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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

A Time to be Thankful

Whether for you it's Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa or just a season of celebration, this is a time for all of us to take the time with our families to reflect on our blessings and be thankful for all we have.

As I've traveled around the District this year, I see Rotarians who recognize the blessings they possess, including their families, faith, friendships and their ability to give back to their communities in an effort to improve everyone's lives. We must never forget those who are less fortunate, and this is a wonderful time to reach out and extend a hand of friendship and support to

those around us.

I learned a hard lesson several years ago when a close friend, a Rotarian in my own club, appearing to have everything a person could want, turned out to be in desperate need for help. Instead of talking to his friends and family, he went home and on a quiet weekend ended his life. Sometimes we forget that those closest to us may be in need and putting up a good front so that no one knows their pain. We need to stop and make sure that our friends and family are truly safe and can reach out to each and everyone of us if need be. Certainly, anyone feeling alone and depressed should reach out and talk to someone. And if you find you're in that position and have no one to talk to, I am always available.

I want to thank everyone in our District who, during my visits to their club and their community, made me feel more than welcomed. You are a wonderful District filled with amazing Rotarians.

From my family to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe holiday season.



Chuck Rutenberg
District Governor 2018-2019
Rotary District 5440
Cell (970) 219-1368
E-mail: chuck_rotary@hotmail.com



District 5440 Proposal Promoting Women accepted

The District 5440 proposal promoting women accepted by the worldwide RI Council on Resolutions

by PDG Bill Emslie, Fort Collins After Work Rotary Club

District 5440's proposal requesting the RI Board support a resolution promoting women in Rotary (18R-30) was adopted by two-thirds of Rotary districts world-wide according to PDG Mike Forney, District 5440 representative to the Rotary Council on Legislation.

Rotary peace scholar Cornelia Weiss urged district action on the proposal during her presentation at the 2018 district conference in Estes Park. "We worked with Cornelia and others in the district to craft the proposal in language that captured the essence of Cornelia's concerns while fitting the format required for consideration by the Council," Bill Emslie, 2017-18 District Governor said. Emslie noted that the resolution received strong endorsements from the district's Rotary clubs.

The resolution asked the Rotary board of directors to "consider taking steps to galvanize all of Rotary's efforts to achieve equal participation and leadership by women in all Rotary programs, initiatives, leadership and membership." The effect of these actions would, according to the district, "achieve gender equality and balance for women in Rotary."

The resolution included a series of proactive actions, including:

- A call to every Rotary club to create a membership recruitment and retention plan that would increase the percentage of women in their clubs;
- Use of RI's publications, leadership training and communications to note that women's participation not only increases membership but also enhances our overall mission in each of the Five Avenues of Service;
- Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Council of Legislation decision opening worldwide Rotary membership to women.

Delegates from about 500 Rotary districts voted electronically on 55 separate resolutions this year. District 5440's resolution captured 322 positive votes, or about 66% of those cast.

Two other resolutions impacting women were also approved. The first (18-R-31) urged RI to increase opportunities for women, young leaders and people of different races and ethnicities to serve in district, zone and RI leadership positions. The second (18R-32) called for expanding RI's regulations regarding sexual abuse and harassment.

About half of the resolutions submitted were adopted in this voting cycle. Those that were approved and forwarded to the RI Board for consideration also included:

- A manual outlining the proper method to enter data on Rotary Club Central (18R-06);
- Official recognition of a district internet communications officer (18R-15);

Continued on next page

District 5440 Proposal Promoting Women Accepted (Continued)

- Emphasizing vocational service in the business or profession of Rotarians (18R-17);
- Environmental protection as an area of focus (18R-41);
- Allow funding of Rotaractors in peace and conflict resolution/prevention (18R-45);
- Increase the amount and change the distribution of district designated funds for district and global grants (18R-47 & 48);

In addition to the annual Council on Resolutions, 535 district representatives from around the world meet in person for 4-5 days every three years at the Council on Legislation. They will convene again the week of April 14th, 2019 at RI Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois to debate and vote on 116 separate legislative enactments submitted for action by clubs, districts, the RI General Council or the RI Board. (A proposed enactment seeks to amend the RI governing documents including the RI Constitution, the RI Bylaws and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.)

Past District Governor Mike Forney was elected by Rotarians attending the 2017 District Conference in Casper. You can reach him at 970-846-3042 or forneyrotary5440@hotmail.com for any questions or comments you have about the resolutions or upcoming proposed enactments.

The full report on the 2018 resolutions, including the one submitted by District 5440, and the 116 enactments under consideration at the Council on Legislation next April are also available in the Site Pages – Council on Legislation on the District website (www.rotary5440.org).



PDG Bill Emslie with Rotary Peace Scholar Cornelia Weiss. Cornelia challenged District 5440 to enhance Rotary International policy to improve the gender balance in Rotary and to work for gender equality as a requisite for world peace.

Rotarians' Focus on Peace is Growing

On 1 July 2017, trustees of The Rotary Foundation approved a ground-breaking initiative to raise support for Rotary's peace-related activities. It is called the Peace Major Gifts Initiative (MGI) action plan.

In addition to the Rotary Peace Centers, the Peace MGI seeks endowed and directed gifts and commitments for global grants in the Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Area of Focus.

It will also raise support for new peace-related programs and partnerships that have been approved by the Trustees.

Outright and bequest contributions will be sought for visionary projects that further Rotary's mission as it relates to peace, such as the Rotary Peace Symposia held in various locations around the world. Finally, the expansion and refreshment of the Rotary Peace Centers and related activities create an opportunity to engage and re-engage some of Rotary's most generous donors.

Zone 21b/27 Rotary Director Larry Dimmitt gave this initiative a major boost in connection with the 2018 Zone Institute in Boise Idaho. Director Dimmitt approved collecting data from institute attendees regarding their interest in the respective Areas of Focus. Over fifty of the institute attendees selected Peace as their primary area of interest.

"By knowing peace is their major interest, district and zone leaders can engage Rotarians more productively" said PDG Martin Limbird, a member of the Peace MGI committee and the Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Colorado. "I welcome invitations to meet with interested Rotarians individually or for club and district events".

For further information, contact Limbird at rotarymartin@comcast.net or by phone to 765-744-9137.



Rotary Club of Cheyenne After Hours

Interactors Making a Difference!

by Dr. Michelle Aldrich, Cheyenne After Hours Club President

On Saturday, October 6th, Triumph and Central High School Interactors gathered at the local Cheyenne Farmer's Market to help collect and load produce donated by Joe Miller of Miller Farms of Platteville, CO. Each Saturday from August to October, local organizations join the Cheyenne Rotary After Hours Club in collecting the donated produce and delivering it to the Cheyenne VA Hospital for veterans and their families to select on Monday morning at no charge! This is the 3rd year of this community service activity that has grown to include over 100 community members who work with the Cheyenne Rotary After Hours members over the 10 weeks of the market.



Triumph Interactors, Jackie Soto-Cruz and Haley Clement, helping to load the Miller Farm Semi Trailer following the Cheyenne Farmer's Market on Saturday, October 6.



Triumph and Central High School Interactors with Colorado Producer, Joe Miller of Miller Farms on the final day of the Cheyenne Farmer's Market.



The trailer provided by the Cheyenne Rotary Clubs that is commonly seen throughout the community for community service and catering events by Triumph High School.

Upcoming District Events

- [Nominating Committee Interviews for DGND](#)

Jan 12, 2019

- [President Elect Training Seminar \(PETS\)](#)

Denver Renaissance Stapleton Hotel

Mar 01, 2019 4:00 PM –

Mar 03, 2019 12:00 PM

- [Spring District Assembly](#)

Laramie County Community College

Apr 06, 2019

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- [District 5440 3rd Annual Foundation Dinner](#)

Laramie County Community College

Apr 06, 2019

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

May 16, 2019 – May 18, 2019

- [Rotary International Convention](#)

June 1-5, 2019 Hamburg, Germany



- [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

Check out the District 5440 Website! <https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chuck Rutenberg

