

23 July 2021

A roundup of Rotary news



Photo contest winners find common ground

It was a challenging year for photographers. Once the pandemic hit, travel plans had to be changed or canceled. That was reflected in many of the submissions for Rotary magazine's 2021 photo awards: Many more photos than usual were taken close to home, sometimes as close as the backyard. But many photos captured the way COVID-19 has transformed our world and our daily lives. And, perhaps reflecting the fundamental optimism of Rotary members, there were many images of hope, joy, and simple beauty. [See the winners](#)

This week's stories

Is world peace increasing or decreasing?

In June, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released its 15th annual Global Peace Index, one of the leading measures of peacefulness globally. Since 2017, the IEP and Rotary have been in a strategic partnership, providing members with new tools to effectively build peace in communities around the world. See what the latest report says about world peace, and how Rotary continues to meet the challenge head on with its Positive Peace Activator Program. [Learn more.](#)



Rotary's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion

Diversity is one of Rotary's long-time core values. But we know there is more we can do to ensure our organizational culture reflects and exemplifies diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The RI Board of Directors, with guidance from a special task force, has recently strengthened our statement of commitment to DEI. [Read the statement](#)



Rotary magazine's What would you do?

Every month, Rotary magazine looks at a different membership dilemma and solicits answers from readers. [Read the dilemma](#) for the next issue and send your responses to magazine@rotary.org

Register for our seminar on inclusivity

Make inclusivity a core part of what you do. Join us on 29 July at 11 a.m. CST (Chicago time) for the DEI Webinar Series: Planning for an Inclusive Future [Learn more](#)

**DISCOVER
NEW HORIZONS**

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



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Rotary Leader

Helping club and district leaders achieve
success

July 2021

MEMBERSHIP



You've started a new club, now it's time to nurture it

Your district has launched several new clubs. Congratulations! But the work isn't done. Keeping clubs thriving is as important as getting them to the charter meeting if you want to reap the long-term gains of membership growth. Since a majority of charter members can be new to Rotary, it's essential to nurture these clubs by embracing flexibility and seeking diversity. Rotary is committed to growing and diversifying our membership to reflect the communities we serve. Flexibility is essential as we adapt to changes in the world with new approaches such as virtual meetings and hybrid ones that combine the virtual and in-person experience. District 5950, Minnesota, USA, has several new and vibrant clubs, which have added more than 80 people to the district's membership, including many women. District Governor Tom Gump shares his advice on [how to keep your new clubs thriving](#)

DISEASE PREVENTION

Taking action against COVID-19

Building on decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, Rotary members worldwide are helping health authorities communicate lifesaving information about COVID-19 and vaccinations, combating misinformation, supporting fair and equal access to vaccines, and curbing the spread of the virus by donating protective gear and other supplies to clinics and hospitals that are under strain. Learn what your club can do to help by visiting our [COVID-19 information page](#) on My Rotary. There you can learn more about why vaccinations matter, find tips on how to talk to someone who is vaccine-hesitant, and discover how to take action to support India as it has fought a surge in cases.



DISTRICT CORNER

Make ShelterBox part of your disaster response

Rotary and ShelterBox have worked together for more than 20 years, offering support to millions of families worldwide that have been devastated by disaster and conflict. Since becoming project partners in 2012, ShelterBox has been instrumental to Rotary's disaster response strategy. Now more than ever, the partnership is fundamental to helping save lives and provide homes and hope after disasters. As your partner, ShelterBox can help you support communities in their most difficult moments while inspiring others in your own community through our shared impact around the world. Download a [special message tailored for district governors](#) to discover how ShelterBox can be part of your clubs' disaster response strategy, and visit the [ShelterBox Action Toolkit](#).



WHAT'S NEW

Remember these reporting changes for 2021-22

It's a new Rotary year. Make sure to review these important changes to reporting requirements for club presidents:

- Starting 1 July, club presidents are encouraged to report their club service projects committee chair to Rotary International. While the club service projects committee is not new, this is the first year that you'll be able to report the committee appointment so that these chairs receive access to tools, resources, and support for club-led service activities. [Learn more.](#)
- Club presidents are also being asked to report club public image chairs. This will ensure that your club has access to our current brand guidelines and official Rotary assets including videos, ads, and customizable promotional materials. You'll also get links to online training

courses for public image officers and the latest news on how to increase our impact and reach.

Reporting these appointments to RI will help your club align district and club communications, provide feedback channels so that RI can enhance our service resources and support, and increase your club's impact and expand your reach.

TECH TOOL

New district enhancements coming to My Rotary

Members will soon be able to review district information from a dedicated landing page on My Rotary. In a few weeks, you'll easily see which clubs and members are part of your district. This enhancement is part of the ongoing upgrades being made to the site. Throughout 2021, we'll continue to improve your My Rotary experience by:

- Making district officer and assistant governor information more easily accessible
- Improving the process for district officers to report, remove, and replace district officers
- Simplifying the assistant governor appointment process
- Introducing a dashboard for governors that presents key district information in a visually meaningful way
- Updating the process for managing district conferences and obtaining feedback
- Recognizing members who have sponsored a certain number of new members

These new features will be released throughout the year.

Rotary International

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Get involved with Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion or profession. Membership in a fellowship is open to any person who's interested.

How can you get involved with Rotary Fellowships?

- Visit the [Rotary Fellowships page](#) to browse more than 90 topics.
- Learn about these newly launched groups: [Argentine Culture](#), [Comedy & Laughter](#), [Empowering Women](#), [Global Development](#), [Leadership Education & Development](#), and [Palmwine](#).
- [Read stories](#) about Rotary Fellowship activities.
- Join a Rotary Fellowship to [build international friendships](#).

[Find resources](#) to learn more about launching a Rotary Fellowship.

Peace Corps partnership renewed

The Peace Corps is renewing its service partnership with Rotary International as the volunteer organization turns 60.

The Peace Corps works with volunteers to support local needs in more than 60 countries. Rotary clubs can work with Peace Corps volunteers to identify a project's prospective beneficiaries, assess communities, and involve community members in projects. Past Peace Corps volunteers can also present at club meetings.

[Learn more](#) about how to get involved.

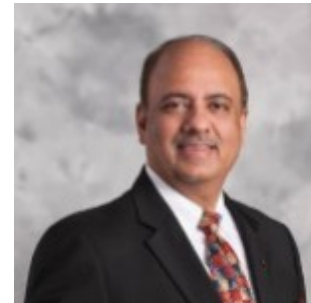
Learn about the 2021-2022 Presidential Initiatives



**EMPOWERING GIRLS | ROTARY DAYS OF SERVICE |
PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCES | EACH ONE BRING ONE**

2021-2022 presidential initiatives

Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta is urging members to become more involved in service projects. Caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes other people's lives and our own.



Presidential initiatives:

- **Each One, Bring One:** Each time you attend a Rotary event or meeting, bring a family member or someone interested in Rotary. This initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of Rotary and growing membership.
- **Empowering Girls:** Girls and women have the right to be safe, educated, and healthy. Learn how you can support and empower girls with a [toolkit](#) that was launched 1 July.
- **Presidential conferences:** You can attend a presidential conference. The [2021-22 presidential conference series](#) will highlight the humanitarian work that clubs and districts pioneer locally and support globally.
- **Rotary Days of Service:** Every club can plan one of these [service events](#), which needs to be organized by two or more Rotary or Rotaract clubs to provide meaningful, hands-on volunteer opportunities that attract participants from outside Rotary.

LEARN MORE



Rotary Community Corps 2020 Survey Results

Each year, Rotary International surveys all club presidents whose clubs sponsor at least one Rotary Community Corps (RCC). A Rotary Community Corps is a group of non-Rotarians who share our commitment to changing the world through service projects.

The RCC projects address Rotary's areas of focus. The 2020 survey found that projects that

were focused on community and economic development, disease prevention and treatment, and water, sanitation, and hygiene were the ones most commonly undertaken by RCCs. Club presidents said that for RCC service projects, more than 66% of the RCC members volunteered their time to carry out the project and more than 52% helped conduct a community assessment. More than half of the club presidents said that their club helped raise funds for the RCC project.

Learn more about Rotary Community Corps globally from [the 2020 survey results](#).

Ethical dilemma

What would you do?

During the pandemic, your service projects had to be coordinated virtually. Now that your club's area is opening up after vaccination efforts, you can plan your first in-person service project. However, you have club members who are immune-compromised or cannot vaccinate due to health reasons. Therefore, there are aspects to your in-person project that will need to be considered. How will you plan an inclusive event for your club that accounts for members that may have participation restrictions?



What would you do?

**ADD YOUR THOUGHTS
TO OUR BLOG**

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 every two months 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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Connecting students and communities around the world



A new perspective on virtual exchanges through Rotary Youth Exchange

Virtual exchanges star in this new video, which shows how effective online intercultural exchange programs can be. Many Rotary districts are coordinating virtual exchanges that will offer students the opportunity to meet and collaborate with people from other cultures and communities online. Virtual exchanges will continue to be an option because they can give the Rotary Youth Exchange experience to students who would not be able to travel for an in-person exchange. Virtual exchanges offer students many of the same benefits as in-person exchanges, such as challenging their stereotypes, increasing their empathy, and developing their intercultural competence.

Share this video, and if you're interested in virtual exchanges, contact youthexchange@rotary.org for more information.

News & Stories

Virtual exchanges have already begun in many parts of the world

District 3131 in India started a new virtual exchange program soon after the pandemic started. Ashok Bhandari and his district Rotary Youth Exchange team viewed the new format as an opportunity to accommodate more students and continue to provide a life-changing experience.



[READ MORE](#)

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, we've posted a page 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.



[VISIT THE PAGE](#)

LEARN MORE

- [FAQ](#) about Rotary Youth Exchange and COVID-19
- An introduction to [Rotary Youth Exchange](#)
- [Youth Protection](#) and Rotary International

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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Young Leaders in Action

July 2021

Engaging the next generation of Rotary leaders



Rotary adopts new diversity, equity, and inclusion statement

To ensure our organization values and lives the principals of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), the RI Board of Directors, with guidance from the DEI Taskforce, strengthened the organization's DEI statement, adopted in 2019. Read the updated commitment and learn more about how we are reinforcing diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of our organization's culture.

[READ THE STATEMENT >](#)

Taking Action

How has service-learning transformed your projects?

Have you or your program participants completed the **Youth Guide for Service Learning** in Rotary's Learning Center? Let us know how Service-Learning has transformed your Interact clubs and youth-led service projects. Email youngleaders@rotary.org.



Youth Lead Peace Conversations

“At its heart, Peace Conversations are about building relationships, improving listening and creating spaces for voices to share their experiences with one another. Youth can be a catalyst for this growth and development.” Learn how Rotary’s service partner [Mediators Beyond Borders International](#) brought their Peace Conversations Facilitation Program to a Texas, USA high school.



READ MORE



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 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.

WATCH THE SERIES



Earn the Citation

The Rotary Citation recognizes Interact clubs and Rotaract clubs that are taking action to make a positive difference. Club sponsors, Rotaract club presidents, and Interact club advisers can nominate qualifying clubs no later than **15 August**. [Nominate a Rotaract club](#) or [nominate an Interact club](#). For any questions regarding the Citation process, please email riawards@rotary.org.

LEARN MORE



Resources & Events

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.



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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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