

CONNECT WITH THE (ONLINE) ROTARY WORLD FAQ's

Resources & Best Practices



More than 800 questions were submitted in advance of the webinar about online meetings. We have compiled a list of eleven frequently asked questions, along with some resources and best practices. The list may be updated periodically.

1. Where can we go to get support and learn more about convening online meetings?

- Many districts around the world have an e-club. Reach out to [these clubs](#) for help getting online quickly.
- The Rotary Club of Mt Lawley (W.A) has produced a list of [Clubs in the World](#) willing to share their meetings with other Rotarians.
- Rotary staff and Rotarians are posting additional ideas on the "[Online Meetings](#)" learning topic in the learning center (My Rotary login required).

2. How is Rotary International supporting members?

- Rotary International is [continuously assessing](#) the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and members.
- Rotary is [collecting and sharing](#) the incredible work being by members around the world.
- Rotary's [disaster response grants](#) provide a fast and effective way to respond to local events. The Rotary Foundation recently added COVID-19 projects to its list of eligible activities for these grants.

3. How are Rotarians engaging in virtual service projects?

- [Members use ingenuity](#), flexibility to help people affected by coronavirus and to stay connected.
- Clubs are posting current projects on [Rotary Showcase](#).
- Many clubs are using their networks and position within their communities [make a difference](#).

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4. How do we attract new members right now?

- Make sure that your [club website](#) and social media are up to date with the correct meeting dates and times.
- Invite prospective members to virtual meetings and events.
- [New member inductions](#) can be conducted virtually and then shared widely. Use this [new video](#) from RI President Mark Maloney!
- Check for any [new or existing candidates](#) who have submitted filled out a “join” form at Rotary.org/join (My Rotary login required).

5. How do we engage members who are unwilling or unable to join virtual meetings?

- Some clubs and districts are appointing a “[Virtual Meeting Coordinator](#)” who manages meetings and trains those who need help.
- Offer one on one tech sessions and [simple resources](#).
- Produce engaging club bulletins, newsletters, and other content that can be accessed at any time.
- Phone calls (it’s okay for participants to have an “audio only” presence on virtual meetings!)

6. How can we address security concerns via online meetings (“Zoombombing,” etc)?

- [Zoom](#), and all online platforms, are working to make improvements to the security offered.
- The fee-based subscription of Zoom has more security features and functionality than the free version.
- Rotary and Rotaract members get a [discount on Zoom through Rotary Global Rewards](#).

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7. Do we have to/should we amend our club bylaws to make online meetings official?

- [Online meetings are real meetings](#). Clubs can meet in person, online, or a combination, including letting some members attend in-person meetings through the Internet.
- It's not necessary for clubs to update bylaws to meet online or temporarily change the regular meeting day and time during COVID-19.
- If changing the meeting day and time becomes permanent, clubs should [update bylaws accordingly](#).

8. How do we make online meetings [engaging, inclusive, and meaningful](#)?

- Start each meeting by reviewing the “norms” of the call (stay muted when not talking, raise your hand to speak, use the chat pane, etc.)
- Consider the [needs of your members](#), and how to get the most out of your time.
- Speak and listen with kindness.
- Solicit feedback from everyone about how online meetings are going and make adjustments accordingly.

9. Would an [online meeting](#) have to follow the same agenda as a traditional meeting?

- No, but stay true to your unique club culture, even online (formal versus informal, etc).
- Keep in mind that talking and singing in unison is nearly impossible online—assign one person to take each role and make sure the agenda is clear.
- Consider adding an option for people to stay online and connect informally after each meeting.

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10. Where do we find good speakers/speeches/programming?

- Rely on the [expertise of your community](#) and club members—use this opportunity to be topical and embrace the current situation.
- Watch membership speeches from recent Rotary events in the new [Club Programming collection](#) on Vimeo.
- Discover the professional and personal development opportunities in the [Learning Center](#) (My Rotary login required).

11. What are some best practices for virtual fundraising?

- If your event or initiative aims to raise money for The Rotary Foundation, its best to send donors directly to [Rotary.org](#) so they get personal credit and corresponding recognition, where applicable.
- Make sure donors know what entity their donations will support. For example, if raising funds for a local food bank through your club fundraiser, make it very clear that ultimately donations will go to the foodbank (not to your club).
- Other sites such as Facebook, GoFundMe, etc., may help clubs raise money for various purposes, but donations via these channels intended for The Rotary Foundation will not be credited to individual donors.