



District 9350

Connecting the World™

Governors Newsletter 2019/20

7 – March/April 2020



Personal Message from our Governor David Holtzhausen to all Rotarians

This has to be one of the most challenging times we are facing as an organisation in recent history. While Covid-19 has seriously impacted our daily lives, the effect on so much else has yet to be seen:

- Our way of working has changed and in many industries, will likely change forever
- The cost of fuel is the lowest it has been for a long time
- The need to travel for business has already been proven to be less necessary than we thought.

Unfortunately, the economic impact of this will also be felt for a long time, and directly affect many of our members and their families. While Government are working on plans to support people and businesses through these tough times, Rotary International are also aware of and looking at issues affecting us.

We are in discussion with them on the RI dues – particularly the impact of the exchange rate. While we cannot promise anything, they are aware of our concern.

We are also looking at how to keep the District dues down – we need to keep the District running, but without placing too much of a burden on our members

The biggest impact is, however, club meetings. Many clubs have already proved that virtual meetings are an effective tool to keep in contact, and if your club has not done so, we suggest you give it a try.

After this lockdown is complete, the problem will not have gone away – so a combination of physical and virtual meetings will provide an affordable option for the next few months.

The second point is that we have applied for a Foundation Disaster Grant – it is pending the trustees decision to make more funds available, so we wait and see – if successful it will enable clubs to provide support in their communities for food and medical supplies. It is only a small amount in the greater scheme of things, but every bit helps! Your President will receive details as soon as we have approval from the Foundation

And finally, we know that family and business need to come first. Many of us face challenges as a result of what has happened, and may need the time to come to terms with the changes and deal with issues as a priority. We respect that, and Rotary District is working on a business network platform to help businesses belonging to members to connect and support each other – which is more critical than ever. Details will be sent to your club soon!

Also remember, that where time becomes an issue, Rotary no longer has strict attendance rules, so if needed, advise your club and take a leave of absence while you sort the rest of the problems out – but remember we are here to support each other, and Rotary is our 'other family' who can help through tough times. By working together, staying connected and talking about the issues facing us, we will overcome both the current health crisis and everything else that follows!

Until we can physically get together again, stay positive and stay healthy

Yours in Rotary

DG David



District Conference – Discon 2020 - Has sadly been Postponed (no date yet)..... HOWEVER, the training section will be replaced by:

Online Rotary Training opportunities and On-line webinars

One major impact of the current Corona Virus health crisis is that our traditional in-person training cannot take place. We are thus working on developing a series of online training courses to help Clubs and Leadership teams to prepare for their year ahead

There are four categories of online learning available to members:

- a) District specific Webinars and Courses
- b) Rotary e-Learning centre
- c) On line RI videos
- d) Other relevant training videos and events

a) District specific events

- **Membership seminar - Short membership Webinar on Saturday 18 April 2020**

The main theme is the new flexibility of membership in RI, as well as membership tools which are available to club leaders. This will be a short presentation followed by a panel discussion on the issues raised. **Attendance is limited** – please contact PDG Ian Pursch (ian.pursch@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

It will be repeated as needed until everyone who wants to attend, has had a chance to do so. Future events will be set up on additional topics over the next few months.

- **POETS** - DGE Carl-Heinz is working on a series of presentations for POETS which will be attended on line. Details will follow once they are available in early May.

b) Rotary e-Learning centre

There are tremendous resources available for members at all levels on the Rotary.org website.

Log on at: www.rotary.org and go to 'My Rotary' and then - 'Member Centre' and 'Learning Centre' to see the courses on offer, which cover topics relevant to all levels from a new member to our future governors!

c) Rotary International Videos

Again, on My Rotary go to 'Exchange Ideas' and look at both the **International Assembly (38 videos)** and **International Convention (30 videos)**. There are also a **number of videos on You Tube** that you can watch

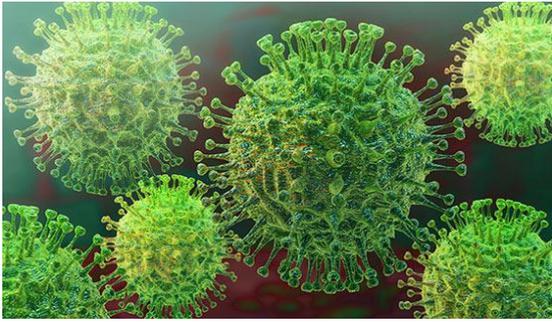
d) Other relevant training videos

As we consider how to manage our clubs and committees over the next few weeks/months, one clear option is the **ZOOM software** which has been successfully used by the e-Club.

Not sure how to work with Zoom? There is a training video on their website: www.zoom.us

There is a special discount available to clubs wanting to take out a licence through Rotary Global Rewards – details already sent to all club Presidents

There are so many options for on line training, that you will not be able to complete everything, but we do encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity



Rotary's response to COVID-19

We know this virus has had a major impact on our lives, but watching the news we realise that the actions of our government may well have limited the impact on South Africa.

Here is a report from Rotary International:

Rotary is closely monitoring the pandemic of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel Corona virus, and continuously assessing the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and members.

Your health and safety are always our top priorities. Check the links below for information on Rotary activities that may be affected. We will update this page as new information becomes available.

In the near term, Rotary International recommends that Districts, Rotary and Rotaract clubs meet virtually, cancel or postpone meetings and events following the advice of national and local health officials, and using ingenuity and flexibility, help people affected by the Corona virus and to stay connected. Rotary encourages members and their families to take precautions to protect themselves from contracting the virus by:

Washing your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water;

Putting distance between yourself and others if COVID-19 is spreading in your community, and

Staying home if you are sick.

AFFECTED AREAS

1. [Grants](#)
2. [Polio](#)
3. [Rotary International Convention](#)
4. [Other major Rotary events](#)
5. [Club and District meetings](#)
6. [Rotary Leadership, committees, RI Secretariat](#)
7. [Rotary Youth Exchange](#)
8. [Rotary Peace Fellowships and other programs](#)
9. [Rotary-funded travel](#)

RESOURCES

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [U.S. State Department](#)
- [Rotary's travel ban list](#)
- [Watch a message of support from RI President Mark Daniel Maloney](#)

Grant options to respond to COVID-19 - As people of action, Rotary members want to find ways to respond to COVID-19, which is now a global pandemic, and to help people affected by it. The Rotary Foundation offers several options that Rotarians can use to help care for and protect people in their own communities and others around the world.

District Grants

Districts can use [District Grant](#) funds to support local activities, like purchasing thermometers, protective medical gear, or other items to donate to medical professionals who need them.

Districts can also use contingency funds from an open District grant or repurpose previously planned activities as a COVID-19 response.

As Districts prepare to submit new District Grant applications for 2020-21, we encourage you to designate funds for COVID-19 responses.

As a one-time exception, the Foundation will allow expenses related to COVID-19 that were incurred since 15 March 2020 to be reimbursed through 2020-21 District Grants.

Disaster Response Grants and Rotary's Disaster Response Fund

Rotary's [Disaster Response Grants](#) provide a fast and effective way to respond to local events. The Rotary Foundation recently added COVID-19 projects to its list of eligible activities for these grants.

Each district can apply for one grant (of up to \$25,000) to address COVID-19, depending on the availability of funds. Disaster response grants are funded by the [Rotary Disaster Response Fund](#) to help Districts around the world respond to disasters. The fund accepts online contributions and DDF. Districts may designate that their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund be used exclusively for COVID-19 grant activities. Cash contributions will be used for general disaster response, including response to COVID-19.

Global Grants

[Global grants](#) remain an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community. If medical equipment is needed in order to respond effectively to COVID-19, global grants can help pay for these items. The Foundation is waiving the 30 percent foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19.

Note that these grants still require both a host and international partner. For additional information, contact your [Regional Grants Officer](#).

Polio

Using the vast infrastructure developed to identify the Poliovirus and deliver vaccination campaigns, the Polio eradication program is pitching in to protect the vulnerable from COVID-19, especially in Polio-endemic countries. [Learn more](#).

Rotary International Convention

We regret to announce that the Rotary International Convention, scheduled for 6-10 June 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, has been cancelled due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. As the virus continues to spread rapidly around the world, we made the difficult decision to cancel our annual convention to protect the health and safety of our members, staff, attendees, and the local Honolulu community. [Learn more](#).

Other major Rotary events

To protect the health of all involved, Rotary has cancelled the **Presidential conferences** scheduled for 28 March at UNESCO in Paris, France, and for 9 May at the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy. People who registered will receive an email from the organizers with additional information and details about refunds.

Club and District meetings

In the near term, Rotary International recommends that Districts, Rotary and Rotaract clubs meet virtually, cancel or postpone meetings or events following the advice of national and local health officials. Please continue to follow the guidelines set by the [World Health Organization](#) and your national, regional, or local health authorities to protect your health and safety. If feasible, conduct meetings online or by phone. Closely examine your personal circumstances, including any health issues, when you consider travel and participation in events.

Rotary leadership, Committees, RI Secretariat

The RI Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees meetings will take place remotely via webinar rather than in-person.

All Rotary committees scheduled to take place at Rotary International headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, in March and April have been cancelled. If feasible, committees may choose to hold virtual meetings.

All events scheduled to take place at the Evanston headquarters in March and April have been cancelled or postponed.

All RI staff travel, both international and domestic, has also been cancelled through 30 April. RI staff at Evanston headquarters and all of Rotary's global offices are practicing social distancing by working from home until at least 30 March.
