



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR-ELECT'S ADDRESS TO THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Gary C.K. Huang
15 January 2019

Nǐ hǎo!

Hǎo! Xie xie!

Great! Your Chinese is really good. Please give yourselves a big round of applause.

Some of you might have heard about the “happy clap” that I introduced to Rotary in 2014. In fact, I’ve been called the “happy clap” RI president. So, today, I’m going to reintroduce it to you. It’s very simple and I want you to do it with me.

[Leads audience in clapping]

Zan!

2019-2020 governors — zan!

Mark Maloney — zan!

Rotary Connects the World — zan, zan, zan!

That’s really good. Now, let’s get down to business.

First, congratulations again on your selection as district governor. We are gathered here this week to learn about Rotary and share ideas about Rotary’s future. There is a famous Chinese saying about leadership and learning. It reads, “Learning must never stop. Blue comes from the indigo plant, yet it is bluer than indigo. Ice is made from water, yet it is colder than water.”

To me, this saying carries two meanings. First, if we are open-minded and learn from the experiences of others, we can enrich our knowledge and become more successful. Second, a student who is willing to learn will surpass his teacher. The younger generation will outdo the older generation.

I think it fits perfectly with the purpose of this International Assembly. Here, DGEs learn from each other so you can enrich your own Rotary experience and create something better for your district. At the same time, you will hear many talks given by past Rotary leaders like me. By learning from people like me, you will surpass us. You are bringing fresh ideas and injecting new energies into our organization. Rotary clubs and districts will flourish under your leadership.

Since I am confident in your abilities, I have set a brand-new set of ambitious goals for 2019-2020.

The Annual Fund supports almost everything we do at Rotary. With the help of your Rotary district, we are aiming to reach \$140 million for this year — \$3 million more than last year. By meeting it, we can make it possible for Rotary clubs to initiate humanitarian projects, which are creating positive changes in communities at home and around the world.

For polio, our goal is \$50 million. This money will help push our efforts to eradicate polio forward. As you probably know, if we reach that goal, the Gates Foundation matches \$100 million. The money, \$150 million in total, will enable us to keep on to the finish line and fulfill our promise to the world's children.

Our goal for global grant cash and other outright gifts will be \$35 million — \$3.5 million more than last year.

We also have goals for our Endowment. This is money that is invested directly in Rotary's future. We are targeting \$75 million in outright gifts and commitments.

This is part of a bigger long-term goal. By 2025, our goal is to bring the Endowment up to \$2.025 billion while increasing Annual Fund and PolioPlus contributions as well. But with your leadership and resources, I'm confident that we can achieve this ambitious goal, because it will ensure Rotary's well-being for both today and tomorrow.

In total, our goal will be \$400 million for 2019-2020. It is a daunting task before us, but if we can mobilize and motivate our Rotarians, we can do it.

Let me use the stage to recognize some very special people who truly believe in what Rotary does and are supporting The Rotary Foundation in a very generous way. They were already members of the Arch Klumph Society, which requires contributions of at least \$250,000. Recently, they've become Chair's Circle Arch Klumph Society members. This means that they have contributed at least \$500,000 to The Rotary Foundation!

Please welcome:

- From the Rotary Club of Pasig, Rizal, Philippines, RI Director Rafael M. Garcia III and Minda A. Garcia
- From the Rotary Club of Taipei Ricardo, Taiwan, District Governor Nellie Lin
- From the Rotary Club of Pingtung East, Taiwan, past District Governor "William" Tseng and his wife, "Melody" Kao
- From the Rotary Club of Taipei Fu-Jung, Taiwan, Past District Governor "May" Lu and her son, Kelvin Wang
- From the Rotary Club of Panchiao North, Taiwan, Past President "Bear" Kuo
- From the Rotary Club of Tu-cheng Central, Taiwan, Charter President Yico and his wife, from the Rotary Club of Sanhsia Beida Elite, Charter President Amy

- From the Rotary Club of Hou Kuong, Macao, past President “Paul” Iec and his wife, Sarah Kei-I Lo
- From the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour, Hong Kong, Charter President Patrick Poon and his wife, Wendy Fok
- From the Rotary Club of Taichung, Taiwan, past President “Propeller” Lin and his wife, “Ann” Tsai
- From the Rotary Club of Taichung East, Taiwan, Past President “Brain” Ching-Hua Yen and his wife, Shu-Fen Lai

Once again, thank you for your generosity and your dedication to Rotary. Please give them another round of warm applause.

When I commended these remarkable Rotarians, I didn’t mean to ask every one of you to do the same and give \$500,000 to The Rotary Foundation. But you can do something else for Rotary.

Let me tell you a story first. In 1977, a baseball player in Los Angeles hit a home run at the end of the season’s last game. He created a record in baseball history. One of his friends raised his arm in the air, and he slapped his friend’s hand in congratulations. Many people saw it on TV. Soon, it became very popular in many parts of the world. It is called “high-five” or “gimme five.”

“Gimme five” is a simple greeting. It is a warm congratulation and celebration of our victory. It is also a sign of strong encouragement. Since 2002, people in the U.S. have made the third Thursday of April “National High-Five Day.” During this day, people give friends and strangers as many high fives as possible to celebrate life. Many young people use “National High-Five Day” to raise money for charity.

Today, I want to introduce the concept of Gimme Five to Rotary. Please ask each Rotarian in your district to give five percent more than last year. Ask each Rotarian to donate five more dollars than last year. Ask each Rotarian to urge five of his or her friends to do the same. Invite five new members to Rotary. Encourage five new Major Donors. Or award five new Paul Harris Fellows. If some Rotarians don’t want to give five more dollars to Rotary, tell them to give you five reasons why they can’t do it. Or they can share at least five good Rotary stories with their communities.

We know that many potential members and supporters have heard of Rotary, but they don’t know who we are or what we do. So tell your story, and use the resources of our People of Action campaign to bring our vision to life. Share our story of chasing down polio for 30 years. Share our story of providing clean water to remote communities. Share our story of educating new generations. Share our amazing record of changing the world. If we high-five each other every day, we can reach our fundraising goals.

Gimme Five doesn’t just apply to our fundraising. I also want to encourage you to use Gimme Five to spend the money. Now, I want you to find out how much of your district’s District Designated Fund was unused last year. DDF is your district’s powerhouse. It enables your clubs to have input on how the Foundation’s money is put

to work. Therefore, during your year as the DG, I hope you help your district reach its goals by spending all your district's current and unused DDF.

Regardless, I am asking you to make spending them a priority. So, as a start, ask Rotarians to spend five percent more of DDF on service projects. You can use them for district grants. You can use them for global grants. You can give them to PolioPlus.

Or you can give them to another district to support a project.

This year, President-elect Mark Maloney's theme is *Rotary Connects the World*. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is making it possible for Rotarians from different races, cultures, religions, and political perspectives to connect through community service projects. At the same time, the gestures of Gimme Five enable us to bond and build communities, to celebrate our Rotary achievement, and encourage us in the face of challenges.

It's just like a hug. Gimme Five with a smile is a way we can *Light Up Rotary*. Having said that, I want everyone to raise your hand and high-five two others beside you. See, you got ten now. That's excellent. Now, I want to invite you to do one more happy clap together.

[Leads audience in clapping]

2019-2020 governors — zan!

Gimme Five team — zan!

Rotary Connects the World — zan, zan, zan!

Thank you! Xie! Xie!