

**Seattle International District Rotary Club  
2019-2020 Year-End Report  
David J. Della, President**

## **Introduction**

This is my President's report for the Seattle International District Rotary Club 2019-2020.

I would characterize the 2019-2020 Rotary year as extraordinarily un-ordinary. We experienced both the ordinary (2019) through first two months (2020) with; our planned community service, fundraising plans, and club service/fellowship activities of our club as well as the un-ordinary (2020); maintaining our club's communication, service and fellowship during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent social/racial unrest with devastating social and economic impacts on our area of community service work, Chinatown-ID.

My fellow Officers and Board for the 2019-2020 were:

- President-elect – Henry Wong
- Secretary – Judy Ginn
- Treasurer (Operations) – Tim Lee
- Treasurer (Club Foundation) – Amy Orr
- Club Services Chair – Henry Wong
- Community Services Chair – David Goldsmith
- International Services Chair – Stan Miner
- Membership Chair – Jesse Tam
- Youth Service/Rotaract Liaison – Judy Ginn
- Vocational Services Chair – Ed Jefferson
- Rotary International Foundation Chair – Shannon Woodman
- Sgt at Arms – James Osborn
- Immediate Past President – Amy Orr

## **Goals**

I outlined the following three (3) goals for our club:

- 1. Stabilize and Increase our membership by 50%**
- 2. Broaden our club's presence and impact in our ever-changing community, Chinatown-ID and immediate areas**
- 3. 100% donations of our members to the Rotary Foundation**

## **Key Accomplishments – Per Goal**

### **1. Stabilize and Increase our membership by 50%:**

- Through Club Membership - Added 5 new members to club immediately – all have become active, valuable members of our club, and taking on leadership roles,
- With the help of Rotary District 5030 – we held our first club visioning session on August 17, 2019 - 5 years vision and set immediate goals,
- Held two (2) small, but spirited fellowship “happy hours” for our club in early 2020 throughout the CID to interact at a community restaurant,
- In addition to our regularly scheduled Club meetings, held two (2) Club Assemblies to plan and review our club business/committee work,
- Through Youth Services/Rotaract - We continued to build a closer relationship with the SU Rotaract Club with attendance of their leadership and members at our club meetings and fundraising activities, active with their project with the Mountaineers at Bailey Gatzert School, and finally, participated in their hosted shared dinner with plans to meet quarterly and do joint projects.

### **2. Broaden our club’s presence and impact our ever-changing community, Chinatown-ID/immediate areas and globally:**

- Through Club Service - Brought in twenty-three (23) inspiring and impactful speakers to our club from various community service organizations, projects, including Rotary related, issues, and local organizations, and city leaders like Seattle’s Police Chief Carmen Best,
- Through Club Vocational Services - We gave out total of \$12,000 for four (4) traditional scholarships and one (1) special social justice award, set up in memory of longtime club member Phil Ginsberg, as well as a donation to Seattle Education Alliance (SEA),
- Through Club Community Service - Raised funds for Operation Warm Coats Project for Students at Bailey Gatzert School – raised \$ 4,256.83 through start up grant, club members go fund me donations, and direct designated contribution by club members and families. With these funds, we purchased and distributed 223 coats and built a great relationship with the school’s Principal, Teachers, parents, and students.
- Through Community Service – Joint project with Mountaineers Club to provide four (4) outdoor opportunities for up to twenty-four (24) Bailey Gatzert students,
- Through International Service – participated and raised funds in six (6) different projects; three (3) in Africa: Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, three (3) in Armenia, Guatemala and Yemen.

### **3. Raise Funds for RI Foundation and Club Foundation:**

- We planned to hold up to three (3) fundraising events throughout the year instead of one large event,
- Held one of the three on 3/1/20 – Murder Mystery Dinner – raised \$5,591,
- Raised \$20,470 designated funds to date in our Club Foundation for various projects with \$16,870 remaining,
- Through individual donations and the President’s special donation, all members of our club have participated and donated to the RI Foundation.

In addition to the three goals, we also focused on **Leadership Development** in the following ways:

- President-elect (PE) - Our biggest leadership accomplishment was to convince relatively new member and Club Service/Fundraising Chair Henry Wong to be President-elect (PE) for 2020-2021,
- Weekly President-President-elect (PE) meetings and/or conversations to integrate the PE in leadership planning, decisions and transition for new Rotary year.
- Club officers/members participation D5030 month-long Festival of Training in lieu of District Conference.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic:**

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in Q1 2020 and the subsequent Stay at Home Order by the Governor in late March turned our Rotary service upside down. We could no longer meet in person, build fellowship, hold fundraising and conduct our service work in the usual manner.

Through the resilient efforts of the Club officers, board, and members, we quickly adapted and pivoted to do our rotary service different to meet new, uncertain times:

- The board met weekly virtually, through Zoom Meetings to keep us moving forward – built and maintained a tight club leadership core,
- We continued to hold club meetings virtually through Zoom Meetings along with speakers and great attendance by members and guests,
- Through Community Service - We focused our efforts to raise and donate a total of \$4,360 for the COVID-19 relief efforts in the CID to support the small business relief fund and ACRS Food Bank. \$3,000 was raised through a D5030 Emergency Matching Grant and partner contribution from Lake Union Rotary with additional funds for COVID-19 relief of \$2,240 through club members donations.

### **Shortcomings and Lessons:**

#### Shortcomings:

- We were not able to achieve our goal of 50% increase in membership – we started with thirty-two (32) and ended with twenty-six (26) members, a loss of six (6 ) for a variety of reasons – including one (1) death, longtime member and current Sgt at Arms, James Osborn,
- We were not able to fully follow-up and engage with new members into club activities, particularly after COVID-19,
- We were not able to hold the two (2) additional planned fundraisers, one projected in May, as our Annual Fundraising Dinner with the Mayor of Seattle as our projected speaker and a summer event that was to include local CID/Little Saigon businesses and community organizations due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings,
- We were not able to participate in targeted community events to raise our profile, such as the annual CID Clean-up, Dragon Fest, and other community activities, like happy hours, as projected, again because of COVI-19 and event cancellations,

#### Lessons

In hindsight, here are some key lessons learned this year:

- Keep members excited, active and engaged in club committees/activities,
- Set up mentors and club integration process for new members to introduce into Rotary service and get into committees/projects,
- Keep track of members and keep engaged in club activities on a regular basis,
- Keep club member information updated and correct so everyone gets important emails/notices/bulletins,
- Update club website so it is more informative and interactive for members, prospective members and the community.

**Conclusion:**

Although I have mixed personal feelings about my individual leadership as President, the club has done relatively well this year given the changing conditions and uncertainty. This was due, in large part to my fellow officers, board and club members for your dedication, hard work, and remarkable resilience this last year. It is this willingness to step up, come together and keep the club on solid ground that allowed us to stay true to Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

With this, it is my pleasure to submit this as my President's report of our 2019-2020 Rotary Year and to pass the leadership of the Seattle International District Rotary Club to Henry Wong, our new President and his team. I am confident that he will do well to continue to adjust to a new normal facing rotary and our community:

- He brings youth, new energy, ideas, organization, and leadership competency to the club,
- In his short membership in the club, he has built good will and respect of club members and within District 5030,
- He understands the need for change to adapt to a new normal and a new type of membership in rotary and our club.

It has been a pleasure and honor to service as your President this last year.

Yours in Rotary,

David J. Della, President 2019-2020