



November 1, 2018

*Dear Presidents-elect and Presidents-elect-nominees 2019-2020,*

On behalf of the District 5440 Leadership team, I have the great pleasure of congratulating you on becoming club presidents and presidents-elect for the 2019-2020 Rotary year.

You are in the middle of one of the best experiences of your Rotary life. As presidents and presidents elect you are the essential members of the Rotary team. We sincerely hope that this upcoming year will be a satisfying, rewarding, growing and FUN experience. I know it was for me when I was a president in 2010-2011.

We are all part of the Rotary Relay Team. Together we will take baton from those who came before us and, for a little while, we will have the privilege of carrying it toward our goal. The race, which is the work of Rotary, is much more than a one-year effort. This upcoming year will be our turn (you as presidents and me as governor) to do our part for the team in the overall race. Our success is a result of our efforts and all those who are there to support us.

In fact, the best part of this upcoming year are our fellow Rotarians who will be our loyal and enthusiastic cheering section as we run our part of the race. There are so many resources available to help us along the way: past presidents and district governors, district leaders like our assistant governors and committees, and club boards of directors. The most important resource you can share is yourself. Get to know your fellow presidents and presidents-elect and be there for them. We all have a stake in the success of this coming year.

Our commitment to you is that, as District leaders, we will do whatever we can to help you be successful in your race. We stand ready to help you develop the skills and resources necessary to help you be a great president and help your club thrive.

Rotary is at a crossroads and we are being challenged to transform Rotary into an organization that meets the needs of a broader spectrum of people. We will continue the discussion of the "Why of Rotary" and the "member experience" that we started under DG Chuck. We will continue to explore an expanded flexibility for how we "do" Rotary. The only thing limiting us is ourselves.

I want this focus of this year to be in terms of "yes and", not "either or". We have the freedom to experiment with different ways to organize and experience Rotary. The needs of the world are greater now than ever, meaning that the need for Rotary in the world is greater than ever.

We are calling for critical and innovative thinking, the kind of thinking that never comes from the top down, nor does it come from one person. That's why I'm excited about our upcoming PETS training on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the opportunity to continue this journey with you and the rest of the leadership team. I hope you are as excited as I am for the opportunity to bring about the kind of change that will redefine Rotary for years to come. Please review the attached flyer for the PETS training as it has important registration deadline dates and hotel reservation information. Please note your registration for the training **does not** include your hotel reservation, you must make that separately. The information on how to register for both are included in the flyer. More information will be distributed in the coming months so please be watching for important PETS training materials.

DG Chuck, DGN Bill and I look forward to greeting you at PETS March 1st through the 3rd in Denver. All of leadership team is looking forward to meeting you and sharing experiences with you. We wish you every success and great enjoyment in your role during your term of office.

*Chris Woodruff, DGE*

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