



2004 – 2005 - My Year as President of RC of Kla South – Some highlights

By PP Carol Abeja.

The Rotary Year 2004 -05 was monumental for Rotary all over the world because it marked 100 years of Rotary service in the world. I therefore had the privilege of being the Centennial President for the RC of Kampala South. The theme for the year was “*Celebrate Rotary*” and to a large extent that set the tone for Rotary Activities in the year.

For Kampala South, it was a year full of challenges, celebrations and innovations some of which are highlighted below:

The “Innovations”

- My Installation as President of Kla South marked the beginning of the now very popular practice of in-fellowship installation.
- We started the practice of having a Rotary Open day during the membership month in August where each member invited potential members, we shared with them information about Rotary using 2 – 3 keynote speakers, followed by a cocktail / free interactions. We did this in partnership with RC of Kivatule. It continued for a few years after that but later on died out.

Celebrating Rotary :

- A large delegation from Kla south attended the RI convention in Chicago
- Kla south joined other Rotarians of D9200 in Nairobi for the District conference – from 25 – 28th may 2005.

Challenges:

- Monitoring projects located up country, including the send a cow MGs 21858, 17110 and 17113 located in Lira, Mubende and Mukono respectively. Moreover the project had been designed and funds received by the RC of Mengo who then handed them to Kla South and that meant Kla South had major limitations in dealing with the implementing agency.
- The club at that time was meeting at a restaurant in Crested Towers and this was often noisy and inconvenient.
- Quite a number of club members decided to go back to school for evening classes. That limited their participation at the club and we lost some of them.
- The DG’s visit to the club was so traumatic, I almost resigned and left Rotary!!! That was the time when DG visits seemed to be more for fault finding rather than constructive support. The AG absconded, the meeting tense, tempers were lost and I recall walking out of the meeting between the DG (Mohamed Abdulla) and the board!!! I have never experienced anything like that before or since in Rotary – Thank God for the cool head of PP Richard Mayebo who helped restore some order!

Projects:

- Jjanyi was already on – and I think we took it from Ring beam to roofing – we had a couple of hands on working sessions with Rotarians and community members. I still remember with some nostalgia the Katogo! At Jjanyi that year, we also build the toilets, separating the girls toilets from the boys to make it convenient for the girls to stay in school.
- Started a project to set up a reading center for displaced students in Lira town – actually got the room set up and took some books. But poor monitoring meant that it benefited only a few schools that were operating in the hosting school, i.e. Almond Secondary School.
- We prepared the proposal for the Rocket stoves project (MG 56696) in partnership with the Rotary club of Fresno, in California. Actual implementation however started in the following year
- We continued with the send a cow projects and had several monitoring visits – to Mukono and to Lira. In one of those visits, the team was hosted by my mum at her residences in Adekokwok village, Lira district – photo below.



In the picture: back, L to R:

Bill Augustus, Sam Ndahura, Richard Mayebo. Front, L to R: Carol Augustus, Carol Abeja, Carol Abeja's Mum, Zainabu Opito, Donnan Byabazaire

- We had a successful dinner / dance fundraiser at Kabira Club

The team:

I had an excellent Club leadership team comprising:

- PE David Kahwa
- VP Susan Matovu
- Secretary Donnan Byabazaire

Directors

- Finance Parity Twinomujuni
- Community Service Richard Mayebo
- Vocational Service Joseph Baroraho

- Club service Aggrey Kankunda
- International Service Antony Mwandha
- SAA Oscar Kihika
- Internet Communication Officer Jeff Ndugwa

What I learnt:

To be a an effective Rotarian and a leader in Rotary, the most important resource you need to allocate to Rotary is Time. Dedicate some time every day to Rotary – time to read, to learn, to be in touch with other Rotarians and to Serve.

By Rtn. Caroline Abeja (PP, PAG)