

Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Ron D. Burton

District Governor

Jamil Mouawad

Deputy Governor

George Beyrouti

Assistant Governor

Yara Younes

RCBC Officers

2013—2014

President

Mounir Jabre

President Elect

Lina Shair

Vice President

Edouard Rassie

Secretary

*Christine
Arzoumanian*

Treasurer

Karim Naamani

Directors

Asaad Salhab

Tony Asfour

Habib Bassoul

Joe Boulos

RCBC Website

Address

www.rcblebanon.org

Computer Literacy – Rotary Lebanon Mega Project

RCBC PP Habib Saba and District Committee Chair for Computer Literacy (shown in RHS photo below) gave a presentation on the Rotary Lebanon Computer Literacy Mega Project at the RCBC business meeting of August 20, 2013. Also shown below are (from Left to Right) PE Lina Shair, guest Ms. Houri Elmayan, RT Mazen Farra, PP Asaad Salhab and RT Rana Salhab.



The project was launched at the initiative of District Governor Jamil Mouawad (D2452). Its primary objective is to serve the under-privileged segments of our community by teaching them the basics of computing at low or zero cost. The aim is to establish 24 Computer Labs by the end of June 2014 -- such that on average each Rotary Club in Lebanon would be responsible for one Lab. The estimated cost of the mega project is US \$250,000.

Apart from contributing directly and orchestrating third party funding, the role of Rotary is to promote the concept; to mobilize involvement by Government Institutions (such as the Ministry of Education, public schools, municipalities), community centers, NGO's and similar institutions, the private sector, the media, etc; and to exercise follow-up of implementation and ensure the sustainability of the project.

Banner Exchange: RCBC and RC Marseilles St. Barnabe (RCMSB)

Dr. Mehdi Elie Khoury of RCMSB exchanged banners with RCBC President Mounir Jabre (see RHS photo) on August 20, 2013. Dr. Khoury, an Emergency Medicine specialist, is of Lebanese extraction. He told of how his Club -- of recent origin -- was 49 members strong when launched.

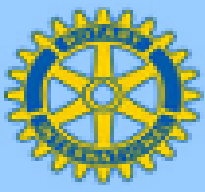


Because we did not publish Marhaba between March and June 2013, we include news items from that period in this issue -- The Editor

**RCBC meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut
Business Meetings at 7:00 PM — Dinner Meetings at 8:30 PM**

Marhaba Editor : Kamal Saad — e-mail knsaadrcbc@gmail.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Suburban Utility Vehicle Handover to Oum Allah Home for Orphans -- August 24, 2013

The Rotary International organization provided the Mother of God Home for Orphans (Oum Allah Home) in Ajeltoun, Kesrouan, Lebanon with a utility vehicle. The service project resulting in this gift was initiated by the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) whose Past President (PP) Edouard Rassie made a generous contribution, together with its associate the Rotary Club of Kesrouan (RCK) from Lebanon, in partnership with a number of international co-sponsors from the USA:

- The Rotary Club (RC) of Santa Monica in California;
- The RC of Buford/North Gwinnett, the RC of Griffin, the RC of Griffin/Day Break and the RC of Lawrenceville, all in Georgia.

Rotary District 2450, which includes Lebanon, also contributed whilst The Rotary Foundation (TRF) provided a matching grant.

The handing-over ceremony took place on August 24, 2013 at the Mother of God Home in the presence of RCBC President Mounir Jabre and of RCK President Jean-Pierre Finan. Pictures of the event are shown below, with the donation plaque in the middle.



The photo to the LHS above shows a number of Rotarians surrounding Sister Marie Farah, who manages the Oum Allah Home: From Left to Right are Mrs. Miriam Malak, spouse of PP Raouf Malak of RCBC; Ms. Nora Haddad, a friend of RCBC; PP Raouf; Rotarian (RT) Mimi Hamam and President (P) Mounir Jabre of RCBC; Sister Marie; P Jean-Pierre Finan of RCK; then RT Nabil Challah, PP Tony Asfour, Honorary Club Secretary Christine Arzoumanian and President Elect Lina Shair, all RCBC. Standing beside the donated car to the RHS above is PP Tony Asfour of RCBC.

The Oum Allah Home for Orphans was inaugurated in 1982 by the Oum Allah Sisters' Order, itself founded in Ajaltoun in 1962, The orphanage accepts girls between six and ten years old who have lost either one or both their parents — or are otherwise disadvantaged. The Sisters help develop responsible new generations in Egypt and France in addition to Lebanon.

Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

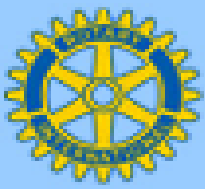
RC: Rotary Club

RCBC: Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

RT: Rotarian

P: President - IP: Incoming President - VP: Vice President - PE: President Elect - PP: Past President

D: District - DG: District Governor - IDG: Incoming DG - DDG: Deputy DG - ADG: Assistant DG



RCBC General Assembly – August 27, 2013

In preparation for the visit to RCBC of our new District 2452 Governor, RCBC committee chairs presented their proposed plans for Rotary Year 2013-2014 to RCBC members. Shown below from Left to Right are P Mounir Jabre and PP Tony Asfour presenting, then PP Raouf Malak, PP George Theodry and RT Azmi Hajjaj listening, then PE Lina Shair presenting.



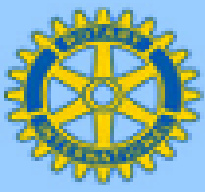
The assembly approved our club’s contribution to the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus program as well as our participation in the budget for the Country Lebanon water filtration mega project. This latter project aims at providing public (governmental) schools with water filtration installations such that our school children drink clean water. Several members stressed the importance of ensuring that the schools benefiting from our assistance maintain the effectiveness of these installations by changing the filters regularly.

Wood for Furniture Handover to Moadieh Evangelical Center – June 8, 2013

The Center is a newly established assisted-living facility for the elderly. It provides its residents with adequate housing, accommodation services and nursing care and organizes social activities -- all in a safe and secure environment. Rotary provided wood, from which the Johann Ludwig Schneller School (JLSS) manufactured the furniture for the Center in its vocational training carpentry workshop -- free of charge. The primary sponsors for this project were the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) and the Rotary Club of Wasserburg (RCW) in Germany. Rotary District 1840, of which RCW is part, also contributed.



TRF matched the combined contributions of the two clubs and the District. Shown at the handing over (from Left to Right in the LHS photo above) are Mrs. Joyce Khouri Eid, General Manager, Moadieh Evangelical Center, RCBC IP Mounir Jabre, Reverend George Haddad, Executive Director, JLSS; and PP George Beyrouiti, RT Mimi Hamam and PP Tony Asfour of RCBC. In the middle, a typical bedroom, while the RHS photo shows the dedication plaque.



Handover of Passenger Elevator for Lebanese Red Cross Blood Bank -- March 9, 2013

The Blood Bank is located on the third floor of an old building in the Gemmayze district of downtown Beirut. Its high ceilings make this the equivalent of a sixth floor in a modern building. It was thus difficult for blood donors climbing the stairs to reach the Blood Bank in an acceptable physical condition to donate blood. This Rotary Service Project resulted in the provision of a passenger elevator to solve the problem.

The primary sponsors of the project were RCBC and the Rotary Club of San Mateo, CA, USA, in association with the Rotary Club of Beyrouth, with contributions from Rotary Districts 2450 & 5150, and a matching grant from The TRF.



Present at the handover ceremony and shown in the photo to the LHS above were, from left to right, PP Tony Asfour of RCBC; IDG Jamil Mouawad of (the new) Rotary District 2452; IP Mounir Jabre of RCBC; Mrs. Hala Jabre, President of the Blood Bank; Mrs. Suzanne Ouais, President of the Lebanese Red Cross; and P Asaad Salhab of RCBC. Also present were a large number of Rotarians, Red Cross officials and guests. A commemorative plaque adorns the wall next to the elevator (photo to RHS above).

Closing Remarks... RI President 2013-14 Ron D. Burton's Address Upon his Election

...In 1905, when Paul Harris founded Rotary, his idea was for a club for like-minded people — like-minded in that they cared about the same things, they valued the same things, they had similar goals and ideas. But there's nothing in Rotary that says we all have to be the same. In fact, just about everything about Rotary embraces how different we all are...

Our goal in 2013-14 is to turn that potential, the potential we've all seen this week, into reality. We're going to do it by engaging our Rotary service, by getting involved, by staying inspired, and by remembering every day just what a gift we have in Rotary. Now is the time for us to act. Each one of us has a job to do — to get fully engaged in Rotary, to lead by example, and to inspire others to join us. Working together, we will build a stronger Rotary — and a better world.

Together, we will Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY and MANY HAPPY RETURNS THIS MONTH OF AUGUST
To RT Josef AKL and PP Pierre AZAR**