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Rotarians and Divisiveness

Today we live in a country where we are continually bombarded with language that is racially, ethnically and homophobically insensitive. We hear it on the daily news and on social media like Facebook and Twitter, from the public and our politicians to the point where we are being desensitized and becoming numb to its affects. And while I don't hear this from Rotarians, nor do I expect to, I think that Rotarians have their own divisive language that is so subtle we don't realize that what we are saying can cause bad feelings.

I became a little more sensitized at PETS this year when a young African-American man stood up and said he didn't feel comfortable being there because he looked different. He didn't feel comfortable with the way he was perceived by other Rotarians. While I don't necessarily agree with the approach he took in his declaration, I do think he was incredibly brave and it did generate a lot of good discussion. This made me think about some of the language we use as Rotarians, which brings me to my point.

We as Rotarians spend a lot of energy saying how we need to recruit younger members, and yet we label them as "Millennials". Then we spend our time talking about how different they are and how we need to learn to "deal" with them. Is any of this discussion really helpful? Does it build goodwill and better friendships?

We also talk about Rotary as being traditionally "old white men". I was surprised to hear an older gentleman say to another Rotarian how good it felt to feel needed. Does calling our senior Rotarians "old white men" really make them feel necessary to our organization? Is it fair to all concerned?

My point is this, **WORDS MATTER**. It's time that we all become more sensitive of the feelings of those around us. We need to stop putting people in boxes. We are all fellow Rotarians with a heart for service. "Be the Inspiration" in your club. When you hear talk like that, be willing to step up and say that it is inappropriate. Let's be welcoming and make sure that everyone feels comfortable in Rotary.



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Chuck

District 5440 Conference

2019 District 5440 Conference May 16th through 18th Scottsbluff-Gering, Nebraska Imagine the Possibilities!

Free Time Fun!

- Golf
- Shooting Range
- Scotts Bluff Nat'l Monument
- Nature Center
- Museum

Connect with
Rotary Youth

Bid & Win at
Silent Auction

Hear
Inspirational
Speakers

Win Big at
Casino
Night

Exchange
Ideas at
World Cafe

Participate in
Community
Projects

[REGISTRATION WEBSITE LINK](#)

Estes Park Rotary Club

Estes Park Duck Race Festival

by Rita DuChateau



Ducks Away! Join the fun on Saturday, May 4, 2019 in Estes Park for the 31st annual Estes Park Rotary Duck Race Festival. “Adopt” a little yellow plastic swimmer for \$20 (\$22 online) and watch the flock “swim” to the finish line. The fun happens along the Fall River, beginning at Nicky’s Steakhouse where thousands of ducks will hit the water at 1 p.m. The finish line is in downtown Estes Park, in George Hix Memorial Riverside Plaza. Each adoption will support an Estes Valley participating organization that you select. Adopt online at epduckrace.org, or in person from any participating organization right up until noon on race day in Estes Park. Each duck you adopt gives you a chance at winning one of hundreds of prizes, including major travel and cash awards. You do not need to be present to win a prize, but you will want to be there for a day of music, food and feathered fun between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. See epduckrace.org for a full schedule and to adopt your own duck.

The Rotarian Magazine



The Rotarian, of course, is the official magazine of Rotary International. All Rotarians get the monthly issue as part of their membership dues. But, did you know that you can subscribe to **The Rotarian's digital edition** for an electronic version of the magazine?

If you are a Rotary member who subscribes to **The Rotarian** and would like to change your print subscription to digital, please click on this link [HERE](#) to complete the form. You can also keep your print subscription and also get the digital version by contacting data@rotary.org.



Speaking of **The Rotarian**, did you know that you could browse past issues of **The Rotarian**? Even as early as 1911! Click [HERE](#).



Upcoming District Events

- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2019](#)

Gering Civic Center

May 16, 2019, 3:00 PM - May 18, 2019, 9:00 PM



- [Rotary International Convention](#)

June 1-5, 2019 Hamburg, Germany



- [Rotary Zone Institute](#)

Sept. 5, 2019, 8:00 AM – Sept. 8, 2019, 12:00 PM
Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel

- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2020](#)

May 28, 2020 – May 30, 2020

- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2021](#)

May 20, 2021 5:00 PM – May 22, 2021 9:00 PM



Service Above Self

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chuck Rutenberg

