



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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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

The World Needs more Rotarians Now

In the midst of all the chaos and anger, in the midst of all the cacophony echoing in this world, in the midst of all the questions traversing through our minds as to what is happening and why, we find ourselves once again seeking refuge from all the ugliness around us and channeling our energy to what we do best as Rotarians and People of Action. We dig deep, we reach out to each other and against all odds we make sure to unite and mobilize resources to alleviate the pain of people whose lives were upended overnight and their peace of mind became a distant memory.

It was only four years ago when the city of Beirut was shaken to the core with the port explosion. And it is only a short month ago that the whole country has been shaking and crumbling, witnessing unprecedented horrors. Enter the power of Rotary and Rotary Lebanon. In no time, a Disaster Relief Committee was formed with the support of D 2452 Governor Hussein al Jaziri and DDG Mona Kannan.

As People of Action, teams were formed, strategy laid and with little resources, Rotarians with Rotaractors and Interactors were ready with boots on the ground responding to the needy and displaced all over the country.

As am contemplating all this I wonder, why don't governments borrow a chapter from Rotary and apply the values of Rotary in their governance. Rotary has seven areas of focus under its umbrella and every area is crucial for the well-being of societies:

- . **Peace and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution**
- . **Disease Prevention and Treatment**
- . **Water and Sanitation**
- . **Maternal and Child health**
- . **Basic Education and Literacy**
- . **Economic and Community Development.**

In normal times and times of crises, Rotarians work under these banners. The Lebanon Disaster Relief efforts have targeted all the above while working tirelessly to ensure the relative well-being of the million and a half people displaced. By providing basic necessities and shelter, Rotarians in Lebanon factored in all the above areas of focus. They are providing clean water, medications to prevent spread of communicable diseases and existing conditions. They are making sure that mothers and children have what they need for temporary comfort and nutrition.

As Rotarians who are very concerned about the interruption of education in a country that prides itself on its education system and strength, we are asking questions about the plan of the government and trying to work with the ministry providing temporary solutions to salvage this school year. Rotary Lebanon has a lot to be proud of! The unity of spirit, the energy of the youth, the compassion and action will make our founder Paul Harris very proud.

Rotary Lebanon is the embodiment of Service Above Self and People of Action. Yes, we need more Rotarians in the world and less inefficient governments. Rotary can give lessons in upholding values and how to run peaceful communities. Maybe our model should be taught to the world!

September 3, 2024

Business Meeting
Phoenicia Hotel

Guest Speaker

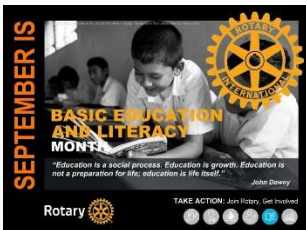


Dr. Elie Badr

LAU Vice President for
Business Development and
Global Affairs

Presentation Topic

'LAU Pharmaceutical and
Research Center'



This issue of Marhaba reflects our life as Rotarians. September was a normal month where we were able as a club to conduct in person meetings and the planned online meetings, only to find ourselves, overnight, forced to rethink our activities. October became a Disaster Relief month unfortunately, but it was a testament to us, as Rotarians, how well we can respond in the time of crisis.

September in Rotary is Basic Education and Literacy month. Our speakers and meetings reflected that area of focus.

On Sept 3, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Dr. Elie Badr, Lebanese American University (LAU) Vice President for Business Development and Global Affairs. The guest speaker was introduced by President Haytham Kurdi.

Dr. Badr's remarkable journey is underscored by a distinguished educational background culminating in a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Tulsa. His influential tenure at NDU and LAU is characterized by strategic roles that have propelled these institutions into global spotlight. His leadership as VP of academic affairs at NDU prompted the accreditation of NDU from the New England Commission of Higher Education. His visionary leadership at LAU has expanded the institution's global reach and steered its evolution into a business-driven hub for academia. His strategic initiatives have led to the successful entry of the Academy of Continuing Education into the MENA market, showcasing his innovative approach in transforming the Fouad Makhzoumi Innovation Center and pushing the boundaries of experiential learning. His exceptional acumen led to identifying opportunities to explore a university in the MENA region. Additionally, he oversees the LAU branch campus in New York which further solidifies his global vision.

In his very interesting and candid talk, Dr. Badr shared with us facts about LAU and his work. Of particular interest is the newly formed Industrial Hub to provide internships for students while studying.

31 companies signed up in the areas of Engineering, IT, Digital Transformation. He managed to mobilize help from Europe for SME's dealing with solar energy and branding. The speaker shared pictures of the Industrial Hub which is very impressive and will certainly prove to be an asset for the students.

Lebanon prides itself on its educational system and talent. Dr. Badr exemplifies the passion for education and innovation.



September 17,2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



Coach Mike J. Tolan

International Speaker,
Entrepreneur, Best-Selling
Author, TEDx Speaker,
Trainer, and Executive Coach
with over 25 years of
experience

Presentation Topic

“Quantum Leadership:
Transforming Teams
with heart, Courage and
Empathy, through
transparency”

Introduced by PP Joe Boulos, Coach Mike treated us to a comprehensive and very informative session on leadership. The speaker is well known on the international coaching circuit and is the author of Executive Powers.

What is Quantum Leadership? As described by the speaker, Quantum leadership embraces interconnectedness, empathy, and transparency. It focuses on leading with heart and openness, understanding that every decision impacts the organization as a whole. Organizations that do not invest in leadership create a lost opportunity for excellence. And people do not leave companies, they leave bad bosses and leaders. He goes on to say that empathy is at the core of Quantum leadership; it’s the driving force that builds trust and strong team work.

Another important element is the power of transparency in leadership. In his words “Transparency means being open, honest, and clear about decisions and intentions. It creates trust and fosters an environment where people feel safe to share ideas and feedback”. The speaker gave examples about people leading with Empath and transparency: The New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern when she connected with victims after Christ Church attacks; Nelson Mandela who called for reconciliation and empathy during South Africa’s transition; Richard Branson who built a people-first culture, focusing on employees’ well being to name a few. Mike delved more in depth on how to build empathy as a leader, how to use transparency to build trust and how empathy drives team performance.

He concluded his inspirational talk with the following conclusion:

Conclusion – Lead with Heart and Courage

- * Quantum Leadership calls for heart and courage, leading with empathy and transparency.
- * By connecting on a human level and being open with your team, you build lasting trust and resilience.

Want to learn more? Check out our leadership books:

Executive Powers, Cracking the Code to Magnetic Leadership

Unleashing Firepower, Masters of Business Excellence

https://www.amazon.com/stores/Coach-M-J-Tolan/author/B01GLTY60S?ref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true

Please visit us at www.Firepowertalent.com

CONTACT

Email Address: info@firepowertalent.com

September 24, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



David Alvarado

Global Grant Scholar, attending American University in Beirut for the 2024-25 academic year

Presentation Topic

“From Sao Paulo to Beirut: Life-long growth with the Rotary family”

David Alvarado is a Salvadoran American 23-year-old student at AUB, holding a Master's of Public Health.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan agreed to act as the host of the Global Grant Scholar, David, in February 2024. This was done upon the recommendation of Tom Anderson, Global Grant Scholarship Committee Chair of the Rotary Club Austin Cosmopolitan Texas, USA in D 5870.

As a global grant scholar, and as part of the scholarship terms and conditions, David was invited to speak to our club on September 24. Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan will provide all necessary support for the academic year 24-25.

David, a prolific young man who combines artistic talent with scientific curiosity and applies them both. His talk took us through a journey of his childhood, his love for art that he inherited from his family, his love for languages and community service.

Rotary was the place where he found himself, started developing friendships and became an active member. He loves traveling and exploring cultures, which led him to come to Lebanon. Why Lebanon? David was very enthused when he stated that Lebanon was attractive to him because of:

- **Natural environment**
- **Study Arabic**
- **Strength of the Public Health Program at AUB**
- **Cultural diversity**
- **Religious history**
- **Mysterious land with amazing people.**

Yes, this is Lebanon that we love and cherish. This is Lebanon with its rich history, diversity and beauty that will forever stay as a magnet attracting people who love it and appreciate it.



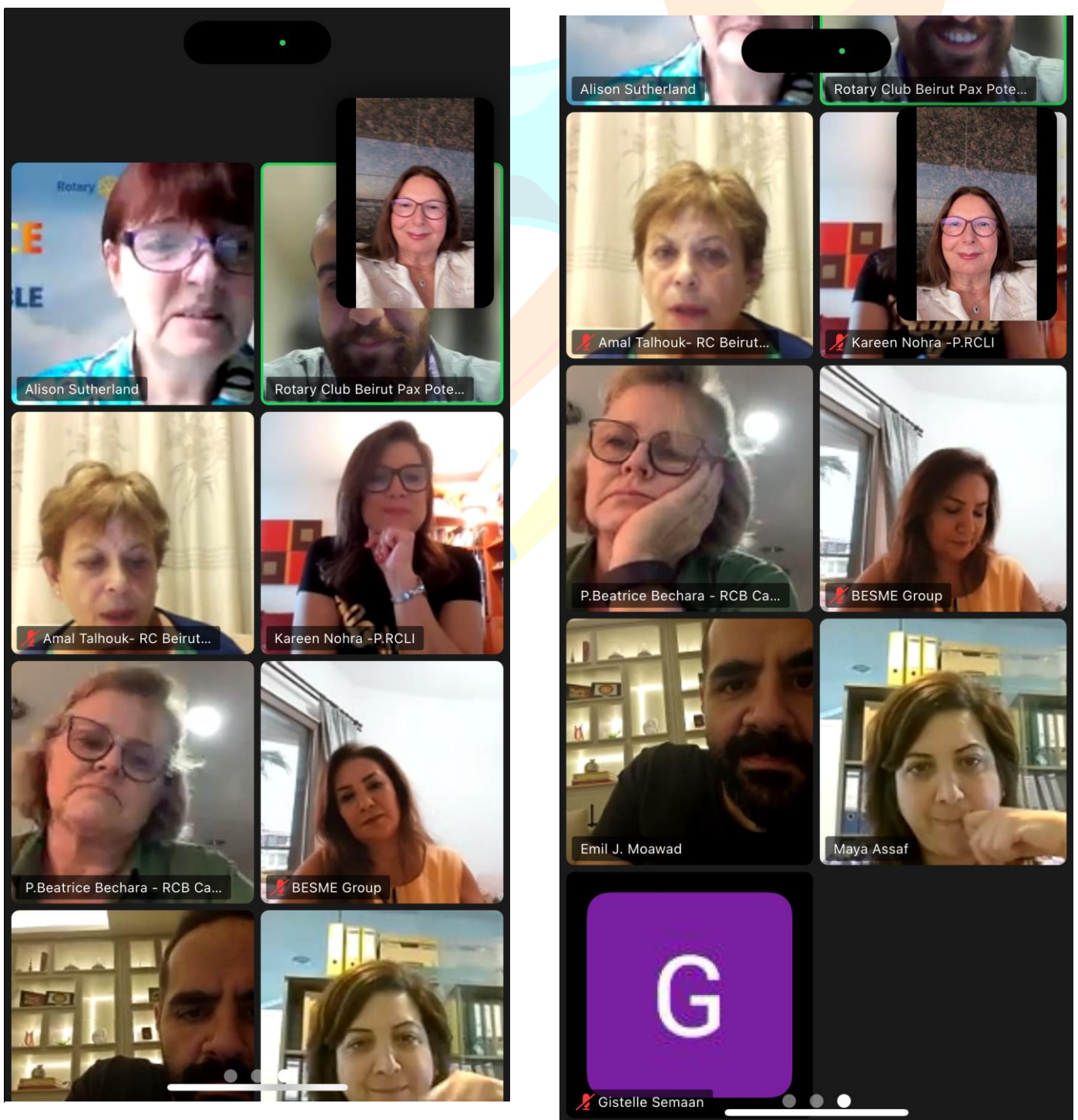
September Events

Last Rotary year, our club became the first Inclusive club in Lebanon and our district. This was facilitated by PP Amal Talhouk who worked relentlessly to make it happen.

On the Peace Building front, PP Mona Jarudi chartered the first youth led PeaceBuilding club in the world, Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia, the members of which hit the ground running with their projects and activities. Subsequently, that club formed the first Rotary Action Group for Peace in Lebanon which Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan joined. We can proudly say that we have two stars in our cap: Inclusivity and PeaceBuilding.

RAG for Peace initiative was led by PP of Pax Potentia , Anhal Kozhaya, who together with Allison Sutherland (Rotary Chair for RAGFP) and on Sept 10, the groundwork for the group was initiated. Other clubs joined us: Rotary Club Beirut Cadmos, Rotary Club Lebanon International, Rotary Club Sahel Metn, Rotary Club Metn Gate.

We look forward to our work together to help build lasting peace in our region.



Reaching Out

On September 9, 2024, and in line with the Education theme, Rotary Club Sahel Metn in collaboration with other clubs hosted HE Abbas Halabi, Minister of Education, to talk about relevant matters and share the government plans for equitable education to the Lebanese students. An important factor had to be discussed which is the thousands of refugees who are taxing our infrastructure and educational system and capabilities especially in these hard times.

President Haytham Kurdi attended the meeting, together with PP/ VP Mona Jarudi, PP Amal Talhouk, PP Joe Boulos and CS Abbas Sibai.



Reaching Out



Rotary Connects the World, a motto that rings true for traveling Rotarians. Wherever we find ourselves, there is a Rotary Club that will make one feel welcome and at home.

PP John Edde has been in Cyprus for a couple of months. He visited and attended meetings with Rotary Club Larnaca and exchanged banners with its President Olena Almazina. They exchanged ideas and explored possible avenues of cooperation between our two clubs.



RCBC Attends Urgent Meeting of Rotary Disaster Relief (RDR)

In response to the escalating situation in Lebanon, the Rotary Disaster Relief (RDR) initiative was urgently established. As part of Rotary's core mission of social support, we immediately mobilized to contribute and assist.

The meeting included representatives from all Rotary Clubs, as well as Rotaract, and we collectively agreed to divide our activities into different categories, as follows:

1. Onsite Needs Assessment:

Some clubs are conducting onsite assessments to evaluate the needs of displaced individuals. Based on these assessments, they either purchase necessary materials (such as water tanks, hygiene supplies, mattresses, etc.) directly or request support from the RDR for further supply of required items.

2. Immediate Financial Support:

Clubs adopting this approach, but without immediate access to funds, are personally covering costs and subsequently reimbursing them from the RDR upon submission of official invoices.

3. Remote Contribution:

Clubs unable to perform onsite assessments are leveraging their networks to source and donate listed items. These materials are then sent to the RDR for distribution to urgent locations, such as schools.

All Rotary clubs in Lebanon are working jointly, consolidating their efforts to provide a concentrated response, supporting and assisting displaced individuals across all regions of Lebanon.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

for affected and displaced civilians

In light of the tragic events in our beloved country Lebanon, let's work together on providing the following necessities:

- Mattresses and blankets
- Water and food supplies
- Hygiene kits

For support and donation, please contact us on:

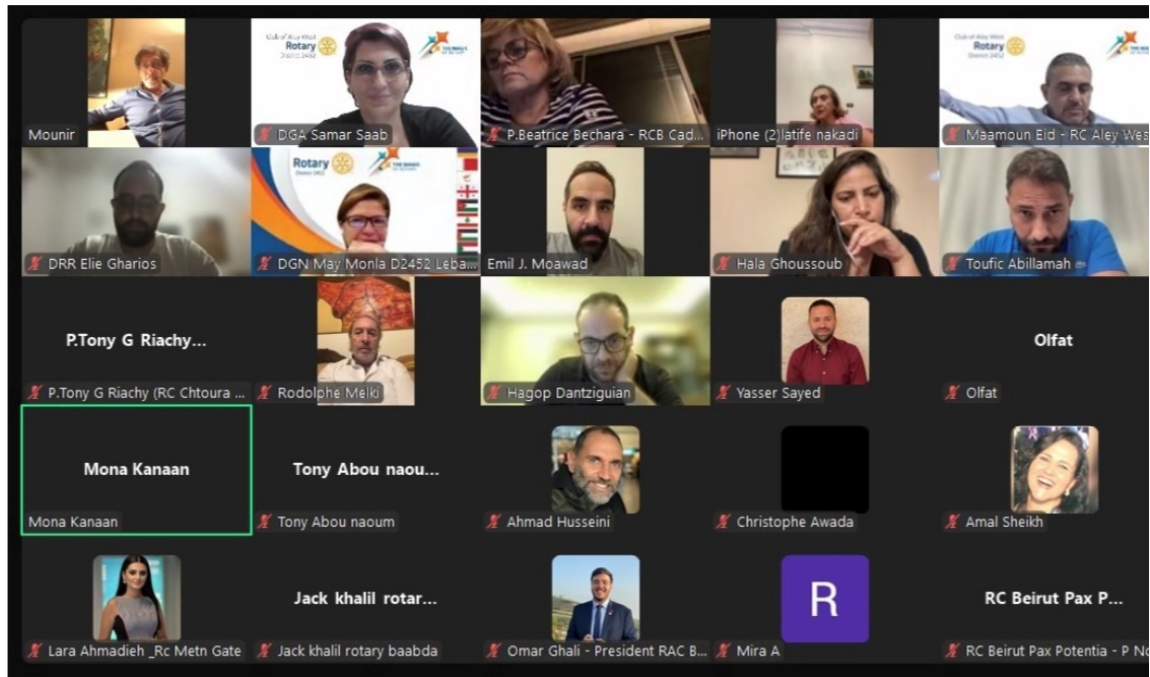
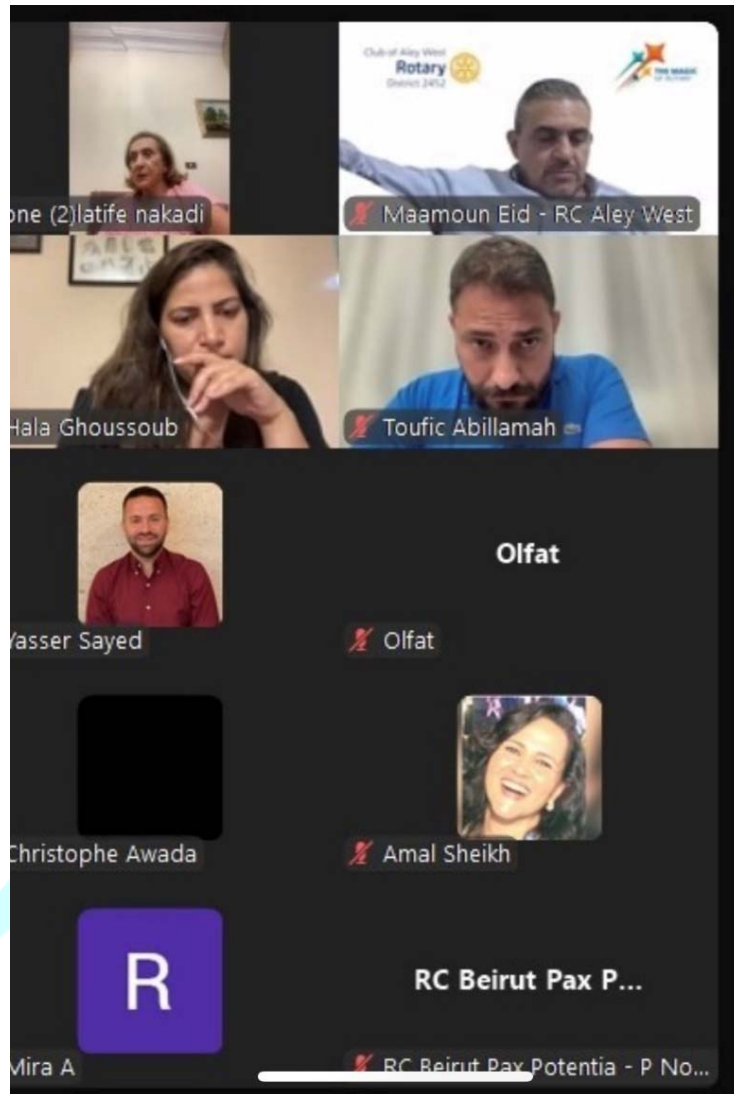
+961 3 10 77 88

rotaryleb@gmail.com

ROTARY LEBANON – DISASTER RESPONSE IMPACT

ROTARY LEBANON DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT <small>Lebanon Rotary District 2452</small>	Lebanon Rotary District 2452 DISASTER RESPONSE OUR IMPACT <small>UNTIL 16-10-24</small> 33,785 <small>Beneficiaries Supported</small> 247 <small>Shelters / Public Schools</small> 569 <small>Volunteers On The Field</small>	TOGETHER, WE SERVE. TOGETHER, WE SUPPORT. TOGETHER, WE SUCCEED.
OUR IMPACT <small>UNTIL 16-10-24</small> 3,093 <small>Sleeping Essentials</small> 1,401 <small>Food Boxes</small> 25,067 <small>Hot Meals & Snacks</small> 12,452 <small>Hygiene Essentials</small>	OUR IMPACT <small>UNTIL 16-10-24</small> 1,763 <small>Modifications</small> 175,448 <small>Water bottles</small> 1,643 <small>Toys & Kids books</small> 13,075 <small>Clothing Items</small>	OUR IMPACT <small>UNTIL 16-10-24</small> 8 <small>Solar Panels</small> 14 <small>Furnished Apartments</small> 341 <small>Water & Sanitation Rehabilitation Project</small> 2,000 <small>Liter of Fuel Supply</small>
<small>Interact Lebanon Rotary Lebanon Rotaract Lebanon</small>	<small>Interact Lebanon Rotary Lebanon Rotaract Lebanon</small>	<small>Interact Lebanon Rotary Lebanon Rotaract Lebanon</small>

On Sept 25, Rt. Toufic Abillamah represented RC Beirut Cosmopolitan for the committee Rotary Disaster Relief initiated to deal with the devastating situation Lebanon found itself in.



In the Spot Light



Newsletter July-August 2024



Topic of the month

“What do you do when your members are not attending?”

Special Thanks to:

**PDG Bashar Haddad
&
Country Membership Chair
Mona Jarudi**

Decline In Attendance: Solutions from Rotarian Experts

As a global service organization, Rotary derives its strength from its members. Increasing membership, retaining members, and keeping members engaged are at the forefront of every Rotary Club's agenda at the international and local levels. Yet, the decline in regular attendance at club meetings has become a challenge in maintaining clubs' momentum and impact.



To help us understand our challenges and navigate our way forward, Rotary Metn Gate reached out to Past President Mona Jarudi, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, Country Membership Chair (2020-23), and PDG Bashar Haddad District 2452 to share some insights on why attendance is dropping and possible strategies that can help address this challenge.

In general, the drop in attendance can be attributed to a lack of interest, financial obligations, job commitments, timing of meetings and location, etc. Here are some suggestions by PP. Mona and PDG Bashar to address the decline in attendance and hints to increase, retain, and keep members engaged.



HAVE A MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Maintaining strong membership records is not easy work. It requires time, effort, and lots of follow-up. Clubs with low membership levels spend more time recruiting and vetting new members, and clubs with solid membership levels spend more time training and guiding existing members. This is why having a Membership Chair fully dedicated to membership recruitment, training, and retention becomes necessary.

“This chair should be supported and empowered by the president and the board to address membership satisfaction and challenges” PP. Mona Jarudi

According to Past President Mona Jarudi, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, and Country Membership Chair 2020-2023, “Every club should have a membership chair. This chair should be supported and empowered by the president and the board to address membership satisfaction and challenges”. The chair should have a plan to be followed throughout the year with one goal: boosting the numbers and quality of members. In turn, this supports the club’s overall performance and future.

USE ROTARY TOOLS, GIVE MEMBERS A VOICE

Rotary International provides a wealth of support to the club and the Membership Chair. Membership Satisfaction Surveys, Club Health Check, and others are examples. “These tools allow every member to voice their opinion about the club, its operations, projects they like to see implemented, fellowship, etc,” says PP. Jarudi adds that these shared opinions help pinpoint underlying issues and tailor solutions accordingly. “A member is a stakeholder in the club, and every member’s opinion is valuable,” she says. After all, if members are unhappy, they may not express it bluntly. They may keep it to themselves and leave in silence.

For PDG Bashar Haddad, membership surveys or simple feedback sessions help the President and the board gain insights into the reasons behind members' absenteeism. “This understanding can help pinpoint underlying issues and tailor solutions accordingly.”

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Response for the Rotary Disaster Relief

In a beehive of activity, every club in Lebanon chose its path to respond to the disaster that befell the country. From providing basic necessities to dealing with water purification for the 1.2 million displaced people, to providing sanitation and hot water, Rotarians responded with intent and focus.

Our club responded with the following:

1. Through a private donor, 14 mattresses were donated to a school in Bawaerta.
2. A private donation to Dar Onboz to provide books for children in schools. The books were housed in boxes with wheels to allow for many people to use them. Below is the picture of the first librarian, Nisrine , 17 years old from Ain Qana, currently displaced to Lycee Abdul Qader.
3. RCBC participated in a major donation organized by RC Metn Gate to send food and sanitary products to Rmeish, a village in South Lebanon whose residents refused to leave their homes, risking their lives under continuous bombardment. 13 tons were transported to the village by Lebanese army trucks as they were the only ones capable of crossing the bombed roads.
4. A Global Grant is under consideration to help the Karantina Government Hospital with much needed equipment.
5. Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan is in the process of helping the Lebanese Red Cross with needed medications for the disaster relief efforts.

1



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Many thanks to Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan member, **Mrs. Nora Haddad**, in California who was instrumental in raising funds ear marked for the disaster relief efforts in Lebanon



Dear Donor,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Metn Gate and the Municipality of Rmeich, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support of our initiative to assist the brave people of Rmeich, who have chosen to remain in their homes and protect their land during these challenging times.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the success of this initiative. It was 100% funded by Lebanese individuals, demonstrating the strength of unity in times of need. This effort has shown that when the private sector, public sector, and civil society collaborate, the results can be truly transformative.

Together, we were able to provide around 10 tons of food, 1 ton of hygiene kits, and winter clothing just in time for the cold season. Additionally, diesel fuel will be delivered to the community early next week, ensuring that families are well-prepared for the winter.

With your invaluable contribution, we have been able to provide medication, clothing, and diesel supply to keep their generators and bakery operating, as well as ensure their survival and well-being in a time when access to essential supplies is limited. Your generosity has had a profound impact on the lives of those affected by this crisis, bringing hope and relief to a community facing immense hardship. Your dedication and commitment to helping those in need are truly inspiring.

Once again, we thank you for standing with us in this endeavor. May God bless Lebanon and continue to guide us as we work together to build our community.

Sincerely,

Lara Ahmadiéh
President, Rotary Club of Metn Gate

Lara Ahmadiéh
Rana Aoude
Secretary, Rotary Club of Metn Gate

Rana Aoude

Milad Alam
Head of Rmeich Municipality

Milad Alam
ميلاد فرید الكحل



Items delivered to the people of Rmeich, Ain Ibil and Debel by category

Food:

Food	Quantity
Buckwheat	1 ton
Chicken Luncheon (340 grams)	1,920 pieces
Food flavorings	1,728 maggi cubes
Foul	250 kgs
Fruit Juices	15 boxes
Hot Chocolate	15 boxes
Hummus	250 kgs
Kaak	2,000 bag
Latte hot drinks	15 boxes
Lentils	621 kgs
Moghrabiye	600 kgs
Pasta	860 boxes
Pickles	91 cans
Rice	1 ton
Salt	1 ton
Sugar	50 kgs
Sugar	1 ton
Tomato sauce	1,008 pieces
Tuna	2,000 pieces
Vegetable Oil (1 LO	60 bottles
Packed - FOOD BOXES	95 boxes

Hygiene kits:

Hygiene kits	Quantity
Shampoo Bottle	300
Laundry Detergent	300
Facial Tissue	400
Toilet Roll (Pakcs of 4)	500
Tooth Paste	300
Trash bags	300
Dishwashing Soap, 1 liter	300
Hygiene kits:	
Shampoo 4l -->1gallon	
Laundry liquid 4l --> 1gallon	
Dettol 4l -->1gallon	
Towel 30*30cm -->2pcs	
Wipes --> 2pcs	30
Loofa-->1pcs	
Toilet roll 22m -->4roll	
Interfold tissue 2319 -->2pkt	

Clothing

1000 pairs of Pajamas

Diesel

4,000 Liters of Diesel fuel



Lara Ahmed



WORLD POLIO DAY

24 OCTOBER

#EndPolio | endpolio.org



END
POLIO
NOW

Pray for Peace

Rotary



The End