

Governor's MONTHLY LETTER

Rotary
District 2750



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FOR
GOOD

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UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary International District 2750 2025-26 Governor *Yasushi Tanaka*

On Member Retention

When we think about membership growth, we tend to focus on how to welcome new members into our clubs. Yet just as important is how we encourage those already beside us to remain. The theme of this month's Governor's Monthly Letter is "Member Retention." Allow me to begin by sharing what I learned at the "Club Revitalization Seminar" held in April.

When considering member retention, I would ask you to imagine that each member carries a "cup" within their heart. Into that cup, invisible water slowly accumulates — feelings of isolation, dissatisfaction, loneliness, or the sense that perhaps one is no longer needed. And the moment that cup overflows — that is when a resignation letter appears.

In other words, member retention is not about frantically wiping up the water after it spills over. It is about preventing the water from continuing to rise. Better still, it is about helping to reduce the water in that cup day by day. So how can we do that? The answer is not especially difficult.

First, call people by their names. It is the simplest and most powerful way to say, "I see you."

Second, give people meaningful roles. When entrusted with responsibility, people feel their sense of purpose.

Third, express gratitude. A simple "thank you" surely reduces the water in the cup.

And finally, tell them, "We need you." Few words have greater power to keep someone connected to a club.

Everything I have shared so far comes from what I learned at the Club Revitalization Seminar. Yet beyond that, I personally believe there is an even stronger form of retention. It is the kind of deeply moving experience that can only be found through Rotary.

Allow me to share one such experience from my own life.

When I was still in my forties, my club organized a lecture event related to space exploration following the success of the asteroid explorer Hayabusa. Many families attended, and the event was a tremendous success.

That evening, after the event concluded, another member around my age and I — helped perhaps by a little alcohol — decided to walk home for one train stop instead of taking the train. As we talked along the way, he confided in me that he had actually been thinking about leaving the club. He was overwhelmed with work, and to be honest, he had also experienced some unpleasant feelings regarding the club's seniority-based relationships. Naturally, I tried to persuade him to stay. But after that, he said little more and simply kept walking beside me.

Then something unexpected happened.

A woman riding a bicycle came up from behind us, passed us, and suddenly stopped. Turning toward us, she asked:

"Are you with Rotary?"

We were wearing matching jackets, so perhaps that is how she knew. When we answered, "Yes, we are," she smiled warmly and said:

"Thank you very much for the truly wonderful lecture today."

With only those words, she rode away again.

Ahead of her lay the setting sun, just sinking below the horizon. Watching her ride toward that sunset, we found ourselves overcome with a feeling of indescribable exhilaration. We simply stood there silently for a while.

Looking back now, I believe what we felt at that moment was the profound realization that our activities had truly touched someone's heart.

After that experience, the friend who had been considering resignation chose not to leave the club. Even today, he continues to enjoy an active Rotary life.

I am convinced of this: what keeps people connected to a club is neither dues nor obligation.

It is the moments when one can truly say from the heart:

"I'm glad I belong to this club."

"I'm glad I served alongside these friends."

Rotary is not an organization sustained by obligation alone. There is joy, fellowship, and the inspiration that comes through service. These experiences — the moments that move our hearts — are the strongest possible form of member retention.

As Governor, my final request to you is this: please do not view resignations merely as numbers. See them instead as the cups within each member's heart. What reduces the water in those cups is the kindness we show one another every day: calling someone by name, entrusting them with responsibility, expressing gratitude, and sharing unforgettable experiences together.

Membership growth is not simply about increasing numbers. It is about filling the hearts of the members we already have and helping them feel, "I'm truly glad to be part of this club." The accumulation of such experiences is what prevents resignations, protects the future of our clubs, and strengthens the power of Rotary itself — of this I am firmly convinced.

This message will be my final contribution to the Governor's Monthly Letter.

To all of you, thank you sincerely for your support throughout this year. My heart is now filled with gratitude beyond words.

District 2750 Membership Report

2026 April

ROTARY CLUB

Chiyoda Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-South	184	189	5
Tokyo-Shiba	68	71	3
Tokyo-Shimbashi	41	41	0
Tokyo-Akasaka	48	46	-2
Tokyo-Minato	36	33	-3
Tokyo-Azabu	11	12	1
Tokyo-Global	19	18	-1
Tokyo-Sunrise Shiodome	14	15	1
Subtotal	421	425	4

Yamanote East Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-West	181	184	3
Tokyo-Josai	57	54	-3
Tokyo-Seinan	34	33	-1
Tokyo-Harajuku	13	12	-1
Tokyo-Suginami	35	37	2
Tokyo-Jingu	27	29	2
Tokyo-Ebisu	97	96	-1
Tokyo-Hiroo	32	30	-2
Tokyo-Shibuya	38	44	6
Tokyo-Roppongi	56	55	-1
Tokyo-Atago	39	39	0
Tokyo-International		14	14
Subtotal	609	627	18

Tama Middle Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Tachikawa	116	113	-3
Tokyo-Koganei	41	43	2
Tokyo-Kokubunji	44	43	-1
Tokyo-Mitaka	38	38	0
Tokyo-Akishima	46	50	4
Tokyo-Kunitachi	41	40	-1
Tokyo-Tachikawa Kobushi	93	91	-2
Tokyo-Inokashira	23	24	1
Tokyo-Akishima Chuo	51	51	0
Tokyo-Musashi Kokubunji	44	45	1
Tokyo-Koganei-Sakura	29	30	1
Tokyo-Kunitachi Shiroume	13	12	-1
E-Club of Tokyo Peace Wing※	26	26	0
Subtotal	605	606	1

Ginza/Nihonbashi Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Ginza	171	177	6
Tokyo-Nihonbashi	203	207	4
Tokyo-Tsukiji	58	61	3
Tokyo-Nihonbashi East	34	37	3
Tokyo-Chuo	174	173	-1
Tokyo-Nihonbashi West	39	36	-3
Tokyo-Ginza New	70	71	1
Tokyo-City Nihonbashi	19	20	1
Tokyo-Chuo Shin	55	52	-3
Tokyo-Akebono	21	23	2
Tokyo-Sanno	41	38	-3
Tokyo-Barrier Free Mind	23	27	4
Tokyo-Imagine Join Us	21	26	5
Tokyo All For Smile	-	15	15
Subtotal	929	963	34

Yamanote West Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Setagaya	50	51	1
Tokyo-Meguro	33	32	-1
Tokyo-Seijo	10	12	2
Tokyo-Crosscity	90	88	-2
Tokyo-Jonan	13	13	0
Tokyo-Yamanote	74	74	0
Tokyo-Seijo Shin	19	23	4
Tokyo-Aoyama	35	36	1
Tokyo-Jiyugaoka	10	11	1
Tokyo-Yoneyama	34	35	1
District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama	33	33	0
Tokyo Daikanyama	31	32	1
Subtotal	432	440	8

※Including members of the Tokyo Peace Wing Next Rotary Satellite Club

Tama East Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Fuchu	47	48	1
Tokyo-Chofu	68	68	0
Tokyo-Tama	18	16	-2
Tokyo-Inagi	20	20	0
Tokyo-Musashi Fuchu	40	46	6
Tokyo-Tamagawa	22	24	2
Tokyo-Chofu Murasaki	68	73	5
Tokyo i City	19	20	1
Subtotal	302	315	13

Keihin Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Haneda	51	51	0
Tokyo-Shinagawa	43	43	0
Tokyo-Omori	26	29	3
Tokyo-Shinagawa Chuo	23	26	3
Tokyo-Denenchofu	34	33	-1
Tokyo-Konan Marine	7	7	0
Tokyo-Osaki	29	28	-1
Tokyo-Kamata	60	62	2
Tokyo-Keihin	24	25	1
Tokyo-Denenchofu Midori	27	27	0
Tokyo-Shirokane	20	25	5
Tokyo-Takanawa	17	19	2
Subtotal	361	375	14

Tama South Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Tokyo-Hachioji	63	65	2
Tokyo-Machida	68	67	-1
Tokyo-Hino	33	34	1
Tokyo-Hachioji West	114	119	5
Tokyo-Machida-Naka	30	39	9
Tokyo-Hachioji East	34	33	-1
Tokyo-Hachioji South	85	83	-2
Tokyo-Machida-Salvia	42	44	2
Tokyo-Tobihino	28	28	0
Tokyo-Machida East	29	29	0
Tokyo-Hachioji North	47	49	2
Subtotal	573	590	17

Pacific Basin Group			
Club Name	25/7/1	26/4/30	Variations
Guam	45	45	0
Saipan	32	31	-1
Tumon Bay	54	53	-1
Northern Guam	22	23	1
Pohnpei	13	13	0
Palau	12	12	0
Guam Sunrise	14	16	2
Truk Lagoon	5	7	2
E-Club of Pago Bay Guam	23	26	3
Subtotal	220	226	6
Total in Japan - 90	4,232	4,341	109
Total in 2750 dis. - 99	4,452	4,567	115

ROTARACT CLUB

Club Name	Number of active members
Tokyo Fuchu	3
Tokyo West	16
Tokyo Hino	0
Tokyo Ginza	25
Tokyo Shinagawa	6
Tokyo Hachioji	5
Tokyo Shinagawa Chuo	5

Club Name	Number of active members
Tokyo Akishima	3
Tokyo Denenchofu	7
Tokyo Nihonbashi	20
Tokyo Orchid Setagaya South	8
Shibuya	8
Marianas	24
Chuo Univ.	96

Club Name	Number of active members
Saipan	18
Tokyo Ebis	19
Tokyo Central	11
Tokyo Vision	11
ICU	5
Total in Japan - 16	243
Total in 2750 dis. - 19	290