



Keith Hodkinson, District Governor

Dear Fellow COVID-19 Survivors (and Rotarians),

*We did it!*

We flushed 2020 down the drain and have moved on to a new year with all the hopes and inspiration that we began with 365 days ago.

One year ago, I was packing my luggage and beginning to ship out 500 small bags of Ballreich Potato Chips to San Diego as my international gift from my hometown of Tiffin, Ohio. I would meet with over 500 District Governors Elect from around the world during the International Assembly. It was a period of excitement and trepidation on what was ahead of me. Visits to our 63 clubs, meeting our 3400 Rotarians, travel to Hawaii for the international convention, planning our District Assembly, One Rotary Summit, Global Grants, District Grants and finally the District Conference in Cleveland and the RotaryRocks!2021 evening at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April of 2021. But a higher power prevailed, and my world came crashing down.

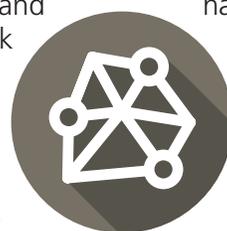
I am not talking about Rotary, at all. At 7:05am on the morning of April 20, while I was on the air at my radio job, I got a call from oldest son Eric, that my middle son Alan had died in his sleep. That is when time stopped for me. From that moment on, even to this day, nothing looks the same anymore. I am not talking about sorrow or pain.

I'm talking about the perspective of life.

I began to look at my year as governor from a totally different viewpoint. None of the glitz and glamour meant anything to me anymore. When the Rotary Jenga year came tumbling down piece by piece, I knew my place was to maintain our clubs. Maintain them by letting them know that myself and the district leadership team were there to support them...NOT the other way around. We were there to keep them informed of state mandates regarding meeting or not meeting. We were there to abate the district dues for the first half of the year so a financial hardship was not placed upon our clubs. We were there to come up with a way to support our own communities with programs that would give them funding to come up with ideas that helped others get through the pandemic safely.

Thus, was born the **WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**. The result was unprecedented. Fifty-two of our sixty-three clubs took part in forty-eight grant requests that went through the grant process and were awarded funding.

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## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

(continued)



The Grants Committee worked tirelessly to get each request completed and the money was forwarded to them in record time. That is what District 6600 is capable of doing when we all work together.

Our leadership team is now past the halfway point of our year. The Pfizer vaccine is now beginning to be distributed and by the end of our Rotary year on June 30, most of America will be breathing a sigh of relief that they and their families feel safer. Between now and then we cannot let our guard down. We must continue to mask up when we are out. Meet in person only when we can do so following the guidelines of the state.

As of January 1, I have visited 62 of the 63 clubs in the district, nearly 90% of them in person following ALL state guidelines. I am proud of every one of our members. Your drive to get through this with your clubs intact was obvious.

That light at the end of the tunnel is getting larger each day. It will be a bright future for all of us in 2021 and beyond. Happy New Year. Happy New Beginning!



*Keith Hodkinson*

**District Governor 2020-2021  
Rotary International District 6600**

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE DESIGNATE



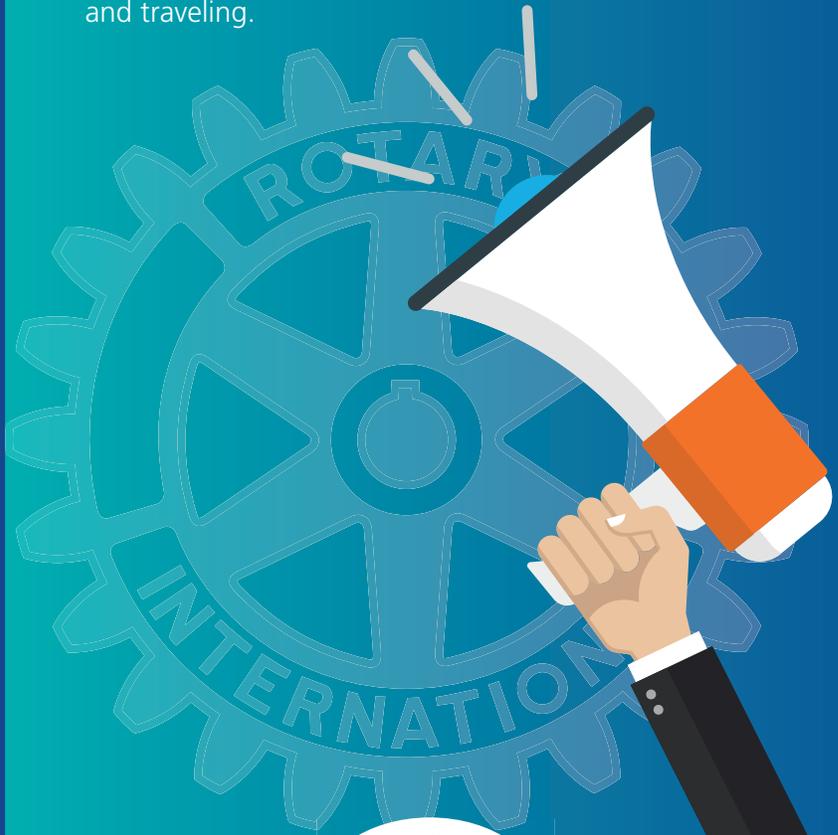
James "Jim" Duke

The Nominating Committee of Rotary District 6600 has named James "Jim" Duke as the District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND). Jim will become District Governor for District 6600 during the 2023-2024 Rotary year.

Jim is a member of the Vermilion Rotary Club and served as President two years in a row. During his term as President, the Vermilion Rotary Club received the "presidential citation" and achieved EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) status. After his term as President, Jim served as an Assistant Governor for several years. He was also the District Conference Chairperson for Carolyn Huston which unfortunately was canceled due to COVID-19.

Jim currently serves as Chief of Staff under District Governor Keith Hodkinson.

He and his wife Kristine live in Vermilion and enjoy golf and traveling.





# WE ARE ONE GRANT



## *We Are One Grant Highlight!*

Here is a great example of one of the District grants that was funded this year! It is not too soon to start thinking about a grant that your Club can do next year!

**The Napoleon Rotary Club reached out and identified 3 agencies in need in their area.** They were:

- **The Napoleon City Fire Department**
- **The Napoleon City Police Department**
- **and Henry County Hospital.**

The Napoleon City Fire Department identified the need for a GermawayUV Xtreme Watt Handheld UVC Surface Sanitizer. This UVC light is used to Disinfect PPE and ambulance interiors. The Rotary Club will be buying this equipment and donating it to the department. The Police Department, due to safety protocols are required to check the temperature of every person that enters their facility. An Infrared Temperature Detection Terminal will be placed in their facility to automatically measure and record staff and visitor temperatures for everyone's safety. There is also a need for the police cars to be sanitized on a regular basis. With new technology, the heaters in the patrol cars can be used to sanitize the interior of the vehicle. Lastly, Henry County Hospital is in the process of raising money to replace a ventilator that is over 15 years old. The Napoleon Rotary Club will be supporting these community agencies with the funds from the We Are One Grant!

*Way to go Napoleon Rotary!*



## **DISTRICT DUES ABATED FOR SECOND HALF OF 2020-2021 YEAR**

District Governor Keith Hodkinson announced on December 14, 2021 that the District Dues for the second half of the 2020-2021 year have been abated. Hodkinson announced:

**2020-2021 has been an unprecedented year for clubs and its members. Anything the district can do to help get them through this period is being investigated. With the cancellation of the April 2021 District Conference in Cleveland and the successful negotiations with Marriott to eliminate any cancellation fees, it was a 'no brainer' to pass that savings onto the clubs.**

The district had also abated the first half dues in July 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

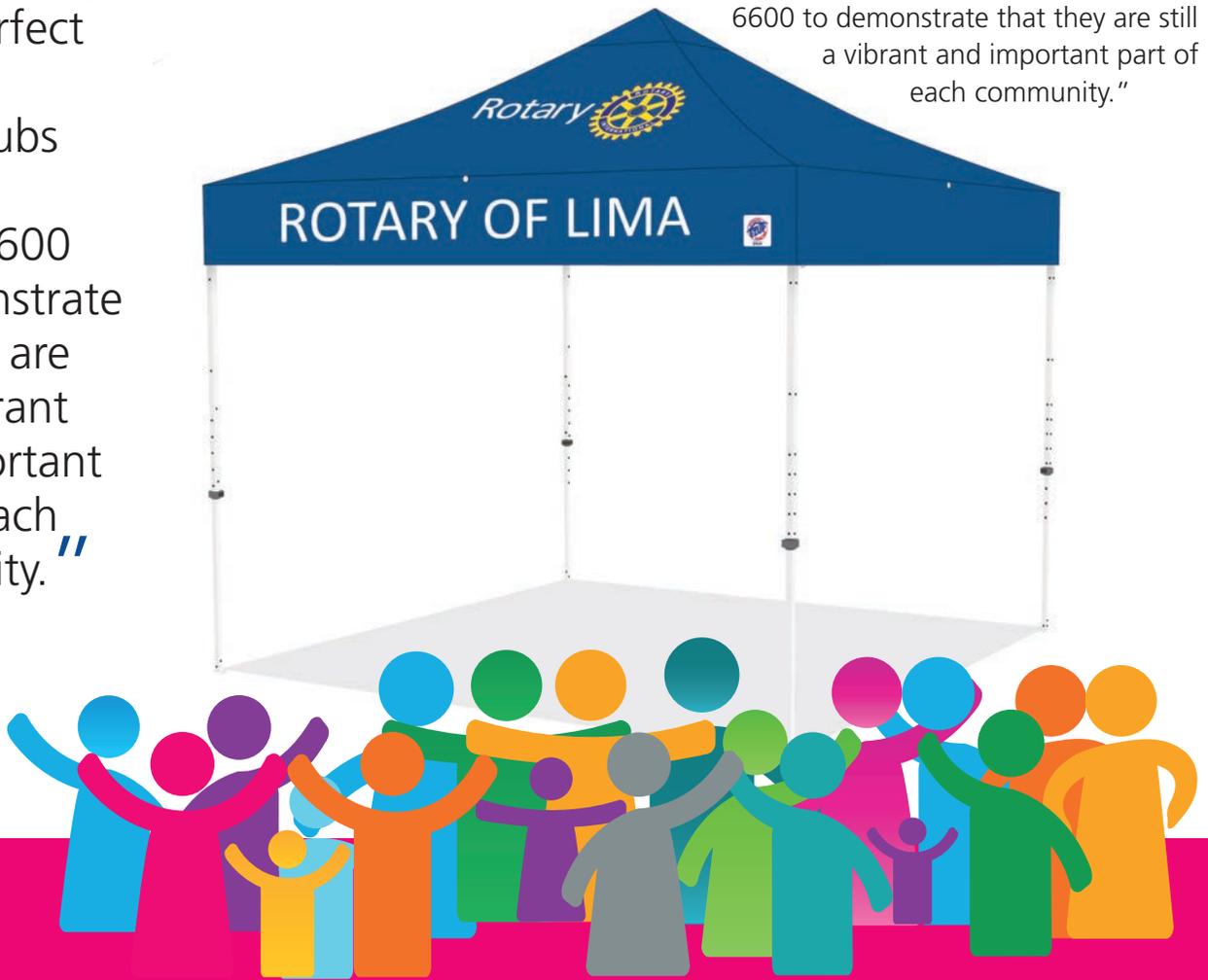
# Pop-Up Tents to be provided to each club community in District 6600

## As part of the We Are One Community

**Grant Program**, District Governor Keith Hodkinson, Foundation Chairperson PDG Deb Cheney, and Grants Committee Chairperson Pam Brumbaugh announced the final piece of the program will provide one 10'x10' Pop Up Tent to each club community in District 6600. The tent is manufactured by the EZ-Up Corporation and is a high-quality tent that can be used by community organizations and/or the local Rotary clubs for fundraising or other community events. Governor Hodkinson said, "each tent is Rotary blue with the Masterbrand Rotary logo." In addition, the tents will have the local club name on one side of the valances. Foundation Chairperson PDG Deb Cheney said that clubs can expect the tents to arrive in early spring. Hodkinson added, "just as the COVID-19 vaccine distribution begins to ramp up this spring, clubs and communities will begin planning outdoor events where the visibility of Rotary will be important." Grants Chairperson

Pam Brumbaugh noted that "the tent program was a perfect way for Rotary clubs within District 6600 to demonstrate that they are still a vibrant and important part of each community."

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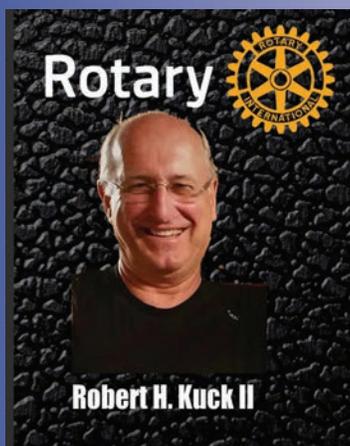


## One Rotary Summit

Saturday February 27, 2021 • 9 AM to Noon

Join club and district leaders, new and experienced Rotarians and Rotaractors for a fun-filled and engaging morning focusing on membership, public image, and The Rotary Foundation, and how all three pieces of the Rotary pie work together. All Rotarians welcome! Register for free on DACdb. <https://dacdb.com/SecLogin3.cfm>

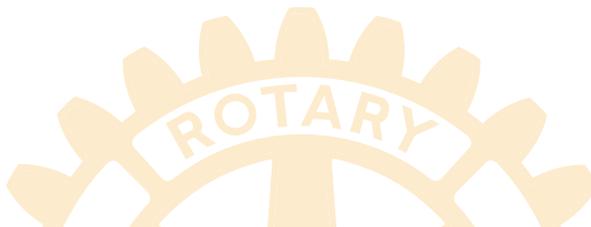
**BOB KUCK, II**  
**PAST DISTRICT**  
**GOVERNOR, AUTHOR,**  
**MESA FOUNDING**  
**MEMBER, AND**  
**GUATEMALA CHARITY**  
**SUPPORTER**



Past District Governor Robert Kuck II was a founding member of the New Bremen-Knoxville Rotary Club and was a past President of the Rotary Club of St. Marys. After retiring to Florida, Bob joined District 6600's first online Rotary Club – Ohio Pathways. PDG Kuck was the youngest District Governor to ever serve District 6600 at the age of 32. Bob is the founder of MESA (Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad Foundation) that he established during his year of being our District's Governor.

After a successful career at his commercial real estate firm, Bob was CEO of Hunger Plus. For several years Bob and his wife Linda served disadvantaged indigenous communities in the Sierra Tarahumara in the northern state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Bob and Linda are dedicated supporters of GLP, The Guatemala Literacy Project, the largest grassroots, multi-club, multi-district project in Rotary. Ohio Pathways is the home club for this project with over 600 clubs and 80 districts working together since 1997 to improve education for underserved students in Guatemala.

PDG Bob Kuck has published a new book. If you would like to hear about how Bob researched and why he wrote about French Fur Trader Pierre-Luis de Lorimier, you are invited to join the Ohio Pathways' meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/901443141> (Meeting ID 901 443 141) on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 8:00 PM.



# RESOURCE CENTERS INTERNATIONAL



This school has their own library and this picture was sent by volunteer school librarian, Jill Cotter, of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda. The students used the resource books their science project.

**Resource Centers International (RCI)** is entering its tenth year of bringing educational materials and supplies to disadvantaged communities in Belize and Jamaica. This year, two containers were sent. They are loaded with books, computers, televisions, sports equipment, games and toys and including accessories such as headphones for each computer. Almost everything was donated by individuals of the Rotary Clubs of District 6600.

After the container arrives in country, a mission team of Rotarians goes to Belize or Jamaica and, with the help of local Rotary Clubs, Ministries of Education and teachers and administrators, sets up each site. Most products go in the pre-school classroom, but computer go in a central location so the whole school can access the educational programs. Easy readers and picture books for the preschoolers, and chapter books and resource books for the older children are included.

There is a great deal of preparation and coordination for each mission and each one is sponsored and funded by a District 6600 Rotary Club and a District Simplified Grant. The cooperating Rotary Club in Belize or Jamaica is responsible for receiving the container, choosing the schools, and helping the mission team.



Kent Iler, from Elyria Rotary, downloads all the software prior to the sending of the computers and then he sets them up in the resource center. Tutorials are given to teachers and administrators after setup.



Everything in this picture comprises a complete resource center however a setup like this is the exception to the rule. Normally the resources are spread among classrooms, libraries, computer centers, and sometimes in the principal's office. Little things like the colorful mats are greatly appreciated in the reading center instead of a concrete floor.

Rotary  
District 6600





## PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING

**Will you be a club president on July 1st?**

Don't forget to join our monthly President Elect Zoom meetings.

The next meeting is  
Monday, January 18th at 7 PM.

## CLUB CITATION TRAINING

**Is your club on track to earn this year's Club Citation?**

Join us for a Zoom meeting to cover the criteria and how your club can earn this prestigious award by completing tasks and meeting goals before the Rotary year-end.

The meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 27th at 7pm.

**Please visit the district calendar to register for these events.**

**Any questions? Contact District Trainer Alison Frye at [afrye@signaturebankna.com](mailto:afrye@signaturebankna.com)**

## HONDURAS WAS HIT BY TWO HURRICANES, ETA AND IOTA THIS FALL

Here is a link to see the scope of the damage!

<https://www.dropbox.com/work/Eta-Iota?preview=WhatsApp+Video+2020-11-18+at+13.13.23.mp4>

District 6600 in conjunction with D6000 is supporting the five Rotary Clubs in the Sula Valley with cash assistance to help the displaced people.

If you are interested in supporting the areas of Honduras that were affected, please send contributions to Doug Welch, Attention: **District 6600 Foundation** at 8638 Quail Hollow Ct., Holland, OH, 43528.

This is a tax-deductible contribution.

*Thank you!*