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**Zone 32:** Bermuda,  
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**May 2020**

Things I'd be happy to not ever hear again. Unprecedented, uncharted territory, shelter in place, social distancing, new normal...

It's hard to believe that an adventure that began as a Director-nominee several years ago is coming quickly to a close. Harder yet to wrap my head around **how** it is closing. This column, which began as "Jeffry's Journey" when Dean Rohrs was Director now has just one more entry after this one. Oh my.

As described above in the things I'd be happy to never hear again, all of us are now in the full throes of the global pandemic. It has impacted practically everything we do. Each of us touched very personally by someone who has contracted the COVID-19 virus...or succumbed to it. And while nowhere near as tragic, it has significantly impacted our organization.

In last month's column we talked about a pivot. A pivot from disappointment in how this Rotary year was ending to determination. Determination to not let Rotary "go dark" in our Zones. All across Zones 28/32, Rotary Clubs and Districts are keeping the lights on. We are connecting on various platforms that may have never been utilized or embraced previously. As for RIDE Valarie and I, we meet every two weeks on Zoom with all the district governors and district governors-elect across our zones. Our goal was to encourage them and help them to drive connectivity down into our clubs. Oh, have they responded. We're so very proud of you. And even as I sit here writing this column, I'm getting ready to speak this afternoon at D-5060's virtual district conference under the leadership of DG Peter Schultz. Who would have ever imagined that - a virtual district conference?

Now, we need to pivot again. Prior to the pandemic, there was a way that we were "doing" Rotary. Pretty familiar to all of us what that looked like. How we are "doing" Rotary now looks nothing like that. Coming out of the pandemic, it would be a lost opportunity to simply slide back into the way we used to conduct our business. The opportunity is for a hybrid. A combination of the best of what we were, and the best of where we are. I believe that hybrid will allow us to emerge from this stronger as an organization. New opportunities to Grow Rotary.

We can't be accidental in how that hybrid happens. We need to be intentional about it. We need to pivot hard. To that end, at this past week's virtual April meeting of the Board of Directors (Who would have ever imagined that), we proposed a Task Force. The Pandemic Response Task Force. Adopted by the Board, this task force will take a comprehensive look at how virtual connectivity can be optimized and utilized by Rotary as the global pandemic wanes. A hard pivot. An intentional pivot.

Daniel Diermeier once said, "Every disaster is an opportunity you must seize." Left to our own devices, I don't believe we would have reached this level of virtual connectivity for years. This pandemic has allowed us an opportunity. It's one we must seize. Having done that, we can and will emerge from this stronger. Embrace the innovation. Embrace the opportunity. Together, we can pivot hard. The beneficiaries will be the children and families in your community and around the world who depend on us.

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## Valarie's View from the Wings

I wish I had started a daily journal when this began. Relieving stress, organizing thoughts, and simply allowing myself time to reflect on the current global climate. Each day brings a different challenge to all of us. There are definitely good days, and definitely bad days. And guess what? That's OKAY!



On the days that "aren't so good", getting online and connecting with Rotary makes us smile and realize we are not alone. We are the lucky ones; we have a vast international network of friends. I am proud of Rotary and Rotarians. Proud to be a part of an amazing humanitarian, people of action, organization.

When this is over, we will look back and be proud of how we acted and what we did to help.

For those of us taking office on July 1, we don't know what to expect. What I can tell you is that we will remain online for the foreseeable future. So, what does that mean? Well, this is a chance to take an inventory of our club and district meetings. Where perhaps we once asked "should we do this online?" we may now ask, "should we do this in person?"

I'm not suggesting we take everything online and replace social gatherings, as that is a cornerstone of Rotary. But this may be a potential opportunity to address the concerns of too many meetings, too much travel, too much expense, and too much time away from our businesses and families. We will each adapt to a model that works for us going forward, for our current and future members as well as our community. When we are able, we will celebrate together in person.

It is an honour to have been nominated to serve on the board as the Zone 28/32 Director during this time. I'm not talking about the global pandemic, but rather the waves of change that we have started seeing within Rotary. I'm thrilled to be a part of shaping the future of our organization. Little did I know how those slight waves would become a tsunami of change.

I had the opportunity in January to "physically" attend the Rotary International Board meeting. Last month we met online. We are adapting and getting needed business done. Was it the same? Better? Worse? What I can say is that we missed the social interaction and conversations that occur in the hallway and the chance to be at One Rotary Center. The Board has made the tough decision that we will not meet in person for Board or Committee meetings for the remainder of the calendar year 2020. This is the right decision, it shows leadership and compassion for our individual safety.

## Calendar of Events

**May 2**—COVID-19

#RotaryResponds one-hour Telethon

**June 12-16, 2021**— RI Convention, Taipei, Taiwan

**June 4-8, 2022** — RI Convention, Houston, Texas

**2023** — RI Convention, Melbourne, Australia

**2024** — RI Convention, Singapore (tentative)

**2025** — RI Convention, Calgary (tentative)

### Find the answers

Don't forget our other electronic and social media communications tools for the Zone.

Website:

[www.rotaryzones28-32.org](http://www.rotaryzones28-32.org)

Facebook:

[Rotary Zones 28 and 32](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryZones28and32)

Blog:

<http://greatideastoshare.com>





# COVID-19

#RotaryResponds

## LIVESTREAM TELETHON

### SATURDAY 2 MAY

10:00 A.M. CHICAGO  
4:00 P.M. LONDON / LAGOS  
8:30 P.M. DELHI

[facebook.com/rotary](https://facebook.com/rotary)

*By Jennifer Jones, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation*

We are pleased to invite you to participate in a COVID-19 #RotaryResponds one-hour Telethon to raise critical funds for disaster response. This Facebook Live event will be simulcast on the [Rotary International](https://www.facebook.com/rotary) Facebook page. The goal is to raise more than \$1 million dollars. **(the link is now live)**

Rotary's 1.2 million members across the globe have taken swift action to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than \$3.4 million in Rotary Disaster Response Grants have already been put into action on the frontlines to battle COVID-19. Additionally, millions more have been raised by our [#PeopleofAction](#) - they have responded quickly and are truly saving lives. Now, we need to do more and the need for additional funding is a priority.

Join this live event to hear stories of hope, inspiration and gratitude from Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary from across the globe as they share what they are doing to help their communities. The telethon will also showcase how our polio eradication infrastructure is helping to combat COVID-19.

How you can participate:

1. Participate in the telethon on Facebook Live on 2 May at [Rotary International's](https://www.facebook.com/rotary) Facebook Page ([facebook.com/rotary](https://facebook.com/rotary)). The live stream will be simulcast in eight languages.
2. Share this event and spread the word through your social media channels.
3. Invite friends, family, and members of your community to watch and see first-hand what Rotary's People of Action are doing to combat COVID-19.
4. Post on social media during the broadcast and on the day of the event using the hashtag [#RotaryResponds](#).
5. Donate as an individual or as a club at <http://on.rotary.org/drf>
6. Encourage your Rotary District to donate District Designated Funds (DDF) at <https://on.rotary.org/ddf-donate>. (Note: DDF received between April 22st and May 3rd will be considered part of the telethon fundraising total.)

Thank you for all of your assistance in creating awareness about this opportunity to do more *Good in the World!*



## Rotary ZOOM CALL BINGO

Have fun on your next Zoom call & play bingo! If you get BINGO, share about it on social media using the hashtag [#RotaryPlaysBingo](#)

THEY ARE YOU TALKING? I THINK YOU'RE MUTED!	SOMEONE SAYS "ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD"	FORGETTING TO STOP SCREEN SHARING	AFTER INTERRUPTING EACH OTHER "SORRY, YOU GO FIRST"	SPOUSE MAKES AN APPEARANCE IN THE BACKGROUND
GETTING ON AN INSTE WITH BOTH THE VIDEO LINK & PHONE NUMBER	SMALL TALK WHILE YOU WAIT FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN	SOMEONE SHOWS THEIR CAT	YOU RECITE THE FOUR WAY TEST	ROTARY SENIOR LEADER MAKES A CAMEO
TAKE A SCREENSHOT OF THE CALL TO POST TO FB LATER	"CAN EVERYBODY SEE MY SCREEN?"		"SORRY CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?"	LAUGHTER
"IS THERE GOING TO BE A RECORDING?"	SOMEONE GIVES A VIRTUAL HAPPY DOLLAR	SOMEONE'S WEARING ROTARY APPAREL	TOILET PAPER JOKE	"HAS ANYONE BOUGHT STOCK IN ZOOM YET?"
"HEY GUYS, SORRY I HAVE TO HOP OFF, I'LL WATCH THE RECORDING"	"IS ANYONE TAKING NOTES?"	SOMEONE'S TURNED OFF THEIR VIDEO SINCE IT'S BEFORE NOON	"MISS YOU GUYS!"	"WILL YOU BE SHARING THESE SLIDES?"

Rotary Zone 33 Public Image Coordinator Team



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# Rotary Family Reunion

*By Cecily Smith, Zone 32 ARC, Rotary Metro NYC*

The Rotary family tree has a number of branches: Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, Foundation alumni...and past Rotarians. When surveyed about why they left their Rotary club, most people cited cost and time commitment as the top reasons why they left.

Now Rotary clubs have had to adapt and evolve into meeting online. While there were initial challenges and a definite learning curve, many clubs are now hitting their virtual stride. Club meetings may have a speaker, be a happy hour, a game night, a service project done online together (like writing cards) and much more. In a recent survey of Zones 28 & 32 DGs, a frequent comment was that clubs are finding that they are getting BETTER turnout online than they do at their past "brick and mortar" meetings. Also, several of our clubs are looking to keep at least one of their meetings online even when restrictions ease.

Rotary clubs are also seeing past members attending their online meetings. Popping onto a Zoom call for 45 minutes requires much less of a time commitment than going to a physical meeting, and an online meeting is free.

District 5010 shared that around 12-18 former Rotarians expressed interest in re-joining Rotary immediately. This came about by sending a ClubRunner Email blast to all inactive/former Rotarians inviting them to rejoin Alaska Rotary to help with community assistance and restoration efforts and advising former Rotarians about new options such as eClubs and a possible passport club. All positive responses were immediately passed along to respective AGs and club officers.



Rotary Clubs - reach out to your past members! Find out how they are doing, share how your club is responding to this crisis, and invite them to a meeting.

Districts - send an email blast to inactive Rotarians sharing your District's response efforts, the "success stories" of aid, and invite them to a District meeting (if your District is planning fun or informative online events) or ways to connect to a club meeting. Since geography is no longer as relevant, people can go to any Rotary meetings. This is especially helpful if one of the

reasons someone left Rotary involved club politics or conflicts - a new club is accessible with the click of a "connect to meeting" button.

Also target messaging and reach out to Foundation Scholars, Group Study Exchange, former Rotaractors as well.

People everywhere are looking to connect now, to help their community, and even get help themselves with fellowship and contact. If we reach out to our "long lost" Rotary family, offering them ways to connect and give back, it can be of benefit to all.

# Rotary



**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**

## Best Practices for Zoom Meetings

*By PDG Marty Peak Helman, District 7780 Growth Chair*

We're all getting to be experts at Zoom and GoToMeeting, but an informal poll suggests that some clubs are having a more successful time with online meetings than others. At a recent Growth meeting in District 7780, Rotarians shared best practices for virtual meetings, and we all learned a lot! In fact, some clubs are getting better attendance at their virtual get-togethers than they did before COVID! Here's how they are doing it:

Provide the Zoom info/call in data three times. Announce the call/speaker/agenda at the beginning of the week, repeat it a couple days in advance, and also an hour or two in advance. Each time provide the call-in info.

Consider a (slight) change in meeting time. There's no point in having a Rotary meeting at mealtime if Rotary is not providing a meal - it just keeps the Rotarian away from his/her family meal. So consider running your breakfast meeting at 8:30; your lunch meeting either at 11:00 or 1:00, and a dinner meeting at 5:00 pm. or so.

Keep all electronic meetings to one hour.

Learning curve:

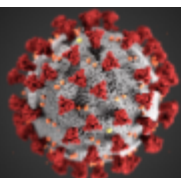
Some of your members use Zoom and other teleconferencing platforms in their work life. For others, it's brand-new technology. Offer a primer session during which a seasoned Zoom user can help newbies through the basics – logging on, finding the video, finding the audio, screen-sharing, hand raised, et cetera. Explain that there is a first time for everything.

If problems persist, "pair" a member having technology issues with another Rotarian who can guide them through the process. This makes the people for whom technology is an issue feel valued, and it doesn't overload a few (generally younger) members with everyone asking them for help.


Urge members to log in on computer with video so they are not a disembodied voice. That said, members who are having continued trouble logging on – or who do not have a speaker or camera on their computer – should be made to feel that the phone-in option is a welcome choice.

Security. Zoom has its issues, as recent headlines have indicated. Consider using a security code for your meetings.

Record meetings and post them on your website. This will keep involved the members who miss the meeting and may let others know that your Rotary club is filled with People of Action.



**Read** how Rotary is responding to the impact of the global COVID-19 crisis.

Rotary 

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak>

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## Action Group Relieves Stress During COVID-19

By Bonnie Black, Chair of RAG on Mental Health Initiatives

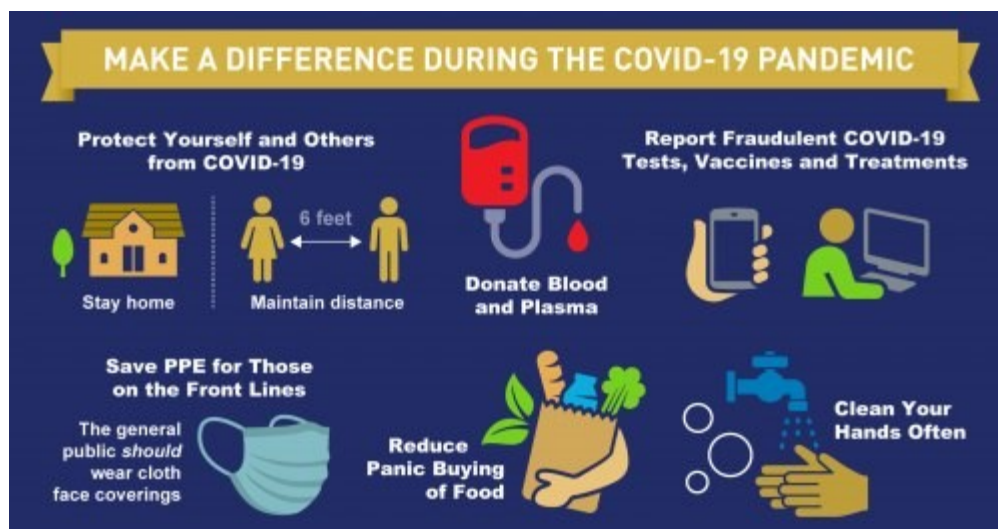
Rotary Action Groups are international groups of Rotarians, family members, program participants, alumni, and non-Rotarians who are experts in a particular field or passionate about topics such as economic development, peace, addiction prevention, the environment, or water. One of the 25 Rotary Action Groups throughout the globe is RAG on Mental Health Initiatives, chartered by a number of Zone 24 Rotarians and now proud of its global membership.

This Action Group of engaged, passionate Rotarians has stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic and is offering speakers for any of your Club meetings on various topics related to managing our stress and anxiety during this pandemic.

Topics are wide-ranging:

- How Interact Teens lead *Emotional Wellness* projects
- How to Find Peace in Times of Uncertainty
- Maintaining your Sanity during COVID 19
- Organizing Work and District level activities in the Rotary Spirit
- Pandora's Pandemic – a focus on Hope & Resilience
- The Happiness Challenge

To book any of these topics, contact RAGMHI Chair, PDG Bonnie Black at [bonblack@yahoo.com](mailto:bonblack@yahoo.com) and she'll connect you directly with the speaker.





*By Elizabeth Davis, Annual Giving Officer, Zone 24 East & Zone 32, [Elizabeth.Davis@rotary.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Davis@rotary.org)*

### **Disaster Response and Foundation Recognition**

As you may well know, the Trustees made \$3 million available for Disaster Response grants to help support Rotarian COVID-19 efforts in March and April of this year. Because of the generosity of Rotarians and districts around the world, over \$900K has additionally been contributed to the Disaster Response Fund, resulting in 159 districts around the world receiving Disaster Response grants for COVID-19 related relief in their communities, as of April 24. And that number continues to grow.

Individual gifts to this fund will be credited to a club's annual giving goal and per capita giving calculations, and all club banner recognition. However, they will not apply to SHARE and the District Designated Fund calculation. These gifts are eligible for all recognition opportunities, including Every Rotarian, Every Year, Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris Society, Major Donor, and Arch Klumph Society.

Remember, **any contributions sent to One Rotary Center will not be processed for some time.** Additionally, our capability for accepting faxed contributions has also been placed on hold indefinitely. We highly encourage members who would like to contribute to do so online at [myrotary.org/donate](https://myrotary.org/donate).

### **Annual Giving**

During these times, it is particularly important that we not lose sight of continuing to support annual giving. The Annual Fund is The Rotary Foundation's main source of funding for the District and Global grants that take place each year, enabling Rotarians to have a lasting impact in communities around the world.

This is the case in the midst of COVID-19 as well. As of April 24, over 100 new and repurposed Global Grants have provided an additional \$7 million to the aid of COVID-19 response (in addition to the almost \$4 million from the Disaster Response Fund), and countless more District Grants have been approved or repurposed for COVID-19 relief as well. These Global and District relief grants would not have been made possible without the continued faithful support of Rotarian donors over the past several years. Without ongoing continued support of the Annual Fund today, opportunities for Rotarians to continue to make an impact could be diminished in the future.

The most important thing for us to remember and remind our fellow Rotarians is that Rotary is and always has been an organization that helps respond to global needs. Rotary is unlike most other non-profits as the organization's financial funding model is structured to provide for Rotarian projects to always continue taking place, even in times of financial crisis. As such, let us focus on telling the story of what Rotary has done and what Rotary is doing *right now* as we continue to promote annual giving today.



# Call for Nominations for the Donald MacRae Peace Award



Every year, a Rotarian or Rotary organization is celebrated in Zones 28 and 32 for outstanding achievement consistent with the ideals expressed in the Fourth Object of Rotary:

“The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through humanitarian activity of international significance.” Is this the year for you to honor one of your members?

Candidates for the awards will have demonstrated the advancement of international goodwill, understanding and peace through peace-making efforts or humanitarian activity of international significance. The award is open to Rotarians and non-Rotarians, but the applicant must have a relationship with the Club or District that is nominating them.

The award honors the contributions of Halifax Rotarian Donald MacRae who, at the International Convention in 1918, proposed that Rotary become an agent for the promotion of goodwill and peace among nations. This was the first time that an international vision of Rotary was publically expressed.

Who has won the Donald MacRae Peace Award in the past? The list reads like a “who’s who” of our two Zones’ most active internationalists, and in-

cludes Safe Passage, the literacy support program in Guatemala, and Dr. Robert Raiche, founder of Friends Forever, a program that teaches Protestant and Catholic youth in Northern Ireland how much they really have in common.

For the complete list of past recipients, go to the Zone 28 and 32 website:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077/SitePage/donald-macrae-award> .

While you are there, check out this year’s application form. Filling out the application to honor someone is easy and recognizing the work of eligible deserving individuals is exceptional and just the right thing to do!

Who are the judges of this award? A judging panel comprising five senior Rotary leaders (three from Zone 28; two from Zone 32) determines the winners (one from each Zone). All decisions of the judges are confidential and final. These judges are named to three-year terms and in 2020, the judges included three past Donald MacRae Peace Award recipients and are:

Past RI president Wilf Wilkinson.  
Past RI director Ken Grabeau.  
Past RI trustee Carolyn Jones.  
PDG Ron Denham.  
Rotarian David Ives.

Deadline for receipt of applications for this year’s award is May 15, 2020, In Zone 28, they should be emailed to: PDG Dan Doherty, [dohertyd@telus.net](mailto:dohertyd@telus.net) , and in Zone 32 to: PDG Marty Helman, [martyrotary@gmail.com](mailto:martyrotary@gmail.com)

Thanks for making it a priority to say Thank You to a deserving person or group.

**[YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM HERE](#)**



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## Partnerships with Companies

By Carrie Jones, RPIC Zone 24 East

Public Image gurus talk a lot about social media and websites and branding, but sometimes it is good to remember the basics when it comes to Rotary. Partnerships with other organizations and companies can increase public awareness of Rotary's mission along with increase the good work that clubs can do in their communities and beyond.

A perfect example of one such partnership that combines people of action and outside organizations is Cabot Cheese. According to Cabot's Northeast Marketing Manager, Nick Managan, Rotary and Cabot have a lot of connections and those connections have created a relationship between the corporation and multiple clubs and not just in cheese-selling fundraisers.

"One of our founding principles is community. In 2012, we became a certified B corporation. We are doing our best to return our value to our farmers and be a good neighbor in the community. Probably right around that time, we were re-evaluating charitable giving. Most of our programs tend to be community focused anyway."



Cabot had a lot of donation requests coming their way and having a hard time filtering through them. A few Cabot team members were Rotarians. "We didn't have a great system for how we were handling things. Because of some of those relationships with employees and farmers in Rotary," Managan said.

Cabot ended up approaching Rotary clubs in those communities asking if they made an annual contribution to the clubs, if the clubs could then support local causes with the money. "We can't say enough how great it is to connect with those Rotary clubs," he said. "We have over eight hundred farm families and the thing that is important to all of them is community."



Community is key for Rotarians. By connecting with Cabot, Rotary can increase their visibility and public image both within Cabot but also in their local communities. By using the Cabot donations and publicizing their good works, Rotarians solve problems and take action.



Membership, donations, public awareness, and increased good works all combine when Rotary aligns itself with other nonprofits and businesses that share its purpose and motivation. The Cabot model can be followed all across the zones and the organization in large ways such as with the Gates Foundation and

small, but the point is to welcome these connections so that Rotarians can increase awareness of our organization while simultaneously making positive, lasting change in other people's lives.

# You Are the Rotary Brand

By Carrie Jones, RPIC Zone 24 East

Public image is about more than social media, websites, newspaper articles and being a snazzy speaker with a large social media following. It's about more than t-shirts and memes and radio ads.

That's because Rotary is supposed to be about more than that. The Rotary brand is more than the wheel. It's about the individual Rotarian. It's about being compassionate people of action who respect other's opinions and don't just look to hear their own opinion echoed. It's about moving outside our bubbles to help our communities.



When I was a kid, I went to speech class every day from first grade until seventh because I had sloshy s's. Despite the therapy, I couldn't fix them. I was incredibly self-conscious about my voice. I had an English teacher who refused to call on me. He would cringe every time I talked. I was terrified of him because he reminded me of my flaws.

One day he asked me to stay in for recess. "Carrie," he said. "You're here because of your s's." I told him that the speech therapist had tried to fix them, and she couldn't.

And he said, "Carrie, if you don't fix those s's, you are never going to succeed. Nobody is going to hire someone with a voice like that. You'll never get a job. You won't even get into college because you'll have to have an interview and they will hear you speak. Nobody will ever love you with a voice like that."

My stepdad had just died and I was in a miserable, insecure place and honestly, I'm not the toughest human with the thickest skin still. And in seventh grade? I wasn't tough at all. I left that teacher's room bawling and shaking and trying to figure out where I could hide for the rest of my life.

But in the middle of the hall was my social studies teacher who hugged me and said, "Carrie, do not listen to a thing that man just said."

I kept crying. He took me by the shoulders and asked, "Do you remember what's on my wall in the classroom?" There were a lot of things on his wall, but he meant the blue banner with Rotary's four-way test.

"Everything he said didn't pass that test," he told me. "Not one word. I believe in you. I believe you can be anything with those s's or not." And I will always remember that kindness as he tried to undo the harm that had been done.

I never became a Rotarian because I wanted to make connections or help my career. Rotary hasn't done that for me, actually. I never became a Rotarian because I wanted to go to a lunch or hear a speaker. I never became a Rotarian because of branding or a Rotary wheel or even a website. I became a Rotarian because one man showed me what a Rotarian was. I became a Rotarian because a Rotarian cared. A Rotarian believed in me.

In this time of pandemics and hostility, of divides, in this time of cancel culture and screaming, it's good to remember what it means to be a Rotarian. It means to be someone who cares. Be that in everything you do especially in social media and in person. The Rotary brand is you. It's all about lifting up instead of smashing down.



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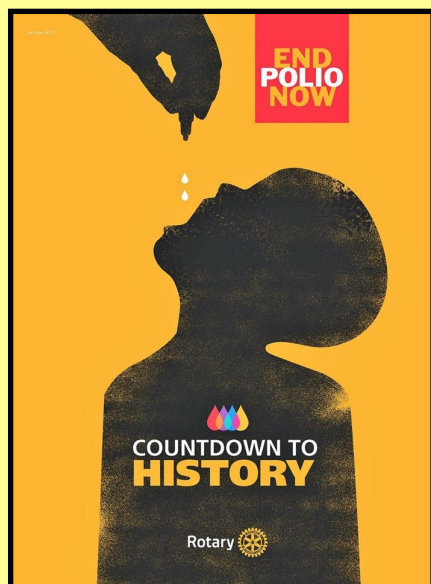
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## Remembering 130 years of Rotary Service lost in 23 Days

*By Linda Robertson, Zone 24 W, End Polio Now Coordinator*

This column is usually devoted to a Polio story but this month I've chosen to honor three Past District Governors from District 5370 who passed away during the first 23 days of March. These three governors left lasting legacies to PolioPlus, International Service and the Rotary Foundation.



#### Albert Miller, PDG 1988-89

Albert Miller was Governor of District 536 (now Districts 5360 and 5370). In 2019 he received the PolioPlus Pioneer Award from the Board of Trustees of the Rotary Foundation for his PolioPlus leadership of advocacy and fundraising prior to 1995.

He organized a Wagon Train that travelled over 500 miles to and from the 1987 District Conference in Calgary and that event secured a million dollars in pledges for PolioPlus from clubs, schools, and communities along the trip. During his district governor year, he focused on PolioPlus and encouraged sales of "Between Friends", a district Rotary Cookbook that sold more than 100,000 copies. Albert joined Rotary in 1968 as charter member of the Rotary Club of Westlock.

During his 52 years in Rotary he was always actively involved in his club's community and international projects. He was District 5370's kind and generous elder statesman. He was predeceased by his wife Florence in November 2019.



#### Larry Johnson PDG 2001-02

Many throughout the zone will know Larry Johnson for his work with Atsikanana Pa Ulendo (APU) for girls in Malawi. Larry was an educator and a former school board superintendent so not surprising that he would become Chair and Treasurer of APU Education Foundation.

When his daughter Christie Johnson returned from a volunteer teaching position in Malawi Larry was able to help her connect to Rotary clubs to tell the horrific stories of how HIV had ravaged the villages and how there was no funding for girls' education. Over the past 20 years the dream that Christie brought back to Canada to help educate girls has grown into a major school and teacher's college.

Larry was a Rotarian for 42 years and Charter President of both the Rotary Club of Fort McMurray and the Rotary Club of St. Albert. He was a man of many talents and interests. Rotarians will remember Larry for his love of music, his charity auction software, big smile, and joyful laugh. Larry is survived by his wife Donna.



#### David Taylor, PDG 2007-08

David Taylor was a member of the Rotary Club of Camrose for 35 years and a recipient of the Citation for Meritorious Service Award from the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation. He served many years as District Foundation Chair and 5 years on the District 5370 Belize Literacy Project Committee. This ambitious 2-million-dollar project was started in 2009 and supported by a 3H Grant; the first Rotary project between a Rotary district and an entire country.

While rolling up his sleeves in Belize, David looked beyond literacy to the unique opportunity for individual clubs to develop their own projects in poor communities. His vision and knowledge helped many Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs develop long lasting school, playground, and sanitation projects. Rotarians will remember him for his friendship and commitment to action. He is survived by his wife Elaine.



# PolioPlus Responding to the COVID-19 Challenge

*By Mike McGovern, Chair of the Rotary International PolioPlus Committee and John Germ, Past Rotary International President and Chair of the Polio Countdown to History Committee*

A program begun by Rotary is employing thousands of health workers to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) which includes Rotary's PolioPlus program. From the earliest days of polio eradication in the Philippines, the generosity and advocacy of Rotarians and our partners has nearly stopped polio, stopped Ebola from becoming an epidemic in Nigeria and now responds to Covid-19.

Over the next four to six months the polio program is offering its tools, workforce and extensive surveillance network to support countries as they respond. Globally, the polio surveillance network is being trained on COVID-19 case detection, contact tracing, laboratory testing and data management. GPEI is deploying its coordination mechanisms such as emergency operations centers and sharing physical assets like vehicles, computers and mobile phones to combat the pandemic. In Nigeria, an extensive network of polio communication assets including 20,000 volunteer community mobilizers are working across the country to promote handwashing to reduce transmission. In Pakistan, polio staff have sensitized more than 6,000 health workers on Covid-19 and repurposed a helpline originally used for polio related calls to also address COVID-19 questions. The polio surveillance team in Angola is training health care staff on case management of COVID-19. Polio staff in Benin are developing a pandemic preparedness plan for that country. Each day we hear of more deployments of polio staff to address COVID-19 issues in additional countries.

So what about polio itself? The Polio Oversight Board made the hard decision to pause house to house vaccinations knowing that this may lead to an increase in polio cases. Polio surveillance will continue while also supporting COVID-19 surveillance. The GPEI is working to ensure that once it is safe to do so, countries can be supported to rapidly resume polio immunization campaigns. We will have a message in every country that vaccines, including the polio vaccine, stop viruses from attacking children and adults. We must seize the moment to let every village understand that the polio vaccine saves lives.

For over 40 years, Rotarians have never wavered in fulfilling our commitment to the children of the world to end polio. Today, in contributing to PolioPlus we are also addressing this evil Covid-19 pandemic. The goals this year for contributions to PolioPlus have not changed. The opportunity to do good in the world has only increased. If you or your club have not given to PolioPlus lately, today is the day to do so. All funds donated are matched 2 to 1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. If your District has underutilized District Designated Funds, any allocation is matched 6 to 1 by the Rotary Foundation World Fund and the Gates Foundation. And if you want to know more about how Rotary and the GPEI are addressing Covid-19 while not losing focus on eradicating polio, see [Polioeradication.org](https://polioeradication.org) and [endpolio.org](https://endpolio.org).





**!!! REMEMBER THIS ???**

**ZONE 24 & 32 DROP TO ZERO CHALLENGE**

**INCREASE**  
**Polio GIVING**  
**by 5%**

**AND**  
Rotary  
International  
Director

**JEFF**  
Cadorette\*

**will jump  
out of an  
airplane!**

(Hopefully with  
a parachute)



**Based on combined district  
totals by 30 April 2020  
compared to 30 April 2019**

\*With Director-elect Valarie Wafer and other team members to be announced.

# Congratulations!

We met our goal and we met it one month early. Thank you all for a great effort!

Please watch this newsletter for details of Jeff's jump. We are looking at a later date to ensure his and the attendees' safety.

