

## What a Year, Right!

[President Ben's Farewell Address at the Changeover Meeting, June 30, 2021]

Last February.....Past-presidents Althea, Tom Baum and Jeremy and I were in the back of the room and Jeremy says.....Guys, I'm taking the boys on a cruise next month do you think I should go.....Would have been a long cruise.

Pandemic.....Civil Unrest.....Election.....Insurrection.....I won't bore you with the details.

What a year, right?

Then we concocted this plan to have meetings by YouTube and then by Zoom.....which by the way meets our Strategic Plan goal of infusing more technology in to our meetings.

The rest is history and history we made.

We've done this before, well maybe not all of this at the same time, but.....Like Rotarians past.....today's Rotarians found a way.....

Bill Boben and Chip Kirchner found a way to continue our summer youth experience with the United way.

Alicia Moranz and Rich Wolman found a way to continue our McCaskey mentoring program.

We concluded our Strategic Plan with the help of Greg Orth.

Lisa Lewis's hard work brought us the Rotary store. No small feat.

Wheels and Wings continues and is fast approaching. Thank you to Steve Dietrich and his committee

We were able to help our community at the Stevens Greenland Cemetery

You see.....we found a way.

Today our membership stands at 190. Even during this time, we were able to welcome new members. Sadly, we lost our friends Pappy Hoover and Sally Bures.

Behind the scenes, your executive committee and board met regularly to figure out a way.....would the board please stand.

Very happy that we have new three new board members starting today or tomorrow.....Kaitlyn Blosser, Josh McManness, Rakesh Popli

Tom Gemmill and his committee had expanded opportunities through Zoom to get great speakers and great speakers we had from Atlantic City to Mozambique. Many thanks Tom!!

I started the diversity and inclusion committee and many thanks to Jim Shenk and your committee for the good work you are doing.

I'm certain I will omit something, but my previous highlights were to point out that we have been through adversity before and we will again and we will always find a way.

Rotary Presidents are afforded an opportunity to grant funds to the community. I have chosen the Tec Centro Foundation, the Lancaster Conservancy and Power Packs.

I do have one last official duty and this I have to say is one of the most important things that I will do during my year.....

Thank you all. This has been a great honor. And this much I know is true.

- 1) I was 20 pounds heavier the last time I was on this stage
- 2) This is the best in-person Rotary meeting of the year.\*
- 3) In the face of adversity, we have proven we can find a way
- 4) This IS the best rotary club in the world.

Past President Ben Bamford, June 30, 2021, at the Changeover meeting

\* Because of the Pandemic, this was the only in-person Rotary meeting of Ben's year as president..