



Dear fellow Rotarians,

After reviewing the most current membership reports for the year, I'm pleased to see some encouraging growth in membership worldwide. You should be proud of your hard work and the positive effect it has had on our membership. I want to caution you, though, that this is the time of year when clubs begin updating their member records and terminating members who they do not expect to pay their 1 July dues invoice. These terminations result in a drop in our year-end membership numbers.

As district governors, you can mitigate that loss by ensuring that all of your membership leads from Rotary are assigned to clubs in your district for follow up. In 2016-17, we received more than 12,000 membership inquiries worldwide via the Rotary Join page. 22% of these were assigned to clubs and of those, 15% resulted in new members. With your help, we can increase that figure and finish the year strong.

I also want to provide you with an update on our Rotary Club Central project. In July, our new and improved platform will be made available for use. I am confident that Rotary Club Central will meet your needs, with a new, modern design that is fast and user-friendly. You can learn more about the update [here](#).

This month, from 24 to 30 April, we join WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in celebrating [World Immunization Week](#), raising awareness of the incredible impact that vaccines have had on global health. This year's theme is "Vaccines Work" – and they do. The proof is in our polio eradication campaign. Thirty years ago, there were an estimated 350,000 cases of polio per year worldwide. Only 37 cases of polio were recorded in 2016. As of 19 April, there have only been five. All of the other cases, and the paralysis and death they would have brought, were prevented through the widespread use of a safe, reliable, and inexpensive vaccine.

In an uncertain world, vaccines offer something remarkable: a way to protect our children throughout their lives. By working together to safeguard all children against polio and other preventable diseases, Rotary is truly *Serving Humanity* – now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

John F. Germ
President, Rotary International 2016-17