



***“Give those who love wings to fly,  
roots to return and reasons to stay.”  
Dalai Lama***

*Dear Friends,*

I was hesitant about what to write in my first thematic message on membership. Although I have been part of this committee in D2482 for a long time and have often shared with you my own views on the subject, as well as the committee’s common vision at the time, I have found a new, simple and clear explanation for myself of being a member of Rotary.

Our organization, the organism we have built, is defined as ‘membership,’ that is, we are its building block, we are the most important part, without which it would not exist. We definitely define its appearance as a perception of others, and its character as an inner spirit.

That is why I don’t see anything more true than the statement that Rotary, that is us, because we Rotarians are the clubs, the clubs, these are our districts, our districts, these are Rotary, and **Rotary, that’s the ROTARIANS.**

In this sequence, it is good to realize that the message: “They are the board of the club, they are the district” (*understand the district team*) is an outdated cliché that does not bear fruit. It all depends on ourselves, because we are the building block.

The first and simplest, but fundamental foundation we have built is the club. Our very existence depends on its health. In this basic organism, our rich expertise of professionals and the diversity of our characters have built a solid body with more or less sensitivity to community problems, with a normally functioning or not fully functioning circulatory system vouching for the communication between us. Like any organism, the club has welded together into one youth, experience or even wear of the locomotory system, which is vouching for our internal club and extra-club life; a circulatory system of ideas that lags behind the evolutionary process, or a circulatory system that relies on innovation, a product of a changing world and Rotary.

In order for our club (our organism) to be healthy, we need a rich and diverse intra-club life, informal friendships between us, our families and our children, informal friendships with clubs in our area, and more remote areas, conscious participation in inter-club (district) life.

And because, as in any living organism, some cells are worn out, others fall off due to incompatibility, others due to old age, we constantly need new ones. We need at least one new cell to feed our club body every year, so that it is alive, self-regulating and self-healing.

If we fulfill these two prescriptions, we will guarantee the smooth process of an imperceptible aging and ultimately of unavoidable disappearance.

The good news in this case is that nature has shown us the way, and Rotary has read that message: creating and caring for a new life. Rotaract and Interact fill family relationships with content where their parents (Rotary clubs) are smart and responsible for the future of the family, not short-sighted egoists.

**The family is a treasure:** with the warmth of a family reunion; with the awareness of the new possibilities after the family dispute; with the forgiveness asked for when we realize that the world neither begins nor ends with us.

The family is truly an amazing fusion of reciprocity, love and unity that always supports, helps and fixes when needed!



Let us not be selfish and preserve the good we have created as an organism and a family to this day; let's accept the new that the changing world offers us. Let us openly accept new Rotary friends who have recognized us as their family or we—they as members of ours.

Let us give our children and young friends the opportunity for boldness and flight by spiritually incorporating them into the roots of Rotary without edification, but with positive examples and clear messages. Let's show them that we need them and their constructive vision of Rotary so that stay with us, and the next ones stay with them!

The symbol of our organization is truly unique, and I, as a mechanical engineer, admire the greatly conceived plan of Rotary's fathers. Each tooth in the wheel prepares on its own to take the load on itself. Gradually, it loads itself to the maximum and gradually leaves the greater weight to those who follow it, in order to get rid of it completely at one point and to remain as an inseparable and equal part of the whole.

*Borislav Kadrekov  
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