

20 August 2021

A roundup of Rotary news



Delivering COVID-19 vaccine into dense forest

Rotary members in Demerara, Guyana, are using their disease fighting experience to penetrate dense forests and bring COVID-19 vaccines to indigenous communities that would otherwise not have access to them. Club members and health officials used boats to reach and immunize villagers as well as distribute much needed food, clothing, medicine. It's just one way that Rotary clubs are using their experience in fighting disease to promote vaccinations and fight the pandemic. [Read more](#)

Follow up on membership leads for member growth

Clubs can hear about potential members by word of mouth or from membership leads through My Rotary. KR Parthasarathy, assistant governor of Rotary District 3150 in Hyderabad, India, explains why it's important to follow up on these leads and explain the value of Rotary to prospective members. He shares the story of remarkable growth in his district in a blog post on Rotary Voice. [Read more.](#)



Calling all breakout sessions

Do you have an idea or project that you want to share with your Rotary family? Submit a proposal for a breakout session for the 2022 Rotary Convention in Houston to help others sharpen their leadership skills. Breakout sessions also introduce attendees to new ideas for projects, fundraising, membership growth, and more! Help us build a diverse program by [submitting your proposal online](#) by 30 September.



What would you do?

Each month, Rotary magazine shares reader answers to ethical dilemmas they may face in their clubs. [Check out the dilemma](#) for the December issue and send your responses to magazine@rotary.org.

How to conduct a hybrid meeting

Watch a tutorial hosted by Jim Margraff, of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, California, USA, and The Global Impact Group on how to conduct a club meeting with in-person and virtual attendance. [Learn more](#)



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End Polio Now

August 2021

[Donate](#)



African region marks one year since being certified wild polio-free

Together, we've made tremendous progress in the fight to end polio. In August 2020, the World Health Organization's African region was certified free of wild poliovirus — an incredible milestone that was made possible by the leadership, dedication, and support of countless Rotary members and health workers, our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and African region leaders.

The eradication of wild polio in the African region shows that total wild polio eradication is possible. Learn more about this historic achievement and Rotary's commitment to **keeping Africa free of wild poliovirus and ending polio worldwide.**

Get ready for World Polio Day

Take action for World Polio Day on 24 October by promoting awareness of Rotary's polio eradication efforts, raising funds, and planning club events. Let's engage our communities in the fight against polio, because as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere. Download the **World Polio Day Toolkit** for resources and tips for participating in promoting a polio-free world.



Be sure to register your club participation for World Polio Day on endpolio.org to show how Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs around the world are striving to eradicate polio. Club presidents who register their events, fundraisers, and promotions by 14 October will receive access one week early to download Rotary's World Polio Day Global Update program, which is scheduled to broadcast on 24 October on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rotary) and at endpolio.org.

Register your club's participation

Lessons from the African region

In an inspiring blog post for the Global Institute for Disease Elimination, Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, explains how Rotary's work in eradicating wild poliovirus in the African region shows us a path toward eradicating polio worldwide. Despite immense odds, wild polio was certified eliminated across the World Health Organization's African region last year, thanks to the perseverance of Rotary members working with our partners, governments, health workers, and communities.



Dr. Funsho emphasizes that to stop wild polio transmission in the last two countries where polio is endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, we must maintain our focus on combatting vaccine hesitancy, reaching children in the most difficult places, and providing additional health services along with the polio vaccine.

Read the full blog story

Rotary in the news

In an interview with India's The Week magazine, RI President Shekhar Mehta shares his goals for the Rotary year and reflects on **the organization's 100-year legacy of assisting communities throughout India**, including its role in the elimination of wild polio in the country. The World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region, which includes India, was certified free of wild poliovirus more than seven years ago. Looking ahead, Mehta emphasizes Rotary's continued role as a partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in maintaining India's wild polio-free status and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through the leadership of Rotary's India COVID-19 Task Force.

An article in Foreign Affairs features **the tireless work of female health workers in Pakistan** who have continued going door-to-door to vaccinate children against polio despite the COVID-19 outbreak and other challenges. Rotary member and polio eradication organizer Tayyaba Gul describes the vital role women play in reaching local households to overcome vaccine hesitancy and deliver other health services alongside the polio drops. The story notes how this network of dedicated female health workers can greatly support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations in their communities.

Donate to help eradicate polio

With World Polio Day approaching, now is the time to support Rotary's fight against polio. Join us in the effort to make polio the second human disease ever to be eradicated.

Thanks to our generous members and donors, we reached our 2020-21 PolioPlus fundraising goal. With donations matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, every contribution goes even further toward ending this paralyzing disease for good.

Donate today

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August, 2021

Take action to create positive change locally and globally



Encouraging healthy habits through a comprehensive water, sanitation, and hygiene project

The Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila, Philippines, worked with the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, New South Wales, Australia, to implement an integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene program that serves Indigenous communities in the Philippines by providing access to water and sanitation. The project installed 28 toilets and paid teachers a stipend to lead workshops for families and include safe hygiene in their lesson plans. [Learn more about this project.](#)

Supporting education through The Rotary Foundation

International Literacy Day is 8 September. At a time when educators face extraordinary challenges in meeting the changing needs of their students, it's especially important to support their efforts. You can help empower educators to inspire learning:

- **Donate** to The Rotary Foundation.
- Share **our impact on education** with your fellow members, friends, and family.
- **Create a fundraiser** to support basic education and literacy through Raise for Rotary. Raise for Rotary, our crowdfunding platform, is available in English and uses U.S. dollars. Individuals who make a gift through Raise for Rotary are eligible for donor credit and any appropriate recognition opportunities.

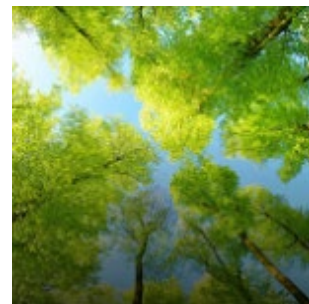
Together, we can support educators in making a difference in communities around the world. Happy International Literacy Day!



GRANT UPDATES

Environment-focused global grants are now available

Clubs and districts can now apply for global grants for projects that protect the environment! If you want to apply, review the **Areas of Focus Policy Statements** carefully to make sure that the project you're planning is eligible for funding. You can then apply through the **Grant Center**.



New area of focus managers

Two managers have joined our area of focus staff. Nyreese Castro is the new manager for disease prevention and treatment as well as for maternal and child health, and Keith Madden is the manager for the new environment area of focus. They, along with the other **area of focus managers**, can answer your questions about our areas of focus and the eligibility requirements for global grants in those areas.

Grant management recertification and qualification

The **Grant Management Seminar** and **Grant Management Recertification** courses have been updated and are available in Rotary's Learning Center. You can use these online courses as part of the club **qualification** process. Remember that your club must qualify each year if you plan to apply for global grants.

District leaders: Remember that Rotaract clubs will be able to apply for global grants starting in July 2022. Invite Rotaract members to participate in grant management seminars so their clubs can be qualified, and consider involving them in your grant activities this Rotary year.

Rotary adopts a new diversity, equity, and inclusion statement

To guide our organization in living up to our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the RI Board of Directors, with guidance from the DEI Task Force, strengthened the DEI statement that we adopted in 2019. **Read the updated commitment** and learn more about how we're reinforcing diversity, equity, and inclusion in Rotary's culture, from club meetings to grant-funded activities.



Learn about the 2021-2022 Presidential Initiatives

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RESOURCES & REFERENCE

General secretary's report to the convention

2020-21 was a big year for giving and for grants. During a year that communities needed our help more than ever, the generosity of our donors made doing good in the world possible. We approved more than 2,000 global grants — that's 40% more than in the previous Rotary year! Read more about Rotary's successes last year in the [general secretary's 2021 report to the convention](#).

Presidential initiatives

RI President Shekhar Mehta has created three service-oriented initiatives and is encouraging Rotary members and program participants to strengthen communities through them:

- Empowering Girls. Address the inequities that girls worldwide face by using district grant or global grant projects to empower them.
- Rotary Days of Service. Organize a day of meaningful, hands-on service to bring Rotary members and friends together to improve your community.
- Presidential conferences. Attend a conference to celebrate our service accomplishments and get inspired to increase our impact.

Learn more about [Rotary's presidential initiatives](#).

ATTEND A ROTARY PROJECT FAIR
TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION

VIEW UPCOMING
PROJECT FAIRS

Updated cooperating organization MOU

Are you working with a cooperating organization to implement your global grant-funded project? If so, you'll need to complete

Increase Your Impact webinar series

Rotary's Programs and Grants staff recently hosted a three-part [Increase Your Impact webinar series](#) that's now available in the

a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with that organization and upload it as part of your global grant application. Please remember to use the **current version of the MOU**.

Learning Center. Learn how to increase the impact of your local and international service projects by implementing successful activities on a larger scale and designing programs that achieve results.

General resources

- **The Rotary Foundation Reference Guide** provides an overview of Rotary Foundation programs and services.
- **A Guide to Global Grants** is for members who are interested in applying for a global grant or developing more effective and sustainable service projects.
- The **Learning Center** offers a variety of materials, including information about fundraising and participating in grants.

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Membership Minute

August 2021

Ideas for strengthening membership



Membership and New Club Development Month

August is Membership and New Club Development Month, a time to recognize our members and the incredible work they do locally and globally. In 2021, many Rotarians around the world are working together to curb the pandemic through vaccination drives. After a long year of uncertainty, hope is on the horizon.

Membership Month is a great time to introduce friends and colleagues to the family of Rotary. Here are just a few ideas on how to attract new members and keep them engaged:

Learn about [strategies for attracting new members](#) in this online course in the Learning Center. (A My Rotary account is required.) The course highlights ways to interest prospective members and showcase your club's strengths.

Because of the pandemic, many clubs have started meeting exclusively online. The

[Engaging Online Meetings page](#) has many useful tips and stories on virtual engagement. Take the [Best Practices for Engaging Members](#) online course to develop strategies for engaging people at all stages of membership.

Is your club healthy? Find out by taking this [online course](#), which will help your club improve its member experience, service and social events, public image, and club operations. And don't forget to address your club's challenges! Answer a few questions in the [Club Planning Assistant](#) to get solutions that are tailored to the issues you are facing.

Find more [membership resources](#) in My Rotary.

Introducing the Membership Society for New Member Sponsors

Rotary recently announced a new recognition program called the Membership Society for New Member Sponsors, to recognize members who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to sharing the gift of Rotary with others.

A new [virtual gallery](#) on My Rotary honors members who have sponsored a total of 25 or more new members.

Rotary adopts new diversity, equity, and inclusion statement

To ensure that our organization values and lives the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the RI Board of Directors, with guidance from the DEI Task Force, strengthened the organization's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement. Read the [updated commitment](#) and learn more about our efforts to ingrain diversity, equity, and inclusion into our culture to improve the membership experience for current and future Rotarians, Rotaractors, and the family of Rotary.

Engaging your club's newest members

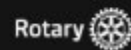
At the beginning of each Rotary year, many clubs welcome new members. Because members are most likely to leave Rotary in their first few years of membership, it's important to engage them right away. Pair them with a Rotary mentor, learn about their interests, and involve them in club activities. To complement your efforts, Rotary will send a series of email messages to members in their first year to tell them about opportunities to get involved in Rotary beyond their clubs. The messages will mention resources such as Rotary Basics and include information about Rotary Fellowships, Rotary Action Groups, and The Rotary Foundation. Together, let's make sure members have a fulfilling Rotary experience!

2020-21 in review

Though the last Rotary year had its challenges, we have many achievements to be proud of. Take a look at what we did during 2020-21 in General Secretary John Hewko's [report to the convention](#).



**MEET ROTARY MEMBERS WHO ARE
FINDING FRESH WAYS TO
CONNECT.**



Each One Be a Role Model

Each of us was given an extraordinary gift when we were proposed for membership in Rotary. Consider extending the same gift to other qualified people who could benefit from Rotary and help Rotary increase its impact. [Find out](#) how a chance encounter between a Rotarian and prospective member inspired RI Director Elizabeth Usovicz to share the gift of Rotary.

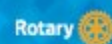
Growing Rotary through membership leads

As an assistant governor, K.R. Parthasarathy managed to help establish four Rotaract clubs and one Rotary club while following up on membership leads assigned to District 3150. These efforts brought more than 400 members to Rotary. [Read about](#) how he achieved this.

More inspiring and enlightening stories

- [New style clubs for a new Rotary future](#)
- [How we grew our club by saying no to domestic violence](#)
- [Why DEI is the right thing for Rotary](#)

Learn about the 2021-2022 Presidential Initiatives



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DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Houston, Texas, USA, 4-8 June 2022
Register today at convention.rotary.org



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.

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Young Leaders in Action

August 2021

Engaging the next generation of Rotary leaders



VIRTUAL EXCHANGES PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for ways to engage your youth program participants virtually? Try organizing a virtual exchange for your Interact club, RYLA program, or with your Youth Exchange students. Virtual exchanges offer participants many of the same benefits as in-person exchanges, such as challenging their stereotypes, increasing their empathy, and developing their intercultural competence. Learn more about how to organize a virtual exchange in this new video!

WATCH THE VIDEO >

Taking Action

Share your ideas at the 2022 International Convention in Houston

Do you have an idea or project that you want to share with your Rotary family? Breakout sessions can inspire attendees, help them polish their leadership skills and give them new ideas for projects, fundraising, diversifying membership, and more!



Help us build an inclusive breakout program that celebrates Rotary's youth programs! We are seeking proposals in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. **Submit your proposal online by Thursday, 30 September 2021.** If you have any questions, please contact us at conventionbreakouts@rotary.org.

Visit the Youth Protection page on My Rotary

Rotary is committed to fostering environments that are safe and positive for young people and free from discrimination and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. As part of that effort, there is a [new webpage](#) dedicated to youth protection. It includes an [online form](#) for anyone who wants to make a report related to protecting youth who are involved in Rotary in any way.



LEARN MORE >

Nominate your outstanding Rotaract project

Every year, Rotary International recognizes the top Rotaract projects around the world in the Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards. One club and multi-club group receiving top honors will each be awarded US\$1000 to support their projects. Nominations are now open!



NOMINATE YOUR PROJECT >

RESOURCES

Interact Guide for Rotary Club
Sponsors and Advisers

Rotaract Handbook

RYLA Handbook

District Rotaract Committee
Course

District Interact Committee
Course

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

3-4 June 2022

Rotaract Preconvention
Houston, USA

4-8 June 2022

Rotary International Convention
Houston, USA

Do you have an upcoming event to add to this list? Email us at youngleaders@rotary.org.

Learn about the 2021-2022 Presidential Initiatives



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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 youngleaders@rotary.org.

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