

Dear friends:

Traditionally in the month of **February** we celebrate the anniversary of the creation of our Organisation and, on the **23rd**, we will be able to boast of the **116 years** in which **Rotary** has been working to improve the lives of a good part of humanity.

All this has been possible because we have maintained **rigorous criteria in the selection of members** who, like you, have brought Rotary this far.

You have heard me say that we seek a **measured, intelligent, selective growth of capable and skilled people** to follow the mission that inspired **Paul Harris**.

It is in these different times when there are more opportunists than **opportunities**, more interested people than **interesting** people, more fortune seekers than **fortunate** people, more populism than **popularity**, and much ado about nothing, that we in Rotary need to be clear about the path that has brought us here. The **value** of an Organisation such as ours can only be achieved by always having the **most valuable people**, for their knowledge and their contributions, those who are most willing to "**Service Above Self**".

Let us recapture that **pride** that has allowed Rotary to shine continuously to this day. Let us continue to **be attractive to the best**, to the **best qualified** and the best **prepared**. Let us give the value that Rotary has in the world from our clubs. Let us be able to give that added value that Rotary has in relation to other organisations. Let's make the **Ethics**, the **Commitment**, the **Friendship**, the **Respect** and the **Values** that **Rotary** represents shine.

We are having the opportunity that, because of the work that is being developed from Rotary with Covid-19, many **clubs** are being known from a **service** perspective in their **own communities**. We have moved the focus of action to our neighbours and have been able to demonstrate our **involvement with the societies we serve**. Let us now take advantage of this openness to share our projects and build a **future by strengthening our clubs**.

Our president **Holger Knaack** tells us in his February letter:

"We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious, and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month, let's celebrate our history and the many ways that *Rotary Opens Opportunities* to advance world **understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission.**"

I say to you that **the fundamental mission in these times of each of you is to care for yourselves and the people close to you**. It is essential to me that we all get to the end of the road together. We must **respect health safety measures** and be prepared for when all this is over, or allows for a more direct action. We are certainly going to be very much needed and for that it is essential that we are in a position to continue our work. This is going to be a long-distance race and we all need to be fit to run it to the end.

Know that **you can count on me and all the District team** who, like me, have the same **vocation of service** to Rotarians and Clubs, to whom we are **committed and proud** to give the best we have: our time and our enthusiasm to welcome the **Rotary of the 21st Century**.

We are **Rotarians**, we are **people of Action** who witness how **Rotary Opens Opportunities**.

Ricardo J. Molina

Governor 2020-2021