

親愛的扶輪社友，

113 年前的這個月，第一個扶輪社的四位社員舉行他們的第一次會議。雖然他們沒有會議記錄保存下來，但不大可能有任何人談論服務；這個扶輪社就這樣過了幾年沒有關心社區的需求。

這次會議不是在飯店或餐館舉行，而是在一位社員的辦公室；就我們所知，沒有議程或宣佈事項、沒有委員會報告、演講人、沒有名牌。然而，那次會議的效果以今日一般的標準，可能令最有效率的會議相形失色。當然，那次會議是有史以來最有效率的扶輪會議。

今天，如同在 1905 年，我們許多人為了追尋保羅·哈理斯所追尋的來到扶輪：友誼、人脈、一個令人覺得從容自在的地方。但是今天，扶輪給我們的遠比它能給那些早期社員的為多。今天的扶輪，有超過 120 萬堅強的扶輪社員，讓我們不僅在一小群同儕，也在我們多樣化的各社區，更真確地說全世界，感到從容自在。今天，扶輪把我們所有人結合在一起，而且這種方式是保羅·哈理斯在那麼久之前的 2 月某天晚上作夢也沒有想到。我們不僅能到世界任何有扶輪社地方感到從容自在，而且我們能夠伸出援手，到世界上任何有扶輪社的地方進行改變。

從那第一次會議之後的這 113 年，扶輪已經變大許多、更多樣化，這不是那些創始社員所能想到的。我們已經從一個純白人和純男人的組織，變成一個歡迎任何背景的男女加入的組織。我們已成為一個明訂以服務為宗旨的組織，這點反映在我們的座右銘「超我服務」。而且我們已成為一個有能力改變世界的組織，並已透過我們根除小兒麻痺的工作辦到了。

我們當中沒有任何人知道扶輪的未來。唯有賴我們所有人在保羅·哈理斯及他的朋友奠定的紮實基礎上繼續建設：透過「扶輪改善世界」來建立並強化服務及友誼。



#### 網站上訊息

國際扶輪社長  
萊斯禮的講詞及新聞  
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[www.rotary.org/office-president](http://www.rotary.org/office-president)

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Ian H.S. Riseley 萊斯禮  
國際扶輪社長



## DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

One hundred thirteen years ago this month, the four members of Rotary's first club held their first meeting. Although no minutes were kept, it's unlikely anyone talked about service; the club did not begin focusing on the needs of the community for another few years.

The meeting was held not in a hotel or a restaurant, but in a member's office; there were, so far as we know, no agendas or announcements, no committee reports, speakers, or nametags. The meeting would have failed today's usual standards for a productive Rotary meeting most resoundingly. It was, of course, the most productive Rotary meeting ever held.

Today, as in 1905, many of us come to Rotary seeking what Paul Harris sought: friendship, connections, a place to feel at home. But today, Rotary gives us so much more than it could ever have given its earliest members in those earliest days. The Rotary of today, more than 1.2 million members strong, lets us feel at home not only in a small group of our peers, but also in our diverse clubs, across our communities, and indeed throughout the world. Today, Rotary connects us all in a way that Paul Harris could never have dreamed on that February evening so long ago. Not only can we go anywhere in the world there is a Rotary club and feel at home, but we can reach out to anywhere in the world there is a Rotary club and make a difference.

In the 113 years since that first meeting, Rotary has become far larger, and more diverse, than those founding members could have conceived. We have gone from an organization that was all white and all male to one that welcomes women and men of every possible background. We have become an organization whose stated purpose is service, reflected in our motto, Service Above Self. And we have become not only an organization that is capable of changing the world, but one that has already done so, through our work to eradicate polio.

None of us can know what lies ahead for Rotary. It remains for all of us to continue to build on the solid foundations that were laid for us by Paul Harris and his friends: to forge and strengthen the bonds of service and friendship through *Rotary: Making a Difference*.



### ON THE WEB

Speeches and news from  
RI President Ian H.S. Riseley at  
[www.rotary.org/office-president](http://www.rotary.org/office-president)

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**IAN H.S. RISELEY**  
President, Rotary International

