



Hello All,

As your District Governor I view this opportunity as a challenge for me and for you to take any and all steps required to make us better Rotarians and better Community Ambassadors. I believe as a result of this effort by all of us we will honestly be "changed" as a result of this Rotary year to "Serve To Change Lives"!

Well, we have made it through the first fifteen days and we have started to make our year together more adaptive and beneficial to the communities that we serve. As I have mentioned before, we have moved away from our previous association with the North East President Elect Training Session and will host our first independent President & Officer Elect Training Sessions (POETS) in the spring of 2022. This is going to create great opportunities to network with like-minded individuals and make significant strides in reducing the time and cost burdens for our District 7870 Clubs.

We have also rolled out District 7870's first digital handbook & directory that has live links to allow the use of your smart device to email or call other District 7870 Club leaders. This will have a positive impact on reducing waste and saving money. I wanted to thank my Handbook team for all the efforts to bring this Handbook to reality. This has been in process over the last two Rotary years.

Immediate Past District Governor Steve and Past District Governor Nancy have done a great job setting up our District Governor track to make significant strides in improving the visibility of our District 7870 in the eyes of Rotary International. These two Governors' projects have helped make us more aware of the food insecurity that exists in both Southern Vermont and Southern New Hampshire. In addition, we have experienced increased Rotary International Foundation giving by District 7870 Rotarians, which has been acknowledged and noted on many levels at the Rotary headquarters in Evanston, IL.

The Pandemic truly led Rotary to adapt more quickly than previously thought possible. As result, we have all been forced to become comfortable with gains in technology that are with us and will become the foundation for further advancement. There are three fundamental paths I wish to pursue. First is making a lasting connection between all our current (and future) Clubs from all four corners our District. Yes, I did say future Club!!! The second is that we engage our younger generations to become part of the Rotary Culture and making Rotaract, Interact and Earlyact an expanding part of our District. Third is that we maintain a safe community for all to be themselves and to grow and learn from each other. This last item is not easy, but we need to put forth the effort to open our hearts, our minds, and our ears to truly come together as a more understanding community for both Rotarians and non-Rotarians.

Leadership in District 7870 is intentionally not a one-person-task. I am honored to say that we have a fantastic leadership team who will do its best to always be available to assist clubs to become even more efficient and successful in the year ahead. We have an Assistant Governor Team that will become partners with their area Clubs in hopes to consistently improve communication, growth, and FUN. Our District was already cutting-edge in so many ways: in the creation of impactful Zoom meetings, promoting women in leadership positions, as well as a focus on creating satellite clubs and other nontraditional Rotary Clubs, just to name a few.

The Rotary Year 2020-2021 was different, due to the challenges we all faced during the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The lessons learned and the continued health risks world-wide will force me and our District Team to continue to re-evaluate our actions and decisions.

Please support me in the understanding that we are here, to "Serve To Change Lives". I promise you that your District Team is ready, willing, and able to move us forward. Please join me during this upcoming Rotary year to work toward growth and becoming a better Rotarian!