**IPDG Thomas A. Gump**

Tom Gump is passionate about growing Rotary Membership through forming new and innovative, cause-based Rotary, Rotaract and satellite clubs. He founded, among other clubs, the first ever Rotary Club to serve veterans and co-founded the world’s first Rotary club to end human trafficking. He helped form the *Rotary Club of Network for Empowering Women* and *The Kaleidoscope Rotaract Club*, to serve those with Autism and their families. He also helped form the *Rotaract eClub for the Environment* - the first ever cause-based, international, Rotaract eClub focusing on the environment, which was the innovative club example used by Rotary International General Secretary and CEO [John Hewko](https://www.facebook.com/john.hewko.7?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXTTrTelndYUokyfYNrBgdnqWLboFbNzM_eDOh77mU6y9jlaokUtiasaAhHh5fVZg_ZZhaKpgfm1N0diaMlPLxZN9VWSClT-hoPNHxxC0nvkUv7UrZX83XYJaiTZA_ILP0&__tn__=-%5dK-R) in his closing remarks at the *2021 Rotary Virtual Convention*. Tom is now helping form *The Rotary Club of Minnesota Pride*.

Tom was one of only 20 North American Rotary leaders selected by Rotary International Past President Mark Maloney and Rotary International Membership Staff to participate in a *New Club Development Summit* and was subsequently named as a *Zone 29 Innovative Club Advocate*. Tom is also one of only 500 Rotarians in the world to be named to [The Membership Society for New Member Sponsors](https://my.rotary.org/en/membership-society/recognition) for bringing in more than 50 active members into his club, which puts him at the Gold Level of the Society, and that does not include the members he has referred to other clubs he has formed. He also serves as a Zone 29 *Assistant Rotary Coordinator* for membership.

Tom now inspires others around the world and helps them form their own new and innovative Rotary clubs. He speaks regularly on the topic of membership at Rotary club, district, multi-district and zone events and as a breakout panelist at the *2020 and 2021 Rotary International Virtual Conventions*. He is on the PETS Alliance’s list of “Popular Speakers.” He will be speaking at the *2022 International Assembly* on the topic of forming new and innovative clubs.

The North American *Rotary* magazine and other Rotary regional magazines have written about Tom and the new and innovative clubs he has formed and his membership techniques and published articles by him. Tom’s tips for attracting and retaining members and some of the clubs he has started have also been featured as part of cover stories.

Next month Tom will be announced as the winner of the “Zones 28 and 32 Individual Membership Innovation Award (2020-2021),” for promoting new cause-based clubs throughout North America, even though he is not a part of those Zones.