

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

One of the most amazing things about Rotary is that every July our organization of 1.3 million members has a complete change of leadership. This changing of the guard happens in every club in every district all around the world. Today it is happening in our District 5170 in all 61 clubs. And the most remarkable part of all this, is how smooth the transition of power occurs.

This year, the challenge is even greater. Starting off our year doing virtual meetings and trainings, creates challenges in organization, fellowship and fund raising. Add to this, the uncertainty about when, or if, we will be meeting in person again makes planning for our year difficult, to say the least. So, we need to be flexible and innovative! Do something different and don't be afraid to fail. Share your experiences with other Rotarians and clubs, so we can all learn from mistakes and share great collaborative ideas. By working together, we will overcome and become even more successful.

Last year, Governor Ramesh had a record-breaking year, in fund raising, membership growth and club development. We have an extremely high bar to reach, but with your help, I know we will work hard to surpass it. As you know, our District 5170 has always been and will continue to be a trend setter throughout the Rotary world.

RI President Holger Knaack announced the RI theme Rotary Opens Opportunities. What a perfect theme for our year. He challenged all of us to grow rotary by increasing our impact in the world, growing and diversifying our membership and to be flexible as we adapt to a changing world. Because of the unprecedented challenges we face, we have the opportunity to change how we conduct business, from how and when we have meetings to having a virtual Rotary International convention. We must rethink our future and act now to ensure we attain it.

This year my goal, as your District Governor and with our leadership team is to:

- **Strengthen our clubs** through making membership meaningful. By ensuring we meet the needs of our members, we can maintain member retention and create sustained growth.
- **Develop new clubs** while supporting the existing clubs and members. New clubs are not a threat to existing clubs but bring new members to Rotary while becoming a resource for existing clubs.
- **Set a vision for your club**. Work with your members to move into the future without forgetting our past.
- **Toot our own horn**. All the clubs do incredible work even during the recent challenging time. Let's not keep it a secret. Tell the world (or at least your community).

I am honored to be your Governor. I look forward to visiting all 61 outstanding Rotary Clubs (virtually or in person). Let us do our best to create more opportunities for our members, our community and across the globe.

Thank you for your service to Rotary,

Gregg Giusiana
District 5170 Governor