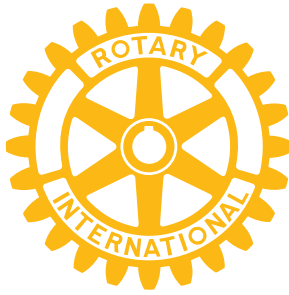


# Rotary



## Zones 25B-29 News

April 2020 • Number 3 • Zones 25B and 29 • Upper Midwest & Great Plains USA • Ontario, Canada • Texas

RI DIRECTOR LARRY DIMMITT

### Rotary copes, adjusts to effects of COVID-19

#### 1. COVID-19

By now we are all dealing with the effects of the world-wide spread of coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. It has created havoc with our daily lives and substantially changed how we do Rotary.

As you know, we have had to cancel the International Convention in Hawaii because of the health risk the virus poses. However, thanks to dedicated efforts of Rotarians and RI Staff, and the use of current technology, we are continuing to do what Rotary does best: engage in fellowship – often over the Internet – and provide service as best we can under the circumstances.

We all need to pay close attention to guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And carefully follow all national, regional and local requirements relating to this serious health crisis.

For up-to-date information on Rotary International's response to COVID-19 you may go to [www.rotary.org>rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak](http://www.rotary.org>rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak). In the meantime, please do all you can to protect yourselves, family and friends from this terrible health threat.

#### 2. Foundation COVID-19 Support

Our Rotary Foundation has made a number of changes to enable additional support during the pandemic. Relief expenses can be recovered through both District and Global Grants. Districts will also be allowed to designate their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund for exclusive use in COVID-19 relief. Over \$3 million has also been



Lois and RI Director Larry Dimmitt

transferred from the World Fund to the Disaster Response Fund.

And districts can apply for up to \$25,000 via a Disaster Response grant. In addition to these Foundation initiatives, clubs and districts are supporting the relief effort world-wide in countless ways as "Rotary Connects the World."

#### 3. "Grow Rotary"

As you may know, membership in North America has been declining over the last 20 years. Our traditional response has been we need to ask more potential members to join Rotary, and do a better job of engaging our members. And that is still true. But, in addition, Rotary in North America has launched

a new program to help "Grow Rotary."

On Jan. 31, 2020, the RI Directors and Directors-Elect from the U.S. and Canada met in Evanston to plan a New/Different Club Promotion, the goal being to establish more clubs in our part of the world. And not just more "regular" clubs, but also different types of clubs to appeal to different demographic groups.

For example, a club might be made up of veterans, such as was recently chartered in Minnesota. Or new clubs might be E-clubs or satellite clubs.

There are four "Innovative Club Advocates" in Zones 25B and 29 who will lead this effort. They are **Kathy Hubbard** from District 5840 and **Andy Eads** from District 5810, **Dean Dickinson** from District 6250 and **Tom Gump** from District 5950. Subject to limits of COVID-19, they will be working with your Districts and Membership Chairs to help start new clubs. And we are excited about the growth in Rotary these Advocates will generate.

#### 4. "Volunteer Surge"

I know many of you have found creative ways to stay connected and fight the terrible coronavirus. And many are asking, "What else can I do?" In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Rotary, working with Global Impact (a nonprofit that develops solutions for positive social and humanitarian

**DIRECTOR**, continued on page 3

<https://www.zones25B-29.org/>



## Rotary International Zones 25B and 29

### Rotary International President

Mark Maloney, Decatur, Alabama USA

### RI Director, Zones 25 and 29

Larry Dimmitt, Topeka, KS

### RI Director-Elect, Zones 25 and 29

Suzi Howe, Friendswood, TX

### District Governors 2019-20

Michelle Bell, District 5970

Cedar Rapids, IA

Edwin Bos, District 6250

Fort Atkinson, WI

Richard Bricker, District 5580

Pequot Lakes, MN

Roberta Burke, District 6420

Rochelle, IL

Ellison Crider, District 5930

Corpus Cristi, TX

Suzanne Gibson, District 6440

Lake Barrington, IL

Gary Gillen, District 5890

Richmond, TX

Beverly Grogan, District 5810

Grand Prairie, TX

Steven Handrick, District 6220

DePere, WI

Kurt Harper, District 5680

Wichita, KS

Jim Henry, District 5870

Austin, TX

John Hutcherson, District 5840

Fredericksburg, TX

Jason Leib, District 5710

Lenexa, KS

Henry McKinley, District 5650

Council Bluffs, IA

Scott McLaughlin, District 5630

Kearey, NE

Russell Michaletz, District 5950

Minneapolis, MN

Erna Morain, District 6000

Waukegan, IA

Paul Perez, District 5960

Prior Lake, MN

Betsy "Elizabeth" Robinson, District 5910

League City, TX

Debi Ross, District 6450

Orland Park, IL

Steen Sanderhoff, District 6270

Franksville, WI

Peter Scott, District 5790

Arlington, TX

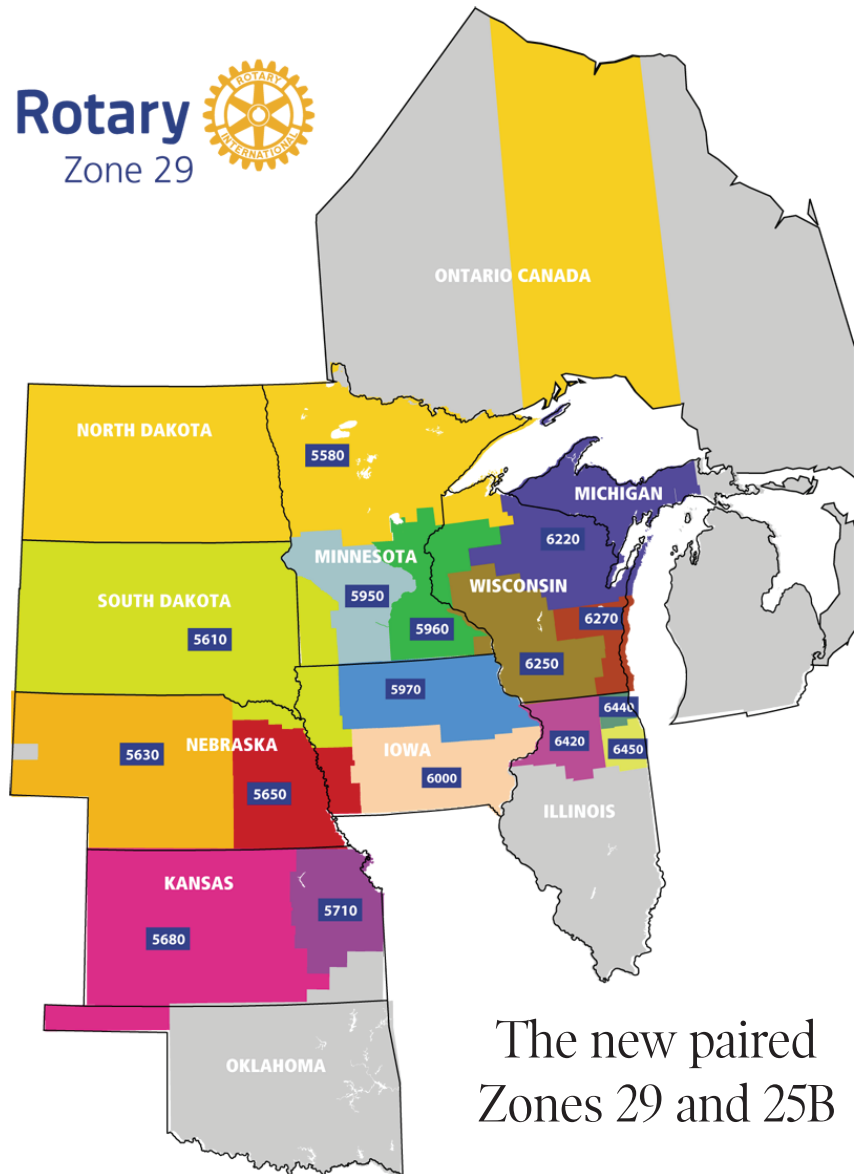
Kristine Winter, District 5610

Hot Springs, SD

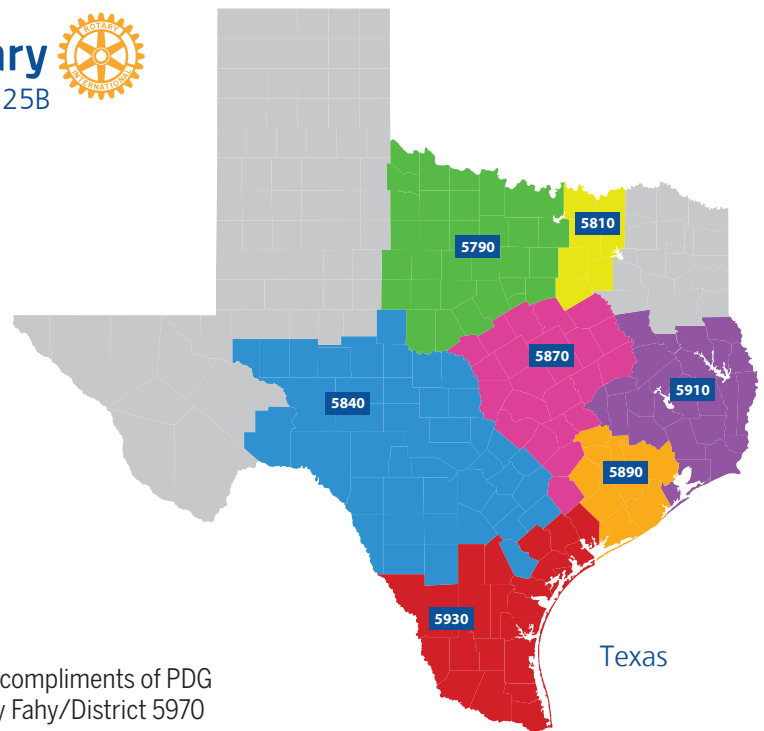
### Newsletter Editor

Bill Tubbs, District 6000

Eldridge, IA



The new paired  
Zones 29 and 25B



Maps compliments of PDG  
Kathy Fahy/District 5970

**MONITORING FOR COVID-19****Institute planned for Houston, Sept. 8-13****By PDG Sharron Miles/District 5790***Institute General Chair*

Just wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you and encouraging you to stay safe and healthy. At this time (April 8), we are still planning on having our Zone Institute in Houston, Sept. 8-13, 2020. Please know that we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 virus and will continue to take our lead from medical and governmental leadership as we move along.

**Houston is ready to host!**

Houston Rotarians will host the Rotary International Zone Institute this year from Sept. 8-13 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. We are delighted to showcase the great city, and people, of Houston to our friends who will be attending from Texas to Canada. We anticipate about 900 people to attend our event. We are excited that we have about 50 young professionals from our Rotaractor clubs who will be collaborating with local Rotary clubs to provide "hands-on" service to some of the Houston communities.

Our Zone Institute provides the opportunity to past, present, and incoming district and senior leaders to share information, build connections, and exchange ideas about Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. The Institute undergirds the mission of Rotary International clubs throughout Houston and all over the world to "provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

**Current 2020 Zone Institute Keynote Speakers**

2021-22 Rotary  
International President  
**Sheaker Mehta**



2018-22 Rotary  
International  
Trustee **Sangkoo Yun**



American scientist,  
pediatrician, and advocate in  
the fields of global health,  
vaccinology, and neglected  
tropical disease control.  
**Dr. Peter Jay Hotez**



Board Certified in  
Immigration and  
Nationality Law by the  
Texas Board of Legal  
Specialization. **Ruby  
Powers**



Water and Sanitation  
Rotarian Action Group  
Ambassador.  
**Dr. Isis Mejias**



Exceptionally skilled and  
analytical global leader,  
with more than 10 years of  
professional experience  
specializing in diversity  
and inclusion  
**Dr. Bow Tie Todd Jenkins**

*Read more about the Institute on the next page!*

**DIRECTOR: Focus on Rotaract**

**DIRECTOR**, *continued from page 1*

impact) has launched a new program called **Volunteer Surge**. This program offers Rotarians, family members and friends free training about how they can help fight the virus, either from their homes or by assisting healthcare workers (subject to social distancing requirements).

For more information about Volunteer Surge, go to [www.tgig.org](http://www.tgig.org) to see how you can participate in this program. Ask your clubs to share this link with others on Facebook, email and other social media. As Rotarians, we are People of Action, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show what we as Volunteers can do.

**5. Rotaract Update.**

As you may recall, the 2019 Council on Legislation made Rotaract clubs "members" of Rotary, just like Rotary clubs. And at its January meeting, the RI Board of Directors established

dues for Rotaractors. Commencing in July 2022, members of university-based clubs will pay \$5.00 a year and members of community-based clubs, \$8.00 a year. The Board also decided at its January meeting that Rotaract clubs may, but are not required to, set upper age limits for their members.

My main message is that we need to charter more Rotaract clubs in our districts and clubs. And we need to be sure to ask Rotaractors to join Rotary when their Rotaract days are done.

*Larry Dimmitt, a retired attorney and a member of the Rotary Club of Topeka, KS, is RI Director for Zones 25 and 29. Director Larry is a Paul Harris Fellow, a Benefactor, a member of the Bequest Society, a member of the Paul Harris Society, a Major Donor and actively supports the Topeka Rotary Foundation. He and his wife, Lois, have been inducted into the Arch Klumph Society. He has been awarded the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and the Distinguished Service Award. Larry can be contacted at [larrydimmitt@gmail.com](mailto:larrydimmitt@gmail.com).*



## HOUSTON, TEXAS

# Institute hotel, program are first class

By Tom Gump/District 5950

Institute Co-Chair

In January, I was able to visit the Royal Sonesta Hotel, in the area of Houston, Texas, that they call the "Galleria." This is the site of the 2020 Zones 25B & 29 Institute. The hotel and event center are absolutely gorgeous – I cannot wait until this year's Institute!

What will you be missing out on if you don't attend this year's Institute? A lot! Including:

**Fellowship.** There will be approximately 400 Rotarians from 23 districts and an additional 500 local Houstonian Rotarians, who will join us at the all-club luncheon. It is the perfect time to network, find project partners and make friends.

**Education.** There will be separate educational tracks for your District's Governor-Line, Leadership Development, District Chairs and District Trainers – all highlighting RI's Strategic Plan.

**Inspirational Speakers.** There will be incredible speakers, such as:

- RI President-nominee Shekhar Mehta, RI's 2021-22 President, recognizes current membership trends are a challenge and believes membership development is RI's highest priority. He believes that focusing on regional plans is the best way to address our membership issues.

- "Dr. Bow Tie Todd Jenkins" is an energetic leader and founder of Bowtie Leadership and Development, a company dedicated to bringing diverse people together to increase productivity and performance in individuals and organizations. He is sure to inspire!

- LaShonda Delivuk runs three businesses while serving as a Zone 33 Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator. She was a General Session speaker at last year's Rotary International Assembly, where she told a story about speaking at a Zone Institute where she spoke in front of RI President Barry Rassin and

200 Zone Institute attendees IN THE DARK! She will let us know that you don't have to be perfect to be a great Rotarian.

**Entertainment.** You will be entertained with:

- A Viva La Fiesta Feast with a mariachi band; and
- A Rockin' Rotary Roundup, with photobooth, toe tappin' music, line dancing, Texas barbecue and costume contest. (I sure hope Suzi doesn't make me ride a mechanical bull!)

To register for the event, please go to our Zone website: <https://zones25b-29.org/>. Here you find or find out about:

- A hyperlink to where you can register for the event;
- A special invitation from the Institute Convener Rotary International Director Suzi Howe;

- Detailed information about Institute happenings, including curriculum what events are happening and when;

- The unique way Rotaractors will be involved;

- The entertainment you will experience;

- The event speakers;
- The local activities you can participate in;

- The Zone Institute Brochure;

- 2020 Zone Institute promotional videos;

- A hyperlink to the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria so you can review hotel registration pricing book a hotel; and

- Much more!

We look forward to seeing you in Houston, in September!



The Royal Sonesta Hotel in the Houston area will host the Zones 25B-29 Rotary Institute Sept. 8-13, 2020.



Suzi Howe, RI Director-Elect for 2020-22, speaking here at NCPETS March 13 at Rochester, Minn., will be the convener for the Rotary Institute in Houston.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

## Leadership Summit

Director-Elect Suzi Howe will convene a Zone 29 Leadership Summit July 23-25 at Embassy Suites, Des Moines, to support District leaders to achieve goals for the 2020-2021 Rotary year.

Discussions will build consensus toward planning, evaluation, and goal setting to be continued during the September 2020 Zone 25B&29 Institute in Houston.

Information and registration: <https://www.zones25b-29.org/>





Zone 25B and 29 newsletter editor Bill Tubbs (top, second from left, with camera) was a visiting Rotarian and snapped this photo of one of three screens of members of the Rotary Club of Northfield, Minn., on April 16. The speaker for the day was Dr. Henry Emmons, an eminent psychiatrist (top, second from right), who talked about how people are adjusting to COVID-19.

# COVID-19: Clubs find a new way to connect

By PDG Bill Tubbs/District 6000

Editor, Zone 25B-29 News

Rotary meetings via programs like Zoom can keep club members connected during COVID-19 shelter-in-place requirements. Participants are able to see screen shots of all attendees and hear the conversations, one person speaking at a time, sometimes more clearly than if they were in the room and many were trying to speak at once.

While such meetings will never be a permanent substitute for all in-person gatherings, there might be times when a Zoom meeting will make sense. Decisions must be made thoughtfully, however, because the best of technology will never replace human touch. We were not made to be isolated from one another, as many of us are experiencing now. That is one of many points made by the speaker at the Northfield, Minn. meeting (above), by Dr. Henry Emmons, an eminent psychiatrist. "Zoom is better than expected, but it's not a substitute. It's hard to live without meaningful contact or interaction. We don't do well in isolation from one another."

Dr. Emmons' comforting and positive message can be found at [www.naturalmentalhealth.com](http://www.naturalmentalhealth.com). It is entitled, "CALM in the Time of Coronavirus: A Free Online Resilience Retreat."

*For those wanting to maximize your online meeting experience, these video conference meeting etiquette/tips are courtesy of Rob Hilbert, Iowa PBS Foundation:*

**1. Test your technology** ahead of time if you're unfamiliar with it.

**2. Make sure** you have decent lighting.

**3. Locate your camera** on your phone, tablet or computer and look into the camera when you're speaking.

**4. Remember to assume** you're on camera and your microphone is live.

**5. Unless circumstances demand** otherwise, leave your camera on during the meeting.

**6. Dress appropriately.**

**7. Be mindful** of what is behind you. The camera sees everything.

**8. Give your name** when you speak in meetings of more than 10 people.

**9. During the video conference**, close other applications on your phone, tablet or computer that have notifications.

**10. Mute yourself** if you do not anticipate speaking often to avoid background noise.

**11. Keep you microphone on mute** if any of the following apply:

- You must type for non-meeting related activities.

- You must respond to or give your attention to non-meeting related emails, notifications or interruptions.

- You are eating.

- You clear your throat a lot.

- You have a cold or allergies (often leads to heavy breathing).

- You have pets or small children nearby.

**12. If you're calling** into the meeting by telephone and not using the webcam feature, announce yourself when you speak because people will not be able to see you speaking.

**13 Smile, have fun**, and enjoy seeing your colleagues!



# Rotary



# RAG4Clubfoot

## RI General Secretary John Hewko visits Ponseti Clinic; lends support

By PDG Jacque Andrew/District 6000

Telling the story of clubfoot disability and its treatment is in the DNA of Dr. Jose Morcuende and Thomas Cook, PhD, both Rotarians working with the Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa. They're encouraging others to also take up the mantle.

On Monday, Jan. 13, John Hewko, General Secretary of Rotary International, spent time with Dr. Morcuende learning about the Ponseti method of clubfoot treatment at the pediatric orthopedic clinic during the doctor's full schedule of seeing patients. Mr. Hewko was in Iowa as the invited speaker for the celebration of the Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary Club's 5,000th meeting held in the Rotary Hall in the NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids.

Clubfoot is a global problem affecting about 200,000 children born annually worldwide. Morcuende, Cook and members of the RAG4Clubfoot (Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot) endeavored to show Hewko the problem and impress on him that Rotary International should be addressing it on a broad scale.

### Rotary Foundation 'Scale Grant'

The response from Hewko? It's a "no brainer" that the doors to RI should be opened wide for clubfoot to be presented as a global issue of mighty proportions.

Hewko recommended that the RAG4Clubfoot consider applying for a "scale grant" that could provide funding to help train hundreds of doctors worldwide in the non-surgical Ponseti method, now recognized as the global standard for correcting clubfoot.

Teaching the Ponseti Method using a "train the trainer" approach meets the sustainable gauge of the scale grant as doctors will in turn teach other doctors the procedure. And the treatment of hundreds of thousands of children born with clubfoot is certainly measurable. Promoting the Ponseti method is also a high impact endeavor since babies will continue to be born with clubfoot for years to come, because there is no known "cure" for this genetically caused deformity.

The mission of the RAG4Clubfoot is to support activities to assure timely treat-



**RI General Secretary John Hewko gets a first-hand look at Dr. Jose Morcuende's work at the Ponseti Clinic at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.**

Photo above by Jacque Andrew

ment and appropriate care for children born with clubfoot deformity worldwide. This RAG was created and approved by Rotary International to provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs, districts and multi-districts in planning and implementing programs for training doctors in the Ponseti method of treating children diagnosed with clubfoot. The RAG functions to recruit and identify

partners to provide these training opportunities.

Membership in the RAG4Clubfoot supports its capacity to market, connect and offer technical support to training teams as they create their project grant applications. To contact the RAG team, become a member, renew membership support or contribute, see the website [www.RAG4Clubfoot.org](http://www.RAG4Clubfoot.org).





**Dr. Tom Cook explains the Ponseti Method of clubfoot correction to RI General Secretary John Hewko.**



**Herb Wilson (PDG), Dennis Jordan (RAG4Clubfoot Co-Chair) and John Hewko (RI General Secretary) meet at the University of Iowa Ponseti Clinic to discuss how Rotary and Rotarians can make an impact for children born with clubfoot.**

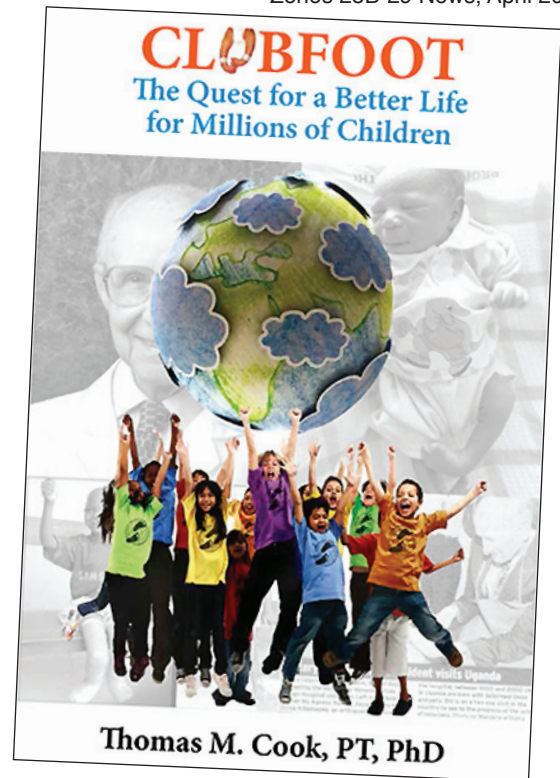
Photos above by Jacque Andrew



**Angela Jordan (c) joined RAG4Clubfoot in October 2019 as the new administrator. She is a native of eastern Iowa and a member of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids. She is active in the community of Marion. She recently celebrated 10 years of marriage to Dennis Jordan. Together they have four children.**

Provided by Angela Jordan

200,000 children are born annually with clubfoot worldwide. RAG4Clubfoot's mission is to train doctors in the non-surgical Ponseti Method so that all may live lives free from disability.



## Rotarian authors book about quest to treat clubfoot

Dr. Tom Cook, RAG4Clubfoot Board member, has authored a book about Dr. Ponseti's quest to provide children born with clubfoot a life free of pain and disability.

"Clubfoot: The Quest for a Better Life for Millions of Children" tells the little-known story of the world's most common skeletal birth defect and development of a revolutionary method for eliminating lifelong disability for the 200,000 children born every year with this deformity.

The hero of this story is Dr. Ignacio Ponseti (1914-2009) who, as a young physician, became enmeshed in the Spanish Civil War before being forced into exile in France and then Mexico. He eventually found a home in the heartland of America where, despite opposition from the medical establishment, he began a life-long quest to reshape children's futures from lives of pain and disability to lives of hope and promise.

Because of Dr. Ponseti's quest, and the many healthcare professionals, parents, and other advocates who have taken it up, a normal, disability-free life is now possible for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of children. This book answers three questions. Who was Ignacio Ponseti? What is the treatment he developed? How successful is his quest?

The endorsements on the back cover of the book include these two:

*"The truly remarkable story of the legacy of Dr. Ponseti and his continuing impact on the lives of children around the world. He is God's gift to these children."* -Tom Brokaw

*"Rotarians: Get involved in this important global effort!"* -Herb Wilson

The book is published by Ice Cube Press and can be ordered at <https://icecubeypress.com/2019/10/29/clubfoot-2/>

All proceeds go to Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa.



## MINNESOTA ROTARIAN

# PolioPlus makes impact in Pakistan

By Charles Cogan/District 5960

While Rotarians have been traveling around the world for many years to participate in National Immunization Day (NID) events, even a large group of Rotarians can only vaccinate a fairly small number of children. The most important thing we can do when we participate in an NID is to bear witness to the incredible work being done by Rotarians, national healthcare professionals and volunteers across the globe.

At present, the three countries that still remain wild polio-endemic are facing serious security challenges. There is the Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria, while the Pakistan-Afghanistan borderland region is also a conflict zone. A large group of international Rotarians in unstable areas would not only be a challenge to accommodate, but might even make the work of local Rotarians and their teams in the country more dangerous by providing a high-value target for violence.

In these three countries, important work is being done and Rotarian Dick Huston, a veterinarian from Faribault, Minn., (District 5960), was given a rare opportunity to see Pakistani Rotarians in action when he visited the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad in November 2019 to participate in a NID campaign. He was invited by Aziz Memon, Pakistan PolioPlus Committee Chair, International Polio Plus Committee member and member of the International Foundation Board.



## Pakistan: Expect the unexpected

Dr. Huston has traveled extensively and worked in rural areas, but he was not sure what to expect during his trip to Pakistan. What he found was a tradition of Rotary hospitality that left a lasting impression on him. He also got to see Rotarians and their teams at work and came away very impressed and full of hope that Pakistan has the determination, knowledge, and passion to finish the job of eradicating polio. During his conversations with Pakistani Rotarians, he also learned first-hand of the work they're doing along the border with Afghanistan and the encouragement and support they are lending to eradication efforts across the border.

Dr. Huston said the Pakistani Rotarians understand they must embrace all four aspects of PolioPlus – Clean Water, Creating Jobs, Improving Health Care and Preventing Disease if they are to eliminate polio. He was in awe of the creative ways they have developed to accomplish these tasks and has not ever witnessed more effort or devotion.

He observed and participated in vaccinations in train cars, as trains arrived and departed at the stations, was there when they boarded buses on the outskirts of Karachi, which resulted in over 3,000 vaccinations every day, and worked with a health worker as he identified new immigrant children.

He was inspired by the young volunteer nurses in training to give polio vaccine injections to children 5-13. Dr. Huston has prepared a presentation from his visit and would love to share it with clubs looking for a PolioPlus program that can educate members about the Pakistani efforts and motivate them to keep pushing forward until we finish the important work that we began 32 years ago.



**Dick Huston, a veterinarian and Rotarian from Faribault, Minn., give the polio vaccine, "drops of life," to children in Pakistan in November 2019.**

photos provided by Charles Cogan



**Minnesota Rotarian Dick Huston (l) was welcomed by Karachi, Pakistan Rotarian Shahzad Qureshi. He found the Pakistanis' hospitality and commitment to eradicating polio extraordinary.**





**The Leawood Rotary Club donated \$20,000 to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, a ministry helping those during the COVID-19 crisis.**  
Photo courtesy Leawood Rotary Club.



**The Leawood Rotary Club donated \$20,000 to Church of the Resurrection Ministries, a ministry helping those during the COVID-19 crisis.**  
Photo courtesy Leawood Rotary Club

## Covid crisis spurs major donations in Leawood, KS

By Chuck Udell/District 5710

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Rotary Club of Leawood, Kansas, is donating a total of \$40,000 to two local faith-based nonprofit organizations to help neighbors in need in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The club is donating \$20,000 to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, and \$20,000 to Church of the Resurrection Ministries.

The club, made up of 59 members, is drawing the funds from a charitable foundation the club established nearly 20 years ago. Rotary members said the club selected these organizations because of their ability to reach everyone in the community, regardless of religious affiliation, and their ability to get services into the hands of those in need quickly.

"The magnitude of this crisis requires all of us to step up. As a community service club, it is our duty, but also our plea-

sure, to help our neighbors in a significant way in this time of unexpected need," explained club president Rick Robinson.

"Leawood Rotarians see the need in our community and react in a big way," said Lisa May, president-elect.

Rotarians around the world are inspired by their founder, Paul Harris, who said, "Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time."

The Leawood Rotary Club recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The club's main fundraising event is the Leawood Labor Day 5K. During this current year, the club has assisted close to a dozen charities in the greater Kansas City area.

Learn more about the club and the 5K at [www.Leawood-Rotary.org](http://www.Leawood-Rotary.org)

For more information, contact Public Relations Chair Lisa Harrison at (913) 522-5049.

## Keep in touch with new members during COVID-19

*Here are timely tips on new members during this time from Jill Slupe, D5650 Public Image Chair; [jslupe@verdemartin.com](mailto:jslupe@verdemartin.com):*

During this period of COVID 19, we as club leaders need to make all new members feel welcome and help them get to know our members.

Here are a few ideas to make that happen:

**1. Have club members schedule** 15-minute one-on-ones with the new member. They can set up a phone call, Zoom, Facetime, etc. The new member is not getting the opportunity to meet members, so we need to force it a little.

**2. Have members send a message.** Members can send a card, text, joke, comic, just something. We need the new member to feel the love and support of Rotary. That is why we are members – fellowship. There may be existing members that may need some company and engagement, so this item applies to all members. This is a very scary time and we need to support each other.

**3. Have club leadership reach out** and share stories. Share the "why." Why they joined, why they stay active. Share projects

and stories about past grants.

**4. Have committee leaders reach out.** Get the new member involved. Invite them to join a committee or attend a meeting by Zoom till we start meeting face to face. If the new member is familiar with the projects and committees, they may have new ideas and new energy and get involved.

**5. Encourage the new member** to attend scheduled meetings. Ask a mentor or member to guide the new member and share what is appropriate and not appropriate to share at meetings.

**6. Ask the new member** to lead a part of the meeting. The new member can do a vocational, lead the pledge, singing etc. The more people participating in the meeting, the more will attend the meeting.

**7. Share the stories!** Have your members post stories, jokes, and cartoons about each other. We all want to get to know each other.

**8. Lastly, follow up.** If we haven't seen the new member at a meeting in two weeks check in.

– provided by Linda Peterson, RPIC, Zone 29



## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

# Safe delivery of newborns, education of mothers becomes reality in South Africa

By Tom Gump/District 5950

A mother delivering a baby outdoors beneath a tree is unimaginable for many of us. Yet that was reality just three years ago in the impoverished settlement of Melusi, South Africa, until Rotary clubs in two continents joined efforts and raised \$110,000 in global grants.

Now there is a mobile clinic delivering health care, and work is under way to create an additional kitchen and training center hub dedicated to mothers, children and the education of healthcare workers. Among those participating in this two-phase project are District 5950, the Rotary Club of Edina/Morningside and the Rotary Club of Edina. The Melusi project is expected to be a showpiece on the international stage during an African centennial celebration of Rotary in April 2021.

"The Melusi project is a phenomenal story of Rotarians engaging in an impactful way where there is most need in their country," explained Jeremy Newhouse, a member of Edina/Morningside Rotary who has visited Melusi and been instrumental in bringing the global grant project to the attention of Minnesota Rotarians.

Melusi is an informal settlement of some 20,000 people within a region of 80,000 outside of Pretoria, South Africa. Settlers there are impoverished and undocumented and migrant refugees seeking economic opportunity, Newhouse said. There are no public services; no electricity, sewer, nor running water.

Lacking access to essential primary care health services, the area has experienced high mortality rates of neonatal, infants and children under the age of five. For years a woman affiliated with a local university, Dr. Ellenore Meyer, has been providing, with 17 community health workers, maternal child-care under a tree. South Africa's Rotary E-Club has responded with humanitarian aid of food and shelter. Teaming up with the Minnesota clubs in 2019 led to additional global grant monies which provided the modular health clinic to serve as a base for Dr. Meyer and health workers.

"Patients have indicated that the clinic on site and support services at the pre-school have had a big impact on access to care," said Annemarie Mostert, District Governor-Elect of South Africa's Rotary District 9400.

Status of the additional pod buildings is that land has been granted and prepared, and 2,000 households have been mapped with care needs identified for care and referral, said Annemarie Mostert, in South Africa. The new kitchen will offer a chance to teach skills in safe food handling and nutrition for mothers, children and health care workers.

The new training center will be led by an occupational therapist who will create workshops teaching settlers practical and cognitive skills to improve their health and well-being. Health care workers will also receive training. Local Rotarians have committed to attending meetings with workers to



A typical Melusi street.



Community health care workers in front of Phase I of the Rotary Medical Facility.

help evaluate needs and responses.

"This Global Grant Partnership will strengthen the image of Rotary and forever change the social fabric of the community, one household at a time," Mostert said.

The two Edina Rotary clubs contributed \$10,000 to the Melusi projects with District 5950 contributing a matching grant of \$20,000. Additionally, \$25,000 from The Rotary Foundation and a special \$55,000 district donation for maternal health combined for a total global grant of \$110,000.

## Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus:

- ✓ Maternal and Child Health
- ✓ Disease Prevention and Treatment
- ✓ Water and Sanitation
- ✓ Basic Education and Literacy
- ✓ Economic-Community Development
- ✓ Peace and Conflict Resolution



## ARCH KLUMPH TRUSTEE'S CIRCLE

# Meet Ivan Haynes: He greatly respected Rotary

By DG Edwin Bos/District 6250

I'd like to introduce you to a Rotarian I never met. A Rotarian whose story illustrates a greater point.

Ivan Haynes was a member of the Madison East-Monona Rotary Club. He graduated from UW-Madison and spent most of his career at Nelson Industries in Stoughton, Wis., where he rose through the ranks, eventually becoming Chief Financial Officer and a member of the board of directors. He was a member of countless organizations with time left over to be an avid square and round dancer! Ivan was a loving husband to Sandra Risler and proud step-father to five adult children. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 87.

Current Madison East-Monona Rotary Club president Penelope Kochanski says, "When I first came into the presidency, Ivan welcomed me with open arms and helped me with anything he could. He was such a joy and a pleasure to have in our club. He always had a smile on his face."

Longtime fellow Rotarian Jerry Henrich added, "Ivan was a member of our club before I joined, and I've been around for about 30 years! Ivan was very meticulous and always thought through everything he did before he acted. He was the treasurer of our

foundation for many years and only relinquished his duties in the year prior to his passing.

"Although not secretive, Ivan was very protective of his privacy. He did not have an email account and preferred snail mail, the telephone, or best, a private meeting to conduct business. He always tried to attend our meetings until his failing health prevented regular attendance."

Why did I want to introduce you to Ivan? Because I think we sometimes forget how much some of our fellow Rotarians have come to respect Rotary. I imagine Ivan as being very similar to some of the Rotarians in my own club; level headed, conservative with money, sometimes questioning club or district decisions.

Ivan spent decades carefully observing Rotary and with what result?

On Jan. 13 we received word that, through cumulative giving, Ivan Haynes joined the Rotary Foundation's prestigious Arch Klumph Trustee's Circle. His gifts will continue to benefit Rotary and our district for many years to come. I've invited Sandra and Ivan's stepchildren to RotaryFest so that we

can thank them and hear first hand what made Ivan so respect the organization that we are all a part of.



Ivan Haynes

## MCHEMRY COUNTY COALITION

# Club collaboration increases engagement, service

By Jim Wales/Lake in the Hills Rotary/District 6440

When District 6440 District Governor Suzanne Gibson was preparing to take on her role as district governor for Rotary year 2019-20, she made it clear that she was hoping that clubs within the district would increase their collaboration with other clubs, thereby increasing the impact of Rotary as a whole.

This was a spark to brainstorming among various presidents-elect, and at the subsequent PETS, discussion was held by the presidents-elect for the 11 Rotary clubs in McHenry County, Illinois. Why not form a coalition of clubs that were geographically related to each other and oftentimes supporting and working with the same service agencies that serve all the communities in McHenry County?

The goal would be to come together on issues and efforts that mutually benefited all the communities in the county served by the coalition to complement and maximize the impact of the individual clubs.

The idea met was met with great enthusiasm, so on July 1, 2019, the day DG Suzanne officially took on her role, the McHenry County Coalition of Rotary Clubs was officially born.

Meeting monthly, club presidents and presidents-elect met and discussed various opportunities as well as sharing information about club programs and events. The concept quickly evolved into one where it was determined that a mutually combined hands-on-effort of the clubs would be limited to one or two a year. At the same time, the clubs could use the coalition to get information out on programs and events that could benefit from a potential increase of Rotary volunteers

and attendees!

Since the coalition was initiated, participating clubs have seen increased numbers of Rotarians volunteering for events hosted by other Rotary clubs, as well as increased numbers of Rotarians attending events held by other Rotary clubs.

### Identify a common cause

Additionally, the coalition was able to quickly identify a common cause that every club in the county could get behind.

On March 7, 2019, Deputy Jacob Keltner with the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant on a known fugitive. Rotarians from a number of clubs in McHenry County began asking what Rotary could do. With the formation of the coalition, it was quickly determined that clubs could work together to help raise funds for the 100 Club, an organization that assists families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Working together, the coalition initiated planning for a joint countywide fundraiser, an inaugural spaghetti dinner, to be served at four fire stations around for the county. All funds raised from the event, set for April 19, would go to the 100 Club.

This is one of the many benefits of a Rotary Coalition, and even more so an example of how McHenry County Rotary Clubs are expanding their service and outreach in their communities.

*Editor's footnote: The April 19 spaghetti fundraiser was postponed due to COVID-19, but the coalition is moving forward.*



## NEW CLUBS

# Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans is on a mission

By Tom Gump/District 5950

What happens when the first Rotary Club for Veterans in the world is incentivized to create a service project? They do what most veterans would do: lighten the burdens carried by other veterans, their spouses and children.

Within months of its chartering last September, the Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans more than doubled its membership, formed its own foundation, obtained 501(c)(3) recognition for its foundation, secured donors for the foundation, and rallied support from other clubs, from District 5950 and from community members for a project that is destined to become a respite for recovering war heroes.

By late December, this new club formed a relationship with the leadership of Haven for Heroes, identified a service project benefiting Haven for Heroes, and prepared its first grant application to the District 5950 Grant Committee.

How's that for progress?

Haven for Heroes was founded in December of 2018. It is a stand-alone, nonprofit, substance- and alcohol-free board and lodging facility that provides recovery and transitional housing to service members and veterans. Haven has undertaken the daunting challenge of restoring several historical cottages of the former Anoka State Hospital, turning them into residences for veteran men, women and their children.

### Embracing camaraderie

This Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans' project embraces one of the club's core values: camaraderie. Ask any veteran what they miss the most from their deployment, more often than not that veteran will say their "friends" or their "buddies." It's the camaraderie. Once they've returned from deployment, these veterans go back into their communities and long for those relationships of friendship and trust that were formed in faraway places.

When it comes online this year, the third cottage at the Haven, a 25,000-square-foot building, will house 26 to 29 veteran residents and feature a modern recreation room, which will be beautifully restored and outfitted by the Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans' members, donors and other volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans' Recreation Room is designed to become a place where Haven's residents can experience some of that camaraderie during their time of transition. The room will be modernized and pool, foosball and ping-pong tables will be installed along with dart boards, televisions and video games. Of course, a Rotary logo will be painted on the wall.

The Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans would like to thank Haven for Heroes, 5950 District Grants Committee and District Governor Russ Michaletz, the Rotary Clubs of Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Edina /Morningside, the Elks Club of Hopkins and the several vendors that are providing their products and services either for free or significantly reduced cost.

**Brittany Ritchie Sievers (at right) is charter president of the Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans. In a talk at the Zone Institute in Kansas City last September, she said the U.S. Army's core values align with Rotary: Loyalty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. Those wishing to learn more can contact her at [brit\\_ritchie@yahoo.com](mailto:brit_ritchie@yahoo.com).**



**Haven for Heroes provides recovery and transitional housing to service members and veterans.**



Photo by Bill Tubbs



## MEMBERSHIP

# Seven reasons young people should join Rotary

By Ryan Bell/Iowa City

District 6000 Public Image Co-Chair

Ever heard of Rotary? No? That's what I expected! If you have, it was probably from your grandpa and you tuned out after three minutes of hearing about his club's weekly lunch spread. And hey, maybe you were interested until he got so passionate about the salad bar. I get it.

Salad bar aside, Rotary is kind of a big deal. With over 1.2 million members worldwide, it's the biggest service organization on the planet. And if you're a fan of the planet ... well, that's just what Rotary wants to preserve. Through peace. Through service. Through understanding.



Ryan Bell

And—get this—NOT through religious or national affiliation. We don't care what you believe or who you voted for. The way Rotary sees it, the most important thing is that we come together to accomplish some much-needed tasks for a lil' group we like to call humanity.

Rotary efforts have already helped eradicate 99.9 percent of global cases of polio. (Never heard of polio? Thank a Rotarian for your ability to NOT know about this awful disease.) Now, armed

with a massive investment and partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary is poised to take on even more ambitious global projects, including water and sanitation access, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy to name a few areas of focus.

In addition to these large-scale, international projects, Rotary clubs are always working to improve their own communities, too.

So, now that you've actually heard of Rotary, you're probably thinking, "Wait, should I be one of these Rotarians?"

I would never pressure you to do something that will improve your life in every conceivable way, but how about I just tell you the benefits I've personally seen from being involved in Rotary for seven years? And then you can decide on your own that you should absolutely, definitely join.

**1. You'll make local connections.** Rotary can introduce you to other like-minded and wonderfully diverse people from your community. Ultimately, to most of us, this is what it's all about: local friends, local colleagues, clients and contacts. Heck, it's actually why Rotary was started by a group of young professionals in Chicago back in 1905. When it comes to networking and advancing your business, Rotary membership isn't like the fickle, transactional networking and "referral" groups you've likely been encouraged to join. It's authentic and real. With Rotary, if you're willing to put in the effort and give back to your club, I guarantee you will meet people who can open doors for you personally and professionally.

**2. You'll make a global impact.** Two words: Bill. Gates. He and Melinda Gates see the efficiency and effectiveness of the Rotary Foundation. So much so that they partnered with Rotary to commit \$450 million to eradicating polio from this sweet planet we've got here. Once we crush polio once and for all, we're moving on to ensuring everyone on earth has access to clean water. Rotary doesn't mess around.

**3. You'll see your work pay off locally.** Sure, the whole "saving the world" thing is cool, but if you're wanting to make a

**'I would never pressure you to do something that will improve your life in every conceivable way, but how about I just tell you the benefits I've personally seen from being involved in Rotary for seven years? And then you can decide on your own that you should absolutely, definitely join.'**

difference a little closer to home, don't worry, Rotary does that, too! We tackle every local project we can. We are a funding source (through a grant program), a volunteer source (because we're awesome like that) and we even come up with our own initiatives, like in 2018 when we planted over 1.2 million trees (controversial opinion alert!!! Fresh air is awesome!).

**4. You can inspire the next generation.** We have amazing youth programs to get high schoolers involved in service and leadership, and being involved in Rotary is life-changing for these kids! Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and World Affairs are programs that fuel and shape the potential for greatness that's already within them. The kids coming out of these programs are fired up about making the world a more peaceful, loving place — and have the contacts, plans and direction to make it happen.

**5. ... and spend time with the Greatest Generation.** Sure, Rotary has a bit of a reputation for skewing older, and hey, there's some truth there. But there is also a ton of great experience and perspective to be gained from the Greatest and Boomer generations. Trust me ... Rotary has all of the stories and great folks willing to tell them.

**6. You'll get inspired.** No matter what your motive is in considering Rotary, the meetings you attend will likely include a guest speaker or performance. I've seen programs including amazing singers, legitimately awesome circus clowns, environmentalists, coaches — you name it. There's no telling what you might see at a Rotary meeting, but you will get a quality presentation about something that matters to a bunch of people in your town. Isn't that enough?

**7. You'll put your energy where it's really needed.** Here's (perhaps) the best part of getting involved in Rotary: these clubs freakin' need you like crazy! We need leaders from every community in the world to join Rotary and amplify our impact. Also, insider tip: if you're under 40, some of the club's traditions might make you feel like you're experiencing a throwback to another time — in a good way. There could be singing. There could be a public display of giving "Happy Bucks." There could be a moment of silence for one our own that's left this sweet world. But no matter what, it will be a real, genuine human experience. And you'll be better for having been there. I promise.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** *Ryan Bell has been a Rotary member for seven years, and he will tell you about the salad bar if you really want to know. He is the owner of Locals Love Us Iowa City. His great passions include community-building, Pearl Jam and Iowa whiskey.*

## HELP AVAILABLE

# New club development key to reverse member decline

By Tom Gump/District 5950

Rotary International (RI) has a membership problem. RI Membership has been at approximately 1.2 million for 24 years now. For the first time in RI history, North America has fallen below 30 percent of total RI membership.

Current membership trends put North America RI membership at zero members by 2050.

To address this issue, Rotary International (RI) President Mark Maloney, with the help of our North American RI Directors and RI Membership Staff (led by Brian King), came up with a solution – we have to form new innovative clubs and this should be done in areas where clubs already exist.

Our experience in Zone 29 indicates that President Maloney, our directors and RI staff are right.

In Zone 29 this year, out of the 16 districts in our Zone, we have only two districts with positive growth. One of those districts, District 5950, has grown from 2,709 to 2,752, which translates to a net growth of 43 members. During that time, this district added one new innovative club, the Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans, which has 50 members. Without this new club, this district would have been in the same position as the majority of districts in Zone 29 – losing membership again.

Last year, this district also had positive growth. How? It has started an Eco-club last year.

## New club development

For the solution to be implemented, President Maloney, this past January, held the first ever “New Club Development Summit” (Summit). Nineteen proven leaders from around North America were chosen to attend the Summit. At the Summit, these leaders:

- Reviewed the various club models** and membership types;
- Reviewed and discussed** “New Club Development Case Studies” that were based on real life scenarios that RI Staff sees regularly;

- Participated in facilitations** conducted by RI Staff that lead to the germination of many new ideas of new and innovative clubs that we can form here in Zone 29 and across North America; and

- Shared their personal experiences** in forming new clubs;
- Discussed best practices**, opportunities and resource needs, and set goals for an accelerated focus on establishing new club models in their respective Zones.

## 'Innovative Club Advocates'

Now with the knowledge they gained at the Summit, these Rotarians, now referred to as “Innovative Club Advocates” (Advocates), are charged with starting new clubs in their respective areas. Our Zone 29 Advocates are:

**Tom Gump** (who can be reached at tagump@gmail.com); and **Dean Dickinson** (who can be reached at logan63@aol.com).

The Advocates report directly to Larry Dimmitt, our RI Zone 29 Director, and Suzi Howe, our 2020-22 Director.

Dean and Tom decided to divide up the Zone 29 districts so that we each know which districts they should be focusing on.

**Tom's Districts are:** 5580, 5610, 5630, 5650, 5950, 5960, 5970 and 6000.

**Dean's Districts are:** 5680, 5710, 6220, 6250, 6270, 6420, 6440 and 6450.



Contact us, we can help.



## NCPETS in Rochester

**NCPETS March 12-14 in Rochester, Minn., was one of the last in-person Rotary meetings before shelter-in-place orders for COVID-19 were implemented. During the 2-1/2 days at Rochester, the 275 attendees (of 350 who registered) from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota observed social distancing as they watched the stock market tumble and learned of the cancellations of the NCAA Tournaments, Major League Baseball, church services and Rotary club meetings back home. Keynote speaker RI Director-Elect Suzi Howe (c) was greeted here by NCPETS chair Tim Murphy (I) and District 5950 DGE Tom Gump.**

Photos by Bill Tubbs

**Rotary Opens Opportunities**

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*“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”*

**INCREASE  
OUR  
IMPACT**

**INCREASE  
OUR  
ABILITY  
TO ADAPT**

**ENHANCE  
PARTICIPANT  
ENGAGEMENT**

**EXPAND  
OUR  
REACH**







## END HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# Charter members wanted for 'trafficking' club

By Tom Gump and Karen Walkowski/District 5950

Three years ago, District 5950, in partnership with District 5960, started a Rotary Initiative to End Human Trafficking. This initiative continues to gain momentum and influence in local communities, thanks to clubs that have made the issue a priority in their community. In 2018, District 5580 joined the effort.

As we seek to increase the influence of this important initiative and develop a sustainable solution (a hallmark of any Rotary Initiative) it has been determined that the most effective solution is to start a cause-based club focused on Ending Human Trafficking. Thanks to the leadership of the current districts, we are already seeing increased interest from other clubs within Zone 29.

We are in the process of chartering a new club. We are looking for 20 members to charter it. However, we want to clarify a few things:

**We are not asking anyone** to leave their current club. Instead, we are asking you to think of people in your own network. Maybe those who you have tried to recruit to your club; but, they didn't want to join a traditional club or people in your network who are interested in helping to end human trafficking, but have not been interested in joining a traditional Rotary club.

**This club is meant to be supplemental** to the model that has been developed to support local clubs in supporting organizations and projects that focus on ending Human Trafficking.

With this in mind, here are a few details about the new club:  
**The club will be an e-club** with meetings conducted via webinar/conference call/online.

**We will host meetings two times a month.** Specific days and time will be determined based on the availability of the members.

**District 5950 will be underwriting** all the dues of the charter members for the first year, so for the first year, there will be no dues. After that, we anticipate the costs to be somewhere between \$200 and \$300 per person, per year.

**While District 5950** will be the host District, the club is open to anyone, regardless of where they live or work.

**We need 20 people** in order to charter a new club. We are hoping to be able to do this in the next couple of months.

If you are interested in this new club, please contact Karen Walkowski at [kwalkow59@gmail.com](mailto:kwalkow59@gmail.com) and she will contact you directly.

We are so excited about the opportunities this new club will bring and are already seeing the influence it is having. We look forward to seeing names of your friends and colleagues who want to join us!

*Thomas A. Gump is the District 5950 Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking advisor, and Karen Walkowski is the District 5950 Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking president.*



District 6000 DGN Alka Khanolkar of Keokuk, with Ames, Iowa, Rotarian George Belitsos, represented Rotary District 6000 at Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' proclamation signing declaring January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month.

## Rotarians join the fight against trafficking

By George Belitsos/Ames/District 6000

The Network Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) is a non-profit organization, totally dependent on donations. The NAHT receives no state or federal funding. In 2019, the Network's largest single donation came from the Rotary Clubs of **Iowa City** and **West Liberty**. They not only carried out trafficking awareness 2019 projects, but also raised money to support the printing of Network anti-trafficking educational materials and Rescue Stickers. Nearly 10,000 Rescue Stickers have been distributed and posted in public restrooms by volunteers in Iowa.

Rotarians are joining the fight against trafficking, not only here in Iowa, but across the USA and around the globe.

Local anti-trafficking prevention and survivor service organizations are encouraged to contact their local Rotary club with project ideas and requests for assistance. One great example of this is a request made by Dorothy's House in Des Moines.

The **Rotary Club of Des Moines** responded by awarding its annual community service grant for \$40,000 to Dorothy's House, a safe place for teen and youth girls whose lives have been severely damaged by sex trafficking and exploitation.

For more information or project ideas, contact Iowa's representative to the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, George Belitsos at [gbelitsos55@gmail.com](mailto:gbelitsos55@gmail.com) or go to the RAGAS website <https://ragas.online/>. If you would be interested in a twice monthly update about trafficking events, training, resources, arrests and convictions, please click here to subscribe to the NAHT blog produced by George Belitsos.



# Zone 25A Rotarians and Districts 'Paint the Zone'

**CELEBRATE IN THE AREA  
THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF ROTARY**



TIT

## PANAMA



## SALVADOR



## COSTA RICA



## NICARAGUA



Volunteers lightened and brightened murals and landscapes in all of the countries.

These photos and more provided by Sonia Uribe Lopez, RPIC from Zone 25A.