# **NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:**

#### **ROTARY PROJECTS AROUND THE GLOBE**

#### **JUNE 2022**

## Haiti

The Louverture Cleary School, a 360-student secondary school near Port-au-Prince, has used solar power since 2005, but it lacked batteries capable of providing dependable energy. Kent Gilges, a member of the Rotary Club of Canandaigua, New York, saw this need while volunteering with his family at the school, which is run by education nonprofit the Haitian Project. "I was passing the dormitory," Gilges recalls. "I looked in the window and there were 40 kids in one room, and they were all trying to study by one lightbulb." In late 2020, Gilges' son and his son's friend took up the effort to provide reliable power as a school capstone project, supported by the Canandaigua club as well as other clubs in District 7120 (New York) and the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, Florida. The batteries, wiring, inverters, and other equipment were procured from a company operated by a Louverture Cleary graduate. "A big storm can blow through and they can still run their power needs for three days," Gilges says.

## Canada

When Canada suspended the export of potatoes to the United States from Prince Edward Island because of a fungus found in two fields, Rotarians in Ontario rallied to help farmers offset their losses. Dozens of clubs coordinated the purchase, transport, and distribution of the still-edible crops to food banks. The Rotary Club of Bracebridge began the effort, tapping local government connections to arrange for a provincial grant of about US\$9,000 to cover the acquisition and transport of 4,000 10-pound bags of potatoes from one of the growers. On 19 February, members of five area Rotary clubs and one Rotaract club gathered in a warehouse to offload the spuds, sort the bags, and deliver them to 14 food pantries. Some 800 miles away, at his family farm near Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Rick Sanderson marvels at the thoughtfulness of those who worked with him to salvage a portion of his harvest. "I just really appreciate Rotary helping us out here in the time of need," Sanderson says.

#### Netherlands

Celebrating national foodstuffs is a tradition among Dutch Rotary members. Clubs produce and sell such goods as beer, wine, and coffee to generate money for charity, says Pieter Schut of the Rotary Club of Naarden-Bussum, a past governor of District 1570. After taking a field trip to view bee cabinets managed by club member and part-time apiarist Erik Berkelmans and the local beekeepers' association, club members had a honey of an idea: They began processing and marketing jars of honey as a fundraiser. Berkelmans, Schut, and two other club members packaged and sold the first 60 jars, each with 18 ounces of honey, for about \$8 each, with the proceeds funding an information board near the beekeepers' stand at the Goois Nature Reserve.





### 2021-22 R.I. Officers ~ D5790

President of Rotary International: Shekhar Mehta District Governor: Kayla Christianson OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2021-22 President: Clint Wood ~ President Elect: Ajay Kumar 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 Cale ~Tom Sheriff & Troy Secord (PDG Ex-Officios) Website: www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org

# FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

June 10 Steve Holloway ~ Base Camp Lindsey
June 17 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting</b>
June 24 Joe Clement
June 26Dist. Governor 2022-23 Installation Banquet ~ Mineral Wells
June 30 Hot Dog cook for the club's adopted squadron at SAFB!
July 1David Collins
July 8Mike Crocker
July 15 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting</b>
July 22 Larry Gunnell
July 29 Ann Lucas
August 5Bill Neale
August 12 Jeani Secord
August 19 3rd Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting
August 26District Governor Dan Steele's official visit.
September 2 Troy Secord
September 9Tom Sheriff

# NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT JIMMY'S EGG

The invocation was led by President Clint and the pledges were expertly led by David.

Past President DeWayne Robertson was our guest last week.

The brag bucket was fed by Clint, Jeani, Mike and Larry.

It was announced that this Friday is Tom Cale's birthday. Congratulations!

President Clint announced that the upcoming hot dog cook for the club's adopted squadron at SAFB (the 364<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron) will be on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM. The total headcount will be 250 people! This is the latest official word from Ltc. Mose.

Gary introduced Claire Walker, the administrative assistant, for The Beacon Light House for the Blind as our program. Claire informed us about how she became visually impaired. She said that the main product produced by The Beacon Light House for the Blind is cleaning supplies. She passed examples around. She described types of blindness and used President Clint in demonstrating "walking with blindness". They have 3 facilities: The original facility at 7<sup>th</sup> and MLK, one at SAFB and one at Fort Sill. The have 43 employees, 90% of whom are visually impaired. She also demonstrated an app that is a great help to visually impaired individuals. Go to: *https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai/seeing-ai* for more information.

The raffle raised \$19.00 and Claire Walker was the winner. Claire drew the Queen of hearts for a \$10.00 prize. She the money wound go into the donations fund for The Beacon Light House for the Blind. I wish she would have drawn the ace of spades! This weeks numbers are  $$145 + \frac{1}{2}$ .

The below pictures are of Claire Walker, and Claire demonstrating "walking blind" to President Clint.



