

Ways Clubs and Rotarians are Supported by the District

BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND BRIDGING CONTINENTS, through the work of the clubs and their Rotarian members. You already know that Rotary is all about the club and their Rotarian members. However, some people think the District is just overhead. But as clubs and members, we are supported in our efforts by the district to help us with Building Communities and Bridging Continents.

Here are **twelve ways** the District serves our clubs;

1. Assistant Governors. Each Assistant Governor is a past president, who represents their own club and several others in the area. They serve to connect the clubs to needed resources.

2. Membership Development seminars. This very effective process is available to your club, and can be presented as a club program. In a short space of time, members identify people and strategies to recruit new members. ***We need more members to help us do our great work.***

3. Speakers' Bureau to help find wonderful speakers and programs for your club. Interesting programs help improve attendance and retain members. The effort to update and maintain the list of great speakers takes time and effort but is available to assist our District clubs.

4. District library of resources. In the District library, being maintained by District Administrator, Linda Foster, there are the latest PowerPoint programs and DVDs which can be used at board meetings or club meetings. We have orientation materials for new members to get them involved immediately working on projects.

5. Visioning and Strategic Planning. A new process to help clubs identify ways to grow and be more involved in their community. Rotarians presented the Visioning seminar from the Zone. The Committee is ready and willing to assist clubs in their strategic planning initiatives.

6. PETS—President-Elect Training Seminar to help incoming presidents organize more quickly. We know from experience that trained presidents have a more successful year! [Our Multi-district PETS this year is March 10 -12, Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.](#) Attendance at PETS Training is required by Rotary International before a Rotarian can take office as their club President.

7. Connection to International programs, such as, [Youth Exchange](#) and [Group Study Exchange](#). Clubs and members may participate by hosting a youth or a GSE team member. These programs help Rotarians promote world peace and understanding through young people who become Rotarians in the future. This year, our Group Study exchange will be with **Chile** in May and next year with a Rotary District in **India**.

8. Youth Programs: The adoption of the 5th Avenue of Service serves to highlight our District's Youth Programs of: **Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange** and **RYLA**. Our unique District 6360 Rotary Youth Leadership Award program. RYLA has three divisions: RYLA Basic is presented a camp at the Battle Creek Outdoor Center. In a weekend, students practice leadership skills and develop self-confidence. The RYLA Advanced program occurs during PETS. We bring in outstanding speakers in leadership, and we practice etiquette, teamwork and problem-solving skills. The third part is the RYLA College Mentoring program, where each student has a vocational mentor through four years of college. We expect these students to become Rotarians in the future. Soon this outstanding RYLA program will expand to five programs for students so stay tuned!

9. Connection to global projects, such as, [BioSandFilters](#), [Peru Eye Care](#), and gift boxes for the **Children of the Dump to name just a few.** Clearly, we are building communities and bridging continents one child at a time. Projects such as these and our local community projects are supported through your donations to The Rotary International Foundation (TRF). 50% percent of contributions to TRF are returned to the District in three years to be used for community and international projects.

10. Rotary Leadership Institute: This new program, perpetuated entirely by District Rotarians who have received special training and certified as facilitators, offers individual Rotarians an exciting leadership training experience. For any Rotarian who aspires to lead their club, this training is very helpful. Also, for any Rotarian business owner who has an employee who is a Rotarian, this offers a way to provide excellent training for your Rotary employee at a very reasonable cost.

11. District Conference. This is a great place to get together as a team and share stories about how we can continue **Building Communities and Bridging Continents**. Our District Conference will be held at the Lansing Lexington Hotel in Lansing on June 3-5. The conference committee is working hard to make this a family- friendly event. We are working in concert with the Lansing Convention and Tourist Bureau which has designated Saturday as "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town." All local events where there is an admission charge will have it reduced to \$1.00.

12 District Office: is a valuable resource to clubs in finding answers to questions that arise at the club level. A newsletter to keep club officers and all Rotarians up-to-date on Rotary issues and to publicize club projects and activities is published monthly. A data base and website are maintained, including hosting club websites. A District Directory is published to provide assistance to club and District officers and committee chairs. The office also hosts meetings.

That's 12 ways clubs and members are supported by the District and Rotary International to help clubs with: ***Building Communities and Bridging Continents.***