



ROTARY DISTRICT 6710 SPEECH CONTEST

ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST TOPIC FOR 2022-23

1-25-23



Each year, the new Rotary International President selects a theme for the year that will serve as a guide and motivator for all Rotarians. Our R.I. President for the Rotary Year 2022-23, Jennifer Jones from Canada, has chosen “**Imagine Rotary**” as the theme for her year in office. Being the first woman to serve as Rotary’s International President is an honor she is proud of. Celebrating the accomplishments of Rotary is something she wants to share with the world. President Jones states “It’s great that Rotary Members are better informed about all we do - and wouldn’t it be that much better if more people knew our stories?”

“Over the period of my presidency, which started on July 1, 2022, we are going to shine a light on projects that put Rotary service on display to the world. My husband Nick and I will focus on some of the most impactful, sustainable, and scalable Rotary projects from our areas of focus, in what we call the *Imagine Impact Tour*. We are inviting all to use their channels to help raise awareness by reaching people who want to serve but have not yet realized they can do it through Rotary.”

President Jones continues “But there is another important issue to consider - our carbon footprint. I take seriously Rotary’s emerging leadership position on environmental issues. The example set by our members during the Covid 19 pandemic is fundamental to how we carve out our future. Thus, we will use digital technology to tell our stories.”

“Think about ways to showcase notable projects in your clubs and districts. We all feel the impact Rotary service and values have on us. Now it’s our opportunity to share that feeling with others.”

President Jones is an avid proponent of elevating Rotary’s image and its efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion. She proclaimed “Diversity of thought, diversity of culture, diversity of gender, and diversity of vocation is Rotary’s secret sauce. That’s what allows us to solve things in ways that others can’t.”

Imagine Rotary was chosen as her theme for 2022-23. Imagining Rotary is about dreams and

our obligation to run after those dreams.” I want people to think about what they want to achieve, and then use Rotary as the vehicle to get there. We have such a huge array of opportunities in front of us, but we need to channel our energies so that we make sustainable and impactful decisions about what we do. The most powerful thing for a member is to be able to say I have an idea, and then to share it with others, amplify it, and figure out where to go with it. Imagine is an empowering word, giving people permission to say that they want to do something to better their world, and they can do it because they are part of the Rotary family.”

President Jones concludes “We have learned how to be different and more appreciative of other people’s experiences. At Rotary, that is what we’ve been good at all along. This is our time to shine!”

The world’s problems continue to magnify with natural disasters, wars, pandemics, hunger, need for potable water, illiteracy, internal upheavals. The world needs people like Rotarians to imagine solutions and find ways to impact. We cannot underestimate the importance of what we are doing today. Imagine what the world would be like without Rotary.

Students interested in signing up to participate in this year’s Speech Contest are encouraged to go to our district web site, rotarydistrict6710.org and click on Youth Services and Speech Contest. There you will find and can download Contest information including:

- Packet 1 - Contest Information
- Packet 2 - Day of Contest Procedures
- Organizational Chart and Schedule - check this site frequently for updates and assistance
- This Speech Contest Topic discussion sheet

Students are encouraged to research our Rotary International web site rotary.org for related links and articles to this year’s contest subject. This site includes issues of our monthly magazine “The Rotarian” for more insight into what Rotary is. Imagine Rotary - the power of Service above Self.

