

My fellow Rotarians, welcome to a brand-new year filled with exciting opportunities to *Engage With Rotary* and serve others as we **Unite For Good!** There's so much we can do! My name is Todd Smith, welcome into my living room! My home club is the Rotary Club of Georgetown and I'm honored to serve as your District Governor this year and thrilled to work alongside such a passionate and dedicated group of volunteers.

Your time, energy, and heart are what powers Rotary's mission—and thanks to you, last year saw one of the highest levels of giving per member in two decades. Your generosity was truly incredible! Imagine the impact we could have if each member gave at least their fair share of our District Goal of **\$100** towards the **Annual Fund** and **\$58.70** to the **Polio Plus Fund**. Yes, 5870. Keep an eye out for upcoming **matching programs** that will make your generosity go even further, both locally and globally.

There So Much We Can Do - and while I'd love to do even more, this year I'm asking you to focus on two powerful themes:

- **The Rotary Foundation:** It's not just fundraising—it's fueling dreams and changing lives.
- **Member Engagement:** Every connection we make strengthens our clubs and communities.

Our District Theme this year is **"Engage With Passion."** It's about doing what moves you—and letting that passion inspire your fellow members, your club, and your community. Volunteers like you lead with purpose, and that's exactly what will make this year so rewarding.

Another thing that's rewarding and I hope will spark enthusiasm, our **Captains Club** engagement initiative is already in motion! Clubs and Volunteers have a chance to win exciting prizes—maybe even a **cruise vacation** on the upcoming **District Conference & Service Cruise** next April. Talk to your Club President for all the details!

And speaking of unique opportunities: on **July 28th**, we'll host an informational Zoom session for those interested in helping decorate the **Rotary Float** in the 2026 **Rose Parade** over the winter holiday break in Pasadena, CA. Several folks who recently decorated the float, including Rotary International Director Elect Tom Gump, will be on hand to share their experience. It's one of the most extraordinary service experiences—a chance to work with natural elements (yes, flowers and seeds—no paint allowed!) and represent Rotary on a global stage. Preliminary info is available at 5870RoseParade.org.

Thank you for the gift of your time, your effort, and your heart. I'm beyond excited to see what we will accomplish together this year.

Finally, to kick things off into high gear from the start, I want to share with you (as I did with those who attended our sold-out District Installation a couple weeks ago!), a song I wrote and recorded recently. You can experience it at <http://RotaryAnthem.com>. It's an anthem for Rotary - a call to action for the two main themes of Engaging with Passion and Uniting For Good. I hope you enjoy it - because it really serves to remind all of us that There Is So Much We Can Do!

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

-DG Todd