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District Governor's Message for May 2020

DG Johnny Moore <mailservice@dacdb.net>
Reply-To: d7770dg19.20@gmail.com
To: lindsaysutcliffe2@gmail.com

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:08 PM

Dear Lindsay,

Hello fellow Rotarian of District 7770! I do hope you are staying safe and that you are well.

I saw a sign recently that said, "Tough times do not last, but tough people do!" I like that! And, I wondered: "Are Rotarians tough people?" While thinking about that question, my mind went to all the things Rotarians have tackled. I thought about how we are: about to beat Polio; making great strides in improving literacy; working in many ways to end hunger; providing clean water to locations in the world that never had it before; cleaning up water supplies and building sanitation systems that save lives; working to prevent other diseases like ebola and using our Polio network for helping with COVID-19; improving the health of expectant mothers and their babies in many countries; and now, finding positive ways to help with the COVID-19 pandemic. That's when I was convinced of what I already knew. Rotarians are, indeed, tough people! And, we will remain tough while also being compassionate.

Like the sign said, "Tough times do not last..." and this tough time will not last. This is a temporary thing, though I realize for some it may not seem very temporary. For some this has meant a reduction in, or even total loss, of income. Rotary is stepping up! Many clubs have re-tasked their District Grants to support local food banks or other meal providing agencies to meet the increased demand brought about by this crisis. The Rotary Foundation has loosened its rules for District Grants for this and next Rotary years. The Foundation Trustees have also made temporary changes to the way The Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Fund can be used and has awarded over 2 million dollars in COVID-19 disaster response grants with more possibly in the works.

In our District, we have announced a membership dues rebate for the last two quarters of this Rotary year that clubs can use for one of 5 different needs. It can be a refund to each member, a scholarship for dues for members who have lost jobs, to complete a current project, to do a new COVID-19 related project or to balance the clubs budget because of the loss of a fund raiser. We've heard from many clubs that are already making plans for this funding. And, while it isn't a lot of money taken individually, for the District as a whole it amounts to over \$76,000.00. This comes from funds set aside for the All Club Conference, several other cancelled events and from District reserve funds.

May is Youth Service Month on the Rotary calendar. This reminds me of the Youth Exchange students, both inbound and outbound, who are still in their host countries braving this pandemic. Please keep these young people in your prayers. They are, in their own way, exemplary of the service Rotary provides to youth. We offer them many opportunities for personal and educational growth. And, they could be influential in the world's future for cultural understanding and goodwill.

Finally, I am tremendously encouraged and inspired by the Rotarians of District 7770. You are resilient, positive, innovative, and creative while dealing with this current situation. Keep it up! I've said it before. I am so proud to be a Rotarian. And, I am even more proud to be a Rotarian in District 7770, the best District in all of Rotary where "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change -across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves." You are the change agents this vision is all about!

Humbled to serve as your District Governor,

Johnny Moore
District 7770
District Governor 2019-2020



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