

JOHN GERM SELECTED AS 2016-17 ROTARY PRESIDENT



John F. Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, and chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of RI in 2016-17. He will become the president-nominee on 1 October if there are no challenging candidates.

For Rotary to thrive, Germ says, members must face current and future challenges and opportunities with "passion, enthusiasm, perseverance, and above all, integrity."

"I envision Rotary boldly and creatively engaging the success of polio eradication, membership and identity issues, strengthening clubs, work with youth – our future lifeblood, and the creation of critical, strategic partnerships," says Germ. "The 2016-17 Rotary year offers a tremendous opportunity for Rotary International and the Foundation partnership unified and thriving, on all levels, via the six areas of focus."

Germ says no one should ever have to ask, "What is Rotary?"

"We will enhance Rotary's public image by successfully and enthusiastically marketing who we are, what amazing things we are doing, and incredibly, have done locally and globally," says Germ.

With the global economy still unpredictable, Germ says Rotary must make participation affordable and "also be unfailingly diligent in efforts to ensure we spend every dollar effectively and efficiently," he says.

In 1965, after four years in the U.S. Air Force, Germ, an engineer, joined Campbell and Associates Inc., an engineering consulting firm. He now serves as the company's board chair and chief executive officer.

He also serves on the boards of several organizations including the Public Education Foundation, Orange Grove Center Inc., and the Blood Assurance Inc. He is the founder and treasurer of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Foundation and is president of the Tennessee Jaycee Foundation.

In 1970 he was recognized as Tennessee Young Man of the Year, Engineer of the Year, and Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year in 1992.

A Rotary member since 1976, Germ has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, and RI president's aide. He is a recipient of Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are members of the Arch Klumph Society.

"Rotary will adapt to a rapidly changing world by embracing innovation within the guidelines of our tradition and values," says Germ. "By aggressively embracing new technologies, social media, and new opportunities, individuals and businesses will see that Rotary helps promote a good civic and public image while adding credibility to their people."

The Nominating Committee members are T.D. Griley, Newark, Ohio, USA (chair); José Antonio F. Antiório, Osasco, São Paulo, Brazil; Keith Barnard-Jones, The Island & Royal Manor of Portland, Dorset, England; Kenneth R. Boyd, Kerman, California, USA; Michael Colasurdo Sr., Brick Township, New Jersey, USA; Yash Pal Das, Ambala, Haryana, India; John Eberhard, London, Ontario, Canada; Barry Matheson, Jessheim, Norway; Shekhar Mehta, Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India; Carlo Monticelli, Milano Net, Italy; Samuel Owori, Kampala, Uganda; Kazuhiko Ozawa, Yokosuka, Kanagawa, Japan; Ekkehart Pandel, Bückeberg, Germany; Juin Park, Suncheon, Jeonranam, Korea; John C. Smarge, Naples, Florida, USA; Barry E. Thompson, Padstow, New South Wales, Australia; and Thomas M. Thorfinnson, Eden Prairie Noon, Minnesota, USA.

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary News
5-AUG-2014