

WATER AND SANITATION MONTH



Rotary dollar = 0,82 €



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Important dates:

2021

- Estonian PrePETS April 13–14 (ZOOM)
- PETS April 27th and May 8th (ZOOM)
- May 8th, District Assembly (ZOOM)
- May 15th, Virtual District Conference (together with three other districts in Finland)
- rfd

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

District Assembly on 8th May 2021 through ZOOM

Due to restrictions on gatherings, the District Assembly (or the spring gathering for Rotary District 1420 ry) will be held virtually through ZOOM on Saturday, the 8th of May 2021 at 16:00. The meeting will address, among other things, the next year's action plan, budget and membership fees. Clubs will receive a separate invitation along with the link to the scheduled meeting.

District Conferences Replaced by a Joint Virtual Conference for All Four Districts

According to instructions by Rotary International and national authorities, district gatherings have been cancelled until the 30th of June 2021, and will be arranged virtually if possible. Four Rotary Districts active in Finland and Estonia (1385, 1390, 1420 and 1430) will replace their respective District Conferences with a joint virtual conference on Saturday, the 15th of May. Information about the event programme and instructions for joining the meeting will be shared through the district website.

International Youth Exchange Suspended Until 30th June 2022

The president of Rotary International, Holger Knaack, announced on the 19th of March that the board of directors had decided to suspend Rotary's international youth exchange programme until the 30th of June 2022. The reason stated is that the safety of youth exchangees cannot be definitively secured, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty related to the availability of vaccinations.



Rotary Finland's Badge of Merit Awarded to Hannele Kauranne (photo: Niko Niemi)

The former president of the Finlandia Hall RC and the former assistant governor for District 1420, **Hannele Kauranne**, has been awarded the Rotary Finland's badge of merit. The reasoning behind this accolade includes her long-standing work on the conservation of the Baltic Sea, as well as her success in inspiring involvement in Baltic Sea projects among other Rotarians.

[European Rotary Golf Open Championships – Vierumäki 2021 \(Lahti-Wesijärvi\)](#)

Rotarian golfers will gather at Vierumäki in Southern Finland from the 26th to the 31st of July. The Lahti-Wesijärvi RC will be responsible the competition's side programme. For more information on the competition, please see the [brochure](#) (in Finnish). Next summer is an unique opportunity to have an international experience at a relaxed Rotary golfing event. Golfers of all levels are welcome.



Changes to the Financing of Rotary International (DRFC Markku Stenvall)

The board of directors for Rotary International has been forced to stricтен and revise funds and project functions. The reasons for this are simple: the amount of applications for new Global Grants has increased greatly, while donations to the Annual Fund have increased at a significantly lesser rate. Annual Fund donations are the main source of income for the World Fund, and consequently a scarcity of donations will unavoidably result in the dwindling of the World Fund.

The board of directors has been forced to make the following decisions:

1. A district's DDF donations towards the PolioPlus fund will receive a 50% increase from the World Fund instead of the earlier 100%.
2. The increase received by a district's DDF donations towards Global Grants will decrease from 100% to 80%, beginning at the 1st of July 2021 .
3. As per the current legislation, donations from the Annual Fund towards SHARE will be distributed evenly between the World Fund and DDFs. There will be a 5% deduction from the portion distributed to the World Fund, in order to cover operational expenses.

Beginning at the 1st of July 2021, 5% of the Annual Fund donations toward SHARE will be spent of operational expenses, after which the remaining 95% will be distributed evenly between DDFs and the World Fund.

4. The transfer of unused DDFs will be limited to five years.

Service or Charity?

Is Rotary International a service organisation or a charity? Are our projects servile or charitable works? I have often pondered on these questions when I think about how we might tell non-Rotarians about our activities and their purpose. I have come to the conclusion that the word “service” does not accurately portray our activities.

Rotary Finland’s website has lists of ten reasons to join in four different languages. The first, in the different language versions, reads as follows: “Mahdollisuus palvelemiseen”, “Möjlighet att betjäna”, “Võimalus teenida oma kogukonda” and “Opportunities to serve”. Of these four, the Estonian translation differs slightly from the rest. It refers to serving your **own community**.

For me, service brings to mind something entirely different than what we are supposed to be doing – doing good in different ways. Service, for me, brings to mind a complete devotion to a concern or a cause: a monk or a nun serving in a monastery, or someone who joins the Salvation Army, or works in development cooperation or does missionary work. Service is not something we do when we happen to have the time. As I understand it, service is dedication to something to such an extent that you leave ordinary life behind entirely. The life of a Rotarian is not like this, and it is not supposed to be.

Service has another, different meaning. We live, to a growing extent, in a services-based society. Instead of purchasing and consuming products, we increasingly procure services. We pay for someone else to do something for us. Rotarians do not produce that kind of services.

I understand why there has been an emphasis on service instead of charity. You could say that in the former case, we are brought to level with those we “serve,” while the latter elevates us above them. This is a valid argument and one worth remembering. Doing good and practising charity should not mean giving out alms or propping up your own sense of self-satisfaction. When all is said and done, we cannot ourselves define the goodness of our actions, in an ethical sense. We can, however, evaluate their usefulness.

Might it be time to leave behind the concept of “service” and replace it with something else that better reflects our activities and better suits our current times and society. Do you agree with me? Can you think of some other word, which would be more fitting than “service”? Is it charity, help, support or volunteer work for the good of others?

Do you want to discuss this or some other matter related to Rotary International or matters pertaining to our district? **You are welcome to participate in the Governor’s Q&A Hour** virtually on the 12th of April, beginning at 17:00. The event is open to all Rotarians and those interested in Rotary’s work. You can join the event through the following ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82671015169>

You can also send me questions beforehand, to my email at erkkisakarikarjalainen@gmail.com

Welcome!

