



POETS 2020 - 2021

Wrap-Up and Closing of POETS

As I said at the beginning: it is a pity that we couldn't meet in person today. Nothing can beat the human interaction at the respective refreshments and lunch breaks, let alone in the evenings at the Assembly and Conference.

I do hope, though, that we could give you at least an impression of what is waiting for all of us in our year: endless opportunities to grow as a club, as leader but also for the people and communities we serve.

If I had a wish for free, it would be the following:

Get your priorities right: your members should come first – give them the feeling "we care about you" and only then do community service, as without a sound and healthy club you cannot achieve much. Don't forget: District and the members of its committees are there for you, and as your DG I am there for you.

I am sad that my club visits are on hold for the time being. My plan was to visit first the smaller clubs and those which are not in the centre of our District, being the Southern Cape, Namibia and Angola. As the Board of RI has "strongly encouraged all DG's to use virtual meetings for club visits that occur during calendar year 2020", I will start with online club visits in July. Please forgive for that, but I think it doesn't make sense to wait, hoping to start club visits only next year, not knowing whether they will be possible.

As RIPE Holger has said: "we are blessed as Rotarians, as we take on leadership roles in our wonderful organisation. Everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere. And it opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

I want to show you a short video of Bono, the International Pop Star and philanthropist, who spreads the message of what Rotary is doing. Please follow in his footsteps and do some marketing what your club is doing in your year. Please don't forget: the glass is always half full (not half empty), **so let's prove that Rotary is bigger than Corona**

It is time to say thank you: Firstly, to all of you who shared this morning and a part of this afternoon with me and all the presenters. Secondly, to Carl, Siham, Derek, Shaun, Peter, Ian, JJ and Jeremy for their presentations. Thirdly, to David, our DG and host of this webinar. Last but definitely not least to Lynette who, as our District Trainer and also presenter, worked endlessly to make this POETS a success under these difficult circumstances. Lynette, your enthusiasm and attention to detail was contagious – many thanks for this.