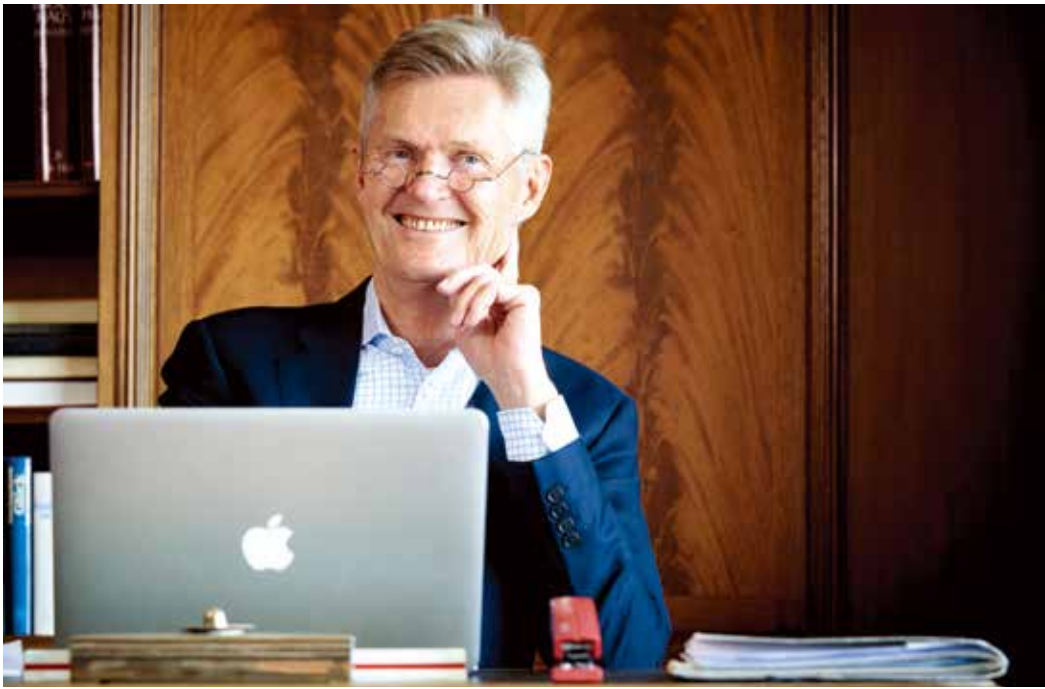


社長文告



Samuel Zuder

在回顧 2020 年之際，我省思我們的生命已經改變了多少。全球的新冠病毒大流行帶給我們許多人痛苦及損失。而且對我們幾乎所有人來說，我們的日常生活、家庭時光、工作在今年也都改變。可是我們還是走到這艱困一年的年底，就像我們扶輪一路走來一樣。隨著每一年過去，我變得越來越以本組織為傲。

我會選擇把 2020 年記憶成一個重大改變與力量的一年；儘管疫情嚴峻，扶輪不會停下腳步。我們排除障礙，找到新的連結方式，並欣然接受新的服務方法，例如網路計畫及虛擬募款。我邀請兩位扶輪社員來分享扶輪今年如何變得更加強大的故事。

當新冠病毒疫情造成一切停擺時，我們新興的網路扶輪社已經在提供數位服務，包括跨越國界。我和來自數個扶輪社的 14 位美國女性使用 WhatsApp 軟體來輔導哥斯大黎加鄉村的女性企業家，幫助她們強化其生態旅遊的事業——RETUS 旅行社 (RETUS Tours) (國際扶輪英文月刊 5 月號雜誌的封面故事〈先天與後天〉的報導主題)。這個計畫已經擴張，現在有 30 位扶輪社員提供諮詢，協助 RETUS 的網站及社群媒體。最重要的是，我們持續建立關係，並增進這些女性的能力來改變自己的生命，而這一切都是透過網路進行。我甚至幫助其中一位女性羅莎 Rosa 準備一份要在一場線上國際會議發表的英文簡報。雖然我們與哥斯大黎加女性的工作仍然需要一些親手執行的活動，可是最有轉變影響力的部份並不一定要面對面進行。——參與 (Engage) 網路扶輪社與德州帕蘭諾東區 (Plano East) 扶輪社社員麗莎·拉森 Liza Larson

新冠病毒來襲時，我是本社社長，許多社員都還沒有 Zoom 視訊會議軟體。我們 53 名社員中只有 10 位參與疫情期間的第一場 Zoom 例會。我認為尋求外援並從世界各地尋找演講來賓可以促進社員參與。許多扶輪領袖、一位扶輪和平獎學金學生、甚至國際扶輪社長柯納克都曾透過網路參與，對本社發表演說。例會出席率獲得改善，而我們因無須負擔餐費而節省營運成本。有些在市區外工作，之前錯過例會的扶輪社員甚至重新加入我們。在「我的扶輪」登錄我們的網路例會也增進與世界各地扶輪社的聯繫，柯納克演講的聯合例會還吸引超過 300 名訪客。因為社員及訪客捐款給我們的計畫，我們的募款金額也提高。為了持續提供所有人彈性，我們現在辦理混合例會。對我來說，2020 年是我在扶輪最棒的一年，因為我結交了許多新朋友。——奈及利亞哈寇特港北區 (Port Harcourt North) 扶輪社布蕾辛·麥可 Blessing Michael

這兩個故事應該讓我們有理由在未來一年對於扶輪保持樂觀。我們不只是在求生存；我們還日漸強大。我們發現本組織到底有多強韌。我們親眼看到扶輪如何打開機會——甚至在流行病期間——就為了成長、連結、增進我們社員及所服務社區的參與。

從我們在拉茲堡的家到你們的家，我和蘇珊獻給你及家人最溫暖的佳節祝福。我們等不及看到 2021 年會帶來什麼美好的事。

柯納克 HOLGER KNAACK
國際扶輪社長



麗莎·拉森
參與網路扶輪社與德州帕蘭諾東區扶輪社社員



布蕾辛·麥可
奈及利亞哈寇特港北區扶輪社

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AS I LOOK BACK ON 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global COVID-19 pandemic brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time, and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organization.

I will choose to remember 2020 as a year of great change and strength for us; Rotary didn't stop, despite the pandemic. We removed obstacles, found new ways to connect, and embraced new approaches to service, such as online projects and virtual fundraising. I have invited two Rotarians to share their stories about how Rotary grew stronger this year.

When the pandemic shut everything down, our emerging e-club was already providing digital service, including internationally. Fourteen U.S. women and I, members of multiple Rotary clubs, were using WhatsApp to mentor women entrepreneurs in rural Costa Rica, helping them to grow their ecotourism business, RETUS Tours [the subject of the magazine's May cover story, "Nature & Nurture"]. The project has grown, with 30 Rotarians now providing consulting and help with the RETUS website and social media. Most importantly, we continue building relationships and empowering these women to transform their own lives, and we are doing it online. I've even helped one of the women, Rosa, prepare a presentation in English for an online international conference. While our engagement with the Costa Rican women still requires some hands-on activity, the most transformative impacts haven't had to be in person. — Liza Larson, Rotary E-Club Engage and Rotary Club of Plano East, Texas

I was president of my club when COVID-19 hit, and many members didn't yet have Zoom. Only 10 of our 53 members participated in the first Zoom meeting during the pandemic. I thought that reaching out and getting guest speakers from around the world to engage our members would help. Many Rotary leaders, a Rotary Peace Fellow, and even RI President Holger Knaack visited virtually and spoke to our club. Meeting attendance improved, while we reduced running costs by cutting out meals. Some members who worked outside our city and had missed our meetings even rejoined us. Registering our online meetings on My Rotary enhanced contacts with clubs across the world, and the joint meeting addressed by Holger attracted more than 300 visitors. We also raised more funds as members and visitors contributed to our projects. To continue being flexible for all, we are now offering hybrid meetings. For me, 2020 has been the best year in Rotary as I've made many new friends. — Blessing Michael, Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North, Nigeria

These stories should give us all reasons to be optimistic about Rotary in the year ahead. We are not just surviving; we are gaining strength. We are discovering how resilient our organization truly is. We are seeing for ourselves how *Rotary Opens Opportunities* — even during pandemics — to grow, connect, and engage our members and the communities we serve.

From our home in Ratzeburg to yours, Susanne and I would like to bid you and your family the warmest of season's greetings. We can't wait to see the good things that 2021 will bring.

HOLGER KNAACK

President, Rotary International



Liza Larson
Rotary E-Club Engage
and Rotary Club of
Plano East, Texas



Blessing Michael
Rotary Club of Port
Harcourt North, Nigeri