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District Governor 2017-2018
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Dear Rotarians and Friends of District 6000,

If you had asked me 5 years ago if I thought I'd be writing this letter in 2017 I would have emphatically replied, "Not a chance!". Over the years I have learned how life takes twists and turns, leading me down a path that is least expected. As 2017-18 District Governor I invite you to take a seat on the Rotary roller coaster, buckle up, and join me for the ride of a lifetime.

It was a pleasure for Jo Anne and me to visit all 66 clubs last year as your District Governor-elect. We renewed old acquaintances and met hundreds of Rotarians for the first time. We learned a little about the personality of each club and look forward to our return visits.

All of us have a golden opportunity to live out the theme *Rotary: Making a Difference*. You will see a few changes this year that hopefully will bring renewed energy and excitement to our wonderful district.

District Newsletter – Our district newsletter consistently ranks very high among all Rotary newsletters. It's a 36-40 page, full color, quarterly record of the countless activities Rotarians are involved with across our district. This newsletter gives District 6000 Rotarians a well-deserved shout-out and is a great way to share our successes with non-Rotarians. Currently a very limited number of hard copies are mailed to Rotary leaders. The overwhelming majority receive the newsletter electronically. As a one year pilot, a hard copy of the newsletter will be mailed to all District 6000 Rotarians. Share the newsletter with your family and friends. They will be amazed at the work we do!

World Bicycle Relief Project – District 6000 is partnering with WBR to provide "buffalo bikes" for residents in developing countries. These heavy duty, utilitarian bikes serve families much like cars and small trucks do in the USA. Each bike impacts an average of 5 people allowing workers to get to their jobs, farmers to transport their products to the market, and for teachers and health care workers to get to rural areas. Cost of each bike is \$147, shipping included. This is an easy way for a club to **make a global difference** that requires no global grant paperwork.

A Toast to Rotary District 6000 – The 2018 district conference will have a new name and a totally different format. In an effort to boost attendance and reduce costs, **A Toast to Rotary District 6000** will be held at 5 different locations (Davenport, Iowa City, Ottumwa, Carroll, and West Des Moines) April 12-14, 2018. Please see the inside cover of this directory for more details.

Please join me as we spread the good news of Rotary by *Making a Difference*. Together, we can increase our numbers and bring renewed energy and enthusiasm to our current members.