

Like so many Rotarians throughout the world, I too will start the Rotary year in a new position beginning a two year stint on the Board of Directors for Rotary International. As with most Rotarians, I hope and pray that my contributions truly help make a difference in this world.

Every new position we take on for Rotary brings new opportunities to make a difference through service. In addition, in today's world, conditions change rapidly influencing very quickly those service opportunities. Certainly the recent economic downturn will test us in ways we have not experienced in a very long time. It will also present opportunities we have not previously contemplated. The decisions we make will be difficult, but they will also help our clubs and our organization survive and grow.

As we face these difficult decisions, we must not lose sight of what is important. Sacred cows may be slaughtered, but we must remain at the club level and beyond, an organization built on fellowship, grounded in ethics, and focused on serving those in need. Most importantly, we need to make sure we continue to have fun!

The economic downturn must be viewed as a chance to refocus on what is important, and not be viewed as an excuse for failure or inaction.

For each of us the opportunities for service will be there, as will the need for our helping hand. More than ever, the future of Rotary is in Your Hands. Change the world!