



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

District 6000

**Tom Narak**  
**District Governor 2018-2019**



BE THE INSPIRATION

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This year the theme for Rotary is transitioning from Making a Difference to **Be the Inspiration**. When Carol and I listened to Barry Rassin as he unveiled the 2018-2019 theme in San Diego last January, we could not have been more excited. It fits in so very well with everything that Rotarians stand for in their dedicated work as volunteers, and it honors our past. With new RI leadership every year, it is no small challenge for them to help us to keep our focus where it should be as we plan our projects and activities.

Rotary's Six Areas of Focus include: Promoting Peace; Fighting Disease; Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Saving Mothers and Children; Supporting Education; and Growing Local Economies.

Our Rotary International President works to inspire all of us, and our challenge is to follow his lead. We need to inspire others to accomplish the many important things that we each hope to accomplish. With Carol's and my backgrounds in education, it is no surprise that we are asking each club to focus on some issues that directly impact children. These three goals are ones that we can all strive for this year:

**Improving Literacy**-The key to success in life is most often attributed to education. Each child deserves an outstanding education. While Rotary clubs have very little control over education, we can each look for ways that we can help to enhance the education of children. We will ask Rotarians and others to share some ideas and suggestions for clubs to consider. Many clubs in our district are doing much to help with literacy for children. To be the inspiration for children, we need to do more. This is some of the most important work that we as Rotarians can do for children.

**Prevention of Child Abuse**-We are partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa to help with the issue of child abuse prevention. Our District and District 5970 are collaborating on this important issue. We want to work together with our Rotary neighbors to the north to have a much larger impact upon all children in Iowa. We will share some ideas and suggestions from the experts and from the research. It will be enlightening for us to see the correlation between child abuse prevention and literacy.

**PolioPlus**-The most important part of any project or endeavor is to finish strong. As we all know, we Rotarians are dedicated to the eradication of polio. We need all Rotarians to help in this effort to finally eliminate this crippling disease from the Earth. Until it is eliminated, it can come roaring back if we let our guard down near the end.

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." To me that encapsulates what Rotary membership is all about. Enjoy your new Rotary year, and go forward and inspire others to do wonderful things in our world.

Thank you very much for your great service.

*Tom Narak*

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