

BIG SKY NEWS

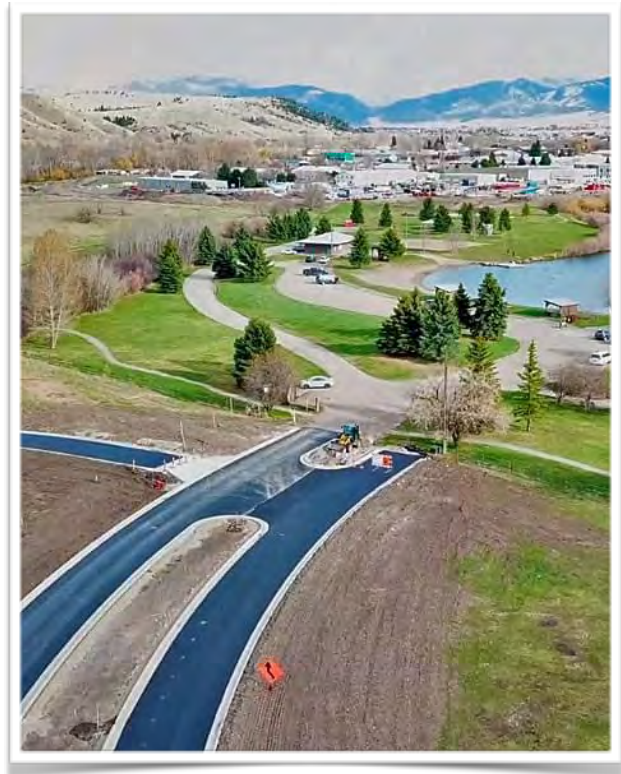


Sandy Wong, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA

Bozeman Rotary to dedicate Centennial Pavilion

The Rotary Clubs of Bozeman Noon and Sunrise continue to transform a local park into a gorgeous, newly refurbished entryway and pavilion, a gift to the Bozeman community. The Centennial Pavilion being built in Glen Lake Rotary Park honors the 100th birthday of Rotary’s founding in Bozeman.

The concrete for the Pavilion’s base and sidewalk from the road has been poured in preparation for installation of the new Centennial Pavilion structure [See photo at right]. Later this summer, monument signs will be installed to spotlight Rotary’s history in the Bozeman community. In addition, welcoming gardens and seating surrounding the Pavilion are planned.



The structure pictured at left is being constructed at the artist’s shop and will be dismantled and transported to Glen Lake Rotary Park for installation later this summer. The Pavilion will be a beautiful and unique addition to Bozeman’s already special Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Rotarians from Bozeman will celebrate their Rotary’s centennial milestone with the community on Saturday, August 1, at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

—Mike Barville, Rotary Club of Bozeman Sunrise

Zoom to the Rotary room as Rotarians meet virtually in the era of coronavirus

Rotary International President Mark Maloney spoke eloquently at the May 20 meeting of the Rotary Club of Missoula. His words inspired. His stories spoke about connection. He praised all the various ways Rotary has connected the world.



And he said it all via video on Zoom.

Rotary clubs throughout Montana have had to be creative once Montana's Governor Steve Bullock called for a shutdown in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. Never before has the state, the country and the world been so affected by such a serious public health concern. Yet Rotarians quickly found ways to meet via conference calls or online methods.

"I have never been more proud to be a Rotarian," Mark said on his pre-recorded video. "We know this is a challenge. We know COVID-19 is a temporary state. COVID-19 is a health threat unlike any other in our lifetime. This is a time for prudence, not panic. Facts, not fear.

"We need to do our part to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 spread. For Rotary, it means postponing meetings or holding online meetings. Many conferences in your Districts have been canceled. Following science has caused us to

cancel the International Conference in Honolulu. I cannot thank the event organizers enough for all that went into planning this event; but as RI leader, I know this is the decision Rotarians needed to make to flatten the curve.

"We are now exploring ways to share some of the great programming we had planned across the world in some sort of virtual event [June 20-26]. Our Rotary Action Plan calls on clubs to innovate and change. Please take time in these online

meetings to help us.

"We cannot detach ourselves from the world. Let us not forget our commitment to eradicate polio. We are also assisting countries around the world in their COVID-19 response. Together we are united to stay safe, but also to help others stay safe; stay healthy and help others stay healthy; stay connected and help others stay connected. Together we share the Aloha spirit.

"As Rotary connects the world, Mahalo and thank you," Mark said in closing, reflecting the Hawaiian spirit that was dashed as a result of the pandemic of 2020.

—Victoria Emmons, Rotary Club of Missoula

Corvallis and Romanian Interacts connect

Hands stretched across the ocean last fall as the Corvallis High School Interact Club connected with a Romanian Interact Club and jointly helped provide programs related to blindness.

At the November 18 meeting of Rotary Club of Hamilton, Marilyn Morris, Rotary liaison with the Corvallis High School Interact Club, introduced four Interact students — Francis Carrasco, Katie Gleason, Jasmine King and Addie Rohlman — two of whom spoke about their club’s service activities that illustrate the Rotary International 2019-2020 theme of “Rotary Connects the World.”

Francis described the enthusiasm from the Corvallis Interact Club’s service project in Guatemala last year and indicated plans are already underway to send another group June 12-19, 2020. *(See story on page 8.)*

Addie shared the great connection Corvallis Interact’s 100 members has with a high school Interact Club in Romania in Eastern Europe. Like Corvallis, the Romanian Interact also has about 100 members.

The contact with the Eastern European Interact was made via Romanian Exchange Student David Maticu, who had been elected as last year’s vice-president of Corvallis High School Interact. This school year, David’s sister Flauvia is vice-president of her high school’s Interact Club in Romania.

Addie said she serves as a member of the Corvallis Interact Club Social Media and International Projects Committee. She reported that the Interact Club sent \$300 to the Romanian Interact Club. That club did three things with the financial help.

First, they contacted their mayor to propose adding sounds to road crossing signals for the blind. Second, the Club developed an exercise/play

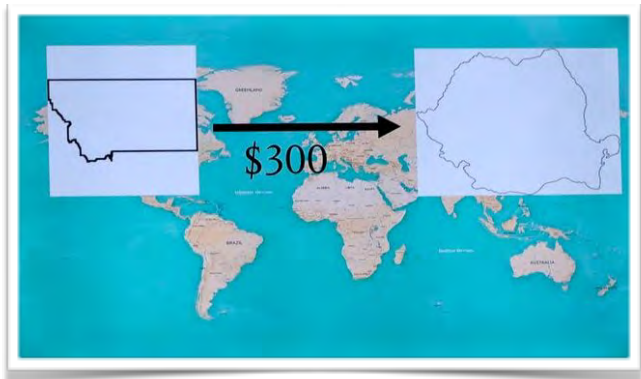
to help educate students about problems faced by the blind. And third, the Club initiated activities to help blind people with trips to the woods and other outings.

Well done, Corvallis Interact! You are a part of Rotary “Connecting the World”!

—Gordon Read, Rotary Club of Hamilton



Francis Carrasco, Katie Gleason, Jasmine King, and Addie Rohlman



A message from RI Director Johrita Solari

Challenging Times



Everyone knows these are historically challenging times. The question for all of us is “How are we going to turn those challenges into opportunities?”

President Mark Maloney’s theme “Rotary Connects The World” appears to be more relevant in these times. The world needs Rotary more than ever.

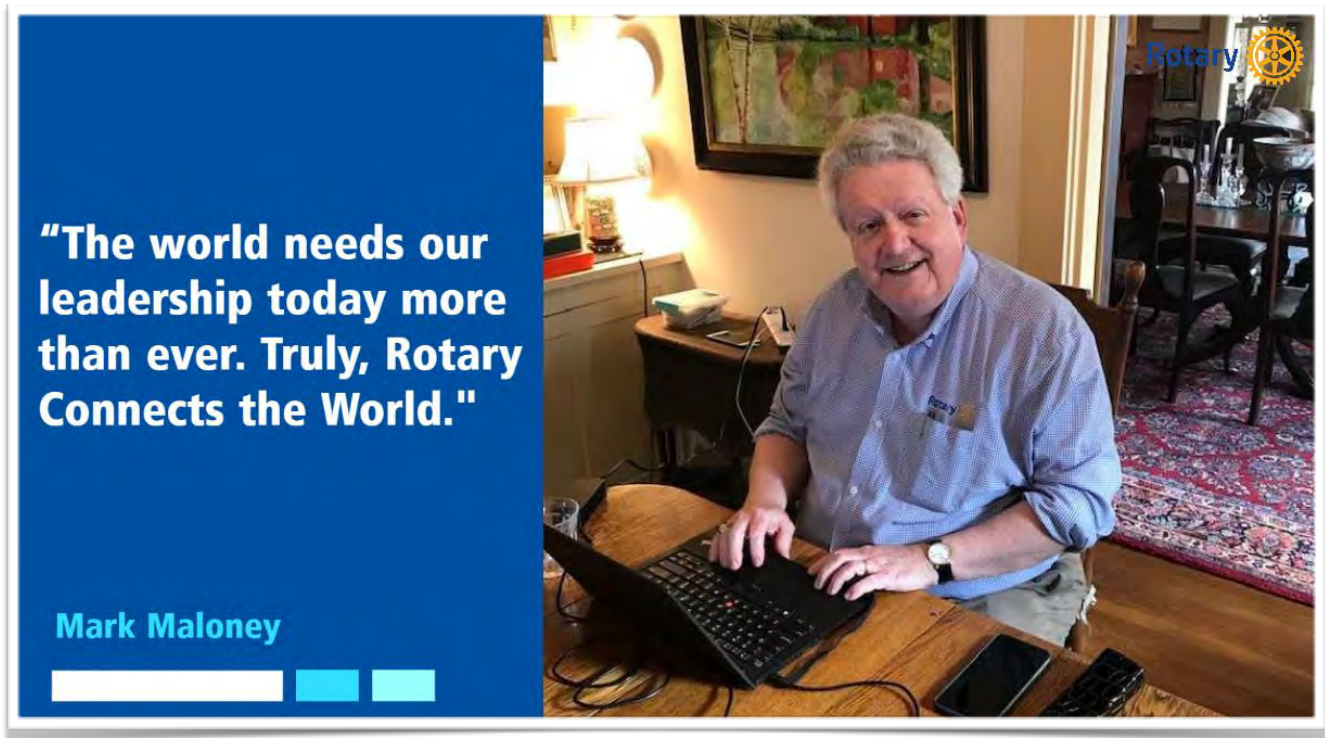
Our communities are hurting. I encourage everyone to look at new ways to overcome the restrictive environment that we are all living in. Online meetings are one obvious solution to “social distancing” and self-isolation. I see clubs using Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to have a fresh look at how they interact during the club

meetings. Club members are reaching out electronically to members that left the club to help them reconnect. They are having online socials, working projects and having fun. They are connecting to use this time to brainstorm ideas about what the greatest needs are in their community.

Hopefully all know WHY we are Rotarians. Particularly in these times, we are Rotarians because we want to make the world a better place.

Be creative in how we turn these challenges into opportunities to serve those who need us. Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change in our communities across the globe and in ourselves. Be Safe.

— *Johrita Solari, RI Director, reprinted from zone2627.org*



From District Governor Sandy Wong



Rotarians being offered online learning opportunities in the era of coronavirus



Great News!

The writing teams of our Zones 26-27 have developed an exciting and cutting edge product!

With your valuable input over the course of these **five**

individual one-hour, online educational sessions, our ultimate goal is to mutually produce a complete and relevant curriculum that you'll be proud to present to your district clubs and leaders during the upcoming Rotary year!

Register on our District website at MontanaRotary.org for each of the individual sessions.

The schedule of each of the five individual sessions are as follows:

May sessions have already taken place, but may be available in recorded version. June sessions are still scheduled for registration.

May 4, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. PDT – Session 1: Enhancing Participant Engagement and Increasing our Ability to Adapt (*1st half*)

May 18, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. PDT – Session 2: Enhancing Participant Engagement and Increasing our Ability to Adapt (*2nd half*)

June 1, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. PDT – Session 3: Increasing our Impact and Expanding Our Reach (*1st half*)

June 15, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. PDT – Session 4: Increasing our Impact and Expanding Our Reach (*2nd half*)

June 29, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. PDT – Session 5: Implementing Your Planning (*Creating your Action Plan!*)

With the coronavirus changing how we connect in Rotary these days, there's no reason why Rotarians can't continue to learn, inspire others and be inspired.

Hope to 'see' you online at these sessions!

—Sandy Wong, Rotary Club of Billings

Rotary Club of Butte enhances student distance learning with webcam donations

On May 21, Rotarians Madlyn Bracco-Taylor and Shannon Sullivan-Panisko presented webcams to reading coaches from Butte School District #1. The Rotary Club of Butte provided ten Logitech WebCams to be used to support distance learning communication due to coronavirus restrictions now and into the future. Jim O'Neill, Butte School District Curriculum Director, said that the cameras will be extremely valuable in support of the School District's mission.

—*Mary Lou Spath, Rotary Club of Butte*



Pictured left to right, Butte Rotarian Madlyn Bracco-Taylor, reading coaches Mollie Keeley, Jennifer Liva, Amy Trudnowski, Connie Daily, Tina Powers, Amy Guldseth and Rotarian Shannon Sullivan-Panisko. *Photo by Rotarian Bob Miller.*

Townsend Interact Honors Grads

Members of the Townsend Interact Club honored Broadwater High School graduates from the Class of 2020 with a video salute entitled "Can't Stop the Feeling." The video, available on YouTube, is the second video made by Interact members. Their first production entitled "We're All In This Together" features their connections despite the social distancing required by the recent coronavirus pandemic.

The Townsend Interact Club was founded by RYLA alumni and other students from Broadwater High School to foster community service and teach the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. View both videos at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Srfe6j9Y-6A&feature=youtu.be>

Got Club Flags or Banners???

The Daybreak Rotary Club of Kalispell is asking Rotary Clubs to donate a club flag or banner to them for a Quilt Making project that will serve as a fundraiser for the club's International Service Projects.

They ask that by June 1 each club president mail one of your club's banners or flags to Jason Cronk, 211 White Pine Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. For questions, contact Jason at (406) 261-8125 or jcronk@ilcorp.org.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow but a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day."

Sanskrit Proverb



Did you wash your hands in a sink this morning?

How would you wash your hands if you didn't have running water?

Dave Renfrow, Rotary Club of Columbia Falls, and Terri Smiley, Rotary Club of Kalispell, are raising funds to purchase TipiTap hand-washing stations and hygiene training in rural Guatemalan communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A TipiTap is a simple device for hand-washing in areas without running water and is common throughout the developing world.

"We're encouraging donations from individual Rotarians, as well as Rotary Club donations," says Terri. "The cost is \$12 per TipiTap

installation and training. Our fundraising goal is \$1,500 for 125 TipiTaps."

Donations of any amount will be invested in hand-washing hygiene to mitigate COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in rural Guatemala communities. "Today, right now, they are teaching WASH and fabricating TipiTaps," says Dave. "They have an interpreter with them to translate to Kaqchikel language. Some people in Corrales do not speak Spanish."

Please contact Terri Smiley for additional information.

— Terri Smiley, Rotary Club of Kalispell; photo by Dave Renfrow, Rotary Club of Columbia Falls

District 5390 Calendar

June 1, 15, 21 @ 5 pm: Vibrant Club Workshops online. No fee. Register on District website.

June 2 @ 8:30 am & June 4 @ 5:30 pm: Virtual Open House for District Committees

June 20-26: 2020 Virtual Rotary International Convention

Aug. 14-15: District Assembly, Fairmont Hot Springs, MT

Sept. 18-20: Waterton-Glacier Peace Park Assembly

Special Month

May is Youth Services Month. Introduce a young person to Interact or Rotaract!

Big Sky News

Big Sky News is published monthly by Rotary District 5390, Montana, USA.

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Corvallis High School Interact Club students plan service trip for Guatemala water project

At the March 2 meeting of the Rotary Club of Hamilton, Rotarian Marilyn Morris introduced eight Corvallis High School Interact students who are planning a service trip to Guatemala June 12-19, 2020. Each student needs to raise \$1,500 for the trip. The service trip is being arranged through a coalition of eleven Western Montana Rotary

Clubs, and funding will be assisted through Rotary grants.

The Global Coalition has made great advances in the Guatemalan villages where clean water outlets have been installed, especially important given the need to wash hands during the pandemic.

—Gordon Read, Rotary Club of Hamilton



EXTRA EXTRA!

Read all about it!

ROTARY CLUB NEWS EDITORS:

The next DEADLINE for stories in BIG SKY NEWS is **June 15, 2020**, for the July issue. Send photos in .jpg format and stories in Word or Text to: Big Sky Editor at district5390.newsletter@gmail.com. Please rename each photo submitted to indicate club name and subject, for example: Kalispell100. If possible, include names of those in the photo. Please also include the name and Rotary Club of your story's author. Thank you!