



Dear District Governor,

You might as well get used to your new title, which, of course, is valid July 1. I do congratulate you, wish you all the success in your Rotary path and hope that we can collaborate in many ways to strengthen our great organization, through which so much good in the world can be done.

#### **Orientation Training online:**

Trainer Barney Callaghan and I have been very pleased to meet many of you during our two Orientation Training sessions, and we are looking forward to meeting those of you interested also later during our other sessions, the next being about The Rotary Learning Centre and the use of learning materials provided by Rotary International on **Tuesday July 14** at the same time as always: 5 pm London time, 6 pm Scandinavian time and 7 pm Finnish and Russian (western) time.

All sessions are and will be recorded. The videos and power point presentations used in each session are available in <https://sites.google.com/view/gets-training-2020>. We will add some other material for your use, if necessary.

This training is one way to an opportunity of deepening your thoughts on Rotary, what it is to be a Rotary Leader, and how you will have more tools to succeed with the Rotarians in your district. You will also be able to network with your successors as well as their successors to form a chain of Rotary Leaders supporting each other.

#### **Seminars and Northern Lights Institute:**

Covid-19 turned many plans upside down. To be confronted with a new disease is scary. Many have lost their lives, many suffered and continue to suffer in ways we could not predict. We Europeans – for the most – now witness calming down of the pandemic and many of the restrictions in various countries have been taken away. The Organizing Committee of Northern Lights Zones 17 & 18 Rotary International Institute and the events attached to it has patiently waited and checked for the news of the worldwide pandemic situation. Yesterday we could finally agree that it is possible – with safety, health and precautionous attitude – to **arrange the Institute in person in Oulu in September**.

So this is the official welcome to all of you – partners included – to participate in either of the three Seminars and the actual Institute during September 10 - 13!

Please note the following:

1. No in-person meeting or event shall be mandatory for any Rotary participant who may feel uncomfortable attending because of the pandemic.
2. Please, do register your / your partner's participation in the Oulu event soon. The "early bird" registration is available until **June 30**. Take advantage of a package registration for both a Seminar and the Institute, which gives a remarkable reduction in pricing. Registration is through our website [www.rotaryinstitutefinland2020.org](http://www.rotaryinstitutefinland2020.org). It is strongly advised to use **your credit card** for payment.
3. Please, make your hotel reservation through the same website. **Radisson Blu hotel**, the venue for all events except the International RYLA, will be totally renovated and opened just before our Institute week starts – another safety issue (although we certainly did not have a clue about the



coronavirus pandemic at the time our venue place was chosen...). There are also other hotels available within walking distance to the venue for your consideration.

4. The programs for all events will be available on the website within two weeks, but the timing is already there so you can plan your travels.
5. The most convenient way to reach Oulu is by flying from Helsinki. Finnair and Norwegian have regular daily flights. Due to the pandemic the number of flights has been reduced, but both airlines have announced about starting more flights from various European and Scandinavian cities.

Using aeroplanes for travel is safe also coronawise. The planes have excellent ventilation systems, where air in the cabins is exchanged every 3 minutes, mostly taken from outside and pushed back to outside and in any case circulated through HEPA filters. To increase safety even more, **the carriers request all passengers to use face masks during the flight**. Hence, be prepared to carry a few masks with you for this use.

All the ferries between Helsinki or Turku (Åbo) and another city in Estonia, Germany, Poland or Sweden have started to function regularly. Therefore another option to explore Finland as an extension to your attendance at the Oulu Institute is to drive. A nice voyage on a ferry and driving through the country certainly offers you an experience to enjoy!

6. Your safety and health is our utmost concern. Rules and regulations set by our government and health authorities will be followed. We don't shake hands, hug each other or give friendly kisses, but we show our fellowship and friendliness with a little distance! Hand washing and frequent use of hand sanitizers are in order even in September. Use of face masks is voluntary. It is advised if you happen to have any sign of respiratory infection or if you feel more comfortable wearing it, but there has not been a general request for the use of it in Finland (apart from the aeroplanes).

**You should NOT attend the events or travel to the venue, if you have symptoms related to respiratory infection prior your departure, or you have been in a recent contact with someone suffering from Covid-19 infection!**

7. There are two most interesting post-institute tours to Lapland you might be interested in participating. Please, check the website!

On behalf of Institute Chair Leila Risteli and the whole Team of the Organizing Committee and Trainers I welcome you warmly to Oulu! We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

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