

## **Message from Our District Governor**

Thank you for the honor of serving as the District Governor for District 7600 during the 2017-18 Rotary year. We have inherited a strong District. Immediate Past District Governor Diane and her team have shown how Rotary Can Serve Humanity. The clubs and Rotarians in District 7600 are passionate about the mission of Rotary. We continue to actively raise money for the Rotary Foundation and our Rotarians have improved our communities through innovative and impactful projects. We embrace the relationships that are created through Rotary. Now, it is our time to serve as stewards of this great experience.

Of course, every organization needs to reflect on its mission and its future. The Theme for 2017-18 is Rotary: Making a Difference. Rotary continues to look in the mirror and explore how it will remain relevant to the next generation of leaders. It is clear that Rotary will need to welcome change to remain vibrant and impactful for generations to come. Rotary has modified its Manual of Procedure to allow clubs more flexibility in serving its community and membership. Rotary, in its wisdom, did not mandate change. Instead, the changes adopted by the Council of Legislation in 2016 allow clubs to meet and operate in a more flexible environment. Our task in the coming year is to help our clubs navigate these opportunities and to manage to avoid the landmines that accompany change.

The District will have three distinct goals. First, District 7600 wants to expand the Rotary experience. Rotary is an opportunity for service. It is a vehicle for positive change. We need to tell our story and invite likeminded individuals to join. The evidence is clear. Rotary membership is impactful and transformative. We need to ensure that the Rotary experience is shared with our communities and continues to grow. Second, we need to continue supporting the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation is one of the world's best foundations. Its resources have enabled Rotary to pursue the eradication of Polio and is the impetus behind numerous worldwide humanitarian initiatives.

Rotary's Foundation is a vehicle for significant change. The Rotary goal of world peace is more important than ever as the world struggles with significant challenges. Lastly, District 7600 wants our clubs to reach their full potential. We hope to have robust and fun training sessions. The District Conference will be world class. I will need you to help me promote these events and assist the District in providing first class training experiences.

My vision is simple. I want District 7600 to do Rotary right. To me that means building on the good things that have been done already and coming up with ideas that other Rotarians will want to build on in the future. Success in Rotary leadership means having clubs full of people who love Rotary, who are engaged in Rotary, who are committed to their Rotary service and who are in it for the right reasons. As Rotarians, you will help me see new pathways and approaches. I will rely on your judgment. You will pick me up when I am overwhelmed. You will help me find humor, fun and friendship in my year as District Governor. For that, I will be forever in your debt. I wish you the best as you continue your Rotary journey and experience a wonderful year of Service Above Self.

John