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RID Floyd Lancia offers a bit of history on navigating the pandemic.



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Guest columnist and neighboring DG gives advice on virtual meetings.



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Submissions for President Mark's Rotary Citation due June 30.

The Heartbeat

Zones 30-31

May/June 2020



Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation continue to monitor closely the pandemic of COVID-19, assessing its impact on Rotary operations, events and members.

What remains clear throughout is how Rotarians are using ingenuity, flexibility and shared resources to stay connected and help those most

affected by Coronavirus. We are innovating, caring for those affected, and showing that, even at a distance, we're people of action. Stay safe; stay well; stay Rotary engaged!





The COVID-19 pandemic is one of many diseases that have threatened world-wide health over the years, but the first since Polio that has struck as much fear in the general public. Both the

Coronavirus and Polio have occurred in my lifetime with an ironic twist: In the 1950s parents were worried for their kids, like me. Now it's kids worried about their parents, like me. Polio is an acute, viral, infectious disease that usually strikes children under 5 and is most often spread through infected water. There is no specific cure, although with the Polio vaccine we can immunize against it.

The 1952 polio epidemic became the worst outbreak in U.S. history. It heightened fears of the disease, which ravaged the world's young from 1916 until the welcomed arrival of Jonas Salk's vaccine in 1955. Of more than 57,000 cases reported that year, more than 3,000 people died and more than 21,000 were left with mild to disabling paralysis. The disease crippled its victims by attacking the central nervous system. It became active in warm months and was primarily transmitted through contaminated water.

There are similarities, but also great differences between what we are going through now and what Americans experienced 60 years ago. Like the Coronavirus, Polio was an unseen enemy. There was quarantining of infected families and social distancing; but the country didn't shut down. It was just swimming pools that did. It was the vaccine that ended the terror. In 1955, when the first clinical trials proved Salk's new polio vaccine was "safe, effective and potent," it was front-page news.

In a White House ceremony that same year, Salk received the Congressional Gold Medal from an emotional President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who

said, "I have no words to thank you." That same triumphant moment may well come for the scientists who find a vaccine for COVID-19, giving people across generations and the world a reprieve from this pandemic. Can you imagine the sigh of relief when there's an effective Coronavirus vaccine? Given the intensity of the news cycle right now, it's not actually hard to imagine we might have an international moment like the one that came when Salk trial results were announced.

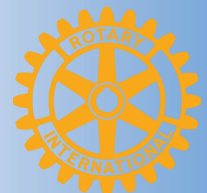
The CDC estimates there will be 20,000 to 50,000-plus deaths from the flu in the U.S. this season. And yet, Dr. Perri Klass, a pediatrician, wrote it's a struggle every year to convince people to get vaccinated against the flu and practice good handwashing—all things suddenly understood to be matters of life and death.

Vaccines are one of our human victories, a triumph of our ingenuity and intelligence, our science taking advantage of our biology by turning on our immune systems. We need to be worthy of them. We've come a long way since the Polio scourge of 60 years ago. But it's a shame it takes something so serious to convince so many people to take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of a disease.

We can all learn from this experience as we navigate the days ahead and find ourselves in a new normal. By every measure, we will continue to be servant leaders in Rotary as we focus not on what is happening, but what we can make happen. Rotarians recognize and face challenges head on, making a difference in the world every day. Let's continue to do what we have always done by continuing our focus and service in these challenging times ahead.

**Information provided by Wikipedia and columnist Hubartt*

Yours in service to Rotary,
Floyd
RI Director, Zones 30-31



Embracing Virtual Meetings

Suzanne Gibson, Governor, District 6440 (northern Illinois)

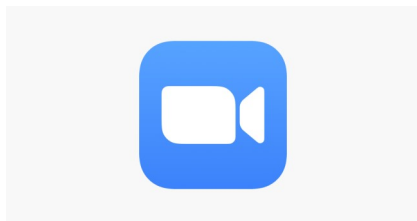
For many of us, our Rotary family is an important part of our lives. These friendships connect us to our communities and the world and provide avenues of soul-enriching service. These uncertain times caused by the Coronavirus pandemic challenge us to be innovative and adaptable.



In District 6440 (Illinois), all of our clubs have canceled in-person meetings, following the advice of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the need for social distancing. But that does not mean we have to give up on regular fellowship opportunities. Several of our clubs have already meet virtually using Zoom.

To make it easier for more of our clubs to meet online, District 6440 is underwriting the first-year cost of a Zoom Pro license (applying the 20 percent off through Rotary Global Rewards) for our clubs. We are holding two Introduction to Zoom sessions to familiarize members with the online meeting platform. And we are encouraging every club to create a Virtual Meeting Coordinator — someone with good technical skills who can be enthused about virtual meetings and have a desire to help members of the club become proficient at it. (Clubs are required to appoint this position to take advantage of our offer to underwrite a Zoom account.)

The Virtual Meeting Coordinator will serve these functions:



- Establish their club's Zoom Pro account
- Coordinate Zoom training for their club
- Coordinate scheduling of Zoom license for use by club committees
- Serve as technical host to manage connectivity and screen sharing
- Interface with the District's Virtual Meeting Team to pursue best practices and receive advance training

Finally, we are holding optional Zoom meetings for our presidents and presidents-elect to help them ask questions, seek advice, and share action plans.

Rotarians are resourceful people who use their talents to lead in their communities. We hope that our example will give guidance to other Districts in maintaining Rotary fellowship and service in these trying times. Indeed, many Districts have already adopted guidelines for their clubs.

Our best wishes are with Rotarians everywhere as we collectively rise to this challenge and show why we are People of Action.

- View a [one-minute video](#) on how to join a Zoom meeting.
- Learn how other districts are [keeping members engaged during the pandemic](#).

Help Fight COVID-19 Pandemic

GIVING UPDATES

The Rotary Foundation has spent years funding disease prevention and treatment projects that address health issues in vulnerable communities. Now, all communities are suddenly vulnerable to a disease that so far has no vaccine and no cure. That's why it's more important than ever that we continue to fund projects that support disease prevention and treatment, along with basic education and literacy, community economic development, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Rotary is uniquely prepared to assist communities around the world, but we need your help. If you can give, donate to the Foundation's **Annual Fund** to support humanitarian projects, to the **PolioPlus Fund** to support both polio eradication efforts and other health infrastructure, or to our **Disaster Response Fund** to support local efforts to fight the pandemic and help people who have been affected by other disasters. The Disaster Response Fund accepts online contributions and District Designated Funds (DDF). Districts may designate their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund to be used exclusively for COVID-19 grant activities. Cash contributions will be used for general disaster response, including response to COVID-19.



GRANT UPDATES

Rotarians can use funding from The Rotary Foundation to respond to the global COVID-19 crisis and protect and care for people in their own communities and around the world. Here are three ways to do it:

- ◆ Districts can use district grant funds to support local efforts, like purchasing thermometers or protective gear to donate to health care workers who need them. You can also use contingency funds from an open district grant or repurpose previously planned grant activities to respond to COVID-19. And as you prepare district grant applications for 2020-21, we encourage you to designate funds for COVID-19 response. In a one-time exception, the Foundation will allow Coronavirus-related expenses that were incurred between 15 March and 30 June 2020 to be reimbursed through 2020-21 district grants.
- ◆ Rotary's **disaster response grants** fund quick reaction to local emergencies. The Rotary Foundation has added COVID-19-related projects to the list of activities that these grants from the **Disaster Response Fund** can pay for. Depending on the availability of funds, each district can apply for one grant of up to \$25,000 to respond to the pandemic.
- ◆ **Global grants** remain an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community. If a facility or community needs medical equipment in order to respond effectively to COVID-19, global grants can help pay for it. These grants still require both a host and an international partner, but for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19, the Foundation will waive the requirement that 30 percent of the project's financing come from international sponsors.

Rotary Citation Submissions Due June 30



Clubs throughout our Zones still have this month and next to submit key accomplishments for a Rotary Citation or Rotary Citation with Presidential Distinction in support of various 2019-2020 strategic priorities. The task is easiest for those who've kept club and member information up-to-date by completing and noting certain activities in My Rotary throughout the year, but still open to all. Of note, is that requirements were slightly edited in April as far as goals required to qualify:

<https://my.rotary.org/document/presidential-theme-and-rotary-citation-brochure-2019-20>



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