



DISTRICT GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER
 NOVEMBER 2017 – EDITION 5
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Dear Rotarians

I am pleased to share with you the completion of visits to all 46 clubs in D5550. The last Club visit was to the RC of Assiniboia. This small club of 11 members is excited and inspired by the launching of their Interact Club. Here is the picture of 10 of the 15 Interact Club Members who are eager to “make a difference”.



This fall’s Zone 24/32 Institute was a meaningful event with so many opportunities to celebrate our friendships and our humanitarian service. There were many times for us to reflect on the global needs for our service. One thing is clear, -we need more inspired and committed members to make a bigger difference.

We were challenged to address our membership concerns by making our clubs “irresistible” to potential members. Each club needs to find a way to do that. One noteworthy event was the recognition of D5550 having the highest member retention in Zone 24. We only lost 27 members from June 30 to July 1, 2017 and have already added 28 new members this year. Our current membership is 1414.
 -Peter Neufeldt, District Governor 2017-2018

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Please make the Rotary Foundation your charity of choice because of the good work that your donation along with other Rotarians and clubs can do in your community and Internationally in education, water & sanitation, child and maternal health and the other areas of focus that Rotary has defined. The Foundation’s Annual Fund makes it possible each year for our District to apply to the Rotary Foundation for block funding to carry out community projects such as scholarships and playgrounds. For International projects, Global Grants are available for working with Rotary members in other countries to improve health, literacy and economic development. November is a great month to donate and receive a charitable tax receipt for donations.

Giving to the Annual Fund by D5550 to October 23 is \$18,961.15 US dollars
 As compared to Oct 31, 2016 of \$56,557.07

Giving to Polio Plus by D5550 to October 23 is \$10,62.80 US dollars
 As compared to Oct 31, 2016 of \$21,131.56

There is so much work that Rotarians do though donations to the Annual Fund and Polio Plus that I encourage you to visit rotary.org to learn more.
 Questions can be directed to Bob Durston, DRFC at rdurston@mymts.net



BUILDING PEACE THROUGH ROTARY:
-One word at a time!

This month’s Word for Building Peace is “**EMPATHY**”.

Empathy tells us our true enemies are hatred and ignorance, not a particular group of people.

-Paul K. Chappell,
 The Cosmic Ocean

Empathy helps to give us a fresh understanding of the other person's emotions and thoughts and to illuminate their experience in a way that would not have been apparent to us had we not stepped into their shoes.

Thank you for your **empathy** as you seek to understand and to take appropriate action that will make a positive difference.

-(Inspired by the 21st Century Peace Literacy Foundation)
<http://www.21cplf.org/>

Website will be available by the end of November with more info.
 Registration to open 15Jan2018



BUILDING PEACE THROUGH ROTARY
DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018



SAVE THE DATE– MAY 24-26, 2018
Looking forward to seeing you



Why attend an International Convention?



1. Sharing common experiences with other members
2. Listening to guest speakers
3. Being reminded of our global impact
4. Attending Breakout Sessions

But most of all to make new friends and lifelong Rotary connections!

JUNE 24 TO JUNE 27, 2018

Toronto Hilton Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Discounted Early Bird Registration Deadline is December 15, 2017

Rarely does the Rotary International Convention get this close to home and most of your expenses will be in Canadian Dollars!!!!

Register soon for this exciting and sure to be memorable event at www.riconvention.org

MEET DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT Elaine Thompson



Home Club: Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood
Years in Rotary: 9.5 years

Description of Role:

Become familiar with the functions of all the District Committees and acquire training that is provided by Rotary International and District 5550 Trainers in preparation for the role of District Governor 2018-2019.

Family: Husband PDG Ed Thompson, 2 Daughters and 3 Grandchildren

END POLIO NOW UPDATE

A Polio Eradication Challenge has been launched by Brenda Banbury, D5550 PolioPlus Co-ordinator - the challenge is to raise \$75,000 for PolioPlus by the time of our District Conference on May 24/18. In the month's ahead – we'll keep you posted on the progress to date. Thanks Brenda for your leadership and inspiration.