



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

WHERE IS OUR CLUB HEADED?



The Board has spent several months making updates to our Strategic Plan, which we will bring to the club for a vote. While we recommend that our primary focus remain the same:

- Keep people from becoming trafficked.
- Team up with organizations that provide proven prevention programs and projects that we can replicate.

We have added a couple of key items:

First, a focus on measurement and supporting organizations that make data-driven decisions. We specifically added a requirement that organizations we support measure the outcomes of their programs and not just measure outputs. These terms come from Result Oriented Logic Models which were originally introduced in 1983. The intent was to help organizations measure actual program results rather than just count tasks. So, as an example, the number of people who get and retain a job, not just the number of people who attend an employment class. If you want to learn more about Logic Models and the terms “outcomes” and “outputs” you can watch this and many other videos on YouTube.

Next, we added a focus on economic development to give those who might otherwise become trafficked options. We specifically added that “we will support the creation of economic development tools specifically designed for areas of the world where trafficking is endemic.” For those who went to our February 23 Rotary meeting, you heard Michael Podolny talk about the research he, Erin Maloney and Colin Christensen have been conducting regarding the use of microloans to stabilize those in high risk areas around the world. The idea would be to create Rotary Satellite clubs in areas such as Ghana or Sudan and then set up microloans that would eventually self fund areas to provide options and stability to those living there. This article is what kicked the discussion off and we are excited about this becoming a possible project for the club.

Decisions of this level do require club approval, so we voted on the updates at the April General Meeting. If you are interested in the high level discussions related to the club’s focus and direction then contact Lisa Podolny <lisa.podolny@gmail.com> about joining her Board in July. Leadership opportunities still exist and we welcome members to join us!

Moving intention into Action,

Michelle Seets

Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking President, 2022-2023

HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

ARTICLE

CLUB ACTION DAY

CLUB UPDATES

CALENDAR

AND MANY MORE



UPDATES ON ACTION DAY

The previous Action Day meeting was held on Thursday, 13/4. Which was based on planning for next year. We break out into three sessions to discuss compelling topics about our club. Looking ahead for the things we need to work on as a club for next year.

The Discussion Topics were;
Membership Engagement led by Michael Podolny
Fundraising by Karen
Outreach and Recruitment by Lisa Podolny.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT. *Group led by Michael Podolny*

Club not doing what they thought we would / they could do? Thought we would be reaching out to other Rotary Clubs and get them involved.

Create boxed programs we can take to clubs.

Can we give some support to speakers?

Can we approach District Governors? RAGAST didn't think that would be a good idea but should go to the Zone level.

Need to provide our members with a specific service they can be part of as Rotarians are all about service.

We need programs that are well packaged, they can give to others that make it easy for others to adopt. AND our members should be expected to make at least one referral or connection to another Rotary Club, Rotarian, or other organization per year as being part of our club that takes on one of these packaged projects. That way we are fulfilling our commitment to the programs we are partnering with, we are promoting specific action across our Rotary International network to end human trafficking, and we are getting membership engagement.

Need a Facebook type of system where each of our members can communicate to the rest of the club specific programs they are looking for assistance with.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS. *Group led by Karen*

- Need to get to the next layer of appeal- raise awareness that this is a worldwide problem and we need worldwide engagement
- Create a template solicitation email for club members/ attendees. Include links to the donate button. As people to send emails to their network
- Need to streamline our process of collecting funds. Donate button works for PayPal but doesn't work for other countries
 - Colin suggested WISE- which works like PayPal but can be accessed by people in other countries. They are also good on exchange rates
- Check to see how Evanston does it
- Tap into the American Hotel Association

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT. *Group led by Lisa Podolny*

- "Adopt a Club" – look for club(s) located in areas that suffer from high human trafficking rates to support in a Big Brother/Big Sister role
- Could also look to support a club that's already established through a working project
- Could we develop a kind of support package, especially in vulnerable areas of child trafficking?
- We should look for projects to partner with Interact on or look to create an international Interact group
- Need to create something like a short .ppt "About Us", which could include a slide from each of our affiliated partners and projects. This is something that could easily be shared with other organizations to explain our mission and our club. If you want to get more ambitious, a media plan and package would help every members become a recruiter for the club.
- We need to look at meeting times. If we're an international organization, we need to find compromise times to hit more audiences – could we look at staggering times or lunch time meetings?
- More action days and then follow ups to action day ideas. Can't be just a good idea fairy moment every few months.

Collaboration is Essential

Why an article on collaboration? Well, it's simple, TRAGAST has a huge dream; provide every child in Thailand and eventually the Mekong Region with effective human trafficking prevention training. We are working with a fantastic organization called The Peace Culture Foundation. Their founder, fearless leader, and Rotary Peace Fellow are Dr. Sombat Tapanya. When I have spoken with him about expanding the training beyond Chiang Mai, he always emphasizes that we will need to work with other organizations to get this done (Collaboration)!

In the world against Human Trafficking, there are several types of efforts being done by various organizations. For example:

- a. Restoration / Aftercare services are provided to survivors in need.
- b. Intervention / Rescue services are efforts to remove those trafficked from their captors.
- c. Prevention services include education and awareness, and it is in this area where we work to achieve our amazing goal of providing prevention training to children.

I have the honor of knowing a group of sister organizations here in Chiang Mai which epitomize collaboration. This include:

The Whispering Willow: They provide needed services to people rescued from the sex industry. Services include providing a safe connection through Outreach and Drop-in Center, Emotional, Financial and Spiritual & Community Support, Medical and Restorative Care, Education, Vocational and Small Business training. They emphasize advocating for other women.

JoJo's Sanctuary provides Education, Protection and Empowerment. They are a project of the **Wipe Every Tear Foundation** (Now called The Gateway Foundation) which provides temporary housing and employment training and opportunities.

Urban Light provides services to at-risk boys and men including education and housing.

I met with representatives of each organization and another TRAGAST member on the 19th of January. It was, for me a lesson in wonderment and humility. These ladies understand collaboration and know full way they must collaborate to succeed.

- There is the adage that prevention is better than cure. But it's not that simple. In my opinion, if you were working in prevention, you would most likely encounter someone needing protection. Similarly, if you are working in protection, you will need to provide information and prevention activities to stop people from being exploited again in the future.
- Our organizations focus on exploitation, not just anti-trafficking. Looking at it from that perspective, we all do an intervention, but we are not all "anti-trafficking" organizations.
- The need to collaborate comes from the gap in our services (each organization is a little different.
- We refer to each other because we know what each org focuses on and does well, so we work on cases together.
- Collaboration means many things; it doesn't mean you need an MOU to work together all the time on every case.
- Grants always want to see collaboration; it saves on resources for example:
- Gateway covers food/housing.
- JoJo covers education.
- Whispering Willow covers counseling.
- Collaboration can mean asking for advice on difficult cases.
- Help in finding staff on their sites.
- Reference Resources and Tools
- Can refer to other organizations for places we have been successful in getting grants
- Being aware of and willing to reach out to other prevention organizations. For example, One Sky Foundation, Hug Project, Illuminate, and Peace Culture Foundation.
- Collaboration doesn't require you to do everything the same. Collaborations does require that we must have the same heart for helping people.
- We can provide referrals for clients to organizations that can better meet their needs.

My feeling is that if this attitude were to permeate a larger NGO lot more could be done with far fewer resources! It is truly an honor and a privilege to know these incredible people!

Jerry Nelson
Thailand Co-Coordinator, Director, Membership Chair
Rotary Action Group Against Slavery
Thailand RAGAS Team
RCEHT- Website Administrator/ Secretary



UPDATE ON TGVA PRESENTATION TO THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



Rotary



Mary Mensah
Sales/Marketing



Anastasia Omari
Sales/Marketing



Gifty Amoako
Operations Manager



Benedicta Gbadegbe
Administrative Assistant



Mary Fiadese
Business Development Manager



Nancy D. Butler
Moderator



Michael Podolny
CEO/FOUNDER

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, one of the main UN organs within the United Nations. CSW has been described as the UN organ promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) took place from 6 to 17 March 2023. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world contributed to the session.

Theodora Ghana had the opportunity to present at the session virtually. The presentation was titled, Using Technology and the Power of Business to Transform the Lives of African Women.

Click the link below to watch the presentation on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlumlzC-_gc&t=3s&authuser=0





The 2nd Annual Cocktail/Mocktail Zoom party -- hosted two times by RCEHT board member Erin Maloney on Thursday, March 30 -- was a success!

Representatives from four countries and three continents attended the parties.

For your enjoyment, one cocktail and one mocktail recipe are featured.



COCKTAIL/MOCKTAIL SOCIAL UPDATE

Colin's Cocktail

In a tumbler, or jug:

- pour maple syrup until it moves to the outside of the bottom of the tumbler/jug
- add several squirts of bitters (Angostura or others)
- add a large ice cube
- add maraschino cherries and 5 ml (1 teaspoon) of the cherry juice
- add 60 to 150 ml (2 to 5 ounces) of bourbon, whisky, or rye -- Colin recommends Pike Creek whiskey (from Ontario, Canada)
- cut a strip of orange peel, and spritz into it and rub it around the rim
- stir well, and enjoy!

Erin's Early Morning Canadian Pride Mocktail

- maple syrup: 10 ml (2 teaspoons)
- grapefruit juice: 60 ml (1/4 cup)
- ginger ale: 60 ml (1/4 cup)
- ice

Stir together the syrup, juice and ale. Add ice. Enjoy!



Welcome NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER



FARON BARR

Faron Barr served as the 2020-2021 District Governor, where he saw the birth of a cause and satellite club, the awarding of a Global Grant for a facility for victims of sex trafficking and much more. A Past President of the Topeka South Rotary club, Faron also served as the District 5710 RYLA Chairperson from 2016-2018. Faron was the race director for Topeka South's annual Pumpkin Run from 2016-2018, which raised significant funds for Polio Plus. He has been a financial advisor with T&M Financial, Inc. in Topeka, KS for 17 years.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

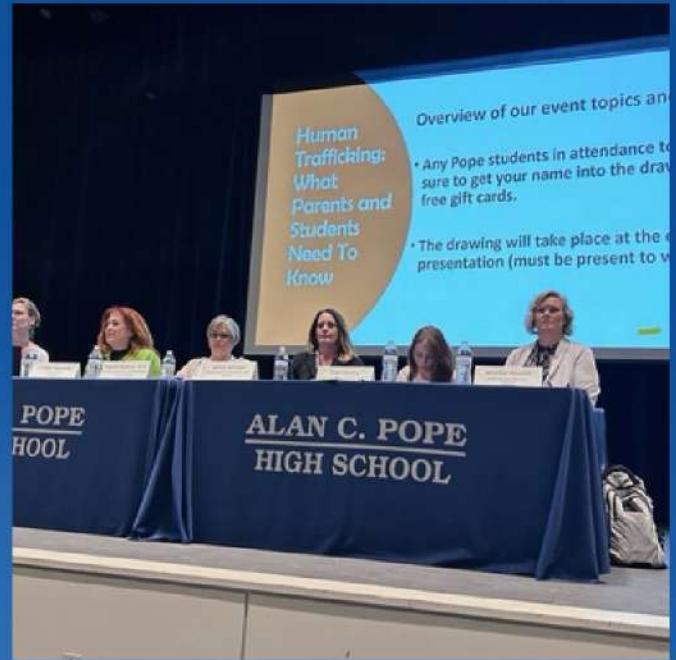
Please complete [this form](#) to submit relevant information or news you would like to share with the club in the next month's release. The more we collaborate and connect with each other, the stronger our club is in creating effective change to achieve our Rotary mission.



A SCORE IN AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our own talented and driven, Cindee Sapoznik, Founder and CEO of 2MyPlace, recently made an amazing personal connection that led to the breakthrough event at Pope High School in Marietta, GA. Cindee had been working to get in with high schools for at least two years, and when she happened to meet the President of Pope High School PTA in an Atlanta restaurant, a door opened!

The April 11, 2023 event was described as "...an important and frank discussion by a panel of experts in the Atlanta area about human sex trafficking and the dangers that exist for youth around us and what you can do to help safeguard your children and children in your community," by the Pope School Counseling Office. The discussion was introduced by Cindee and MCed by Pope High School's Professional School Counselor, Leslie Shearstone. The four panelists:



- Faythe Kadona – Subject Matter Expert in human trafficking & a founding member of Street Grace Survivor Advisory Council
- Janice Johnson – National Legal Advocate and Survivor Leader for Her Song
- Traci Hurley – Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Hossler – Project Director for Project Intersect at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy in Atlanta

Over 225 students, parents, staff and community members came to Pope High School to listen to the difficult but important topic of human trafficking. Looking across the room throughout the discussion, I saw many concerned parents and even a few tears when videos were shown of the statistics of trafficking in Georgia.

"It was a successful event and we have received nothing but positive feedback from everyone that was part of the event. We are hoping to replicate this event at other schools and locations that have already reached out to 2myPlace." _Misty Dean, Assistant to Cindy Sapoznik.

Congratulations on this important step in community to all involved, especially Pope High School for being the first high school venue and Cindee Sapoznik, whose perseverance and commitment pushed through!

[Event Presentation slides:](#)

[Recording of the event:](#)

– Article compiled by Anne deLain W. Clark from information provided by Cindee Sapoznik

CALENDAR & CLUB UPDATE

STANDING MEETINGS

The General Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

Upcoming general meeting will be on Thur. (May 25) at 7am US Central.

SPEAKER MEETING

SPEAKER

Susan Burkholder

DATE

May 25, 2023

TOPIC

Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness and Action throughout a Rotary District

MAY OFFICER ELECTIONS

Next Year's Board

- President - Lisa
- PEN - OPEN
- Secretary - Maria Julia
- Treasurer - Shirley
- Past - President / Foundation Chair - Michelle
- Director - Mary

Committee Chairs on the Board

- Programs & Projects - Erin
- Membership - Michael
- PR- Jerry
- Fundraising - Karen

Committee Chairs not on the board (no membership vote)

- Speaker - OPEN
- Social - Anne DeLain