

16 April 2021

A roundup of Rotary news



Eco-friendly service projects help environment

Through the years, Rotary has carried out thousands of projects to protect the environment. In just the last five years, we've allocated \$18 million to projects that help our planet. Members have even more opportunities to focus on issues that are important to them, now that the environment is one of the causes we focus on. Read how [Rotary members are already supporting the environment](#).

This week's stories

Champions of Health

Rotary honored six members as People of Action: Champions of Health on World Health Day 7 April, in recognition of their work to improve the foundation of good health at home and across the globe. The work of these members proved especially important and challenging due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)



Two clubs from one innovative idea

Yvonne Kumoji, 2020-21 governor of District 9102 (Benin, Ghana, Niger and Togo), partnered with her counterpart in Toastmasters to create two news clubs, one for each organization. The success of her effort has opened up her approach to seeking new members, by contacting other organizations and associations, such as engineers, insurers, and environmentalists, who share some values with Rotary. [Read more](#)



Accountability and inclusion

Join us on 29 April, at 11:00 a.m. (Chicago time) for the fourth webinar in our accountability and inclusion series, Building Strong Intergenerational Relationships.

[Register now](#)

Raise for Rotary

Start a Raise for Rotary fundraiser for World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, to help reach every child with the polio vaccine.

[Learn more](#)



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April 2021

Engaging the next generation of Rotary leaders



Congratulations to the top projects in the Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards!

This year, 675 projects were nominated for the Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards. Congratulations to the six regional and two international projects that received top honors for their innovation, sustainability, and collaboration!

We're announcing one awardee every day on the [Rotaract Facebook page](#)! Learn more about this year's awardees and get inspired for your future projects.

LEARN MORE >

Taking Action

May is Rotary's Youth Service Month

Throughout the month of May, Rotarians and younger members of the Rotary family, including Interactors and RYLA and Rotary Youth Exchange participants, celebrate the service, development, connections, and fun of Rotary's programs for young leaders.

[Check out these ideas](#) to celebrate during COVID-19.

**YOUTH
SERVICE
MONTH**

[READ MORE >](#)

Design a virtual exchange program

We live in a hyper-connected world that is made possible through technology. In seconds, students can access information or connect with someone anywhere in the world. But, while this highly valuable information and connections are within reach online, fostering deep cross-cultural understanding requires structure, intentionality, and direct, facilitated interaction between students and representatives of another culture.



Watch the recorded webinar to learn more about shaping the framework of your virtual exchange program.

[WATCH THE WEBINAR >](#)

Creating an Adaptive RYLA program

"You might have heard a lot about "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" in Rotary. And you might not immediately think about RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) when you think of DEI, but let me share a uniquely adaptive activity through RYLA.



District 5450's **RYLA *plus*** is specifically for teenagers who have physical disabilities. RYLA *plus* organizers partner with Easterseals Colorado to host this unique RYLA program at an ADA-compliant camp facility with trained medical and counselor staffing to support campers' special needs. Their parents often ask, "What did you do to my child in one week?" and then beam with pride over the positive changes they now see in their teenagers."

Read more about creating an adaptive RYLA program from Karen Loeb, District 5450, a runner-up in this year's Leaders in RYLA Awards.

[READ MORE >](#)[Resources & Events](#)[RESOURCES](#)

Interact Guide for Rotary Club Sponsors and Advisers

[Rotaract Handbook](#)

[RYLA Handbook](#)

[District Rotaract Committee
Course](#)

[How to access the Worldwide
Rotaract Directory](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: This list is informational only and does not constitute an endorsement of any event. Please contact event organizers for details.

14-16 May 2021

Rotary International Presidential
Conference

United States, virtual

11-12 June 2021

Rotaract Preconvention
Virtual

12-16 June 2021

Rotary International Convention
Virtual

Do you have an upcoming event to add to this list? Email us at

newgenerations@rotary.org.



Share this newsletter on Facebook.

Subscribe to this newsletter.

Young Leaders in Action is a monthly source of news, resources, and event information for young leaders in Rotaract, Interact, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program, and New Generations Service Exchange and Rotarians who support them.

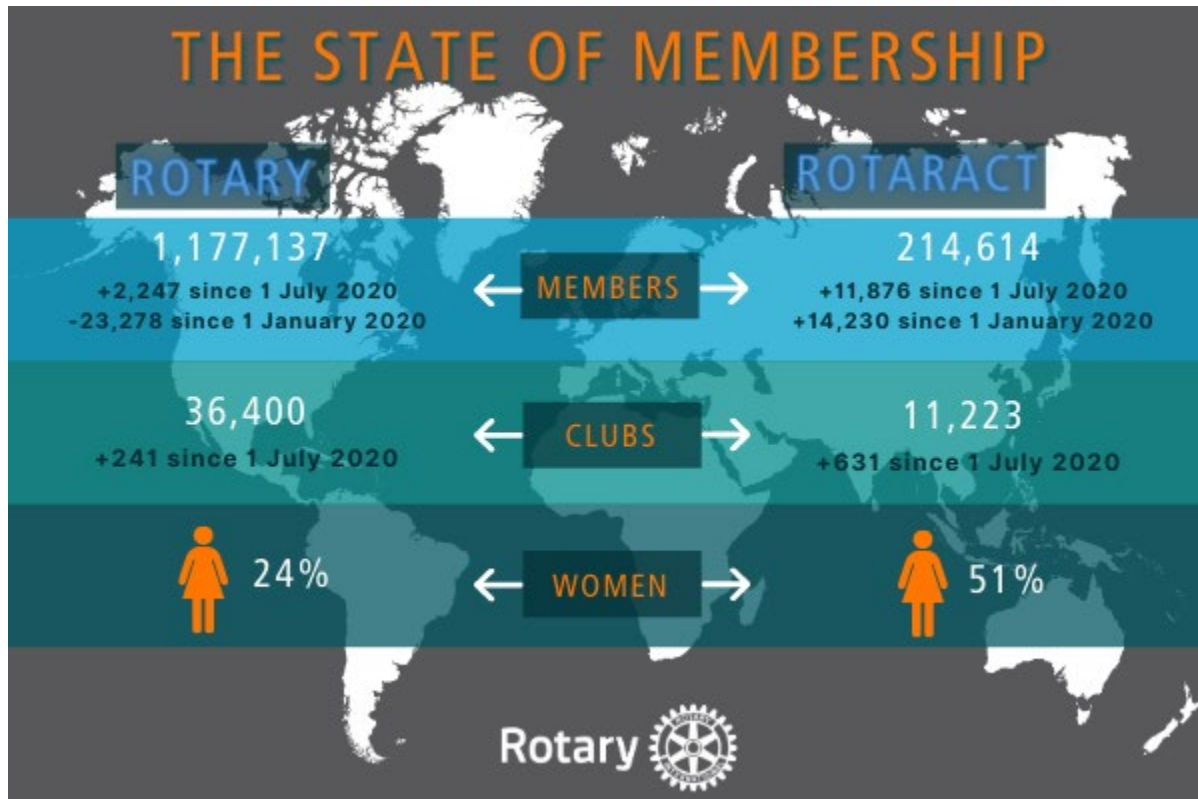
Send questions and story ideas to newgenerations@rotary.org.

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Ideas for strengthening membership



Understanding Rotary members' needs — the key to engaged members

What do members want from their Rotary experience? And why do some members leave? Our research shows that members value local community service, friendship, and fellowship most. They cite time and cost, the club environment, and unmet expectations as reasons for leaving.

The key to engaging members is providing an experience that meets their needs and expectations. Learn more in the newly revised presentation **The State of Rotary Membership**, which contains membership data and trends for the first half of the 2020-21 Rotary year. In it, you'll also find ways to address membership challenges so you can finish the year strong. The 12-slide PowerPoint presentation can easily be customized to meet your region's needs. Consider showing it at your next meeting or event.

Celebrate people of action with Rotary's Service Awards

Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation offer several awards to recognize members, nonmembers, alumni, and Rotary clubs for their contributions and impact. The new [Rotary's Service Awards reference sheet](#) lists the many Rotary awards and includes information about nominations, eligibility criteria, and due dates, as well as images of the awards. Write to riawards@rotary.org if you have questions.

Make friends around the world

Rotary Fellowships allow us to build community with fellow Rotary members and friends around shared professions, hobbies and recreational interests, and identities. From motorcycling to bees, ethics to gourmet cooking, Rotary's more than 90 international fellowships offer ways to explore and enjoy what interests you. Some of the newest ones are:

- [Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation](#)
- [Rotary Fellowship of Palmwine](#)
- [Rotary Fellowship of Graphic Designers](#)

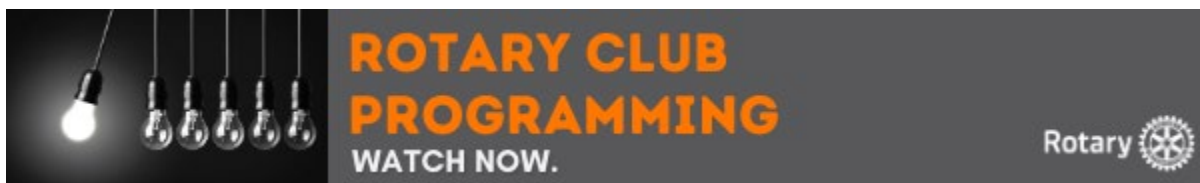
For a full list of fellowships or information on how to start your own, see the [Rotary Fellowships page](#) on My Rotary.

Accountability and inclusion webinar: Building Strong Intergenerational Relationships

Join us Thursday, 29 April, at 11:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) for the fourth webinar in our accountability and inclusion series, Building Strong Intergenerational Relationships.

Generational diversity is one of Rotary's competitive advantages. Few organizations span generations and build personal connections the way we do. Yet we also can find ourselves segmented by age groups and unable or unwilling to challenge our biases about people of other ages. According to [a study by consulting network Deloitte](#), 70% of survey respondents from around the world say that leading multigenerational organizations is important or very important for their success over the next 12 to 18 months, but only 10% say they're very ready to do so.

In this webinar, we'll hear from several Rotary program participants who have built strong intergenerational relationships. [Register now](#) and submit your questions to our experts. A recording of the session will be available to everyone who registers.



Chin refugees from Myanmar charter a club in Indiana

Nearly 20,000 Chin people live on the south side of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in one of the largest concentrations of Chin outside of Myanmar. [Find out](#) how the Rotary Club of Southport International was created to attract members of the Chin community and why it's worth working to bridge cultural barriers and expand our reach.

Innovative effort sparks formation of two new clubs

After attending a Toastmasters event, District Governor Yvonne Kumoji-Darko thought of hosting informational sessions for Toastmasters and Rotary members in her district so members of each organization could learn more about the other. [Read how](#) two new clubs have formed because of this idea.

More from our blog

- [My best day as a vaccination volunteer](#)
- [Why our e-club is focused on WASH](#)
- [New Rotary club takes aim at eradicating human trafficking](#)

Programs of Scale

Backed by evidence.
Strengthened through partnership.

Rotary's Action Plan and You

New course is now available!



Membership Minute is a bimonthly newsletter that provides the latest membership trends, strategies, best practices, and resources to help strengthen membership in your clubs. The newsletter is sent to Rotary coordinators, district governors, district membership chairs, club membership chairs, club presidents and subscribers. Please forward this to anyone who may be interested.

One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201-3698, USA



Rotary

Rotary Youth Exchange

April 2021

Connecting students and communities around the world

YOUTH EXCHANGE OFFICERS PRECONVENTION 10-11 JUNE



Register for the 2021 virtual Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention

Join fellow Rotary Youth Exchange leaders and alumni from all over the world at the annual Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention, 10-11 June. The event will be fully virtual this year, and you will hear from Rotary leaders, participate in interactive breakout sessions, and connect with the Rotary Youth Exchange community through virtual networking opportunities.

Topics will include:

- Implementing virtual exchanges
- Promoting the program
- Supporting Rotary Youth Exchange alumni
- Ensuring youth protection
- Building language skills

We look forward to connecting with you at the 2021 Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention!

REGISTER TODAY

News & Stories

In-person exchanges on hold through June 2022

The Rotary International Board of Directors have suspended in-person exchanges until 1 July 2022. The Board considered feedback from Youth Exchange leaders and recommendations from Rotary's Pandemic Task Force. Rotary encourages districts to engage students in **virtual exchanges** and prepare for future in-person exchanges in the meantime.



MORE INFORMATION

Building strong intergenerational relationships

Join the next live webinar that is part of a series from Rotary International on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion entitled: Building Strong Intergenerational Relationships. The webinar will feature panelists from the Rotary Youth Exchange community and other Rotary program alumni.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar. Everyone who registers will receive a copy of the recording and slides.

REGISTER HERE



Rotex supports Rotary Youth Exchange

Alumni of Rotary Youth Exchange often form or join alumni associations called Rotex. These alumni connect not only to reminisce and discuss their shared experiences, but also to give back to the program they hold so dear.

Learn about Riikka Muje's Rotex alumni association and how she has stayed involved in Rotary since her exchange.



[READ THE STORY](#)

LEARN MORE

- [FAQ](#) about Rotary Youth Exchange and COVID-19
- Introduction to [Rotary Youth Exchange](#)
- Webinar recording: [Creating a meaningful virtual exchange](#)

This newsletter is a source of news, resources, and event details available every other month for those who promote global understanding through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Send questions and story ideas to youthexchange@rotary.org

[Share this newsletter on Facebook](#)

[Rotary Youth Exchange group on LinkedIn](#)

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Explore Rotary's role in the 2,000-year history of vaccination

From 430 B.C. to the present day, people's growing understanding of vaccination has changed the world. Today, vaccines protect against diseases such as diphtheria, cholera, tuberculosis, measles, polio, and more. Smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980. And in 1985, Rotary members who were inspired to add a second disease to the list of those eradicated launched the PolioPlus program to stop the spread of polio through strategic global immunization efforts. Thanks to the commitment of Rotary and our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, wild poliovirus cases worldwide have been reduced by 99.9% since 1988, with only two countries still reporting cases — Afghanistan and Pakistan. This year, Rotary clubs and districts are leveraging their experience fighting polio and mobilizing volunteers to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts, while continuing to ensure that children around the world are vaccinated against polio. [Read more about the history of vaccinations, including the polio vaccine.](#)

World Immunization Week is happening now!

With World Immunization Week being celebrated 24-30 April, now is the time to remind people that #VaccinesWork. **Use Rotary's toolkit** with graphics and social media posts to raise awareness of the power that vaccines have to save lives, as shown by our progress eradicating wild poliovirus in all but two countries.

Introduce your community to a new video resource — “Rotary Inspires Leaders in Global Health” — in which global health experts discuss Rotary's achievements and leadership in the fight to end polio.

Download and **share** the video to promote our polio eradication efforts and the importance of staying committed until all children are safe from the disease.

**Download resources
to share**



Rotary International president discusses global polio situation

In a special interview with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's PolioNews, Rotary International President Holger Knaack provides an overview of our global polio eradication efforts and the lessons that we've learned in the past year as Rotary has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Knaack says that strengthening health systems and advancing scientific knowledge are important factors in fighting disease. Rotary members have learned this through decades of work toward eradicating polio and are now using that knowledge to address the COVID-19 crisis. Knaack emphasizes that we are at a critical point in our goal to rid the world of polio — and it's time to fight harder than ever.

Read the full story



Rotary in the news

Carol Pandak, director of Rotary's PolioPlus program, answers questions from the global development site Devex about **how members are using their experience with polio eradication** to support local vaccination efforts and educate communities about the importance of vaccines.

India PolioPlus Committee Chair Deepak Kapur addresses the topic of vaccine hesitancy in a column for Outlook magazine. He **outlines strategies to increase public acceptance** of COVID-19 vaccination programs by correcting misinformation and countering misconceptions. For this, Kapur draws on the success of nationwide immunization campaigns that helped India become polio-free seven years ago.

Help end polio

Please consider making a contribution to Rotary's PolioPlus fund, and have your donation matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Your donation helps us reach vulnerable children with the polio vaccine and other essential health services.

[Donate](#)

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You can support mothers and children

Rotary makes health care available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger.

During Maternal and Child Health Month in April, you can get involved in these ways:

- Join the [Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health](#), which supports Rotary clubs and districts in planning, implementing, and co-funding projects that support maternal and child health.
- Join the [Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot](#) to support the Ponseti Method, which is an effective, nonsurgical treatment for children born with clubfoot.
- Look on [Rotary Showcase](#) to find out how Rotary and Rotaract clubs are bringing health care to mothers and children. You can post your club's success story or find international projects that your club can support.
- Find [detailed project planning guidance](#) for a club or district project to help mothers and children.

2021 Virtual Rotary Convention

The 2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities is being held 12-16 June and will feature general sessions with inspiring speakers, a virtual House of Friendship, and practical breakout sessions.

Two-day preconventions will take place 10-11 June and will focus on Rotary Youth Exchange Officers, Rotaract, and intercountry committees. The theme of this year's intercountry committees preconvention is how to open opportunities for peace.



You can protect the environment

The environment will be Rotary's newest area of focus. You can get involved in these ways:

- Join the [Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group](#) or the [Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species](#).
- Ask for help from consultants at [Ashoka](#), a Rotary service partner, if your club or district is considering a project focused on the environment.
- Join the [Environment Fellowship of Rotarians](#) or [Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation](#).
- Help [The Rotary Foundation](#) support more global grants by giving to the Environment Area of Focus Fund.
- After 1 July, apply for a grant from The Rotary Foundation to support your club or district's sustainable projects to support the environment.



LEARN MORE

Programs of Scale

Backed by evidence.
Strengthened through partnership.

Supporting high-impact service through Programs of Scale

The Rotary Foundation's first annual \$2 million Programs of Scale award supports a Rotarian-led effort to dramatically curtail malaria in Zambia. [Learn more](#) about this high-impact program and this year's finalists. Watch for upcoming webinars about how to expand, or "scale up," your club or district service projects, including tips on how to create a shared vision of success and impact with your partners.

[Contact](#) the Programs of Scale staff for more information. The next Programs of Scale [grant application cycle](#) will open in June.

Service in Action blog highlights

During March, the Service in Action blog featured stories for International Women's Day and for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month. Here are some highlights:

- [ShelterBox and Rotary stand with women after disaster](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity: Women, housing, and the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Ten years of conflict in Syria](#)
- [Celebrate #WorldWaterDay](#)
- [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group](#)



FOLLOW OUR BLOG

RESOURCES & REFERENCE

- [Community Assessment Tools](#)
- [Rotary Discussion Groups](#)

- [Project Lifecycle Resources](#)
- [Rotary's Areas of Focus guide](#)
- [Rotary Showcase](#)
- [Rotary Service in Action blog](#)

The Rotary Service newsletter provides information to help Rotary members plan effective and inspired service projects. The bimonthly newsletter is sent to subscribers, District Governors, District Community Service and International Service Chairs. **Please forward this to anyone who may be interested.**

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