

WEEK 47 FOUNDATION MINUTE – ROTARIANS AS PEACEMAKERS

A familiar Rotary tradition is the singing of a well-known song at the end of significant Rotary gatherings – whether District Conferences, Foundation Dinners, or Rotary International Conventions. Rotarians join hands and raise their voices together to sing “Let there be Peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution is one of Rotary’s Areas of Focus – The Rotary Foundation funds Peace Fellowships each year to train future global peacemakers.

At this time of turmoil it is appropriate to consider who we are as Rotarians – People of Action who live by the Four Way Test. Perhaps it might be appropriate to add a song to our gatherings for a while, to remind ourselves how we can “let peace begin with me” in our local communities. See the words below.

*Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!*