Our International Theme this Rotary year is “Engage Rotary, Change Lives” and the Rotary International (“RI”) President has said that “We need to make sure that every Rotarian has a meaningful role to play, that they are all making a contribution and that their contribution is valued”. I interpret this year’s Rotary theme to mean that my mission for the year is to first engage the Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Kingston. By being engaged as Rotarians, we not only change our lives but we are able to better change the lives of others as we provide service above self. Most people who know me know that I work hard and I play hard so we are also going to engage in some fun activities and fellowships this year. I also want to engage our family members in Rotary because they are an important part of all our lives, so the Inner Wheel Club of Kingston will continue to play an important role in our club this year.

Our Major Project this year is the Junior Achievement Biztown project which will bring the economies of Life “To Life”. This project will allow grade 5 students to combine in-class learning with a real life experience at a fully interactive simulated town facility where they will run businesses for the day. The students will also be exposed to the community and its economy, financial literacy, work readiness as well as business management. We will also be using Rotary volunteers to assist with other Junior Achievement youth entrepreneurial projects because every Rotarian, regardless of classification, is a businessperson so I plan to engage the Rotarians in our club to change the lives of our youth. Our Rotary District theme this year is “Building our Future with Vision” and the youth of Jamaica are our future so we should invest in them to ensure our nation can grow and develop to its full potential. Therefore, we need to teach our youth about financial literacy at an early age.

In addition to this year’s Major Project, we will also continue the projects and initiatives that have become synonymous with our club including the annual Senior Citizens’ Christmas Treat, the Health Fairs, Roteract, Interact, Earlyact, Lunch with a Leader and the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (“RYLA”).

Past RI president Roy Hickman once said that “What has been accomplished by others is *now*Rotary history. It is now our time to add to our glorious history. What is said of us in the future will be determined by you and me”. I am honoured and humbled to have been elected the 54th president of the Rotary Club of Kingston and I would like to thank my fellow Rotarians in the club for this opportunity. As the first female president of the Rotary Club of Kingston, the oldest Rotary Club in Jamaica, we are making history *now* and with your help we are going to have a fun year as we engage Rotary, change lives and build our future with vision by focusing on the youth in our society.

Allison Peart

2013/2014 President

Rotary Club of Kingston