

## PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH



Rotary dollar = 0,82 €



Rotary Opens Opportunities

### Important dates:

2021

- May 8th, District Assembly (ZOOM)
- May 15th, Virtual District Conference (together with four other districts in Finland)

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

### ROTARY ACTIVITIES AS THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES

The boards of the **Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation** convened at the end of January to make significant decisions regarding the Rotary community as a whole.

The corona pandemic continues to rage on everywhere on this planet and no country or region is safe from its effects. The key factor affecting the spreading of new virus mutations and the continued pandemic is travelling. Local chains of infection are set off when several people get together. Restrictions on travelling and assembly are central to slowing down the progress of the pandemic. This fact led to the cancellation of the international Rotary Congress in Taipei as a physical event and transformed the meeting to a virtual one.

The boards also issued other recommendations concerning the whole Rotary world. It is recommended that all district governors and club presidents hold their meetings online. This decision is suggestive, so when national legislation permits, meetings can be held in place. However, governors or other RI functionaries will not receive travel compensation for attending club or district meetings even if they are normally entitled to such compensation.

The next monthly newsletter will provide more information regarding the changes to the Rotary Foundation.

IN BRIEF: Rotary International recommends that all remaining meetings and other events for this Rotary year be organised virtually.

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE ROTARY IDENTITY

During the past year I have made three trips outside the Finnish borders – to Estonia in all three cases. We managed to hold the Estonian PETS and the Rotary Foundation seminar on March 6–7, just before the travel restrictions. In August I took part in the Tallinn RC's 90th anniversary celebrations, and in September I barely managed to visit the Rapla RC before the new restrictions were imposed. Now it is clear that I will not be able to visit Estonia, or go anywhere else outside of Finland, during this Rotary year. What club visits remain I will now have to handle virtually.

Our own club's weekly meetings are one of the most important things for us Rotarians. For many of us joining these weekly get-togethers, seeing Rotary friends, and hearing interesting presentations have become an integral part of our lives – and of our identities.

What remains of our Rotary identity when all these regular, face-to-face meetings with our Rotarian brothers and sisters are taken away? I am sure all of us have been pondering this during this exceptional year. Many clubs have held successful online meetings and these too have become a part of our everyday lives. Digital meetings do not make face-to-face meetings unnecessary but complement our operations well. There are also clubs that are on a hiatus regarding all kinds of meetings. I am somewhat concerned about these members. Will they have the energy to feel enthusiastic about meetings again once the pandemic is over and operations are restarted?

Providing service and projects related to service provisioning are part of being Rotarian. All clubs have service projects – local or international. Many of these are on a temporary break as service projects generally involve meeting other people and this has now been restricted. Another great pride of the Rotary organisation – international youth exchange – has been interrupted for at least a year.

Now that we have fewer things to do, it would be a good idea to give some thought to what other aspects are included in being Rotarian. Could being Rotarian mean a way of perceiving other people and a willingness to act for the benefit of others? "Service above self" is our motto. We wish to act to promote peace and mutual understanding in our own work communities, where we live, in our own country, and internationally.

Now is a good time to decide what we will do when a state of normalcy is restored. Will we continue where we left off, or create something new? The corona pandemic has shown us how our own lives are strongly connected with the lives of others, both close to home and on the other side of the globe. In a closed world we truly understand what its openness means to us. Let us make Rotary even stronger once it is time to get together again and carry out our service projects. Rotary opens opportunities.

### PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar)

Due to the corona pandemic and related restrictions on assembly, the PETS will be organised virtually in Finland (using Zoom) in three parts (you need to attend all three):

#### **1) Tuesday April 27, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

We will go through the advance assignment under the supervision of assistant governors.

#### **2) Saturday May 8, 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

DGE Raine Nikander will present the objectives by RIPE Shekhar Mehta for the year 2021–22, we will go through the preparations for the club's operational plan and discuss the challenges of managing volunteers, and the committees will tell us about their activities.

#### **3) Saturday May 8, 12.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.**

We focus on new member acquisition and on activating existing members to keep them participating in our activities.

All participants will receive a personal invitation that includes Zoom links for the training sessions.

Also, an additional PrePETS will be held on **Tuesday April 20, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.** for the future presidents and secretaries who did not take part in the PrePETS events organised in February.