



December Newsletter

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



President's Letter

WRITTEN BY KAREN WALKOWSKI

I will be traveling at the end of November/beginning of December and then will be busy with holiday activities, so I decided to combine my November and December President Letter. I will still be thinking about you in my travels!

Last month I reminded all of us about the mission, beliefs, strategies, and primary objectives that were created through our strategic planning process last spring. I have participated in and even led several strategic planning initiatives in my life and the strategic plan developed by all of you is one of the most rewarding results I have seen in a long time. Our board uses this plan as our guidepost in making decisions, in determining options when we need to make choices, and focusing our energy – all these things are confirmation of the relevance of the strategic plan. So in this letter, I want to focus on one area that all of us need to focus on in the coming months - our #3 priority: *We will build organizational capacity through membership growth and infrastructure to expand the club initiatives at the local level.*

When I talk about our club to others, I get so energized and humbled as I describe the great people who are members. We have established a great foundation in our membership so thank you for your commitment to the cause and to this club. But to expand our influence in our local communities and in our global community it is important that we continue to grow both in numbers and in the engagement of our members. We established a goal that we would increase our membership by 24 members this year. That means that if each one of us brought in just one friend/colleague, we would exceed our goal! As we head into the holiday season, use this opportunity to connect with friends and invite them to join our efforts...

Highlights

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

ROTARY WINS

[READ: WHERE WERE YOU? A PROFILE OF MODERN SLAVERY](#)

COMMITTEE
SPOTLIGHT

IS HOLIDAY CHOCOLATE
CONSUMPTION
ETHICAL?
[READ: THE GUARDIAN'S ARTICLE](#)

RECENTLY AT ROTARY,
COMMITTEES BULLETIN
BOARD & UPCOMING
SPEAKERS



KAREN WALKOWSKI
PRESIDENT

Rotary Wins

MATT FRIEDMAN, MEKONG CLUB

Please help celebrate a milestone with Matt Friedman: his new Penguin book, [WHERE WERE YOU? A PROFILE OF MODERN SLAVERY](#) has been published and is available worldwide. In this memoir, Matt explores the early days of meeting modern slavery survivors and recounts true stories of enslavement in Asia. Matt recalls painful moments that literally changed his life, reflects back on the different approaches to fighting human trafficking over the last 35 years, and gives an account of the early beginnings of the fight against modern slavery before the phrase "human trafficking" was adopted.

As he reflects on the deeply personal lessons learned, Matt's first and foremost goal for this book is to motivate more people to join me in helping to fight this global crime. Please support Matt by sharing the book with your corporate, school, and personal networks.

But joining the club is not enough. We have SO many opportunities to create strategic alliances with other clubs and organizations. We have 2 incredible websites that we have a goal to make premiere websites. The Programs and Projects committee is currently evaluating organizations with the intent of giving recommendations to the board of organizations they believe we should partner with to implement programs in multiple communities. We have been asked to support other Rotary initiatives through providing funding to support Global Grants (an opportunity to increase our contribution by 9x!). All these will need your time and talent.

So as you read this, please consider your skills and interests; are you interested in updating and refining a website? Do you enjoy fundraising? Are you good at writing proposals? We need all of these. Please feel free to reach out to me or to Michelle Seets if you have questions or have an interest in getting more involved in our club!

“

"WE'RE NOT WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN SLAVERY. RELYING SOLELY ON THE ANTI-SLAVERY COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD TO TACKLE THE SCOURGE OF MODERN SLAVERY AND THE CRIMINALS BEHIND IT SIMPLY IS NOT WORKING. UNLESS SOMETHING DRASTIC CHANGES, THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE UNABATED,"


”



MATT FRIEDMAN
AUTHOR
MEKONG CLUB




DALTON BRANNEN
VIDEO PRODUCER


KANA LEIA VENNEY
PRESIDENT ELECT
NOMINEE



Committee Spotlight

WRITTEN BY DALTON BRANNEN

As RCEHT continues to grow and create an impact across the globe, we must find ways to be strategic and get our message out. The communications committee is diligently working to develop a clear strategy that aligns with the mission of our club. We can't do it alone - we need your help. This is the first issue of the club's monthly newsletter that will be published on our website and shared with our subscriber list via email. Please reach out if you have any suggestions.

Every committee will have the opportunity to highlight their work in this section of the newsletter. Additionally, the club would like to honor the hard work of our members. The communications committee will gather content from our members in order to help us all better understand how we can support each other to make our mission achievable. Stay tuned for more exciting news.

Questions?

Send an email to president@endHTrotaryclub.org

Get Involved

Can't make a meeting? Don't worry! RCEHT is now on Youtube. One of the many benefits of a virtual club is that every meeting can be recorded. Meeting recordings as well as other valuable content will be posted on our page. [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date and check out our most recent videos.

Quick Links

[CLUBRUNNER WEBSITE](#)

[PUBLIC WEBSITE](#)

[YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)



End Human Trafficking Rotary Club

Human Trafficking impacts every communit...
youtube.com

Is holiday chocolate consumption ethical?

CHOCOLATE COMPANIES ARE AMONG THE DEFENDANTS NAMED IN LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY FORMER CHILD WORKERS IN IVORY COAST

We all know that there are criminals who will deceive us out of any life savings with those telephone or banking scams. These are designed against the aging rich.

In countries surrounding the Ivory Coast such as Mali and Burkina Faso in West Africa, aging rich victims are in short supply. The target there is the young and strong. The deception there is aimed at taking their lives for their labor. And it works - the deception works very effectively.

The problem is widespread. The University of Chicago found that 1.56 million children were harvesting cocoa in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana during the 2018 and 2019 growing season, up 14 percent from 2015. Reliable reports describe a rapid rise during the last 18 months. COVID-19 was a perfect storm for cocoa slaves

The victims were increasingly desperate while we had time to eat more chocolate.

Nestlé, Hershey, Mars, and the others know all about this. In fact, they designed it. Through trade associations in Ivory Coast, they constitute a monopoly of buyers and impose on the farmer a price for cocoa that is so unfair, so oppressive, that the farmers cannot afford to pay labor.

There are currently two civil lawsuits in the US against big chocolate.

[Read More](#)

“

"FOR 20 YEARS, BIG CHOCOLATE HAS CONTINUED TO DECEIVE US BY PROMISING TO DO BETTER...

[THIS LAWSUIT] IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A CLASS ACTION OF THIS KIND HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE COCOA INDUSTRY IN A UNITED STATES COURT."

”





BEN MERENS
AUTHOR & STORYTELLER

Recently at Rotary

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Recently at Rotary, we heard from Ben Merens. Ben has been a professional journalist for 32 years. He spent 21 of those years as a talk show host at Wisconsin Public Radio. He currently is the Director of Podcast Network International (PNI) and the Media Director for both The Vistelar Group and The Brand XLerator Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

COMMITTEES BULLETIN BOARD

Michael Podolny

Michelle Seets

Kana Leia Veney

Jerry Nelson

Erin Maloney



Membership

Meeting Speakers

Communications

Rotary Foundation

Programs & Projects

Upcoming Speakers

DG MARIANNA KHAUV - 30 DEC 2021

A member of the Monticello Rotary Club since 1994, Marianna Khauv has long been putting service above self. Marianna has served as the club's secretary, international service chair and president. Additionally, she served as a member of the District Grant Committee from 2013-2019 and as Rotary District 5950 Area 13 assistant governor from 2016 to 2019.

MATT FRIEDMAN - 13 JAN 2022

Small acts multiplied by millions of people can help change our world. Matt Friedman, the founder of the Be the Hero Campaign, is a humanitarian professional who was formerly employed by the United Nations and the US government and has lived and worked in more than 40 countries. Friedman believes that the collective actions of ordinary people have the greatest chance of effecting a real transformation. [Read More](#)