



**R. Gordon R. McNally**

President, 2023-24  
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Dear fellow Rotary leaders,

As you attend your District Conference, do not forget your vital importance to Rotary.

We have been handed the reins of leadership at an historic moment. Rotary has a chance to capture the world's attention and realize possibilities beyond our expectations. But we must build on the work that has gone before us if we are to reach our goals, such as defeating polio and empowering girls and women.

Rotary offers people of action a chance to connect and find a sense of belonging, and this fellowship gives us hope that we can create lasting change. But in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people than ever feel hopeless. Many have lost people close to them. Social networks have been uprooted and divisions have grown wider as opportunities for connection have been lost.

To make matters worse, in many parts of the world, asking for help — especially in the realm of mental health — is considered a weakness. But nothing could be further from the truth. It is brave to be vulnerable and to admit you don't have all the answers. Reaching out for help is courageous — and continuing on a path towards wellness is even more so.

Join me in making Rotary a source of strength for all of those who feel they have no hope, within and beyond our membership. Let this be the year we *Create Hope in the World*, and let Rotary be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people we serve.

It is within your power to help bring peace and soothe those afflicted by conflict, both in their communities and in themselves.

I hope you take the knowledge gained at this District Conference back to your clubs to help them succeed throughout the coming year.

Remember that your work can and will *Create Hope in the World*.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Gordon R. McNally".

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