*Sent to all Members*  
  
July 22, 2024  
  
Dear {%FName%},

Rotary Minutes are provided by District 6220 Governor Roger Utnehmer (Oot-name-er).

Please read at club meetings and share on social media and newsletters.

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“This is a Rotary Minute from District Governor Roger Utnehmer.

One simple act of civility can make a significant difference.

An example is starting Rotary meetings with a Land Acknowledgement Statement recognizing the role of our American Indian neighbors in preserving and protecting the land on which we meet.

The Land Acknowledgement Statement prompted a Rotarian to approach me and express gratitude saying, “That’s the first time Rotary has extended such kindness and decency to my people.”

Rotary International starts conferences and assemblies with a Land Acknowledgement Statement. I share an appropriately edited version in the hope your club may use it as a first step in reaching out to our American Indian neighbors.

“Today we meet on lands formerly occupied by Indigenous peoples, many of whom were forced to leave generations ago.

Rotary International recognizes the historical and ongoing impact of the colonization of Indigenous communities.

We pay respect to our First Nation Elders, past, present, and future.

We express our respect and gratitude to First Nation people for preserving and protecting the lands on which we meet.”

Please consider the positive reaction our Indigenous neighbors will have when they learn of Rotary’s gesture of respect and friendship. It may open an opportunity to have American Indian speakers at our meetings, youth exchange, and leadership academy opportunities, service projects and scholarships.

We share a responsibility in Rotary to build goodwill and better friendship.  This is a first step, a gesture, that may lead to peace and resolve a long-lingering conflict.

Thank you”.

Roger Utnehmer    
Rotary District 6220 PHS Coordinator   
District Governor 2024-25   
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