



Ian H. S. Riseley  
President, 2017-18

T +1-847-866-3467  
F +1-847-866-3390  
[ian.riseley@rotary.org](mailto:ian.riseley@rotary.org)

Dear fellow Rotarians and friends,

Juliet and I are happy to welcome to you to this 2017-18 District Conference. Each district conference is a great opportunity to meet other committed Rotarians from your district and learn how, through hard work and dedication, we will accomplish great things together in the name of Rotary.

In 1935, Paul Harris wrote, "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again." I agree completely with Paul's sentiments. The world has changed quite a bit since he made that comment, and so too has Rotary. Today, you can find clubs that hold service activities alongside traditional meetings. You can meet Rotarians who have recently completed school and are just starting their careers. Our membership is now more than 20 percent women and that figure is rising. Our ability to evolve, to change as the world does, is only possible because of strong, innovative leaders who are dedicated to club and community.

In Rotary, we know how important it is to help our neighbors, either down the street or across the world. When we teach a child to read, vaccinate an infant against polio or bring medical help to areas where there is none, we are having a positive impact on the world that will affect current and future generations. Together, we serve the global community, and there is much work still to be done.

I hope your district conference is a motivating and productive one, and wish you all the best. Together, we will achieve great things through our service in *Rotary: Making A Difference*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Riseley".

Ian H.S. Riseley  
President, Rotary International 2017-18

