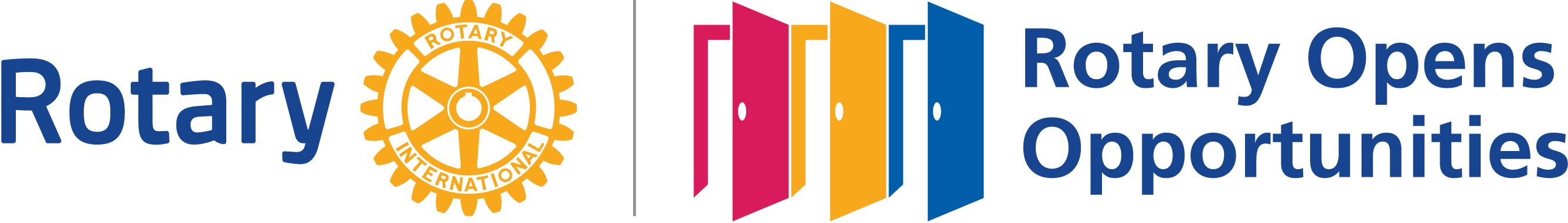
**MINUTARIAN from DG MARK for the WEEK OF June 14, 2021**



My Family of Rotary - It is time to take a look back on our Rotary year as we prepare to shift to new leadership....we'll talk about that next week, but this week I want to address the challenges we faced this Rotary Year as they were indeed unusual and some might say *historic*. A number of times, I was asked if I would get a 'do over' or have my DG year extended. No and No. This was it. This was the year I had been preparing for with three years of training and over 40 years of being a Rotarian. You would think that all that training and preparation would have set me up well for what we faced in 2020. Quite honestly, it was a new day for ALL of us! Every single planned or scheduled meeting, club visit, event, and program had to be changed. I learned to zig and zag and ZOOM along with most of the rest of you. The theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities" certainly took on new meaning!

So here's some of the silver lining...

* My car has way fewer miles on it that I expected it would.
* I did not have to get up in the middle of the night to drive 2 hours to attend any 6 am breakfast meetings.
* I missed out on too many Rotary Chicken dinners to count and actually lost weight!
* I used what tools - phone and computer - I had to reach out to all of you and tried my hardest to engage and make an impact.

Time will tell how we did, but for now, my reflections are of the people I got to know and the clubs I tried to help. The volunteers who stepped up to be on District Committees are hard working and dedicated Rotarians. They all have my deepest thanks. Being part of the structure that makes our District run or being District Governor is something I encourage you to strive for. If you are interested in becoming DG, please email me for an application for the Rotary year 2024-2025. markscolnickdistrict6890@gmail.com

I'll leave my farewells for my final Minutarian, but for now, I'll just say that Rotary does indeed Open Opportunities, with or without a pandemic. Rotary is strong because of all of you who believe in and live by the motto of 'Service Above Self'.

Yours in Rotary - DG Mark