



# The Rotary Club of Saint Lucia "The Spoke"



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Rotary District 7030 PETS, Barbados April 20-23, 2016

The 107th Convention of Rotary International - Seoul 29 May - 1 June 2016

## Weekly Duties

### The 4-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

	August 28	September 4	September 11
<b>Meeting</b>	Vocational talk	Business meeting	Fellowship meeting
<b>Greeters</b>	Leathon Lorne	Mary Paul	Pedro B Bobby
<b>Prize</b>	Leevie	Malcolm	Peter K
If you can't make it as above, please tell Dir. Joanna ASAP!			



### Birthdays in August

**GINELLE NELSON                      August 22**

### Board 2015-16

<i>President</i>	<i>Timothy James</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>PP Albert Daniel PHF</i>
<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Selma St. Prix</i>
<i>Immediate PP</i>	<i>PP Chester Hinkson</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Selma St. Prix</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>PP Robert "Bobby" Frederick PHF</i>
<i>Public Relations</i>	<i>PP Rudolph "Doddy" Francis PHF</i>
<i>Sergeant at Arms:</i>	<i>PP Carole Jn Marie PHF</i>

### Directors

<b>Club Administration:</b>	<b>Joanna Charles</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>Steve Johnny PHF</b>
<b>Vocational Service</b>	<b>Andre Cherebin PHF</b>
<b>International Service</b>	<b>PP Leathon Khan PHF</b>
<b>Membership Service</b>	<b>PP Tim Moffat PHF</b>
<b>Youth Service:</b>	<b>GINELLE NELSON</b>
<b>Rotary Foundation:</b>	<b>PP Malcolm Charles, PHF</b>

### District responsibilities

<b>Asst. District Governor</b>	<b>PP Konrad F Wagner PHF</b>
<b>District Advisor (TRF) Major Gifts</b>	<b>PAG Malcolm Charles PHF</b>
<b>Vice Chair IFRM D7020 &amp; D7030</b>	<b>PAG Malcolm Charles PHF</b>





## Sargassum seaweed blessing or curse



PP Charles had the pleasure of introducing our guest speaker Mrs. Jeannine Compton-Antoine. Compton-Antoine is a Marine Biologist by profession and an Environmentalist by conviction.

In recent years she worked as

- A Fisheries Biologist with the Department of Fisheries 1993 – 2007 Castries, St. Lucia
- A Member of Parliament for Micoud North in the Government of Saint Lucia 2007 – 2011. At the time the only elected woman MP.
- Chairperson of the International Whaling Commission 2012 – 2014 Cambridge, England United Kingdom
- And most recently as General Manager of the Soufriere Marine Management Association Inc. 2012 – 2015 Soufriere, Saint Lucia.



The topic of her presentation was most timely, Sargassum seaweed blessing or curse?

Most people would in recent months have become aware of the challenges presented by the arrival of large quantities of Sargassum Seaweed in recent times. While few nationals were until recently familiar with its name very few people are to this day



aware of any opportunities this natural resource could present.

While it has especially tourism professionals and fishers worried it has also due to the Hydrogen Sulphites it releases into the air created complaints in the electronics and telecommunications business. The effects on humans, if any are at this time not established. After all it is for the Caribbean a fairly recent phenomenon and extensive research has just started.

Sargassum is a brown algae or seaweed that is naturally floating, is not attached to the seafloor and moves freely with ocean currents. It got its name from the Sargassum Sea in the general area around Bermuda where it has been present for many many years. Archived reports confirm that already Christopher Columbus in 1492 encountered it on his search for the new world. It led him to the wrong believe they were close to land.



In Saint Lucia it was first found in 2011 and increased exponentially in this very short time.

Theories how it arrived here vary. Some theorize it was imported advertently via shipping vessels, others propose it arrived due to changes in ocean currents. Certain is that it seems to thrive in the warm and nutrient rich waters of the Caribbean. Besides affecting small boats and beaches all across the east coasts of Caribbean islands it is also a vibrant habitat for

many sea creatures. Especially in the early years of its presence in Saint Lucia waters fishermen reported better catches of some fish varieties.



Especially for beach resorts one challenge is the removal of a sheer never ending “supply” of Sargassum. Some communities and hotels have taken to trucking it away to let it compost naturally, while others pile to the far side of a bay or simply bury it near the beach. The disadvantage of using large mechanical machinery is the impact on the environment and the fact that also sand gets scooped up together with the seaweed.

On the bright side some entrepreneurs have started harvesting and processing of the Sargassum. Trials have confirmed it makes excellent fertilizer for tomatoes. Once dried and bleached after having it let to get washed by rain and dried by the sun it is a very good soil supplement. In Barbados it is available in bags to be used for gardening. See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nkRU0-4Kf8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nkRU0-4Kf8)

In Saint Lucia a young business man has started to produce a liquid from Sargassum that helps germinate seeds and combat various leaf fungi. It is already commercially available in small bottles.

Seaweed in general is credited for medicinal values. *In Europe and North America, many claims have been made for the effectiveness of seaweeds on human health. It has been suggested, amongst other things, that seaweeds have curative powers for tuberculosis, arthritis, colds and influenza, worm infestations, and may even improve one's attractiveness to the opposite sex. Digenea (Ceramiales; Rhodophycota) produces an effective vermifugal agent (kainic acid). Recently, aqueous extracts from two red algae belonging to the family Dumontiaceae have been found to inhibit the herpes simplex virus but no tests have been carried out on humans. Carrageenans have been patented as anti-viral agents. Many of the reported medicinal effects of marine algae have not been substantiated. Corallina is being used in bone-replacement therapy.*

In addition to Fertilizer and soil conditioner seaweed is across the world also used as animal feed, fish feed, biomass for fuel, cosmetics, integrated aquaculture, waste water treatment to reduce nitrogen- and phosphorus-containing compounds and toxic metals from industrial wastewater.



PP Albert moved the vote of thanks expressing the clubs appreciation for a very interesting presentation.

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## Rotary International Polio Plus update

### They said it could not be done as Africa reaches an important Polio milestone

A full year has passed since Africa's last reported case caused by the wild poliovirus

August 25 marked a significant milestone for Africa in its effort to eradicate polio from the continent. A full year has passed since Africa's last reported case caused by the wild poliovirus.



Somalia was the last country to identify a new case, which occurred on 11 August 2014. While Africa has achieved an important public health milestone, the job is not yet finished. To end polio forever, all countries – both endemic and non-endemic – must strengthen routine immunization, address gaps in disease surveillance and do more to reach children who are still being missed by vaccinators.

"We cannot wind down our efforts now. We need to continue immunizing until the last country is certified polio-free, and thereafter," says Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee. "As long as the virus remains anywhere in the world, it is only a plane ride away."

Rotary members have played a key role in the eradication effort. They have led the way in raising funds, advocating for government support, building awareness, and mobilizing volunteers on the ground.

"The work of Rotary and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has also cut through the clichéd narrative of Africa as the land of poverty, disease, and conflict," says RI General Secretary John Hewko. "Real human development has been achieved despite the toughest obstacles and despite the opinion of many who thought we could not eradicate this disease in Africa."

Strong continued support toward polio eradication in these final years of the campaign is the best way to ensure that today's milestone will indeed mark the last case of polio in Africa, says Michael McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee.

"Rotary members have many opportunities to make a difference, including being part of history as we seek a polio-free world," McGovern says. "Members have led the way in fundraising and lining up volunteer support for polio eradication."

Through 2018, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is matching 2-to-1 every dollar that Rotary commits for polio, up to \$35 million a year.



### Pakistan's progress



Nearly 90 percent of the world's polio cases last year occurred in Pakistan. But the country is making dramatic progress in its quest to eradicate the disease: Cases are down by almost 70 percent to date compared with 2014, owing partly to military interventions that year in Taliban-controlled North Waziristan, which have allowed vaccinators to reach hundreds of thousands of children who were previously inaccessible. Improved government leadership, the introduction of inactivated polio vaccine in high-risk districts, and vaccinations at transit points such as railways, airports, and bus stops also have played a significant role.

"While Pakistan continues to face obstacles in its journey to polio eradication, we are excited about the current progress being made," says Mike McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, who met with Rotarians and government officials during a visit to the country in June.

### End a disease forever

Eradicating polio is a complex job. Since 1988, we've collaborated with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to tackle the disease through our Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Here's how our roles break down.

#### THE STRATEGIST: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) coordinates the management and administration of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and provides technical and operational support to ministries of health in countries around the world. WHO is responsible for monitoring our progress and strategic planning.

#### THE VIRUS HUNTER: CDC

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) deploys epidemiologists, public health experts, and scientists to investigate outbreaks of polio, identify the strain of poliovirus involved, and pinpoint its geographic origin.

#### THE IMMUNIZER: UNICEF

UNICEF buys polio vaccine and manages its distribution. The agency spreads the word about the benefits of vaccination to gain community acceptance – a process known as social mobilization. On the ground, field workers immunize children with the help of local health workers and volunteers such as Rotarians.

#### THE ADVOCATE: ROTARY

Rotary uses its members' business acumen and passion for volunteerism to build awareness, fundraise, and encourage national governments to donate to and otherwise support the polio eradication effort. More than one million Rotary members have volunteered their time and personal resources to help end polio.

**Contribute to End Polio Now — Help Rotary advocate for a polio-free world**

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