

February 2021

Ideas for strengthening membership



Achieve your professional development goals in the new year

Become a more effective presenter, communicator, and leader by taking a series of courses developed exclusively for Rotary by the experts at Toastmasters International. These courses in Rotary's Learning Center will help you grow professionally and personally. They include:

- **Develop a Speech**, on developing content based on your topic, audience, and goals
- **Deliver a Speech**, on the basics of giving a speech
- **Inspirational Speech**, on how to engage, persuade, or inspire an audience
- **Interpersonal Communication and Networking**, on building and maintaining professional relationships and networks
- **Leadership Basics**, on topics like motivating others, integrity, and team inclusiveness
- **Leading a Team**, on creating a positive environment, setting goals, and delegating
- **Collaboration**, on understanding and developing leadership and collaboration skills
- **Building Consensus**, on developing the skills needed for effective and inclusive leadership

Expand your opportunities by building your skills!

Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity

The Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity recognizes non-Rotarians, including the partners or spouses of Rotarians, who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service in accord with Rotary's ideals. District governors can [nominate](#) candidates from 1 to 31 March. Candidates selected for the award will receive an engraved crystal and lapel pin. Write to riawards@rotary.org if you have any questions.

World Rotaract Week

World Rotaract Week is an annual celebration of the success and the importance of Rotaract in communities around the world. Join the experience 8-14 March to connect with others and share your celebrations. Learn four ways that you can take action and observe World Rotaract Week this year on the [Rotaract Facebook page](#).



State of Rotary's Membership

Newly Updated!

3 ways to create a harassment-free zone in Rotary

To have a harassment-free environment, it's essential that we create a culture that confronts and rejects offensive behavior. Rotary leaders receive annual training on preventing harassment, but it's everyone's responsibility to help build a safe and welcoming environment. Find out how you can [create this atmosphere](#).

RYLA fuels the creation of new clubs

Rotary program alumni make ideal members because they're already part of the Rotary family. Find out how alumni from District 5830 were inspired to [start their own Rotary club](#) after they participated in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camps. The group hopes to be a bridge to help young leaders move from Rotary programs into Rotary membership.

More from our blog

- [How we held our speech contest on The Four-Way Test online](#)
- [3 ingredients to keep members happy](#)
- [Nigeria conference celebrates youth, collaboration](#)

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019-2020

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Read the 2019-20 Annual Report



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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Rotary

End Polio Now

February 2021

[Donate](#)



Rotary remains committed to fighting polio and responding to COVID-19

As Rotary members continue the fight against polio, they're also responding to the COVID-19 health crisis by addressing the urgent needs of the communities it's affecting worldwide. And now with the development of COVID-19 vaccines, Rotary is ready to use its expertise in distributing polio vaccine and communicating about vaccine efficacy to assist local health authorities in promoting and delivering COVID-19 vaccinations. [Learn how Rotary's experience with global polio immunizations is helping COVID-19 vaccination efforts.](#)

World Immunization Week

With decades of experience from working to eradicate polio, Rotary members can play a key role in publicizing the power of vaccines. World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, is an opportunity for Rotary clubs to raise awareness of the importance of vaccines in saving lives — and the critical need to continue supporting polio vaccinations even while protecting people against the coronavirus.

Download the World Immunization Week Toolkit.



Rotary members persevered to eradicate wild polio in WHO's African region

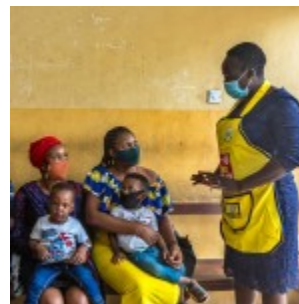
Despite many challenges, Rotary and our partners have remained committed to polio eradication. As a result, in August 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) was able to certify its African region free of wild poliovirus. Since 1996 — when wild polio paralyzed an estimated 75,000 children across Africa — health workers have given more than 9 billion doses of the oral polio vaccine and helped prevent 1.8 million wild polio cases. Rotary members around the world have contributed nearly \$890 million to end polio in Africa. To distribute vaccines, determined Rotary leaders, local officials, and health workers in the region worked together to overcome immense obstacles, such as war and conflict, vaccine skepticism, difficulty reaching remote locations and, at times, weak political support.

Read how we did it.



Polio infrastructure supports contact tracing to control disease

An extensive health network and strong partnerships built over time through Rotary-supported polio eradication efforts help control the spread of several global diseases. In 2014, an Ebola outbreak in Nigeria was stopped when the government health ministry modeled its response after the country's polio program. Officials recruited health experts in polio to train 150 contact tracers, who then visited thousands of people to check them for symptoms. This prevented an epidemic. For COVID-19, global health responders again depended on lessons they had learned from contact tracing to control polio. This time, more than 50,000 community members in Nigeria who were already trained in looking for symptoms of polio and other diseases are also monitoring for signs of coronavirus and assisting in contact tracing to prevent further spread.



[Read more about contract tracing.](#)

Rotary in the news

An article in WIRED magazine examines how Rotary's fight against polio and our success in vaccinating millions of children can serve as a model for administering COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States. In it, India PolioPlus Chair Deepak Kapur mentions how lessons from polio vaccination programs are assisting efforts to control COVID-19 in India.

Gulf News also covers **using polio eradication infrastructure to carry out COVID-19 vaccinations**. Past Rotary International Director Ashok Mahajan, who leads Rotary's COVID-19 task force in India, explains how Rotary clubs, together with the other Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, can apply experience they gained from conducting mass polio immunizations across India to vaccinating the country's population against COVID-19.

In **an extended interview** for India's Down to Earth magazine, Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, describes the monumental effort by Rotary members and partners to eradicate wild polio in the African region and the importance of safely continuing vaccinations during the COVID-19 outbreak. Dr. Funsho is also featured in a **CNN story about achievements in spite of the pandemic in 2020**, which leads with the certification of the World Health Organization's African region as free of wild poliovirus.

Help Rotary reach children with the polio vaccine

Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million per year to end polio, with every dollar matched with two additional dollars from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Help Rotary raise \$50 million this year to support global polio eradication efforts.

With every contribution tripled, your donation goes even further toward reaching children in every part of the world with the polio vaccine and other essential health services.

Donate

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February, 2021

Connect.Partner.Serve



You can be an everyday peacebuilder

Rotary members encourage conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures. These important conversations support one of our areas of focus, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

During Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month in February, you can get involved in these efforts:

- Join the [Rotary Action Group for Peace \(RAGFP\)](#), which supports clubs' and districts' peace-related service efforts by providing technical advice and resources. During 2019-20 alone, the group supported more than 60 projects.
- Learn about the [Rotary Action Group Against Slavery \(RAGAS\)](#) and [Rotary Action Group for Family Safety](#). These groups focus on protecting children and adults from modern-day slavery, human trafficking, and domestic violence.
- Start an [intercountry committee](#) or a [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#) between your district and a district in another country. You can also join or create a [Rotary Fellowship](#). [Read stories](#) on how these three programs have proven effective at building peace and promoting international understanding.
- Find out more ways [you can be an everyday peacebuilder](#).

Collaborate with our partners to foster peace

- Host a [Peace Conversation Facilitation training](#) through [Mediators Beyond Borders International](#).
- Collaborate with [Peace Corps](#) volunteers on community peacebuilding projects.
- Support [ShelterBox](#), which provides emergency shelter and tools to displaced families.
- Access a wide range of change-making experts with [Ashoka](#).
- Join the [Rotary Positive Peace Academy](#), a free online learning platform developed in partnership with the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#), to learn how to use new peacebuilding methods and mobilize your community to address the underlying causes of conflict.



Peacebuilding Partners

Newly recognized Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

Our new Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration will assist clubs and districts with projects that support refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable migrants. These projects may range from providing shelter and food to creating educational and employment opportunities for people in need. Contact the group's founding chair, [Quentin Wodon](#), to learn more and get involved.

NEW LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSES!

Visit rotary.org/learn.



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL



Connect with new fellowships

Rotary Fellowships allow us to build community with fellow Rotary members and friends around shared professions, hobbies and recreational interests, and identities. Rotary offers more than 90 global Fellowships; our newest groups are:

- [International Rotary Fellowship of Hunters](#). This fellowship cultivates international friendship among hunters while promoting hunting ethics and traditions.
- [Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation](#). This fellowship focuses on conservation efforts, protecting wildlife habitats, and building a future where people and nature thrive together.

Contact a fellowship group directly to get involved.

From our blog

What would you do?

For quite some time, your club has been flexible and innovative in finding ways to meet and to participate in service virtually. For the second half of the Rotary year, your club president has asked the service projects committee, which you chair, to create a new service opportunity each month that club members can participate in either virtually or in person, if it is safe to do so. You think this is a worthwhile goal, and you already have ideas for virtual volunteer opportunities and assessing the community's needs through online surveys. Your fellow committee members, however, are feeling fatigued by all the change. They want to wait until after the pandemic has ended to work on creating new engagement and volunteer opportunities.

What would you do?

Tell us how your Rotary or Rotaract club has coordinated virtual volunteer opportunities and service projects during the pandemic. Your story could inspire others to think creatively and make a difference virtually during this difficult time.

**Share your
story**

RESOURCES & REFERENCE

- [Community Assessment Tools](#)
- [Project Lifecycle Resources](#)
- [Rotary's Areas of Focus guide](#)
- [Rotary Discussion Groups](#)
- [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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Rotary Youth Exchange

February 2021

Connecting students and communities around the world



Create and take part in meaningful virtual exchanges

It's as important as ever to offer students exchange opportunities. But how, when many of them are spending most of their time at home and many countries have travel restrictions? Virtual exchanges. These are an engaging alternative to in-person exchanges and still provide young people with an opportunity to interact and collaborate with people from other cultures and communities.

Virtual exchanges are not a new idea, but they are a relatively new experience for many districts that are certified to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange. We recently held a webinar with Rotary Youth Exchange leaders to discuss virtual exchanges and answer questions about them.

Do you have questions? Watch the webinar and write to us at youthexchange@rotary.org.

[VIEW THE WEBINAR](#)

2021 Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention to be held virtually

In response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the 2021 Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention will be held virtually, as will the Rotary International Convention. That means no matter where you are in the world, you can join us to learn more about Rotary Youth Exchange!

We hope you'll take part in this great program and use the opportunity to network with the wider Rotary Youth Exchange community.



REGISTRATION DETAILS

Learn about our new service-learning approach

Each year, Rotary supports the development of more than 350,000 young leaders through our youth programs. Now we're combining community service and learning objectives that empower young people to develop real-world leadership skills. This is service-learning, Rotary's newest approach to youth service!

You can find interactive courses and downloadable workbooks about service-learning for both adult advisers and youth program participants who are 16 or older in Rotary's Learning Center.



GO TO FIRST COURSE

LEARN MORE

- [FAQ](#) about Rotary Youth Exchange and COVID-19
- Introduction to [Rotary Youth Exchange](#)
- Learn how to [get involved](#) in Rotary Youth 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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Engaging the next generation of Rotary leaders



Service-learning: Empower youth, change the world

Each year, leaders like you support the development of over 350,000 young leaders through Rotary's youth programs. Now, we're taking it to the next level through "service-learning," Rotary's new approach to *Youth Service!*

Service-learning is a proven method of activating young people to address the root cause of community issues and hone their leadership skills to make a difference, inspiring them to make lasting change and setting them on a path for a lifetime of service.

Interactive courses and downloadable workbooks are available now in Rotary's Learning Center for adult advisors and youth program participants ages 16 and older.

START YOUR SERVICE-LEARNING JOURNEY TODAY! >

Celebrate World Rotaract Week

Join the World Rotaract Week party this **8-14 March** to celebrate the success and importance of Rotaract in communities around the world.

Share your celebrations with #WorldRotaractWeek and [RSVP to the Facebook event](#) for the most up-to-date news and access to virtual events throughout the week.

RSVP



Why you should care about Rotary branding

"It might seem like a small thing, but a logo that isn't used properly can create confusion and mistrust. When clubs use Rotary's logos consistently and properly, we maintain a global Rotary brand that members, donors, and the public can trust."

In the first of a series of [Rotary Voices blog posts](#) on this topic, Rotary's brand specialist Liz Thiam explains why clubs should use the Rotary logo correctly in their communities.

READ MORE



Apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship

Rotary's fully-funded [Peace Fellowships](#) provide peace and development leaders with the knowledge, skills, and global networks needed to be more effective peacebuilders. The application deadline is **15 May**.

APPLY TODAY



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.

8-14 March 2021

World Rotaract Week

Virtual

14-16 May 2021

Rotary International Presidential
Conference

United States, virtual

5-9 June 2021

Interota

Hong Kong

11-12 June 2021

Rotaract Postconvention

Taipei, Taiwan

12-16 June 2021

Rotary International Convention

Taipei, Taiwan

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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19 February 2021

A roundup of Rotary news



How Africa achieved wild polio-free certification

In August 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the African region free of wild poliovirus. It was the culmination of a decades-long effort involving millions of Rotary members, health workers, government officials, traditional and religious leaders, and parents. Since 1996, a year when wild polio paralyzed an estimated 75,000 children across Africa, health workers have given more than 9 billion doses of the polio vaccine, preventing 1.8 million wild polio cases. Read more of this monumental effort in [The Rotary magazine](#)

This week's stories

Walking the walk on COVID-19 vaccinations

Anne Marie Kimball, a physician and member of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, is a member of an RI task force exploring the role Rotarians should play as we continue our progress toward polio eradication in the time of COVID-19. In a [blog post for Rotary Voices](#), Kimball outline the role that concepts like global to local and whole society, truth telling, and our compassion play in stopping the spread of the virus and assisting in the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines. Share your efforts on [Rotary Showcase](#).



Peacebuilding crosses divides

A former trial lawyer, Randall Butler abandoned the courtroom to focus on using mediation to resolve disputes and training others in the use of mediation as founder and CEO of the Institute for Sustainable Peace. After a seminar in 2018, Bulter became a member of the Rotary Club of Boulder, Colorado, USA, chairing the club's peacebuilding committee. The 101-year-old club is dedicating it's second century to peace and reminds members that projects that help to build Positive Peace involve collaborations at the community level, even across traditional divides. [Read more](#)



Changes to the funding model

To better support the growth of global grants, The Rotary Foundation Trustees recently approved policy changes to help balance financial resources with program demands. Changes take effect 1 July 2021. [Learn more](#)

Celebrate Rotary's anniversary

In honor of the first Rotary club meeting 23 February, 1905, take a virtual tour of Rotary World Headquarters, including a replica of Room 711, site of that first meeting. [Learn more](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY+ INCLUSION

A DEI Webinar Series

[LEARN MORE](#)



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