

Lebanon a trailblazer for Rotary in Muslim world, says Majiyagbe

About 670 Rotarians from nine countries convened in Beirut, Lebanon, on 5-7 March to meet [RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe](#), who took a special trip to the Middle East. The RI president said that Rotary's success in Lebanon offers a glimpse of the potential for extension throughout the Arab and Muslim world.

"I am aware that Rotary has a long history in Lebanon — starting with the Rotary Club of Beyrouth, which was chartered in 1936. Over the years, Lebanese Rotarians have risen to serve the organization as leaders on the international level," said the RI president. "Rotary's more recent history in Lebanon is one of growth — not just in terms of membership, but also in the amount of Rotary service being carried out here. Rotary's success in Lebanon is a source of inspiration and hope — offering a tantalizing glimpse of Rotary's potential throughout the Arab and Islamic world."

Lebanese Rotarians who have served as senior Rotary leaders include Francis Kettanah, RI director in 1944-46, and Augustin Catoni, RI director in 1956-58 and vice president in 1957-58.

In addition to addressing a press conference, President Majiyagbe and a 50-member delegation of Rotarians met with Lebanese President Emile Lahoud on 6 March. The RI president helped launch an avoidable blindness fundraiser and a major immunization campaign. He also attended the closing ceremony of an international Rotaract conference that attracted 70 participants from 10 countries.

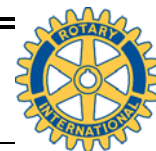


Lebanese President Emile Lahoud (right) displays a Rotary memento he received from RI President Majiyagbe.

Other highlights of President Majiyagbe's visit include a gala dinner attended by 670; a Rotary family lunch attended by 420; a visit to a children's cancer center; and a tour of the Zgharta- Zawié Blood Bank, a 3-H Rotary Foundation project funded with contributions from clubs in France and Lebanon. The prototype of a Rotary Centennial postage stamp designed by artist and Lebanese Rotarian Fadi Geara was unveiled at the gala dinner.

"We are pleased to observe that the bright image of Rotary in our Lebanese community has contributed greatly to the unification of its society and the Lebanese Rotary clubs have set an example for good citizenship through the behaviour of their members during the civil crisis," said Dr. Michel Jazzar, chairman of the committee that organized the RI President's visit. "I am pleased to relay to you that all 18 clubs in Lebanon have agreed on a common project in celebration of the [Centennial](#) of Rotary. It is a humanitarian project that aims to help children with leukemia by supporting the St. Jude Children Cancer Center with specialized equipment exceeding US\$ 200,000."

On 2-3 March, the RI president visited Turkey, where he met with the country's President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, as well as scores of Rotarians, [Rotaractors](#), and [Interactors](#) in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir. In Ankara, he opened an international art exhibition and a school commemorating the 50th anniversary of Rotary in Turkey.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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INVOCATION

Mar. 16	Brian Bekar	Mar. 23	Ineke Boekhorst
Mar. 30	Peter Boekhorst	Apr. 6	Rick Carruthers

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Mar. 25	Doris Gagel	Stan Wade
April 22	Laurie Anderson	Alan Graveson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net



Lend a Hand

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Inspector Fraser MacRae, Meadow Ridge RCMP

NEXT WEEK: Business Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 21: Debbie MacRae

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 18: Jim & Lee Weber

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 18	12:30	WineZest Meeting	Vernon & Thompson (Laurie's office)
April 3		District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University-College, Surrey
April 17		WineZest 2004	ACT, Maple Ridge
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,585 + 1/2 of today's sales, 3 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

STILL NO WINNER! The jackpot is now over \$1,500 and only 3 cards left. Too bad Lee! Are we going to go down to the last card again?? Oh yah and attendance is UP, UP, UP! (hmm?)

President Laurie was not able to attend this weeks meeting so President-Elect Mary took the podium and in spite of some heckling from those who should remain nameless (Gord), did very well.

We presented the Colleen Findlay Memorial plaque to the Girl Guides association with much gratitude from them. It was certainly a feel good moment to have such a wonderful memorial made from a wood bole, graciously donated by Stan Wade.



Our guest speaker was Bob Neil from Toastmasters and it only seems fitting that he gave a good speech on his organization. The local chapter "Positively Speaking" meets every Wednesday from 7:30 – 9:30 PM in the Council chambers and Neil extended a welcome to anyone who may have been considering joining or just finding out more about their club.

Bob has been involved in Toastmasters for 20 years and holds the title of Distinguished Toast Master, which is their highest award. He stated that the best way to improve your public speaking skills is not to watch or read about it but to DO IT!

Each Wednesday 2 or 3 of the members give a speech on a topic of their choice and they are then evaluated and given positive feedback to help them improve their skills. They also have random speeches by some members on topics selected for which they have 2 minutes to come up with a "speech". Sound like fun... well in spite of your initial fear, Bob promises it is a good group who enjoy what they do. They started the club in Maple Ridge in 1991 and there are 200 clubs within BC.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

PETS

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PETS, MARCH 2004

What an incredible experience PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) is; one that I wish everyone in our Club will someday experience. Past Presidents Stan & Ineke, and our current President Laurie were so right when they had told me it would be a life experience which would have a resounding and incredible effect on my Rotarian commitment. PETS has provided an insight like no other into the strength Rotary has throughout the world. It has reinforced my belief in the important role Rotary has in its global quest for World Understanding and Peace, and has also reinforced the pride I have of our own Club and our accomplishments.

Over the next week I will be *debriefing* myself and will share what I have learned with not only the incoming Executive, but also you, the Members who have make our Club strong. In this Centennial Year under the guidance of our International President, Glenn Estess, we will **Celebrate Rotary** every chance we get and have fun doing it.

The key message of the convention was **"Every Rotarian, Every Year"** to be sustaining members of the Rotary Foundation. This will be one of the goals for our Club in the Centennial Year and I will be asking you for Ideas and suggestions as to how we will accomplish this.

At the Plenary sessions, which I discovered means, "Attendance by All", we were treated with some incredible key note speakers. Three of the speakers were past Rotary International Presidents: Cliff Dochterman (1992-92) and author of the ABC's of Rotary, Frank Devlyn (2000- 01) and Richard King (2001-02). Each of them gave highly motivational speeches, but the best news came from Frank Devlyn who announced that there have been no reported cases of polio in India for one month now because of the mass immunization which took place last year.

Two other speakers were Jean Irwin past recipient of a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship who has developed a program to teach deaf children to speak using the *Oral Method* where Sign Language is not used. She is a high energy person and very entertaining. When asked once, "What do you make as a teacher?" she replied; "I make a difference." She is scheduled to speak at the District Conference in May.



Another impressive speaker was a young man 11 years of age who has raised more than \$800,000 in the past five years for the development of fresh water wells in Third World Countries. Ryan Hreijac now has his own Foundation and web site: www.ryanswell.ca and his goal when he grows up is to be a water engineer.

The Pacific Northwest PETS 2004 was the largest convention yet with 840 Rotarians in attendance from 10 Rotary Districts including Siberia. We had two and a half full days, received lots of material, exchanged ideas and came away exhausted, but full of 'vim and vigour'.

I would like to thank you all for this wonderful opportunity and hope, we have a success, fun filled Centennial Year.

President Elect Mary Robson