Growing our Rotary Family

In the Rotary year, August is Membership Month! As Rotarians, we’re committed to making a difference in the lives of people around the world. To make as much difference as possible though, we need to grow! Growing not only helps us do more now, but helps us continue to be viable as an organization for years to come.

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There are two ways to grow: one is to bring more people in to our Rotary family, and the other is to engage our current members so they don’t leave. We all know that Rotary has 1,200,000 members around the world, but did you know we’ve had 1,200,000 new Rotarians join over the last seven years? That means we’ve had 1,200,000 members leave Rotary!

We don’t necessarily have a recruitment issue, we have a retention problem. If we engage our members so they don’t want to leave, we won’t have to work as hard to grow.

What’s the best way to engage our members? It’s by personalizing the experience of each member so they feel they are getting something out of being a Rotarian, and making it easy to participate. Rotary International understands this as well: gone are the days that it’s all about meeting attendance. Now it’s about providing the best membership experience possible through flexibility and innovation. So…what is your club doing to help enhance the member experience? If you have ideas how your club can further engage your members, make sure your club leadership hears them!

Growth is key as well, and we need to make sure we’re always thinking about who would be a good Rotarian. There are only three requirements for membership: good character, good reputation, and a willingness to serve. That’s it…certainly you know people that fit those criteria! Invite them to be part of our organization...we’ll be better off with them!

A couple exciting things are happening to grow our Rotary family:

First, please welcome our newest club: The Rotary E-club of District 5960. The club was chartered on July 2nd and becomes our 63rd club. E-clubs have a little different format as they don’t have a central meeting location, but their passion to serve is the same as all Rotarians. I’m excited to have them joining our Rotary family, and look forward to working with them to make a difference in all we do!

Second, Carrie, Cooper and I are happy to announce that our family will be growing in February! We’re excited for a little girl to join us, and look forward to introducing her to our “Rotary family! It’ll be a while, but I’m sure Cooper and his little sister will be great Rotarians in the future!

Let’s keep growing our Rotary family so we can make a difference,

Kyle
One of the main reasons to consider making The Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice is because you have a say in where your money is spent! Here’s an example of how one of our clubs, the New Brighton-Mounds View Rotary Club, put our Rotary Foundation grant funds to good use.

Rotary works to end human trafficking in Minnesota

Human Slavery has been identified as such a global issue that Rotary International has identified this as one of the next global initiatives to solve as we get close to celebrating the end of polio.

Many of us have the image of human slavery taking place in other parts of the world. However it is happening in our own country AND is a significant industry right here in Minnesota. As leaders in our community, District 5960 has joined with District 5950 to end Human Trafficking in Minnesota. We are in the beginning stages of designing a 3 year strategy and want your involvement.

What can you do to support this effort?

- Arrange for a presentation on Human Trafficking at your weekly meeting
- Volunteer to be part of the “Big Event”, an event to increase awareness of this evil in our community. We will host this event in January, prior to the Super Bowl.
- Bring your friends to the Big Event
- Identify service providers and experts in your community who to attend an “Engage Together Summit”, targeted for February 2018.
- Contact Anika Rychner arychner@360Communities.org to request a speaker or provide names of volunteers or the service providers who should be added to the participant list for the Summit.
Chanhassen volunteer earns President’s Volunteer Service Award

Chanhassen area volunteer, Greg Krauska, has been recognized by President Obama and humanitarian organization, ShelterBox USA, with the President’s Volunteer Service Award for his efforts in 2016 to assist disaster survivors.

When disasters like Hurricane Matthew and the Syrian refugee crisis strike, many want to help. Krauska took action as a volunteer with ShelterBox. ShelterBox is an international disaster relief organization that delivers emergency tented shelter and other lifesaving supplies to survivors of disasters and other humanitarian crises.

Through Krauska’s efforts of raising awareness and funds for ShelterBox, the organization was able to respond to 14 disasters last year, providing families with disaster relief tents, solar lights, water filters, blankets, mosquito nets, children’s packs and other essential equipment. In total ShelterBox served over 149,000 people around the world in 2016.

“I am incredibly honored to work alongside our volunteers, including Greg,” said Kerri Murray, ShelterBox USA President. “It is through their continuous efforts that we are able to help transform lives and rebuild communities around the globe.”

The President’s Volunteer Service Award is a special recognition presented on behalf of President Barack Obama. The award is part of a national recognition program created in 2003 through the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation for individuals of all ages who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer activities.

About ShelterBox
Since 2000, ShelterBox has provided emergency shelter and other lifesaving supplies to more than 1.1 million people in nearly 100 countries around the world who have been displaced by natural disasters or conflict. ShelterBox responds urgently by hand delivering essential aid, including disaster relief tents, blankets, water filtration systems, solar lights, tools, and children’s activity packs. ShelterBox USA is headquartered in Sarasota, FL and Santa Barbara, CA. ShelterBox is an official Project Partner of Rotary International. Tax-deductible donations can be made at ShelterBoxUSA.org or by calling 941-907-6036.
ROTARY 5960 GOALS

The final 2016-17 Foundation Giving numbers are in! For The Rotary Foundation’s Annual Fund, District 5960 Rotarians gave $387,684 which is $135.70 per member (up from $106 per member in 2015-16). Also, District 5960 and Clubs gave a total of $130,125 to the Polio Plus effort (about even with 2015-16). Even though these were good numbers, only 40 percent of our members gave to the Annual Fund and there were 11 clubs that didn’t donate to Polio Plus.

The more we give, the more difference we can make throughout the world, and we need everyone’s help to maximize that difference made! District leadership has set ambitious goals for giving to The Rotary Foundation this year:

Annual Fund Giving: $500,000
Polio Plus Giving: $150,000

If you gave to The Rotary Foundation last year, thank you...and please consider increasing your donation! If you were one of the 60 percent of Rotarians who didn’t contribute last year, please consider making The Rotary Foundation your Charity of Choice. As for Polio Plus, remember that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation matches each dollar we contribute 2:1 so please work with your fellow club members to maximize a club contribution to Polio Plus!

We’ll keep you up to date throughout the year on our progress towards these goals. Thanks for your efforts in making a difference through Rotary!
Wednesday, July 26 was all about choices at a District 5960/Rotaract social mixer at the Summit Brewing Co. in St. Paul.

When Rotarians and Rotaract members left the social—many were sure of two things: Summit was their beer of choice and The Rotary Foundation was their charity of choice.

Special guest was Mary Beth Growney-Selene, a trustee with the Rotary Foundation.

Mary Beth updated attendees on the status of Polio in the world, our international fundraising efforts, and some of the good the Foundation has done throughout the world.

The Rotarians/Rotaractors were such a captive audience that they missed last call in the brewery tap room. District Governor Kyle Haugen opened the program and gave the floor to Twin Cities Rotaract President Chelsea Holub, who charmed the crowd with her outgoing personality. Chelsea shared her story of becoming a Rotaract member and how the organization helped her come out of her shell. Joining Rotaract was a life-changing experience for her, just like Rotary has been life-changing to District 5960 members. She looks forward to someday transitioning from Rotaract to Rotary.

Chelsea also introduced Aziza Moustafa Rodriguez Palacio, a visiting Rotaract member from the Dominican Republic. Aziza presented District Governor Kyle and Chelsea Holub with a flag from her native country. She also brought some small gifts from her home club. District 5960 presented Aziza with a District 5960 banner.
COMING SOON!! GROUP CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Have you thought about travelling to another country to meet fellow Rotarians, learn more about other cultures and explore ideas for new projects your club can be a part of? Or, would you like to host someone from another country so you can introduce them to your customs and help identify areas of need in your community? There’s a new opportunity for you!

Rotary International has created a new Group Cultural Exchange. This is a hybrid between the traditional Group Study Exchange and Rotary Friendship Exchange, and is open to Rotarians and Non-Rotarians!

More information is coming soon, but the District is in the process of planning TWO Group Cultural Exchanges this year: one to District 1860 in Germany and the other to District 2490 in Israel. If you have any interest, keep your eyes open for more information or let Kathy Hughitt know!

2017-18 Assistant District Governors

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<td>Area 1</td>
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St. Croix Valley Rotaract hosting ‘BREW REVIEW’

Join the St. Croix Valley Rotaract Club for the 7th annual Brew Review from 6-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 15. Over 50 brews, live music, appetizers and more! All proceeds go to support the St. Croix Valley Rotaract Club.

Cost: $40.00 a ticket.

Where: Troy Burne Golf Club, 295 Lindsay Road, Hudson, Wisconsin

Tickets available online at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brew-review-tickets-37005396136