

Rotary

District 5495



Fellow Rotarians of District 5495:

Our District Leadership Team and I want to reach out to you since the spread of Coronavirus is on the minds of everyone in our District.

We would like to reinforce that the health and safety of our members are our TOP PRIORITY and we also want to assure you that Rotary is closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 and is continuously assessing the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and training meetings. We have held a number of calls and are having continuous discussions surrounding options available to all of us.

Immediate Update:

Here is a list of upcoming events and their status:

- Ponderosa RYLA originally scheduled for April 2-5: **Cancelled**
- Grants Management Seminars: **Changed to Online Only**
- Club Leadership Academy originally scheduled for April 25: **In-person session has been cancelled. The CLA organizing team is arranging online classes for various club leaders...much like the tracks that were to be offered at CLA. More information will be provided soon. And the team is working on other innovative ways to support and strengthen the clubs. So stay tuned.**
- Junior RYLA scheduled for June, 2020: **Still moving forward as originally scheduled**
- Rotary International Convention in Hawaii originally scheduled for June 6-11: **Cancelled**
- Connect Through Giving Dinner: **Still moving forward as originally scheduled**
- Peace Conference scheduled for June 25: **Still moving forward as originally scheduled**
- District Conference scheduled for June 26 & 27: **Still moving forward as originally scheduled**

If the World Health Organization and regional or local authorities discourage or prohibit gatherings or traveling because of the risk of spreading COVID-19, follow their recommendations. If you have any questions about travel related to a global grant, contact your regional grants officer.

Suggestions for your club to stay active and involved: We also wanted to share some options available to you for club and committee meetings. RI President Mark Maloney is encouraging all of us to use our discretion when it comes to club and district meetings and events, and Rotary programs and activities. Canceling or postponing in-person meetings or Rotary-related travel may be appropriate in light of club-specific circumstances. Even if events are held as scheduled, some members may choose to not take part.

In either event, we should all be thinking in terms of how to use this time to stay connected to Rotary, to our fellow club members and even of ways to serve our clubs and our communities.

While we are living in challenging times, the hallmark of Rotary has always been rising to challenge after challenge.

Here are some options that will allow Rotarians and your clubs to stay connected and to serve our communities:

- e-Clubs – Visit the e-clubs! Our e-clubs conduct regular meetings with wonderful programs. This is a great and innovative way to participate in Rotary. You can find links to our e-clubs on the District website under the menu item “Clubs”. rotary5494.org
- Zoom / GoToMeeting / Fuze and the like for club meetings: Zoom (<https://zoom.us>) is a free online meeting service (i.e. up to 100 participants for meetings up to 40 minutes) that can help your members stay connected during this period. Many clubs are already using online meeting services for committee meetings. Zoom **Pro**, GoToMeeting (<https://www.gotomeeting.com>) and Fuze (<https://www.fuze.com>) are all very reasonably priced alternatives for conducting online meetings. If you need assistance with these services, please let us know. One piece of good news – the webinars/meetings can be recorded for those who aren’t able to join at the scheduled time.
- Facebook Live: Some clubs are already using this technology to broadcast their club meetings. This might be a very viable option for clubs that are continuing to meet in-person but have members who cannot or don't attend out of health concern, quarantine or even when they are traveling. There are a number of tutorials on YouTube to help you launch this service for your members. If you need more assistance on this, don’t hesitate to reach out and we can work to connect you to Rotarians who have been using this creative method to keep Rotarians involved.
- Service Opportunities: Some service projects can continue even while observing safe contact rules. For example, some clubs are planning trail or highway clean-up projects during this time. Consider what projects your club has that could help your community while maintaining appropriate hygiene like dropping off food to the local food bank.
- Service from Home: Consider creating a suggestion set of service projects for your members that can be completed or delivered from home. This might include members' hobbies or even service that involves reaching out to others (club members and others in your community) in a time of potential isolation....e.g. calls, texts and even old-fashioned letters might make a world of difference to others.
- Social Activities: Some clubs are planning on taking regular hikes together where they can keep a safe distance while sharing fellowship with other club members.
- Rotary reading: This may be a great time to catch up on your Rotary reading - like the Rotarian Magazine, *Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* by David Forward, articles on Rotary.org, Discussion Groups, podcasts, etc. You might even be interested in signing up for the online Peace class or other options on the Rotary Learning Center (<https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/catalog>) or checking out Rotary Discussion Groups (<https://my.rotary.org/en/exchange-ideas/groups>)!

We know this is an unprecedented time. We are here to support your club, and make sure your Rotary club continues to be a thriving, vibrant and impactful organization. Let us know if you have other innovative ideas that you believe will serve our clubs and our communities that we can share with others.

Sending you our best and warm wishes!

DG David Simmer

DGE Elizabeth Mahoney

DGN Bret McKeand

DGD Larry Horton