



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Wishing you all 'A VERY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to all our members we welcome you, value you and know each of you is loved by our extended ROTARY family. May you and your family stay blessed, happy, healthy, safe and loved always.

We have been experiencing some chilly spells of weather. On a positive note -Spring is around the corner! We can 'IMAGINE' 'the best is yet to come for the weather and Rotary! Please stay warm and safe as we come close to the end of the wintry blast in our part of the world January was 'Vocational Service' month and February is 'Peace and Conflict Resolution month. What are we doing in our clubs for promoting positive peace initiatives? Let's all look out to recruit some excellent candidates for Peace Fellow Scholarship programs that RI offers. Please check the District 6000 Face Book page (post is dated Feb. 5) for links and details as applications are being accepted at this time.

I would like to bring to your attention a very important matter. Please note District dues and RI dues are separate and there are deadlines that need to be met for both. RI needs updated membership lists and club officers to be designated at the right time on the RI Web page. Only those officers will have access to the required information. The RI dues can be paid online. If the dues do not get paid on time there is a penalty of \$35 dollars per member. For transactions to be carried out smoothly it's important to avoid penalties, we need to follow the required protocol. The January invoices from RI are out. Please kindly meet the payment deadline.

We have several events coming up . Please check your emails , the District 6000 website and the district Face Book page. Our district received 10,000 dollars for a Literacy Grant from 'Save the Children .' I am happy to share the news that twenty clubs will be receiving this grant of \$500 dollars each and will be participating in a 'Reading Summit' on February 19th, 2022 at Ames . I would like to thank chairs Carolyn Jons, Carol Narak and everyone on the Literacy Action team for organizing this Summit. It will be livestreamed on our District 6000 FB page too. Please join us. Thanks to PDG Tom Narak for getting this set up for us .

Once again, I would like to bring to your attention there has been a national shortage of 'blood' in the Nation. So, please if possible organize blood drives in your communities. Thank you so much if your club is planning to do so.

Last month PDG Steve Dakin went to Kentucky at three different times and took with him teams to help with the clearing up of homes when the aftermath and devastation of the tornado had hit in Cambridge Shores. We cannot thank him and the teams enough that went with him to help. Everyone in Kentucky were very appreciative of the help they received from Rotary District 6000. As always Rotarians are 'People of Action' and are there to SERVE in any which way in the need of the hour. Thank you to PDG Steve Dakin, the team members, and all the members of the Disaster Relief team led by Chair Mr. Troy Thompson to help serve the much-needed humanitarian cause. We partnered with 'Go Serve Global' a voluntary organization with its mission of 'delivering hope'.

Let's continue to double our efforts in eradicating polio from our world. Pakistan has not incurred any new case of Polio since the last one year. We are indeed very close to eradicating this disease from our world with only five known cases. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr. Ed Arnold who organized a fantastic fundraiser that he has done for many years. This year the Basketball event partnering with the Iowa Wolves, once again was a huge success as they sold over 1,000 plus tickets and with the matching of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, were able to raise almost 36,000 dollars. Thank you to all the clubs that participated.

By now many of you know that District 6000's proposal for 'Prevention of Human Trafficking' was passed by the Council of Resolution by 318 votes and now has moved to the Board of Directors for it to be adopted. We are once again requesting all our clubs to send in the petition to RI with the club's letterhead (otherwise RI won't accept it). Please send this to the RI addresses sent and copy Carolyn at the district office. This petition has been sent worldwide so that we can address the Prevention of Human Trafficking as one voice. Human Trafficking is a global issue and we have a great platform for Rotary to help with this initiative. Please let's help address this issue and send the petition to RI as the Board of Directors will be meeting February 22nd to the 24th 2022. Thank you in advance. We will be helping to Empower girls, giving them hope and saving and change lives. 70 percent of the people trafficked are young girls and women. Let's help and be a solution for this initiative, bring hope, and peace into their lives!

As my term as District Governor is winding down it is just wonderful to see the new group of leaders and change -maker president elects, President nominees and incoming governors conducting top notch trainings as they will be soon coming aboard. I want to take a moment to congratulate all of them, our dedicated and committed AGs and leaders for their great 'Service above Self.

All Iowa District Conference is coming up on April 22nd and 23rd. You are all cordially invited to the Foundation Dinner , taking place on the 21st of April. For the first time in 75 years, we will be celebrating a multi district conference together with 5970. The Early bird discount is good till March 22nd. We would love to see you there. 'ALL IOWA CONFERENCE ' 'Better together' is our theme ! We need you all to make it a huge success. Please check out our district FB page.

As you can see, as we look back to the Rotary Year, we have done projects through our 66 clubs in all of the seven areas of focus! Congratulations to one and all. My heart is filled with pride! Thank you for 'Serving to Change Lives' ! I have truly enjoyed visiting all the clubs ,loved participating in many of the Rotary events . For the remainder of my year as District Governor, I would like to participate in at least of your many 'Rotary Days of Service' and celebrations . Please let me know in advance about the dates so I can join too. I love to participate in hands on projects.

Please continue sending me the zoom links and your Newsletters. I love all of you and thank you for all that you are doing for your club, for our district and our organization.

My one last request is for each club, if possible, to make one auction basket for our live or silent auction for our District Conference. All the proceeds will go towards giving to the foundation, polio and fighting to end Human Trafficking. MANY, MANY THANKS !

Have a beautiful week ahead ! Don't forget to do something special today for yourself too as you spread the message of love, peace hope and kindness !

With Best Wishes
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Let's Serve to Change Lives