



John F. Germ  
President, 2016-17

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Dear Rotaractors of District 9210:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to you on the occasion of your Rotaract Africa Summit, where you and your fellow Rotaractors will prepare to lead your clubs in the 2016-17 Rotary year.

The Greek philosopher Demosthenes once wrote that “great enterprises begin with small opportunities.” But you know what? I don’t think it’s true. Great enterprises don’t begin with small opportunities. They begin with great opportunities. It’s just that great opportunities sometimes have a way of looking small.

And through Rotaract you have been given a great opportunity. What you do with that opportunity — that’s up to you. Sometimes those opportunities might look small. You might think that what you do doesn’t matter. But they’re not small. Everything you do matters, especially to the people you help and the people you love, in this generation and the next. And the decisions you make won’t begin or end with you. The effects of *our* work, *our* decisions, will ripple out all over the world to the people whose lives we will change.

We’re all in this together. We’re all on the same TEAM. Because in Rotary, we lead just like we serve: *Together Everyone Accomplishes More*. And I welcome you as an important part of our All Star Team. But we need more willing hands, caring hearts, and inquisitive minds to join our team. People like you, who believe in honesty, diversity, tolerance, friendship, and peace. Leaders who understand that diversity is strength, high ethical standards don’t ever go out of style, and who believe, as Paul Harris believed, that serving humanity is the most worthwhile thing any one of us can do with our lives. So, invite someone else to discover their own great opportunity to change the world for the better, forever through Rotary’s service to humanity.

Thank you for what you have done; thank you for what you are doing; and thank you for what you are going to do to improve your community and change lives. Thank you for seizing your great opportunity to join ***Rotary Serving Humanity***.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John F. Germ

President, Rotary International 2016-17