Countdown to Virtual Zone Summit

If you’ve not yet registered for our Oct. 10 Heart of America Rotary Zones 30-31 Virtual Summit, please do: https://www.rizones30-31.org.

The Summit is what we used to refer to as “Zone Institute,” designed to let Rotarians share information, build connections, and exchange ideas about Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

Registration is open through Oct. 6 for our first-ever virtual Summit, promising to be one of the most informative, energetic, engaging and highly attended Heart of America offerings yet. All Rotarians — past, current and future leaders — as well as non-Rotarians, can sign up for unique presentations and activities.

All occurs on one day — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Standard Time — from wherever and on whatever subjects you choose.

We’re talking Polio eradication, Membership updates, Foundation initiatives, Public Image, Networking, Diversity, Leadership training, Crisis & Disaster Management and more.

General session presentations happen in the morning. (See presenters, page 3.) Afternoon breakouts follow on our new Area of Focus (Supporting The Environment), Club and District grant ideas, engaging younger members, public speaking and more.

In fact, the only thing that’s not more is the price: no registration fee, no meal costs, no travel, and no lodging involved. This year’s Summit, in addition to going virtual, is free!
I have opportunity at different times in the Rotary year to address Rotarians at different venues: PETS, DG training, District Conferences, Club visits, Summer Leadership Seminars, and nowadays, virtually. I often choose the theme "A Call to Lead" and present it in a way that the concept of leadership is to urge Rotarians to be deliberate in developing their own leadership capacities, as well as others’.

The history of the verb "to lead" is pretty straightforward: it comes from the Old English word laeden, which means "to guide" or "to accompany and show the way." Generally, the idea of leadership is connected to the idea of competition — "I am leading this race" means I am in front of everyone else; "The Pittsburgh Steelers are leading in the (AFC) North division" means they are the best team.

There is a distinction made between the leader and everyone else, with one seen as "better" or "more important" than the other. But the original intention of the word isn’t about competition: it’s about setting an example for others following someone’s lead. Instead of being in front of, better than, or smarter than, a leader is an equal — someone who accompanies you on your journey, guiding you forward and showing you the way. A leader works with others to inspire them to do their best and have a lasting impact on others.

Leadership is a process that moves from establishing and nurturing relationships to building trust to working with those individuals to help them grow. Leadership is, in many ways, about giving power to other people — to their ideas, opinions, talents and dreams. Leadership is and should be, at its best, absolutely selfless. It’s never about you; it’s about those you lead. It’s not about you being the best or smartest; it’s about realizing that you don’t know everything, that you can’t do everything yourself, and allowing yourself to step aside and learn from the experiences, perspectives and talents of others. It’s why sometimes the captain of the soccer team passes the ball to someone else to make the goal; strong leaders realize that sometimes someone else is better positioned to lead at that moment and allows that to happen for the good of the team.

Finally, leadership is about the greater good, not your own good. It requires a deliberate effort to create and build strong and healthy relationships with other members of your community, club or district. It relies on all of you to help each other grow in service of others, to contribute to each other’s paths of development. It asks that you make a positive impact on those around you so that all of you, together, can make your community, club, district, and the world around us, a better place because of your willingness to lead and your sincere desire to influence the growth and development of others for greater good.

As Rotarians each of you are leaders in your own way. Each of you has the capacity to become an exceptional leader in Rotary. Take advantage of the opportunities Rotary makes available so that you can be the best leader you can!

John Maxwell defines leadership as **one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way**, so “guide” or "accompany and show the way.” As we continue into the year of “Rotary Opens Opportunities,” I encourage you to foster the ideal of service through leadership to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace. I look forward to witnessing you becoming the best leaders you can be as we strive to make our world a better place.

Yours in service to Rotary,

**Floyd**  
**RI Director, Zones 30-31**
Emerging Rotary Leaders Seminar

*Catherine Taylor Yank*

*2020 Norman Summit General Chair*

*2005-06 Governor, District 6510*

DGs, DGEs and DGNs,
As in past years, we encourage you to include members from your District at the Emerging Rotary Leaders Seminar. This year’s event will be virtual, providing a no–cost option for Rotarians considering serving as Governor in the future. You may invite up to ten (10) Rotarians from your District.

The Emerging Rotary Leaders (ERL) Seminar is designed to provide potential leaders in Rotary with a forum to learn about leadership at the District level and beyond and consider options for future service, including as District Governor. ERL Seminar participants will gain insights from some of the most effective leaders in Rotary International in an interactive, engaging format that includes networking, idea sharing, Q & A and mentoring with Past District Governors from across Zones 30 and 31.

The event will be held in two sessions — Friday, September 25, 2-4 p.m. and Saturday, September 26, 9-11 a.m., Central Standard Time. Email Megan Law at Megan@OKCrotary.com to register, after which you’ll receive a Zoom login for both sessions a few days before the event. Megan or Ed Hardesty, at edwinh1313@me.com, can also be contacted for more information.
Together, We Empower: New Generations for Hope

September 14th at 6:00 pm CST
Register at ewirotary.com/register

Join our speakers Razia Jan and Martha Hoffman Goedert.

Razia has worked for many years to forge connections between Afghans and Americans. Her humanitarian efforts are honored in First Lady Laura Bush's 2016 book *We Are Afghan Women.* Martha Hoffman Goedert earned a MSN in Family Nursing at the U of Kentucky (1979); with CNM certificate from Frontier School and a PhD from the University of Utah. Vulnerable populations have been her career emphasis competency-based clinical and didactic work in interdisciplinary health care teams. Martha is a member of Morning Rotary, Omaha where she is President-elect. Please visit ewirotary.com to learn more about these incredible speakers!

Together, We End Polio
With Ann Lee Hussey and Carl Chinnery

Together, We Transform: Doing Good in the World
With Brenda Cressey, Rotary Foundation Trustee, Pamela Stewart and Randy Steinman

For more information or to register, visit www.ewirotary.com
Heart of America Coordinators

Rotary Coordinators
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