



THE PEN DOOR

THE NEWSLETTER of the ROTARY DISTRICT 5550 DG

gmanderson@sasktel.net

(306)921-9788

DG Gailmarie Anderson



JUNE, 2021



JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience.

When we talk about "Rotary Fellowships", we actually refer to the groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses and Rotaractors who join together to:

- Share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.);
- Further their vocational development through acquaintance with others of the same profession;
- Make new friends around the world;
- Explore new opportunities for service; and
- Have fun and enhance their experience in Rotary.

Join with other Rotarians who have an interest in beer, music, computers, comedy, motorcycling, chess, birdwatching, cycling, curling, scuba, and so much more. There are a wide range of Fellowships that would be of interest to members, and they are detailed on <http://www.rotary.org/fellowships>. You may find many extensive activities of the Rotary Fellowships that your profession, business or industry area has already established. If not, why not think about starting one yourself!



Upcoming Events

June 3 D5550 Evening Talk Show

June 5 Youth Exchange Coffee & Chat

June 8 Peace Literacy Canada Launch

June 10 Tri Club Meeting

June 11 Membership Committee

June 16 Assistant Governor Meeting

June 19 District HIP Committee

June 22 Succession Planning Committee

June 23 - District Board Meeting

Click [HERE](#) for more details

VIRTUAL LEARNING & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

D5550 EVENING TALK SHOW

June 3 @7:00 pm Sask/ 8:00 pm Manitoba & NW Ontario

Theme: Rotary Fellowships, Friendship Exchange, and Other Opportunities

The title gives it all away. Join us to discuss exciting travel opportunities for Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotex. Hear from guests from around our district: Dave Bennet, Pat Chernesky, David Newman, Elaine Thompson and RI Fellowships rep, Lisa Cook.





Rotary.org

AS I SEE IT

District Governor Gailmarie Anderson

As “Golden Girls” Sophia would say, “Thank you for being a friend”. (I suspect some of you sang those words)!

My 2020-2021 year as District Governor has been rewarding in so many ways but mostly because I have made so many new friends. The support I felt from our Family of Rotary energized me and made me a better person, a better leader. One of my main focusses this past year has been on communication and making connections. It’s my hope that we became better connected to each other in our district, as clubs, committees, and individual Rotarians.

Thank you to my amazing DG Team of PDG Fred Wright, DGE Dan Sutton, DGN Jean-Marc Nadeau and DGND Sonja Susut. Our teamwork approach really worked well to achieve all the goals that we had, all the administrative red tape that we dealt with, all the club and individual support that we offered. I can’t thank you enough for being my mentors and fellow teammates.

Thank you to my friends on our District Board and Committees. Your commitment to Rotary is so appreciated and your time and creative talents proved invaluable to serving all our clubs. I need to give a particular shout-out to our Foundation Chair, Bob Durston who keeps us all on our toes, and to our Board Secretary, Cathie McFarlane and our Learning & Development Team who also kept us organized, with a special thanks to Signe Holstein for her outstanding commitment to our district.

Thank you to Ron Nordstrom, Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire. Your amazing creative and technical skills really helped to produce a great newsletter focused on our Rotary Clubs, our Rotarians and Rotaractors, their projects and their hopes and dreams. Good job!

Thank you to all our clubs. You produced some amazing projects, helped in your local communities, co-operated with international partnerships, and really focused on our District Strat Plan especially

our Number One Goal of alleviating child poverty and helping to raise families out of poverty. I’m so proud of all of you.



Thank you to the Rotarians who were involved in the formation of a District Honoring Indigenous Peoples Committee (HIP) and who led the Peace Literacy Initiative. I know that we will continue to grow in building our relationships with all peoples and working together for a better world.

I want to thank our RI Leaders, President Holger Knaack and Director Valarie Wafer for their bold leadership during these covid times. Both were always receptive to our asks, both led by example, and both showed us that it is possible to change and to grow in Rotary.

And how about that District Conference? Huge thanks to Melfort Rotary Host Club, to the Conference committee, to the District Tech Team, and to our Conference Chair Ken Singer. Thanks to all of you who attended and actively participated. Our Family of Rotary is strong when we all work together.

We lost many good friends in Rotary this past year and we are forever grateful that they were a part of our Rotary family. Their service and friendship will not be forgotten.

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Sir Winston Churchill

Thank you to all of you for what you give to Rotary everyday.

It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve Rotary as District 5550 District Governor. My heartfelt thanks to you all!



DISTRICT CONFERENCE REPORT

Ken Singer - District 5550 Conference Chair

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Melfort 2021 Conference Host Committee, I wish to thank everyone that attended our virtual conference held May 13 to 15.

204 Rotarians from 28 clubs along with 11 members from Rotaract and Rotex and 7 non-Rotarians attended and enjoyed our conference. Special thanks and congratulations to those that generously donated to our local charity, North East Outreach Support Services.

Feedback from our post-Conference Survey was very positive with 87% of our respondents rating the Conference “very good” or “excellent”. Overall, an average of 74% of our respondents felt the speakers were “very engaging” to “extremely engaging”.

I wish to thank our outstanding Melfort Conference Planning Committee. Their dedication, their untiring attendance at many meetings and their creative input resulted in a very successful Conference.

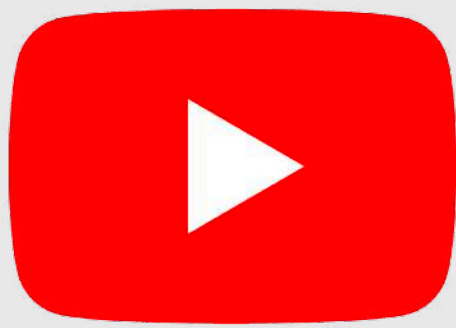
A virtual conference could not have been possible without the help of our amazing technical team led by Kelsey Dyck of Melfort together with Patty Vann and Susan Reany Iskra. Special thanks to Signe Holstein who coordinated the Zoom pre-registration process. Thank you also to Bob Twyver and Duane Hayunga from the Rotary Club of Prince Albert who handled all of the Conference registration duties.

I wish to especially thank District Governor, Gailmarie Anderson for leading and inspiring us all to bring you the best conference possible.

As your Chair, it has been an honour to work with so many on our impressive team. I will cherish this experience as a highlight of my Rotary involvement.

Thank you everyone – well done!





YouTube

CONFERENCE VIDEO LINKS

Here are the [links to videos](#) of our speakers from the 2021 D5550 Conference.

1. Ilona Dougherty – *Youth Engagement* - <https://youtu.be/dkxQjuzghqs>
2. Rotary Youth Panel – (Moderator) *Mitch Zaba, Graydon Eskowich, Jorrell Camuyong, Sarah Harper-Johnston, Sarah Szell & Patty Vann* - <https://youtu.be/koU36MdQUQg>
3. Chris Beaudry – *Mental Well Being* and Kristin Nelson – *211 Emergency Mental Health Service* - https://youtu.be/3WsS_OC1RIU
4. Indigenous Relationship Building Panel - *Moderator, Keith Fonstad; Panelists: Lt Governor, Russell Mirasty; Matt Mirasty; Chief Tammy Cook-Searson & Cy Standing* – <https://youtu.be/ramhodWPlac>
5. Ron Nordstrom – *Fundraising Ideas & Best Practices* - <https://youtu.be/lfnUWgKcxFc><https://youtu.be/lfnUWgKcxFc>

Other Videos

1. A Celebration of Life – *Commemorating the lives of Rotarians who have given so much of themselves* - <https://youtu.be/BaWVRfNfDt8>
2. Rotary District 5550 Annual Awards - <https://youtu.be/n0hRZMZga3E>

ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE (RFE)

Dave Bennet - District RFE Chair

RFE is an international reciprocal exchange program for Rotarians and their Partners that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and Clubs. It supports the Rotary Goal of promoting World Peace, Goodwill, Understanding and Fellowship. What a great way to learn more about the internationality of Rotary.

After a few years hiatus the program was resurrected in 2017 - 18 when Rotarian Dave Bennet was named District 5550 RFE Chair. After a year of planning, 3 Teams were ready to go:

- Team India - Team of 10 from D5550 spent 2 weeks in D3040, Central India in January 2019. A Team of 8 returned to D5550 in July 2019
- Team A Australia - Team of 10 from D5550 spent 2 weeks in D9780 (just N of Melbourne) in March, 2019. The return Team was to return in August but asked for a 1 year postponement. They never did return.
- Team B Australia - Team of 12 from D5550 spent 2 weeks in D9800 (West of Melbourne) in March 2019. A Team of 12 returned to D5550 in August 2019.

Planning began for 2020 with the following 2 Teams prepped to go, but then Covid hit the world.

- Team Brazil - Team of 7 from D5550 was to go to D4640 and D4670 (S. Brazil) in May 2020 with the return Team to be here in August 2020.



District 5550 sent 2 groups to Australia in 2019. Pictured here is one of those groups.

- Team England - Team of 10 from D5550 was to go to D1200 (SW England) in September 2020. The return Team was to have come here in late May 2020.

Due to the Pandemic both these trips were postponed to 2021 and of course are still on hold. Due to the length of postponement and the uncertainty of Covid some participants have now understandably pulled out and the status of these exchanges is unsure at this time.

Hopefully the future will allow us to re-engage with this exciting program.

Please plan to join into the DG Talk Show on June 3, 7:00 pm SK time, to find out more about the program. Dave is looking for input from District Rotarians.

THE 4 WAY TEST



Join us for a 4 part series that will look at the Four-Way Test in a world losing grip on truth, fairness, friendship and win-win outcomes

Session 1 - April 22 focused on how the Internet and social media can promote the spread of falsehood and fan the flames of extremism. Also, how responsible journalism responds.

Session 2 - May 25

Sessions 3 & 4 - Fall 2021

Rotary
District 5550



**The Four-Way Test is
Alive and Well!
(and that's the Truth)**

THE FOUR WAY TEST MATERIALS

Jim Gillis, Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana, who first gave us the marvellous Four Way Test song, has since initiated four educational presentations on the Four Way Test and how these truths are portrayed in today's world and the media. We have held 2 sessions that have been very well received in the district and there are two more planned for the fall.

For those who attended the second session of "The Four-Way Test is Alive and Well" on May 25 and did not receive the materials that were referred to in the program, here are the links to them:

- "Investing in Canadians' Civic Literacy" - <https://www.samaracanada.com/research/active-citizenship/investing-in-canadians%27-civic-literacy>
- "The Samara Centre's Field Guide to Online Political Conversations" - <https://www.samaracanada.com/research/active-citizenship/the-samara-centre%27s-field-guide-to-online-political-conversation>
- A link to a press release from the Canadian Journalism Federation containing links to a number of its publications on countering on-line misinformation - <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-canadian-journalism-foundation-arms-canadians-with-tools-to-counter-misinformation-801645285.html>
- A link to "Keep True Well", a campaign by the Canadian Journalism Foundation containing "self help" information on fact checking, including links to 5 different fact-checkers, including "Snopes", the one referred to in the second presentation - <https://keeptruthwell.ca/>

Registration is open for **RYLA** & **RAHR**

Links for both can be found under Youth at <https://rotary5550.org/>

RYLA

- Fully online event this year
- Open to participants 15-25y/o
- Cost \$100/Camper
- August 1-20 with flexible options for participation
- \$100 per Camper
- Clubs can sponsor their own students, a Rotext or a Rotaract Member

RAHR

- Virtual event this year
- In connection with Canadian Museum of Human Rights
- Open to students entering Grades 10,11 or 12
- August 17-19 from 11-3 daily
- Cost \$50 per participant

VIRTUAL BANNERS TO SUPPORT RYLA

In order to help support the switch to a Virtual Platform for RYLA in the coming year Clubs in the District have a chance to sponsor a virtual banner that will carry a positive message from your Club to our Youth.

Banners will contain your Clubs Name and Message Banners will appear each time someone enters the Virtual RYLA site this summer and during the coming year.

Clubs can choose their own message or select from a list of sample messages.

To support RYLA and sponsor a banner contact rylachair5550@gmail.com

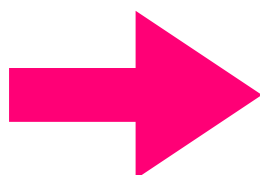
A blue banner with a network of white dots and lines in the background. The text "Virtual Banners to Support RYLA" is written in white, with "RYLA" in its signature multi-colored font.

Virtual Banners to Support **RYLA**

Coffee & Chat With Fellow Rotarians about Youth Exchange

- Members of our Rotary Youth Exchange Committee invite you to join them via ZOOM for a chat over coffee Saturday Morning, June 5.
- It will provide a great chance to share ideas, ask your questions and learn more about Youth Exchange.
- Watch your email for information on how to connect. Meantime, save the date!

Check out the latest **RYLA promotional video** by clicking anywhere on the RYLA image on the right.



UPDATE: 1000 SURVIVAL GARDENS

Gary Dawyduk - Rotary Club of Winnipeg

At the March District Talk Show the theme of which was Water & Sanitation, the Rotary Club of Winnipeg delivered a presentation on the “1000 Survival Gardens” in South Africa, and issued a challenge to D5550 clubs to donate at least one Survival Garden kit (CDN \$250) which would be matched by RC Winnipeg. This was followed with a full article in the April edition of the District Newsletter.

Presentations were requested by several District Clubs that captured the imagination of its members, many of whom donated well in excess of a single kit, resulting in nearly \$9000 being raised thus far! This is the equivalent of almost 36 kits which will be doubled to 72 through the matching challenge!

We wish to share sincerest thanks to the District Clubs and their members that have generously contributed. We look forward to hearing from more Clubs soon!

Find out more about this inspiring project by contacting Gary Dawyduk (garyd@mymts.net). RC Winnipeg will be matching donations for the foreseeable future and we are most willing to provide more information and/or a Zoom presentation to your Club.



Joyful recipients from the Valley of 1000 Hills who received their Survival Garden kits in May 2021

WHAT'S YOUR

PASSiON

Golf, curl, ski, knit...whatever!

Your Rotary World awaits

Rotary  Fellowships



Rotary 

 **TAIPEI**
2021

 **PROUD TO BE A ROTARIAN**

 [Zone 28 & 32 Beyond Borders Newsletter](#)

 [D5550 Board Minutes](#)

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS



Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers.

Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master’s degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

Our District 5550 Peace Fellowships Committee: David Newman, Chair, Brenda Newman, Taiseer Shareif, Eduardo da Costa, RPF Advisor. To contact: newman@pitblado.com

2020-21 Grant Funding Report

Click [HERE](#)

U OF M ROTARACT CONNECTS WITH AMAROK

In April’s newsletter you were introduced to the Amarok Society. The society has developed a low cost way to educate mothers and children in dense urban slums in Bangladesh. Illiterate mothers are taught by Amarok trained teachers and each mother in turn teaches five neighborhood children. The University of Manitoba Rotaract group is using Zoom to teach the teachers of Amarok so they can teach the mothers of Amarok.



“We are trying to teach them in a way that they think and retain the information through easy stories, interactive questions, pronunciation, and writing homework. Of course our lessons are still a work in progress as we are working on our fourth lesson. Despite our experience, we (Olga, Mohamed, Maria, Grace, and I) are determined to continue teaching to the best of our abilities. The determination isn't one sided either, the passion I've seen from our students is something I admire. I am grateful for the support from my awesome peers who are helping me with this project and from Rotary.” - Chadine Majhi

MEET THE TEAM: CHADINE, GRACE, OLGA, MOHAMED AND MARIA





TOASTMASTERS & ROTARY

Laverne Wojciechowski - Toastmasters District 64 Director

Toastmasters International and Rotary International have formed an alliance to leverage their strengths, enabling members from both organizations to enhance their skills, broaden their networks, and increase the positive impact they have in their communities. Providing members with more opportunities for personal and professional growth is at the heart of the Rotary/Toastmasters strategic alliance. We both strive to meet the evolving needs of current and prospective members. We both strive to establish fellowship and connections, and potentially strengthen your clubs and diversify membership!

Toastmasters is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization founded in 1924. We empower our members to become more confident and effective communicators and leaders. We have a membership that exceeds 358,000 in more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries.

Toastmasters International and Rotary International are two organizations with many commonalities, including: long history, membership/club foundation, volunteer leaders, global reach and impact by helping people grow personally and professionally.

The ongoing relationship between the two organizations began at the grassroots level with local club members learning and working together. Officially announced in the beginning of 2020, Toastmasters created a set of eight structured communication and leadership development courses for Rotary available in English, with more languages available in 2021. The online leadership and communication courses are based on the Pathways learning experience and are specifically for Rotary members. The courses are not available to Toastmasters members but they take content from various paths already available in the more comprehensive Pathways program.

Toastmasters developed the following eight courses for Rotary, all with projects that are similar to those in Pathways:

- Develop a Speech
- Deliver a Speech
- The Inspirational Speech
- Interpersonal Communication and Networking
- Leadership Basics
- Leading a Team
- Collaboration
- Building Consensus

These courses are available to Rotarians and Rotaract members who access them on Rotary's Learning Center. (member login required).

We would be excited to have your clubs and our clubs connect in support of the alliance and our members! Visit www.toastmasters.org/Rotary to learn more.

