



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

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/

**June 3, 2014 – Business Meeting at Le Vendome Hotel
Guest Speaker Mr. Herve Piglowski – Topic: “What Is New
In Communications & Information Technologies (ICT)”**

Mr. Piglowski (see photo RHS with RCBC P Mounir Jabre) defined the scope of his presentation as limited to the basic tools and concepts of ICT. He covered the following:



Domain Names: A domain name represents a website address on the Internet (expressed in up to 26 characters) that is easier to remember than its technical equivalent, the Internet Protocol (IP). It consists of up to three parts separated by dots, the first of which, “www” for world-wide-web, is optional. The second part is the chosen name on the web (eg “rcbclebanon”) and the third part is the suffix or extension that represents the type of organization or activity in question (e.g. “.com”, “.net”, “.org”, “.aero”, “.hotel”).

Social Networks

- ⇒ Facebook, that has 1.1 billion active users.
- ⇒ Google, with 318 million users.
- ⇒ LinkedIn, with 238 million users.
- ⇒ Twitter, with 232 million users.

Applications

- ⇒ SnapChat (photomessaging; 300 million exchanges per day); offer of USD 4 billion by Facebook turned down.
- ⇒ Whatsapp (instantmessaging: 450 million users; 10 billion messages per day); bought by Facebook for about USD 19 billion.

Advergames : video games for advertising purposes.

Codes : Quick Response Scannable Bar Codes; allow fast direct access to web sites and web site features.

Selfie : self-portraits; typically for use on social networks.

Looking ahead, the 2014 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas expects that, by 2020, 30 billion objects (e.g. watches, glasses, toothbrushes, drones, jewelry, clothing, cars, refrigerators,...) will be connected to the Internet worldwide.

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

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and Kamal Saad (e-mail knsaadrcbc@gmail.com)**

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



June 10, 2014 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Club General Assembly

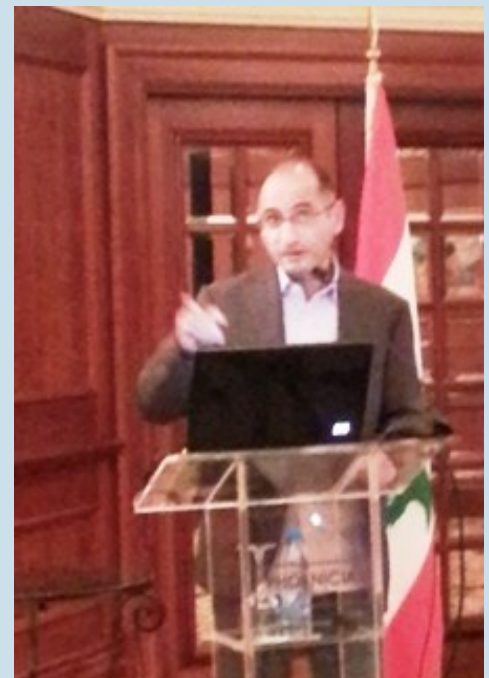
PP Tony Asfour (see photo RHS) reported on Global Grants under consideration in the RCBC 2013-2014 Future Vision Plan:

- **Schneller School -- Solar Lighting of School Grounds:** This Global Grant was rejected by TRF. Our German partners are restructuring this project for District funding. Its estimated cost is US \$ 92,900.
- **Lebanese Public Schools -- Water Filtration (in 17 Schools):** This Global Grant has been approved by TRF. Its estimated cost is US\$ 44,200. RCBC is the Prime Sponsor; RC Metn and the Lebanon Country Water Fund are local Co-Sponsors; RC South Bunberry and RC Subiaco, in Australia are International Co-Sponsors.
- **Child and Mother Welfare Society – Radiography System:** This Global Grant application is under preparation, Its estimated cost is US \$ 45,000.
- **Qortada Village, Metn, Lebanon – Village Solar Heating System:** This Global Grant application was rejected by TRF.
- **Children Cancer Center, Beirut, Lebanon – Optia Aphaeresis System:** The estimated cost is US\$ 75,000. RCBC is the Prime Sponsor; RC Cadmus, Lebanon are Co-sponsors, and the International co-sponsors are RC Reno, RC Santa Monica and other clubs in the USA. Once we get the confirmation from the other clubs in the USA, the global grant application will be prepared and submitted to TRF.



RCBC Treasurer Karim Naamani (see photo RHS) gave a progress report on RCBC finances for Rotary Year 2013-2014:

- **The Club’s Administrative budget ended the year with a smaller deficit than originally forecast.**
- **Dinners & Meetings revenue and expenses were significantly higher than the previous year, reflecting increased attendance levels. The net result was a surplus in net Dinner & Meetings income, a portion of which was used to finance the club’s administrative deficit.**
- **Projects and Services income was up on the previous year while expenses were down, resulting in a significant deficit reduction.**
- **Overall RCBC ended the year with an overall surplus that will be carried over into future Rotary years.**





**June 17, 2014 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker: Dr. Gerd Backes -- Topic: "Heidenheim at a Glance"**

Dr. Backes, IP of RC Heidenheim-Geingen in Germany and the head of Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, is shown in the RHS photo with RCBC P Mounir Jabre. His club was one of our partners in two matching grant projects in 2004/2005 to provide the Schneller School with two mini-buses; these are still operational, standing evidence of the sustainability of the grant.



On a visit to the Schneller School in Khirbet Kanafar, West Bekaa with other friends of the institution from Germany, he visited RCBC to re-activate the relationship between our two clubs.

He gave us a presentation about Heidenheim, that he described as having 14.5 million years of significant history (reference to the meteorite that hit it then). Indeed, the area is rich with artistic relics such as ivory carvings and musical instruments that stand testimony to an area rich with culture as far back as 35,000 years ago.

Heidenheim is located about 90 km from Stuttgart in the Eastern part of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany. The area is one of the technologically most advanced in Germany. It has a low rate of unemployment and "exports" more than half its production.

Twins it Was for the Azars

A notable event this year was the birth in May 2014 of twins to RCBC PP Pierre Azar and his spouse Nicole -- see photo with Philippe in Pierre's arms and Michelle in her mother's.



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



June 24, 2014 – RCBC Presidents Hand-Over at Al Bustan Hotel, Beit-Meri

RCBC President 2013-2014 Mounir Jabre and Incoming President 2014-2015 Lina Shair (see photo RHS) each addressed the meeting. P Mounir Jabre opened with a warm "Ahlan wa Sahlan; Sharaftouna". (Welcome. You honor us by your presence). He thanked his Board members and Committee Chairs and welcomed the Incoming President and hers.



P Jabre reviewed the significant accomplishments of RCBC during 2013-2014. Membership was up, gender balance has improved, and RCBC has become more attractive for younger members. Overall attendance at business meetings and dinners was up significantly; contributing to the increase were RCBC members, fellow-Rotarian-Club members, and other guests. Special events for the less-privileged were especially appreciated, and a number of worthy service projects were launched that will be completed in the coming Rotary Year.

In closing, P Jabre thanked Rotary International President Ronald Burton, TRF and District executives, other Clubs, and other Rotarians for their cooperation. He expressed his appreciation for the contribution of RCBC Executive Secretary Rania Soubra. And he extended his warm thank yous to his spouse Riman and sons Nazih and Samer for their support.

Incoming President 2014-2015 Lina Shair told her fellow members and their guests that their presence this evening encouraged her to continue serving the less fortunate in our society through Rotary. "For me, joining Rotary was the best way to go in a country like Lebanon and a region like the Middle East. As Rotarians, we do not allow politics, religion or race to stand in the way of service – which is a blessing in a world like ours today."

"We are all inspired by Rotary's most challenging cause, the eradication of polio in the world, she continued, but we are here also to serve all those in need in our communities and to support the educational aspirations of our future leaders. In closing, I must warn our members that once you open the door for a woman, you will not be able to close it again; the only door you can close after a woman is the car door."

For the second time in the history of our club, we and our daughter club Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club (BCRAC) celebrated our respective handovers together.



The first photo RHS shows the handover between BCRAC P Christina Asfour and IP Elie Farhat whilst the second (RHS) photo shows the four RCBC and BCRAC Presidents cutting a cake.



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June 24, 2014 – RCBC Presidents Hand-Over at Al Bustan Hotel – continued ...

BCRAC P Asfour thanked P Jabre and IP Shair for sharing their handover. She emphasized how much learning Rotary meant for her, starting with her year in the USA as Georgia Exchange Scholar; then as a Rotaractor; then Secretary of the Rotaract District Conference; then Secretary and lastly (her most enriching experience) as President of BCRAC. "Indeed the learning is always greater than the teaching you do and the knowledge you pass on", she said.

For her, a most important lesson in this past year as President is that service must come from the heart, from within. Rotaractors are by definition young people who come together to serve even as they seek to advance in their professions – a tough challenge anywhere and particularly so in Lebanon. Most spend hours commuting every day; many juggle two jobs; some have been jobless for long periods – not to forget the security situation.

"What makes us succeed sometimes against great odds is the fact that our motivation comes from the heart and that we work together as a family. I have one message for my fellow members: Keep your spirit and take care of your heart". For as John Holmes said: "There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people".

IP Farhat thanked P Asfour and the past board for their efforts and introduced briefly the theme for Rotary Year 2014-2015: Road Safety. He also presented P Asfour with a Leadership award in behalf of the RCBC Rotarct Club "for outstanding leadership and dedication to build a strong foundation for the future of the club".

The evening that ensued was uniquely entertaining -- a tasteful balance between the formal and the traditional and the happy partying and dancing.



A view of the dance floor



A view of the Al-Bustan Terrace

Many Happy Birthday Returns to

Mimi Hamam June 4

George Beurouti June 13

John Edde June 14

Ghaleb Mahmasani June 28