

ROTARY AND UNEP UNITE TO SAFEGUARD GLOBAL
FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

'Community Action for Fresh Water' Initiative Aims to Enhance Global
Freshwater Through Community-Led Projects

EVANSTON, Ill., USA (11 Jan. 2024) — Under a new strategic partnership, Rotary and the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) are launching the 'Community Action for Fresh Water' initiative, focusing on the protection of freshwater ecosystems. In response to escalating challenges like pollution, climate change, and habitat degradation, this initiative is set to enhance both the conservation and monitoring of freshwater ecosystems globally.

“Partnering with UNEP empowers Rotary members to significantly contribute to freshwater conservation efforts, beginning with the waterways in their own communities,” said Rotary International President Gordon McInally. “Through this collaboration, our members will bring local solutions to global challenges, directly impacting the health and sustainability of their communities.”

Through this initiative, Rotary will leverage its global network to initiate community-based solutions that directly influence freshwater ecosystems and can be carried out at the watershed level. Members will engage in identifying and protecting important local bodies of water, collaborating closely with local stakeholders. Their activities will encompass organizing cleanup and conservation campaigns, conducting educational initiatives on water conservation, participating in habitat restoration, and monitoring water quality.

“Freshwater ecosystems are essential for the well-being of our planet, providing crucial services from biodiversity stability to water supply for communities,” said Leticia Carvalho, Head of UNEP's Marine and Freshwater Branch. “This collaboration amplifies our efforts at the grassroots level, combining Rotary's community presence with our expertise to make a meaningful impact, and fostering respect for these vital resources.”

Building on the success of the 'Adopt a River for Sustainable Development' pilot program with Rotary District 9212 in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan, this strategic partnership showcases the potential of linking together community-based environmental efforts. Rotary's initial 3-year financial commitment to the partnership will fund a range of activities, emphasizing direct action and community involvement.

About Rotary: **Rotary** brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.4 million members of more than 46,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. Rotary clubs are also undertaking impactful environmental projects worldwide, with over US\$23.7 million invested by **The Rotary Foundation** to this end.

About the UN Environment Programme (UNEP): **UNEP** is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

THE EARLY RISER

EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR



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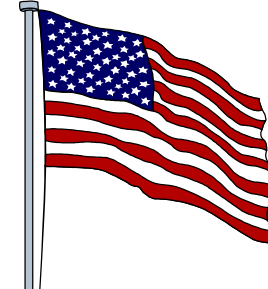
THE ROTARY 4 WAY TEST

First: Is it the TRUTH?

Second: Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Third: Will it build
GOODWILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Fourth: Will it be
BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?



ROTARY PRAYER

Oh Lord, and giver of all good, we
thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary
ways, help to serve Thee all of our
days.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS NORTH



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

2022-23 R.I. Officers ~ D5790

President of Rotary International: Gordon R. McInally

5790 District Governor: Patricia Peters

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022-23

President: Ajay Kumar ~ President Elect: Ajay Kumar

President Designee: Matt Milhollon ~ Secretary: Tom Sheriff

Treasurer: Ann Lucas ~ Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord

Sgt at Arms: Joe Clement: Directors: Clint Wood Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard

Mike Crocker ~ Tom Sheriff & Troy Secord (PDG Ex-Officios)

Website: www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org

FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

January 19 ----- Board Meeting
January 26-----Gary Southard
February 2----- Phil Waggoner
February 9----- Clint Wood
February 16 ----- Board Meeting
February 23 ----- Joe Clement
March 1 -----Mike Crocker
March 8----- Julie Day
March 15 ----- Board Meeting
March 22 ----- Larry Gunnell
March 29 ----- Ann Lucas
April 5 ----- Matthew Milhollan
April 12----- Radkar Mrunalini
April 19----- **Board Meeting**
April 26----- Bill Neale
May 21--- **Scotland Park Elementary School Staff Hamburger Cook**

PLEASE CORRECT YOUR ROSTER (AGAIN): Mark's correct email address is Stgls55@gmail.com (hopefully).



Unfortunately, the Cheese Heads were in attendance. They got the last laugh!

NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT THE HAMPTON INN

The invocation was led by Brandy and the pledges were led by Matt.

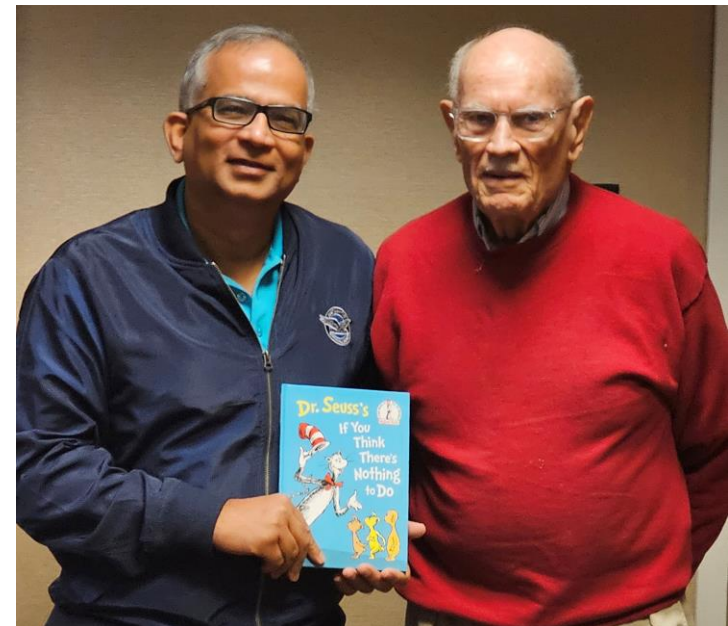
The brag bucket was fed by Green Bay Larry (2) and Ajay (2).

Julie reported that a local Interact Club is getting closer to becoming a reality. Good work!

Joe announced that there will be a hamburger cook for the staff at Scotland Park Elementary School on May 21. Please save the date.

Tom was pleased to introduce PDG Paul Geisel as our guest speaker! PDG Paul presented an excellent talk about PDG Janet Holland and the value of Rotary.

The raffle raised \$36.00, and once again Brandy was the winner. She drew the ace of ♦^{’s} for a \$10.00 prize. If today’s winner draws the ace of ♠^{’s} they will win \$194.00 + ½ of what is raised today! GOOD LUCK!



President Ajay and PDG Paul with a Dr. Seuss book for the River Bend Library. PDG Paul is Dr. Seuss's grand-nephew.
