



**Keith Hodkinson**  
District Governor

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the shortest month of the year! February. It is also the **LOVE** month when everything revolves around Valentine's Day and demonstrating our strong emotions towards someone we care about. It hit me several weeks ago to design our February newsletter around this message of **LOVE**. So, I randomly selected 1000 Rotarians from D6600 and asked them to reply to the question Why Do I Love Rotary? I asked them to reply to my request in 50 words or less. The response back was quite remarkable. Most followed the 50 words or less rule. Others, as you will see later in this newsletter, did not. However, every single response was heartfelt in so many ways. Please keep in mind, the people responding ranged from Rotary International Directors to everyday members of many clubs in our district. There was even one member whose answer was that they **didn't love Rotary** right now because their club was not meeting in person. It was still said with passion. After reading EVERY single response, I came up with the following conclusions:

- Rotary is very important in many member's lives
- Rotary is family to many.
- Rotary is a key component to fulfilling the need to 'pay it forward'
- Rotary to some is purely a way to support your local community activities
- Rotary to some is purely a way to support international projects to help those less fortunate
- Rotary is a way to connect with leaders in our communities and the world
- Rotary allows many to experience opportunities they would never have had the chance to experience if they were not a member

Originally, I mentioned to editor Sharon Trabbic (Maumee) that I would pick several of the submissions and have our graphic designer Shirley Hull (Oberlin) put them in little heart shaped 'bubbles' and scatter them throughout the newsletter. After I read them, I decided EVERY one of these little **LOVE** notes to Rotary **MUST** be seen. That is why you will find them in a **separate document linked with this newsletter**. You don't have to read them all in one sitting. Just open them up every so often to get your Rotary **LOVE** 'jones' taken care of.

*Keith Hodkinson*

District Governor-District 6600

PS – And to the person that does not **LOVE** Rotary right now because we are not meeting in person...

We are doing that because we LOVE you and want you and your family to be safe.

PSS – Why do I **LOVE** Rotary? The answer is simple. I **LOVE** Rotary because of all of YOU!



## 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>

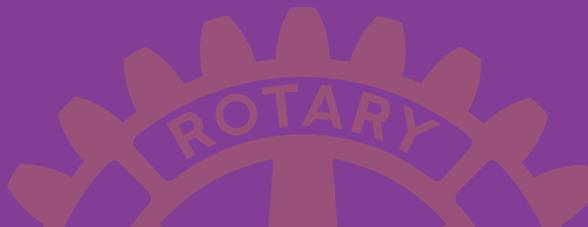
## COVID-19 VACCINE



With all the excitement (and a little controversy) around the COVID-19 vaccine, Rotarians in the United States over the age of 60 might remember how the first doses of the Polio vaccine were delivered to children – in a sugar cube at school! That delivery method spawned a song and lyrics written by the late Robert B. Sherman and his brother, Richard. The song became popular with Disney's 1964 *Mary Poppins* movie.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/08/954413533/his-vaccine-story-inspired-his-father-to-write-a-disney-classic>

NPR reprinted this heart-warming message which was first published by StoryCorps.





## A MESSAGE FROM DOUGLAS MAUER

### Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Chair for District 6600

I have some RYE information for you and a couple of requests. Rotary International has suspended travel until June 30. However, RYE D-6600, Ohio-Erie (O-E), and our international partners are anticipating travel to be reinstated July 1 or sooner. So, we are preparing our exchange students for a 2021-22 exchange and moving forward. We have a class of five energetic Future Outbounds whose applications will enter the O-E YEAH system 05-Feb-2021. The program requires D-6600 to reciprocate by taking in five Inbounds. This normally would be no problem, but many people cannot see past today with this pandemic. Now that vaccines are available my hope is that we can start recruiting clubs back into the program to keep the hope alive for our five Future Outbounds.

So, my first request is for you to engage your club in a positive discussion to 'TRY' to accept an inbound student this fall. Understandably, clubs and school districts cannot make firm commitments at this time, so I am asking for a 'soft' commitment to accept an Inbound student but a firm commitment to do your best to make it a reality. I need to know which clubs will be onboard March 1.

Currently, RYE D-6600 has been working to document our program. We have prepared a five-year strategic plan and have

documented job descriptions for District and Club positions in an Operations Manual. We have prepared two separate budgets (one for student monies, the other for district monies) to comply with RI requirements. We are working on a Crisis Management Plan that will parallel the District Plan. It will be based on the Crisis Management Plan drafted by O-E to ensure it complies with RI requirements. We are also documenting our training programs for Inbounds, Outbounds, Rebounds, and Clubs and are close to completion.

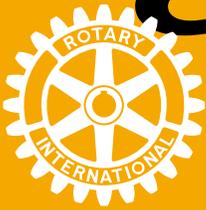
My second request is critical as we need your help! We have many open positions on the District Committee (Compliance officer, Trainer, and simply committee members to help us put forth a great District program). We are looking for dedicated Rotarians as well as non-Rotarians. We meet monthly via Zoom and look forward to new participants adding ideas and excitement to this great district program.

If you can help in any way please contact me. Cell: 440-653-0118 or email: [doug6600rye@gmail.com](mailto:doug6600rye@gmail.com)

Want to learn more about RYE? Attend the NAYEN Virtual Conference February 19-20. Registration closes February 13. to learn more go to <https://nayenconf.org/sitepage/2021>.



# 125 CLUB



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR



## FOUNDATION UPDATE

from **Every Rotarian Every Year Chair, Jim Duke**

When you give to The Rotary Foundation you have several options under “Donate” on the **district website** (<https://rotarydistrict6600.org/giving/>) or on My Rotary. The four choices are the *Annual Fund*, the *Polio Fund*, the *World Fund*, and the *Disaster Response Fund*. They show up under our “Featured Causes.” Which one do we recommend you choose, and what does the “*Annual Fund*” mean?

According to Jim Duke, this year’s District 6600 Every Rotarian Every Year Chair, “At the end of every Rotary year, contributions directed to the *Annual Fund* from Rotary Clubs in the district are divided between the *World Fund* and the District Designated Fund, or DDF. At the end of three years, District 6600 can use the DDF (or sometimes referred to as **SHARE** accounts) to pay for Foundation, club, and district projects that our clubs and others in the District choose. In other words, the *Annual Fund* and **SHARE** are one in the same!”

Jim goes on to say, “Districts may use up to half of their DDF to fund district grants. The remaining DDF are to be used for global grants or donated to PolioPlus or the Rotary Peace Centers. This amount is separate from the Polio Plus giving.”

He adds, “The DDF is used for our smaller projects as opposed to minimum \$30,000 projects which are Global grants.”

### DISTRICT 6600’s 125 CLUB

Jim also believes that Rotarians should strive to be part of our newly formed **125 Club**. If you contribute at least \$100 to the *Annual Fund* (**SHARE**) and at least \$25 to Polio you will be in the **125 Club**. Members in the **125 Club** will receive a signed thank you card and will be recognized at our next district Foundation Dinner. You will also have the knowledge that you have helped a great cause.

And as a special bonus, every club that has 100% participation in the **125 Club** will receive a special gift from our Foundation Chair.

*Jim Duke serves as **Every Rotarian Every Year Chair**, is the Chief of Staff for District Governor Keith Hodkinson, and is District Governor Nominee Designate.*



## NEWS FOR CLUB OFFICERS AND PRESIDENT-ELECTS



**Mary AufdenKampe**  
District Governor Elect

[Mary\\_aufdenkampe@hotmail.com](mailto:Mary_aufdenkampe@hotmail.com)

Will you be a club president on July 1st? Please join our monthly President-Elect Zoom meetings. The next meeting is Monday, February 15th at 7 PM. Visit the district calendar on DACdb to register for this event. Any questions? Contact District Trainer Alison Frye at [afrye@signaturebankna.com](mailto:afrye@signaturebankna.com).

President-Elects in District 6600 will be attending All-Ohio President-Elect Training (PETs) training Thursday evening, March 11 through Saturday March 13. Because all the training is virtual, PE's will also be able to attend sessions that weekend which are part of the MEGA PETS training for Zone 30-31.

Each of the district's 63 President-Elects are eligible to win a trip to the 2022 Rotary International Conference in Houston, Texas. Points are granted based on attendance at training and district events, and completion of Rotary International Learning Center modules.

**Complete details for the contest are on the following page.**



### **JOB FAIR**

Your Rotary District Needs You - we are seeking club members to step into leadership roles for 2021- 2022 and beyond.

What are you passionate about? Is it Membership, Foundation, Public Image, International Services, Youth Service, Community Service? Is it Diversity, Equality, and Inclusiveness? Is it our Environment?

### **WE HAVE A SPOT FOR YOU.**

Where would you like to see change? What opportunities can we create together? If you have idea for something new, Mary wants to hear from you. Let's work together to grow our Rotary District!



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

# WIN A TRIP TO THE 2022 HOUSTON ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION!



Each year Rotary International hosts a large convention for members around the world. If you have never attended a convention, it is an incredible experience filled with inspiration and high caliber speakers.

This year, District Governor Elect Mary AufdenKampe is offering registration and airfare to one lucky President Elect in District 6600!

You will earn entries for every item completed on this list below. Some of these items will be tracked for you and some will be self-reported. Please note each category and the corresponding method for tracking entries. And remember...is it Fair to All Concerned?

Once you have completed ALL of the categories, please send a copy of this checklist along with supporting documents to: Mary AufdenKampe [mary\\_aufdenkampe@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_aufdenkampe@hotmail.com) and Alison Frye [afrye@signaturebankna.com](mailto:afrye@signaturebankna.com) by June 30, 2021. **Please only send the information one time.** Results will be totaled in early July and the winner will be selected!

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRIES	TASK	DEADLINE	HOW WILL IT BE TRACKED?	<i>If self-reported, check box when completed</i>
5 entries	Set Up A My Rotary Account	3.5.2021	Report from Rotary	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed
5 entries	All club members have a My Rotary Account Set Up	6.30.2021	Report from Rotary	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed
10 entries	All goals input in Rotary Club Central	6.30.2021	Report from Rotary	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed
2 entries	Each Course Completed in Learning Center	6.30.2021	Monday report to Trainer from Rotary	
3 entries	Attended Monthly Zoom with Mary and Alison.	6.30.2021	Attendance during Zoom	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Nov <input type="checkbox"/> Jan

# EDISON HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT DOESN'T LET COVID-19 STOP THEM!

By **Patty Moyer,**  
**Edison High School**  
**Interact Advisor,**  
**Kelley Georgiandis**  
**and Keith Hodkinson**



**Edison High School Interact Officers 2020-2021**  
L-R Ariana Heyl, Anna James, Mallory Stiles, Katelyn Chenevey, Jayla Medina & Kelly Wilson

Edison High School Interact students met Tuesday Jan 26, in the morning, before school to present their February projects. There were 43 students present (with social distancing and masked). The kids were excited to be able to help a men's group home, packing care boxes for each resident and making Valentines for elementary students. They also had a sign-up sheet to begin helping with the backpack program again. (Only two students per week will be permitted to do this.) Students will bring in their donations for the group home until February 10th. On the 11th they will pack the boxes and an Edison High School teacher will deliver them over the weekend.

The Club officers did a Google Doc sign-up that they emailed to all the students in school. As a result, the club grew to over 60 members! Earlier this school year, the group was

active in the Happy Project at Christmas time. They collected over 100 boxes that were given out to randomly to children that were in need. (The students were unable to deliver the gifts this year due to COVID-19 but the organizers came and picked them up.) The club rang the bells for the Salvation Army and helped pack boxes for military personnel with the help of the Milan Rotary Club, who sponsors the Edison High School Interact Club. Busy group! Right now, their March project will focus on human trafficking. Once spring comes they will be outside and do some cleanup! This past fall, they planted flowers around the flagpole and

the sign at the High School. They will be doing that again for this upcoming spring before graduation. Finally, the Edison High School Interact Club will do garden cleanup and flower planting at the two museums in Milan - The Edison Birthplace Museum and the Milan Historical Museum.





#rotarythinkbig

VIRTUAL

FEBRUARY 18-20 \_ PANAMÁ 2021

Organized by:  
RC Panamá Norte and RC Playa Coronado - District 4240.



Clinic project in Santa Cruz, a collaboration with the Valle de Sula Rotary Club in Honduras and the Honduran government.

# UNIENDO AMERICA PROJECT FAIR 2021

By Mimi Lange Johnston, Rotary Club of Tiffin

For many Rotarians, the motto “service above self” is key to who they are. Bob Ruehl, of the Lima club, lives this out through his work with M.E.S.A., a District 6600 organization that collects and sends medical and educational materials around the globe, and through project fairs like Uniendo America. Now in its 28th year, Uniendo is an event where Rotary clubs from districts 4240 and 4250 in Central America showcase local and international projects to Rotary clubs everywhere who want to support projects and help communities in need.

Ruehl has taken Rotarians from District 6600 to project fairs in Mexico, Central America, and South America for decades, and is widely considered to be an elder statesman for project fairs, connecting Rotarians to people and projects needing

assistance. Over the years he has attended Uniendo events in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Belize.

Uniendo’s mission statement says, “We focus on making the maximum positive effort for our community. Our members and volunteers provide the momentum that helps us affect change. Using data driven models, we provide solutions that make a long-lasting difference.”

At Uniendo, Rotarians gather to learn about the Central American region’s needs, experience the vibrant culture of host countries, connect with new and old Rotary friends, and build lifelong foundations for international service. Because of the ongoing COVID-13 pandemic, this year’s event, held February 18-20 in Panama, will be virtual. Areas of focus include promoting

peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and supporting the environment.

According to Ruehl, who attended his first project fair in 2003, in a typical year between 3-5 project fairs are held around the world. He believes in the system that Rotary has created to connect people through project fairs, because it has proven to be effective. “In the process of working on these projects, you get to know a lot of other people, which is important,” he says. “That’s the thing about going to Uniendo—getting to know the people and finding out who knows their stuff, where the money is, and who’s willing to work together. You need to do all that before you begin a project.”

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Library in Nicaragua





Casa de las Ninas, Honduras.

District Governor Keith Hodkinson has attended Uniendo events in Belize and Costa Rica and is a proponent of Rotary project fairs. Through the Rotary Foundation's global and district grants, as well as inter-club investments, projects that could be too expensive or otherwise challenging for smaller clubs to take on alone, can be successfully implemented in life-changing ways. Projects have to be coordinated, funded, and completed Rotary Club to Rotary Club. The advantage to this, Hodkinson says, is that by working with another Rotary Club, trust and confidence already exist that things will be handled the right ways, expert contractors hired, etc. And while there are some clubs that prefer to do projects strictly on their own, many clubs find that by collaborating with other clubs within the district, new relationships are forged, more resources brought to bear, and more work can be done.

Previous District Governor Carolyn Huston attended her first Uniendo in 2014. She was working with the district as a member of the Foundation Committee, and Ruehl, who was the chair at the time, told her,

"You really need to go out and see what the true needs of the world are before you can even think about grants and what to do with the money we have." She went to Guatemala that year with a group that included Bob Ruehl and then District Governor Joe Ludwig. As she tells it, "I had no idea what I was doing, so I just took it all in; I listened, and I learned."

The following year, she went with a group to Uniendo in Nicaragua, and the first evening she met a woman who was setting up her booth. She recalls, "We started talking, and she told me that she had opened the first ever public library in the country, working with a Colorado company called Libraries for All." The next day Ruehl talked with her about a booth that was looking for library books. Huston and Ruehl facilitated introductions between the two. The club Ruehl had spoken with had a bus and was looking to convert it into a mobile library to take between schools. "For \$800, we could fund this," said Huston. "I said, my club's not rich; we don't do a lot of big things, but we could do \$800."

Huston took the project back to her club,

showing them pictures the woman from Uniendo had sent her. She says, "We funded the library for those schools down there, and I realized, wow, this is how it works. You just talk to people and get to know them, and then start putting it together." Huston has made friends all over Central America, which she says she never would have done had she not started attending project fairs. She has been to one every year since 2014.

Because projects and needs vary widely, project fairs provide ways for any club to make a real difference. District 6600's ongoing project M.E.S.A. has had booths at project fairs, through which they were able to find clubs who were willing to work together to split the work and costs for shipping a container, which are considerable.

Many of the most pressing problems across the world are due to a lack of clean water and sanitation. District 6600 club members have helped with installing water and sanitation systems, essential hygiene education, and other projects such as one that installed toilets in homes that had

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never had them. “Talk about life-changing”, says Huston of that project, with which she was involved. Other projects have included installing small, inexpensive stoves into homes that had previously only had open fires; working with an orphanage to provide safe, sanitary conditions and educational opportunities to its residents; and even transforming a former fertilizer factory into a clinic furnished with equipment from M.E.S.A.. Remember that project, which also involved the participation of the Honduran government, Ruehl says, “After we finished the clinic, it was such an incentive that they rebuilt the whole center of downtown.”

Rotary districts and Rotary International can provide matching funds for certain grants. While the application process may seem daunting, Ruehl says, “Doing a global grant is not hard. You just need to talk with the people who have experience (to help get you through the process).”

Making connections is a huge part of what happens at Uniendo, regardless of whether you speak Spanish or not. Huston has kept in touch with Facebook friends she has met from all over Central America, and Bob Ruehl has traveled to weddings and other events because of friendships he made through project fairs.

Rotary Club of Tiffin’s Gina Reuter, who participated in the Casa de las Ninas orphanage project, says, “Going to Honduras was the experience of a lifetime and I’ll never forget it. I really feel we’ve made a difference in the lives of those girls and their caregivers, as well as in the lives of those of us who made the trip. Even though our life here is so different from theirs, it’s still the same in so many ways. We laugh at the same things and we cry about the same things—in any language.”

Asked what advice he would offer to Rotarians who are interested in learning more about Uniendo and other project fairs, Hodkinson answered, “If you have a desire to learn more about the international service that Rotary does around the world, going to a project fair will open your eyes to a world that most people never get to see. I think it’s important that people who have any interest in pursuing service around the world either attend a virtual project fair, or when everything frees up, going in person.



Shipment from M.E.S.A.. In addition to Central America, M.E.S.A. shipments have gone to Nigeria, Guyana, Monrovia, and many other countries.

“We are more than the areas that we serve, more than our local clubs. The bottom line is that there are many Rotarians who want to explore all that we do. I encourage you to take that step because it will change your life. I look at life a whole lot differently than I did two years ago. With the support of what we have behind us, Rotary can do great things, and save lives, and that’s the most important thing.”

Interested in learning more about International Service? Sign up and join the virtual Uniendo, February 18-20, 2021.

<https://projectfair4240-4250.org/register>

**Resources:**

[www.projectfair4240-4250.org](http://www.projectfair4240-4250.org)

[www.facebook.com/uniendoamerica2021projectfair/](https://www.facebook.com/uniendoamerica2021projectfair/)

PHOTOS OF M.E.S.A. AND OTHER PROJECTS (COURTESY OF BOB RUEHL)



**IDEAS AND INSPIRATIONS FOR THE 2021 WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMS CAME FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES!**

**Ironically the Rotary Club of Vermilion got their inspiration for their project from the Rotary and Lions Clubs of Huron!**



The purpose of the Vermilion grant was to support local businesses, restaurants, and churches in Vermilion by promoting safe practices, to counter the effects of COVID-19.

The total cost of their project was \$4,000, \$1,000 from District 6600, \$1,000 grant from Erie County Community Foundation, and \$2,000 from their Club.

The Vermilion plan included free-standing hand sanitizing units that could be placed at the entryway for patrons to use. The units, 33 in all, were produced by Lananick Equipment, Huron, with a cost of \$70 each. Included in each unit were 2-16oz bottles (at \$18) of hand sanitizing solution, with more available at the local True Value Hardware store for purchase.

The Club developed a plan for the production of the units, project announcement to the community via Main Street Vermilion and Vermilion Chamber, as well as Rotarians to deliver the units, (including a LOGO for the unit facing), a letter from their Club president Terry Caudill, and an informative brochure about Rotary and the Vermilion Club.

The thirty-three units have been successfully delivered very efficiently. The number of units available basically matched the need exactly!

This is just one of the examples of how the We Are One Community Grant Program funds were used to support the Vermilion community! Please start thinking about applying for a District grant in 2021-22! As MANY of the Clubs have discovered, it is not a difficult process and the District Grant Committee works with the Clubs to make sure they successfully submit a grant!

**“The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.”**

Paul P. Harris

