

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN STARTING A ROTARY E-CLUB FOCUSED ON ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Message to Rotary Club Presidents, for sharing with club members
Karen Walkowski, 2017-2018 President, Excelsior Morning Club

I am writing to seek your assistance to get the word out about a new club that District 5950 is starting.

As many of you know, 3 years ago, District 5950 in partnership with District 5960 started the Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking. This initiative continues to gain momentum and influence in local communities thanks to the clubs that have taken this issue as a priority for their community. During this time we have also added District 5580 which covers not only all of northern Minnesota but North Dakota, NW Wisconsin and even parts of Ontario.

As we seek to increase the influence of this important initiative and develop a sustainable solution (hallmark of any Rotary Initiative) it has been determined that the most effective solution is to start an interest-based club focusing on Ending Human Trafficking. Thanks to the leadership within our own district of Tom Gump and other leaders, we are already seeing the impact of this idea in other states.

This is where I need your assistance:

We are in the process of chartering a new club and need 20 members to charter this club. I am asking you to announce this at your club meeting so that members can start engaging their friends and colleagues. However, I also want to clarify a few things:

- I am not asking anyone to leave your club. I appreciate the commitment each of you have to our local clubs and need each of you to remain with our club to continue the work that clubs have already accomplished in ending Human Trafficking.
- Instead, I am asking you to think of people in your own network who maybe you have tried to recruit to our club but didn't want to join a traditional club. OR people in your network who are very interested in helping to end human trafficking but have not been interested in joining a traditional Rotary club.
- This club is meant to be supplemental to the work that we have done with the Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking so we will still be looking to every club to continue to support organizations and projects that focus on ending Human Trafficking.
- I have been asked if individuals could be a member of two clubs. The answer is unfortunately no. However, once we get the club up and running, people are absolutely welcome to attend meetings (which will be virtual as the new club will be an e-club). There would be no limitation to you attending those meetings and still be an active member of your current club.

With this in mind, here are a few details about the new club:

1. The club will be an e-club (webinar/conference call/online).
2. We will host the meetings 2 times a month. Specific days and time TBD based on the availability of the members.
3. District 5950 will be underwriting all the dues of the charter members for the first year so for one year-no expenses. After that we anticipate the costs to be somewhere between 300.
4. While we are initially focusing our recruiting of new members to the middle U.S. states, we have already had a member join who used to live in MN but is now living in AZ and we have another person who is active in ending human trafficking in Atlanta who has expressed interest as well. This club is already getting noticed by Rotary International which is so exciting!

We need 20 people in order to charter a new club. I am hoping to be able to do this by June 30.

If anyone is interested in this new club, please have them contact me directly at kwalkow59@gmail.com. and I will obtain the information I need from them.

I am so excited about the opportunities this new club will bring and am already seeing the influence we are having. Thank you for your support and assistance in getting the word out.

Karen

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2017-2018 President, Excelsior Morning Club

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