

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

D1420 2020-2021, DG Sakari Karjalainen, Southern Finland and Estonia

AUGUST IS THE MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH



Handover of the chain of office at Hausjärvi-Riihimäki RC



Rotary dollar = 0,85 €



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Important dates:

- **8.–13.9.** Rotary Institute, GETS and GONTS, Oulu
- **24.10.** District meeting, Hotel Scandic Park, Helsinki
- **24.10.** End Polio Now Gala, Hotel Scandic Park, Helsinki
- **19.11.** Rotary Foundation seminarium, Hilton Kalastajatorppa, Helsinki

Additional information on the D1420 homepage ([D1420-homepage](#))

HOW TO ARRANGE MEETINGS AS THE CORONA PANDEMIC CONTINUES

The era of uncertainty continues. The COVID-19 pandemic forced some clubs to interrupt activities in the spring, while others pressed on with video meetings and in other ways. All clubs in our District have now started a new year of activity, yet they have been unable to return to working as they did before. Several clubs kicked off their year festively with handovers of the chain of office, which had been postponed from spring to late summer. I myself had the opportunity to attend two handover ceremonies: one at Hausjärvi-Riihimäki RK and the other at my own club, Kluuvin RK – Gloets RK. Everyone was obviously very happy to meet their club brothers and sisters after such a long break.

What impact will a continued COVID-19 pandemic have on our activities? Clubs seem to have adopted a number of ways to deal with the situation:

- club meetings have been face-to-face meetings, but taking appropriate precautions
- all or some club meetings have been arranged as video conferences
- the start of the season has been postponed and the situation is being monitored.

I would like to share with all clubs the recommendation drawn up by an expert group at Töölön RK on their club's policies to protect against COVID-19:

<https://rotary.fi/helsinkitoolo/ajankohtaiset/korona-ja-viikkokokoukset-ohjeet-ja-info/> (in Finnish).

Karis RK has already adopted its own version of the model, and I warmly recommend other clubs do the same. Ensuring our safety is a top priority.

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ROWING FOR HERRING IN 2020

This year's Rowing for Herring event has been cancelled due to the corona crisis. The organising clubs will provide more information at a later date. Next year's event promises to be even bigger and even more impressive!



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THE CORONA CRISIS – THREAT... OR OPPORTUNITY?

A club without activities will soon be a club without members. I recommend that club presidents or any other club board members be in personal contact with all their members, or at least with those who have not attended meetings. At the same time, you can ask about the members' expectations with regard to the club. After a break, it will be easier for previously passive members to get involved, especially if they are specifically invited to do so.

I encourage clubs to arrange meetings in every way possible – even two times a month is enough. Remote access enables those at risk or persons with reduced mobility to participate safely in meetings. Video conferencing may also lower the threshold for becoming a member, when attending meetings does not require a person to move location.

There are different options for organising video conferences. For example, a club may acquire a Zoom licence at a price of about EUR 150 (see MyRotary: Rotary Global Rewards). If you're planning on organising only a few individual video conferences during the year, you can use the District's Zoom licence. For regular use, I recommend that clubs acquire their own Zoom licence or Microsoft Teams, which, subject to certain restrictions, can also be made available free of charge to the club. Please contact the District's IT Committee or me personally, if you require more information.



The Governor's cat Hedwig meets a chimney sweeper for the first time in her life.

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GOVERNOR'S VISITS

I'll start my club visits at the end of August. Due to the corona crisis, however, some visits may be postponed to next spring. If the situation so requires and/or the club so wishes, the visit can be carried out as a video conference. Please let me know, if you want to discuss this further. The District's Zoom licence can be used to organise the video conference.



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Tallinn Rotary Club's celebrations at Laitse Castle.

TALLINN ROTARY CLUB 90 YEARS

Tallinn Rotary Club celebrated its 90th anniversary at Laitse Castle, where the club has held events before. I had the opportunity to attend this warm and wonderful celebration. Before the tree planting ceremony and dinner, we remembered by name all the late club members since the 1930s. The Rotary organisation has strong traditions and a bright future in Estonia.



DG Sakari Karjalainen, PP Ulf Rosen and P Rein Leipalu joining the Tallinn Rotary Club's 90th anniversary at Laitse Castle.

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RLI TRAINING IN AUTUMN 2020

The Education Committee of our District will organise a second in-depth RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) course with three sessions during the autumn. The preliminary session dates are 17 October, 7 November and 21 November. The course is suitable for all Rotarians, both new and experienced. The course itself is free, but everyone pays for their own lunch. Registration opens in August, so keep an eye on the District's website. The RLI training has received very good reviews and is led by trained members of the Education Committee.



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EVENTS ON WORLD POLIO DAY 24 OCTOBER 2020

On 24 October, we will celebrate World Polio Day. Rotary International launched the global campaign to eradicate polio in 1986. Working together with the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we have almost achieved the campaign's objective. Through the membership fee, each Rotarian donates EUR 7 a year to the Rotary Foundation to support work aimed at eradicating polio. But more help is needed! This year, we will host the second End Polio Now gala, where we will raise funds to eradicate polio worldwide. On the same day, we will organise a box collection in the centre of Helsinki and introduce Rotary activities to passers-by. At noon, all Rotarians and their friends can join our webinar, where experts will discuss the eradication of polio and other topical issues related to communicable diseases. The district meeting will take place that same day starting at 14.00. More information about the day's events as well as instructions on how to participate will be published in September. As Governor, I will reward the club with the most participants in the gala!

<https://youtu.be/mh8XGCsk0Tc>