org). Hopefully, we will soon feel more financially secure as the crisis abates and there is less uncertainty in the markets.
- Clubs are taking big steps to becoming more virtually proficient. Nothing creates more opportunity for change than a crisis! Some clubs have better attendance by Zoom than they had in person!
- Speaking of which, we received RI permission to charter our second new club this year, a Passport Club which is designed to be virtual. It serves those who cannot commit to a traditional meeting time. Adding this club brings us to district member growth of over 70 for the year. Truly outstanding!
- Finally, Rotarians at the club level are living up to their charge of being *People of Action*. We are quickly creating formal and informal networks of information from club to club. Keep your good ideas coming and share them with other clubs directly, through your Assistant Governors, or District 5950 leaders.



DG Russ Michaletz (left) and
RI President Mark Maloney

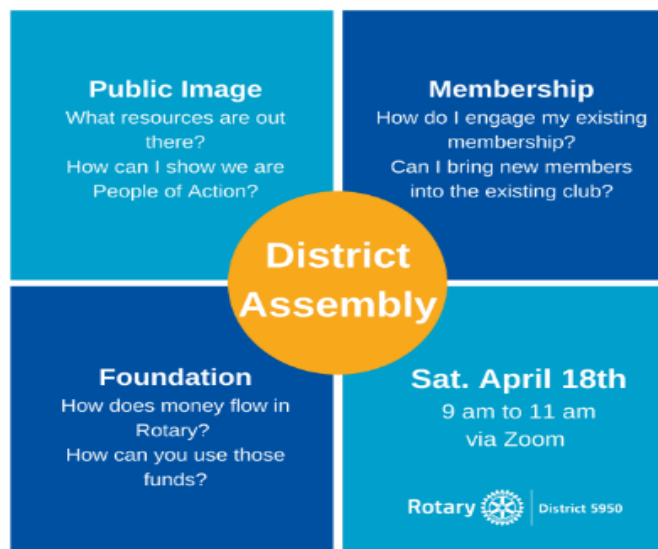
My theme for the year was around **Retention by Providing Member Value**. I was concerned that cancelling meetings created risk to providing value, and thereby negatively affected retention. After participating in a half-dozen virtual club meetings, I now believe we will be back with more comradery and enthusiasm than ever once life returns to normal. Absence makes the heart grow fonder! Let's help each other get through the next couple months and we will be stronger than ever.

Retention Russ
District Governor 2019-20



**Don't miss all the good stuff
happening in District 5950!**

Zoom to District Assembly on April 18!



Leading Through Change: How Can You Prepare Your Club for What's Next?

Register at Rotary5950.org
Free for all Rotarians to attend

Support your favorite local establishments and pick up some coffee and breakfast before we begin!

Clubs create ways to serve despite distance

Unused Rotary meeting meal funds

Some clubs have opted to use unused meeting meal funds for good in their communities. Many are donating those funds to local food pantries which have seen an increase in clients due to sudden unemployment. Other clubs are taking unused meal funds to purchase individual luncheon or dinner meals from local restaurants struggling in their community, then are donating the meals to hospital, nursing home and hospice staff. Rotarians are coordinating with the healthcare organizations for drop-off locations and times. Many healthcare workers are working straight through their shifts and do not have time to pick up any food. This is another great way of showing your gratitude to healthcare staff who are under a considerable amount of pressure right now.

Plymouth Rotary is researching buying a sturdy iPad or Tablet with a generous-sized screen to be used by a senior citizen facility. They also approved a \$1,000 grant to PRISM for their food shelves and donated flowers purchased from Minnetonka Rotary Club to senior citizen homes. Please note that their **rescheduled Brew Fest will be on Sunday, July 26.**

Buffalo Rotary is conducting a mask sewing program for the local hospital, nursing homes and health care workers. After just two weeks, the club is over halfway to its 2,500-mask goal.

Brooklyn Park Rotary wrote and received a District grant to provide over 1,000 pounds of medical supplies to the second poorest country in the Americas: Nicaragua. Late in the fall of 2019 the club committed \$1,000 of their service budget and secured a \$4,000 partnership with Nativity Lutheran. Global Health Ministries helped assemble supplies. A Nicaraguan group, Planting Hope, provides community health training and effective distribution of supplies. The images at right illustrate what has been accomplished in the past few days (while sheltering-at-home and social distancing). All the procured medical supplies and equipment were packed into first aid kits and staged for shipment. Because this project was planned before the COVID-19 pandemic, the help is more important than club members could have dreamed.



District 5950's website has a new [District 5950 and COVID-19](#) page to learn how to maintain member engagement, help those in your clubs and communities, and stay positive during these difficult times. Topics with many helpful links include:

- Interim Virtual Meetings
- Engagement through Social Media Tools
- Engagement through Service (from Afar)
- Creative Engagement Strategies

AGs and Passport Club help clubs connect via Zoom



The EcoClub (pictured) was one of the first District 5950 clubs to keep meetings on schedule and members connected via Zoom. Area Governors (AGs) are setting up joint Zoom meetings for the multiple clubs in each Area. In addition, The Rotary PassportClub of MN has a Zoom license and is willing to provide Zoom meetings free of charge to any club in the district. Individual clubs can select their meeting time and run the gathering. The Passport Club will provide the link and any technical assistance. Meetings can last up to one hour. Contact lloydwcampbelljr@gmail.com. The Passport Club pledges to provide this service to the district clubs until each is able to meet in person again. It is their service to the Rotary Community.

Rotary International offers these additional tips:

Here's how Rotarians and Rotaractors are staying in contact and keeping members engaged during COVID-19:

- Find ideas and resources for holding virtual meetings, engaging through social media, and serving from afar in District 6690's guide to [Maintaining Member Engagement During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
- Read how the Zone 34 Rotary coordinators are maintaining membership engagement (hint: ingenuity and adaptability) and download their COVID-19 [response guide](#).
- See how Big West Rotaract, a multidistrict information organization in the western region of North America, is connecting Rotarians and Rotaractors who are experiencing difficulties with others who can help. Look at its [Rotary and Rotaract COVID-19 Mutual Aid form](#).
- Visit Rotary's website to get more [tips and guidance](#) for holding online club meetings.

Passport Club charters!



**ROTARY
PASSPORTCLUB OF MN**

- FULL ROTARY MEMBERSHIP
- MEETING 24/7 OR
- CAN ATTEND THE 35,000 CLUBS WORLDWIDE*
- SERVICE
- NETWORK
- LEADERSHIP
- FELLOWSHIP
- DUES LESS THEN \$.50/DAY*
- Rotary.org
- <https://rotarypassportclubofmn5950.com/page/show/homepage/>

"The club that fits your life"

Clubs across District 5950 welcome the 22 charter members in the new Rotary Passport Club of Minnesota.

For membership information, contact District 5950 Membership Chair Lloyd Campbell at lloydwcampbelljr@gmail.com.

The club's website is:

<https://rotarypassportclubofmn5950.com/page/show/homepage/>

Ending Human Trafficking strives to be next interest-based club

By Karen L. Walkowski (*Excelsior Morning*), Chair, Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking

Districts 5950 and 5960 started the Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking three years ago. Clubs made this initiative a community priority which evolved into District 5580 (northern Minnesota, North Dakota, NW Wisconsin and parts of Ontario) joining the cause.

The next sustainable solution is to start an interest-based club focusing on Ending Human Trafficking. District Governor-Elect Tom Gump and other leaders are on board, helping to enroll 20 members needed to charter the club. I am asking you to encourage your club members to start engaging their friends and colleagues:

- Think of people in your own network who you tried to recruit but they didn't want to join a traditional club.
- Encourage people in your network who are interested in helping end human trafficking.
- In your personal club, please continue supporting organizations and projects that focus on ending human trafficking.

The End Human Trafficking Club will be an online e-club meeting twice each month. District 5950 will underwrite charter members' dues for the first year; after that, the costs will be approximately \$300. In our goal of 20 charter members, we already have a member who moved from MN to AZ. Another prospect is active in ending human trafficking in Atlanta, GA. Our goal is to charter **by June 30**. Please have prospective members contact me directly at kwalkow59@gmail.com. Thank you for your support and assistance in getting the word out!

Grant Management Seminar sessions moved online

Due to the restrictions of person-to-person contact to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, the previously scheduled Grant Management Seminars (GMS) have been moved online.

In order for clubs to be eligible to obtain matching funds for local and/or Global grants in the coming year, at least ONE member of your club must attend a Grant Management Seminar. **There is no cost to participate!** Find your preferred date and [register online](#).

Watch for Annual Meeting updates and a new District Conference date



"The meeting must go on!"

Despite postponing District Conference festivities, the legal Annual Meeting will take place in May. Club presidents will receive topic materials and voting instructions in the near future. **Your vote and input matters.**