

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

The coming Rotary year will present us with special challenges due to the economic down turn, the fall of the stock market, the collapse of lending institutions, and massive layoffs. Volunteerism and donations are down across the board in all service organizations. However, the need for the service that Rotary provides is consequently increasing. We will have to become leaner and more efficient and do more with less.

Our most urgent priority is to stop and reverse the decline in membership and contributions in the district. Rotary has flourished through the Great Depression, two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Viet Nam and countless more conflicts and natural and man-made disasters. We have the opportunity for us to now serve and grow during troubled times, as did our predecessors.

Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are curtailing staff travel and grant awards. As in all well-managed organizations and businesses, the Rotary International directors and The Rotary Foundation trustees are diligently reducing expenses in an attempt to utilize the assets of the organization to the maximum efficiency to maintain Rotary's level of service. I am convinced that through the commitment of our members, our district will meet these challenges as we continue to uphold the Object of Rotary. After attending two Zone Institutes and the International Assembly, I have become aware of how fortunate we are to have such dedicated and capable district officers and supportive members.

Serving as District Governor is the greatest honor and challenge I have ever received. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you in the coming rotary year and beyond.

The Future of Rotary truly is in Your Hands.

District Governor Mike Barnes