



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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Marhaba Editor

PP Mona Jarudi

monajarudi@gmail.com

Marhaba

2024/2025

Beirut Cosmopolitan

Rotary

District 2452



Charter Date June 21, 1995

Club Number 30893

District 2452 Rotary International

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

PP MONA JARUDI

ROTARY CORNER

Rotary International is a very dynamic organization with a structure that undergoes continued evaluation to improve its operations worldwide. Other than Rotary Board of Directors and Trustees, there is the Council of Legislation which meets once every three years.

The Council this year met between April 13-17 in Chicago, Illinois. About 480 members from around the world, each representing a rotary district, will vote on 78 proposals to change Rotary International's constitutional documents. **"This Council represents the heart of Rotary's democratic process and the best of our international spirit"**, said RI President Stephanie Urchick at the opening session.

"The gathering is one of Rotary's most powerful expressions of multiculturalism. Here, voices from every corner of the globe come together-not to compete but to collaborate". The Council of Legislation (COL) is Rotary's version of congress. Representatives selected by their districts gather to consider proposals designed to move rotary forward and adapt to the changing times.

Here are few resolutions adopted this year:

1. Decrease the number of members needed to charter a new Rotary club from 20 to 15 to remove barriers to starting new clubs.
2. A club is allowed to have more than 5% of its members as honorary members because that allows a club to stay in touch with former members, many of them long time Rotarians with valuable expertise to offer.
3. After extensive debate, the Council approved an increase in the dues every member pays to RI of \$ 3.50 in the first year and \$ 3.75 in the following two years. The increase is needed to meet rising costs and continue providing essential resources and services to clubs.
4. Representatives also approved a measure allowing the Board to test additional new governance models in districts approved three years ago. A governance pilot is currently being tested in Districts in Ribi, New Zealand, and Australia with some modest success in membership growth. Trying new models can help Rotary adapt to future needs and train and develop new leaders.
5. Representatives agreed to allow the Board to consider factors such as culture and language, not just the number of Rotarians, in deciding zone boundaries.
6. Representatives wanted RI to provide more details about cost reductions to justify any increase in dues. In a similar measure, the Council approved commissioning a regular professional analysis of processes and cost structures in RI's administration.
7. After debate, the Council voted to make holding a district conference optional.

This a brief summary of three days of deliberations and decision making by a select group of Rotarians. Knowing the inner workings enhances our confidence in Rotary as a fair organization that listens to its members and addresses their concerns while upholding its mission of **Service Above Self!**



reasons to join **Rotary**



FRIENDSHIP



SERVICE TO OTHERS



PERSONAL GROWTH



CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT





District 2452 Rotary Foundation Seminar



On Saturday March 15, 2025 few members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan joined the seminar on line where information was shared about the Rotary Foundation which is the main financial arm of Rotary International. Moderated by PDG Jamil Mouawad, PDG Ashot Karapetyan walked us through planning a Global Grant funded project: conducting a community assessment, engaging stake holders, gathering data, analyzing findings, defining SMART project goals and objectives while aligning with Rotary's areas of focus.

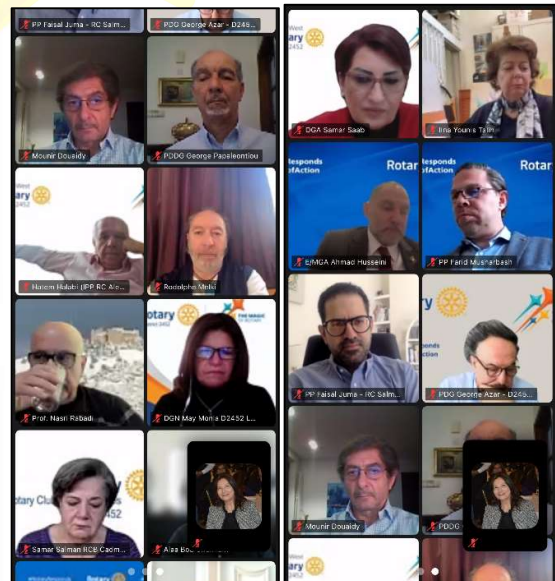
PP Ahmed Husseini talked about the various options that Rotarians contribute to the foundation through Global Grants, Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, Disaster Response Fund, Endowment Fund, Rotary Peace centers.

PDRR and P Emil J. Mouawad went on to speak about Rotary Partnerships and why do they matter. Partnerships enable Rotary to tackle complex global challenges more effectively, they enhance innovations and resource mobilization and strong partnerships make projects scalable and replicable. At the local level, rotary clubs can form partnerships with municipalities, ministries, NGOs, academic institutions and research centers, private partnerships with banks, hotels, hospitals and individuals.

To build a collaboration model with partners:

1. Identify common goals and shared values.
2. Develop a framework for cooperation.
3. Foster communication and trust.
4. Measure Impact and ensure sustainability.

This was a very informative session delivered by a dedicated team of Rotary leaders in D 2452.



Iftar & Joint Business Meeting

Rotary Club Kesrouan Jointly with Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and Rotary Club Pax Potentia

Rotary
Lebanon



RC Kesrouan, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, and
RC Beirut Pax Potentia.

ROTARY - IEP PARTNERSHIP

MARCH, 20, 2025 - ATCL KASLIK

MEETING & IFTAR - 40\$ | 5:30 PM
MEETING - 10\$ | 7:00 PM

We will be hosting an Iftar, then followed by a
joint meeting, at ATCL Kaslik, about the
partnership between Rotary and IEP.



Guest speaker
ANHAL KOZHAYA
PP - RCBPP



Guest speaker
NOOR AKOUM
P - RCBPP



Guest speaker
MONA JARUDI
PP - RCBC



Guest speaker
ELISSA TABET
PN - RCBPP

On March 20, 2025 Rotary Club Kesrouan hosted an iftar followed by a business meeting in collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and Rotary Club Pax Potentia.

A new member in Rotary Club Kesrouan (PhD in Conflict Resolution) introduced the partnership of Rotary with IEP, Institute for Economics and Peace. This was followed by brief presentations from PP Mona Jarudi, PP Anhal Kozhaya and PE Elissa Tabet both from Pax Potentia. Together with P Noor Akoum (absent unfortunately), the presenters received certification from IEP to be Positive Peace Activators to conduct peace related projects in Lebanon the coming two years.

We spoke about our journey in peace building in Lebanon and the intensive training program we attended in Istanbul Feb 17 for three days.

Many thanks go to Rotary Club Kesrouan for hosting this meeting and highlighting the importance of peace building work in Lebanon and what holds for the future. Stay tuned for some important news!



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Annual Club Iftar

March 11, 2025

The Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan traditional Ramadan Iftar was held at a lovely restaurant in Beirut where members and friends enjoyed an evening of good food with great fellowship.



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Kids Annual Iftar

March 26,2025

In collaboration with Rotary Club Pax Potentia and Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted a traditional iftar for underprivileged kids.

This project was led by RT. Silva Guiragossian who brought together 50 children ages 6 to 13 in the friendly Burger King whose staff are always friendly and welcoming. The children enjoyed games, face painting and good food. They all left with a goodie bag of souvenirs to enjoy over Eid holidays.

Thanks go to Mrs. Sana Tawil who brings the kids together.

Nothing rivals seeing smiles and hearing laughter with these kids!



Country Public Image Seminar

April 3,2025

On April 3,2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan was represented in the Country Public Image Seminar given by Country Chair President Emile Mouawad.

The seminar was very informative and well attended by all clubs in the country.

Rotary International is perpetually evolving and with that an enhancement of its Public Image is important. Rotary should maintain One Voice, One Message (We Are People of Action), One Mission (Service Above Self) , Same Values (Integrity, Diversity & Leadership), Positive Experience, and Consistent Visual Identity through Branding.

How can we as Rotarians promote our Rotary mission and vision? We can do so through websites, social media, events, public relations, speaking engagements, partnerships, advertising and merchandising.

The speaker also clarified do's and don'ts in using the Rotary brand at club levels. What is more important is always highlighting how Rotarians do the right thing in their communities by telling our stories and work, by sharing our impact of giving back. We can share our smiles doing our work, share our experience and professionalism. In other words, the Rotary brand and message is best reflected by our work!



April 8, 2025

**Joint Business Meeting
with the Rotary Clubs of**

- Beirut Cedars
- De Beyrouth
- Metn Gate
- Beirut Cadmos

The Phoenicia Hotel

Guest Speaker



Adel Afiouni

Former Minister for
Investment and Technology

Presentation Topic

“Lebanon: Challenges
and Roadmap for
Economic Growth”



Beirut Cadmos
Rotary
District 2452

Lebanon's constant state of financial instability and ongoing economic crisis necessitate continuous clarification of what plans lie ahead, especially with the new dawn in Lebanon with a President and Cabinet hard at work to help the citizens regain confidence in the country.

To help shed some light on the current state of affairs, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Mr. Adel Afiouni, former Minister of State for Investments and Technology in Lebanon and a seasoned investment banker with more than 25 years of career in global finance, global banking and capital markets in London and New York. During his tenure as minister, he launched a detailed plan for the digital transformation of the Lebanese economy and passed several reform laws to support the growth of knowledge economy. Mr. Afiouni's presentation was scientific and realistic, he stated facts about what led to the decline in the country starting ten years ago, the lack of political will to put the country first and enact laws that could have averted the deep crisis Lebanon is in right now. The buzz words were reform, accountability, proper oversight, courage to do the right thing, and proper compliance with the requests of the international monetary organizations.

It was definitely a sobering presentation, reminding us of the ugly facts that led to the current situation, but leaving us as well with a glimmer of hope for the future of this country.





April 29, 2025

**Joint Business Meeting
with the Rotary Clubs of**

- Beirut Cedars
- Kesrouan

The Phoenicia Hotel

Guest Speaker



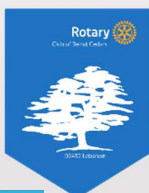
Dr. Michel Moussa

Member of the Lebanese
Parliament

Previous Minister of the
Lebanese Cabinet

Presentation Topic

“From the law of
220/2000 to the UN
Convention on the Rights
of People with
Disabilities “



In collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Cedars and Rotary Club Kesrouan, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Dr. Michel Moussa, Member of the Lebanese Parliament and previous Minister of the Lebanese Cabinet to be our guest speaker for this joint business meeting.

The topic of the presentation was: **From the law of 220/2000 to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.**

Our esteemed speaker was introduced by Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Rt. Ibrahim Abdallah. In his talk, Dr. Moussa was almost apologetic for the way the laws respecting the rights of people with disabilities have not been enacted till now. All the laws concerning respecting the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, providing equality for them in education and the workplace, making sure that they have facilities to move freely and conveniently, and preserving their right to healthcare as stated by the laws. Unfortunately, Lebanon is falling behind in satisfying the most basic of needs. However, most recently, an International agreement with the UN has been signed which will move things faster in the right direction.

The most important message was given: People with disabilities just want to be recognized as people like everyone else: people with their own strengths and weaknesses, people with their diversity and people who have the same rights and responsibilities like everyone else. People with disabilities are blessed with a sensitive and unique vision of the world, and with abilities that most people lack!

We, as a community, government and people should make sure that the rights of everyone should be respected and honored. It is only through this lens that we excel as human beings!





REACHING OUT

Rotary Club Beirut Cedars

15th Anniversary

On April 15, 2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in the celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of Rotary Club Beirut Cedars.

It was a delightful evening sharing the successes of the club, recognition of its members and achievements, coupled with great food, music and a wonderful atmosphere of fellowship.

Congratulations Rotary Club Cedars and cheers to a bright future and many more achievements serving the community!



The Enduring Legacy of Paul Harris: From Friendship to a World of Service



Born on this day, April 19th, in 1868, Paul Harris wasn't a king or a general, but a lawyer with a simple idea that would change the world. He lived a life dedicated to service, passing away on January 27, 1947, at the age of 78, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire millions.

Harris established his law practice in Chicago in 1896, immersing himself in the city's vibrant business community. It was this experience that sparked a desire for something more than just professional success. He yearned for a place where professionals could connect, build friendships, and share common ground.

In 1905, that vision became a reality. Harris, along with three clients and local businessmen - Silvester Schele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey - formed the first Rotary Club, a place built on "fellowship and friendship." Initially, the aim was simple: to create a club where business and professional men could enjoy each other's company.

But Harris soon realized that Rotary could be more than just a social club. It needed a purpose, a way to contribute to the greater good. The turning point came in 1907 when Harris was elected as the third president of the Chicago Rotary Club. Under his leadership, the club embarked on its first public service project: the construction of public toilets in Chicago. This seemingly small act transformed Rotary into the world's first Service Club, forever altering its trajectory.

This transformation was facilitated by the creation of the Executive Committee, now known as the Ways and Means Committee, which was open to all members and started the tradition of luncheon meetings.

Harris envisioned Rotary's reach extending far beyond Chicago. With unwavering determination, he spearheaded the expansion of Rotary, first along the West Coast and then across the United States and into Europe. By 1910, at least 15 new clubs were thriving in major cities. In August of that year, the existing 16 clubs united at a national convention in Chicago, forming the National Association of Rotary Clubs. Eventually, the organization became the International Association of Rotary Clubs, fulfilling Harris's dream of a worldwide network of service.

His work with Rotary earned him accolades from governments around the world. In his later years, he withdrew from his practice and Rotary responsibilities and spent his winters in Alabama with his wife. In early 1946, while vacationing with his wife in Alabama, Harris grew ill and returned to Beverly, Illinois, where he never fully recovered, passing away on January 27, 1947, at the age of 78. He was interred at Mount Hope Cemetery in Chicago's Morgan Park neighborhood. The following year, his autobiography, *My Road to Rotary*, was published.

Because of him, and his three friends, our Rotary came into existence. Today, as we remember Paul Harris's birth, we are filled with gratitude. His legacy is not just a club, but a global force for good, a testament to the power of friendship, fellowship, and the unwavering commitment to service above self. We are forever grateful for his vision, his dedication, and his enduring impact on the world.

Pope Francis

1936 - 2025



The world lost recently the most humble, compassionate, benevolent, forgiving person.

Pope Francis was the embodiment of hope and peace building, he was the voice of the poor and a staunch advocate of human rights and equality for all.

He loved Lebanon as a country and as a message of coexistence and tolerance.

No words will suffice in giving him the tribute he deserves.

The following words were his last from his hospital bed..

They are words that truly reflect his noble spirit.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

7:38 63
"The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches... They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports... It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.
A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...
In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...
A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...
A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor...
It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing. The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.
A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.

63
"This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.
Do not criticize your body too much.
Do not complain excessively.
Do not lose sleep over bills.
Make sure to hug your loved ones.
Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.
Material goods must be earned by each person—do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.
You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect...
Listen, perfection does not exist.
A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.
Here, we are given an opportunity to learn.
So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now.
Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you.
Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.
Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!
And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator."
—Pope Francis



The End