

Barry Rassin

President, 2018-19

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Dear fellow Rotarians,

It's hard to believe the Rotary year is almost at an end. I hope that you were able to join me in Hamburg earlier this month. The RI convention is always a unique, incredible experience and this year's event did not disappoint. If you were unable to attend, you can watch select videos from each general session [here](#).

We've accomplished a great deal in our year together. One thing I'm especially proud of is the growth of Rotaract that you helped make happen. Since 1 July, there has been an increase of over 1,100 new Rotaract clubs around the world, with 24,254 new Rotaractors, and these numbers are growing every day.

We also elevated Rotaract to new heights, with an important enactment that was approved during the Council on Legislation that now includes Rotaract clubs as a membership type. I championed this item because I believed it was the best way to make Rotaractors our equal partners in service. This will also help lay the foundation for emphasizing and growing Rotaract as a critical part of Rotary, while still allowing for the unique experience that Rotaract clubs provide. You can learn more about this change [here](#).

I appreciate everything you have done during your term and want to thank you for your commitment to Rotary. I strongly urge you to check your outstanding [membership leads](#) (available to those with district level access only) before your term ends. Since 1 July 2018, we've received more than 16,393 membership inquiries through the Join Rotary page, but only 28 percent of these potential candidates have been assigned to clubs. Follow up with the 72 percent of potential candidates who are still waiting to hear from you. If you've already reached out and haven't heard back, close these leads so next year's governor can start afresh. Let's finish the year strong!

One final thing I'd like to share with you is the trustee decision made to incorporate

environmental sustainability into each of the six areas of focus. An example of this is the [World Environment Day](#) handbook created by the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group in partnership with UN Environment. Both President-elect Mark Maloney and I hope that you find ways to implement many of these suggestions throughout the year. By helping to protect our natural world, we support all of our areas of focus — and take action to create positive, lasting change — across the globe.

Thank you for joining me in this year to *Be the Inspiration* to the world. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your president.

Yours in Rotary,

Barry Rassin
President, Rotary International 2018-19

Recipient list: District governors, assistant governors, club presidents, regional leaders (RPICs, RRFCs, E/MGAs, and RCs), and the board of directors