Rotary is built on connection. When Paul Harris came to Chicago as a young lawyer, he formed Rotary for one compelling reason: to help him connect to others in a new city. More than a century later, we have at our disposal countless ways to form friendships and networks, most of which Paul Harris never dreamed. Yet Rotary’s ability to connect us remains unique — and unrivaled.

Through its distinct mission and structure, Rotary International provides a way to connect to our communities, to network professionally, and to build strong and lasting relationships. Our membership connects us to a global community through our countless projects and programs, our leadership in polio eradication, and our work with and through the United Nations. Our service connects us to people who share our values, who want to take action for a better world; it connects us to people we would never otherwise meet, who are more like us than we could have imagined; and it connects us to people who need our help, allowing us to change lives in communities around the world.

As a new decade begins, we are shaping Rotary’s future. In 2019-2020, Rotary will implement its new strategic plan, respond to the innovation of the Council on Legislation, and serve in our revitalized areas of focus. But the real work of shaping Rotary’s future lies in our clubs, where our organization must do the most to adapt to today’s changing realities.

While the club remains the core of the Rotary experience, we are now far more creative and flexible in deciding what a club can be, how it can meet, and even what can be considered a Rotary meeting. We need to be organized, strategic, and innovative in how we approach membership, forging wider and deeper connections to our communities and forming new club models to attract and engage more — and more diverse — members.

Rotary is indeed a family. Yet too often, the structure of membership or the demands of leadership seem to place Rotary out of reach for today’s younger professionals. Rotary can and should be an experience that complements our families instead of competing with them. When our Rotary clubs are warm, welcoming places where service and family go hand in hand, we give family-oriented young professionals the opportunity to embrace Rotary service and model positive civic engagement. And when we make the expectations of Rotary offices realistic and manageable for busy professionals, we develop the skills and networks of a new generation of Rotarians — who will become Rotary leaders.

In 2019-2020, it will be our challenge to strengthen the many ways that Rotary Connects the World, building the connections that allow talented, thoughtful, and generous people to unite and take meaningful action through Rotary service.

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International, 2019-2020
The Rotary Citation recognizes Rotary clubs that support our strategic priorities by completing certain activities. Clubs have the entire Rotary year to achieve the citation’s goals.

Rotary can automatically verify many of your club’s achievements as long as you keep your club and member information up-to-date in My Rotary. To be eligible for the Rotary Citation, clubs need to begin the year as active clubs that are in good standing and remain so throughout the year. Achievements will be compared with membership figures from 1 July 2019 and will be recognized after the 1 July 2020 numbers are final, on 15 August 2020.

**UNITE PEOPLE**

Achieve at least 3 of the following goals:

- Complete at least one active club membership committee comprised of no less than five members and report the chair to Rotary International
- Increase or maintain your club’s retention of current and new members
- Improve your club’s retention rate by 1 percentage point or
- If your club’s retention rate was 90 percent or more in 2018-2019, maintain it
- Complete at least one of Rotary’s brand guidelines, templates, People of Action
- Post successful club projects, with details about activities, volunteer hours, and funds raised, on Rotary.org
- Have at least 50 percent of members add their skills and interests in their profiles on My Rotary
- Establish or maintain a twin club relationship
- Host an activity or event during World Polio Day (the anniversary of PolioPlus); invite the media and tell your club’s, and Rotary’s, story
- Participate in a networking event or social activity with your sponsor Rotary club

**TAKE ACTION**

Achieve at least 3 of the following goals:

- Complete at least one of Rotary’s brand guidelines, templates, People of Action campaign materials, and related resources
- Raise $25 per member
- Hold an event to raise funds for, or to increase awareness of, Rotary’s work toward polio eradication
- Partner with your sponsor Rotary club on a significant local or international service project in one of Rotary’s six areas of focus
- Post successful club projects, with details about activities, volunteer hours, and funds raised, on Rotary.org
- Use Rotary’s brand guidelines, templates, People of Action campaign materials, and related resources

This year, clubs can receive the Rotary Citation with Presidential Distinction when they achieve the Rotary Citation plus one to three additional goals.

**FOR ROTARY CLUBS**

Achieve these goals in addition to earning the Rotary Citation to receive SILVER (1 goal), GOLD (2 goals), or PLATINUM (3 goals) distinction

- Connect leaders. Achieve a net gain of five or more members
- Connect families. Organize a family-oriented service project that connects families of your members, youth program participants, and others
- Connect professionally. Initiate or continue a leadership, personal, or professional development program to enhance members’ skills
- Connect community. Show how your club’s members are People of Action by promoting your club and its service activities on social media at least four times per month

**FOR ROTARACT CLUBS**

Achieve these goals in addition to earning the Rotary Citation to receive SILVER (1 goal), GOLD (2 goals), or PLATINUM (3 goals) distinction

- Connect leaders. Achieve a net gain of five or more members
- Connect families. Organize a family-oriented service project that connects families of your members, youth program participants, and others
- Connect professionally. Initiate or continue a leadership, personal, or professional development program to enhance members’ skills
- Connect community. Show how your club’s members are People of Action by promoting your club and its service activities on social media at least four times per month

**FOR INTERACT CLUBS**

Achieve these goals in addition to earning the Rotary Citation to receive SILVER (1 goal), GOLD (2 goals), or PLATINUM (3 goals) distinction

- Connect leaders. Initiate or continue a leadership development program to enhance members’ skills
- Connect families. Organize a family-oriented service project that connects families of your members and others
- Connect academically. Work with your sponsor Rotary club or adviser to explore local Rotary club and other scholarship opportunities that are available to your club’s members, and present these opportunities to the club
- Connect community. Show how your club’s members are People of Action by submitting a video that promotes your club and its service activities to the annual Interact Video Awards