

My fellow Rotary members,

We all know that the coronavirus pandemic is still raging in many parts of the world, and extensive public health measures and travel restrictions are in place.

As an organization that is at the forefront of eradicating polio and fighting other preventable diseases, we have clear responsibilities in mitigating the threat of COVID-19.

Out of an abundance of caution — and in keeping with our commitment to protect the health of our members, our employees, and our families — the RI Board of Directors decided not to fund any expenses (travel or otherwise) for in-person meetings for Rotary leaders for the rest of this Rotary year, other than for the president, president-elect, and trustee chair. This decision applies to directors, trustees, regional leaders, district governors, assistant governors, and other leaders. The Board also agreed to conduct all of its meetings and RI committee meetings virtually for the rest of the year; and we will also be holding the 2021 RI Convention virtually.

I know this news will be disappointing to many of you. However, the board felt that we needed to adopt a uniform and clear policy.

As a humanitarian organization we must act responsibly to protect our members and the communities we serve, and the risks of the pandemic are still real and widespread. **The Board advises regional leaders, district governors, club presidents and others to hold meetings virtually through the end of the Rotary year.**

This is a rapidly evolving public health crisis, and I'm sure that you'll have many questions about the RI Board decision, so please consult the [COVID-19 webpage](#) on Rotary.org for further information or contact your RI staff liaison.

We all have an important role to play in the months ahead as we continue to do all we can to overcome COVID-19.

I want to thank you all for your Rotary service, and I look forward to the day when we can gather safely again in person.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Sincerely,

John Hewko
Rotary General Secretary