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District 9213



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Editor's Note:

Identifying and getting the best in potential Rotarians



Rtn Joachim Buwembo
RC Kampala Naalya

Rotarians who were at Makerere University in the chaotic early to mid-eighties recall how the gloom would be mitigated by redeeming experiences of being able to see, hear and even touch legends like Timothy Wangusa, Prof Margaret Macpherson and (occasionally) the great Okot p'Bitek. During one intellectual faceoff between the latter two, an enraged female student accused Okot p'Bitek of being vulgar by explicitly writing about certain parts of the female anatomy. Unapologetic, p'Bitek wondered who is more vulgar between the one who speaks about them and she who keeps them, drawing loud cheers from the male students chanting "Our man, our man!"

But there need not have been any disagreement between the lady undergrad and the great writer. You cannot separate the body from its constituent parts which all serve a purpose to make it complete. The two needed to focus on the beauty

and use of the said parts and joined hands in praising and protecting them for the life they give and nurture.

Similarly, as we move to attract more members to the Rotary movement, we need to combine two seemingly contrary philosophies: the one of Jean-Jacque Rousseau who theorised that humans are good by nature and only get corrupted by society; and that of Thomas Hobbes who argued that humans are inherently self-centred and require a strong governing authority to control them.

So let us cast the net wide, pick out the good but not so obviously talented and nurture them, and the talented but not bursting with goodwill and redirect them. In the process, we wouldn't miss out a lot on talent and on goodness which, when combined, can lead to a bountiful harvest of wonderful results.

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District Calendar

August 2024

02nd DG visit to RC Kulambiro

03rd Membership and New Club Development Learning Seminar

04th DG Visit and BELEP Donation at Luzira COU (Kampala Springs)

05th DG visit to RC Njeru

07th DG visit to RC Katakwi

08th DG visit to RC Bukedia

09th DG visit to RC Soroti Central

10th DG visit to RC Ngora

13th DG visit to RC Kyadondo

14th

- DG Visit to RC Kampala West
- DG visit to RC Kampala Central

15th

- DG visit to RC Kampala Day Break
- DG visit to RC Kampala Impala

16th DG visit to RC Upper Kololo

17th Rotary Youth Programs (Learning Seminar)

19th DG visit to RC Kampala North

20th DG visit to RC Bweyogerere Nambole

21st

- DG visit to RC Kampala Maisha
- DG visit to RC Mukono

22nd DG visit to RC Seeta

23rd DG Visit RC Kampala Kibuli Western Mega Fellowship - Kasese

24th DG visit to RC Kampala City

25th Rotary Annual Cancer Run

26th DG visit to RC Masindi

27th DG visit to Arua Eco City

28th DG visit to RC Arua

29th DG visit to RC Koboko

30th DG visit to Yumbe



From Challenge to Opportunity

If we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyses the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them accessible for all members.

Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising

costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge, and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of inclusivity — the first step toward belonging.

If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact.

For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with

clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funnelled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives.

BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is the spark that ignites The Magic of Rotary.

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

Stephanie Urchick
Rotary International President



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Staying Ahead of the Curve...

A few days ago, I received a call from my TV service provider. My subscription had lapsed by a week, and the representative was checking in to see if everything was alright and whether I was still satisfied with the service. He also took the opportunity to inform me about channels airing the Olympics and some upcoming programs he thought I might find interesting. Although I rarely watch TV these days due to my busy schedule, I renewed my subscription almost immediately because of the courteous customer service. This interaction, however, got me thinking...

In July, I visited 25 Rotary clubs and even welcomed a new member to the family – the Rotary Club of Adjumani. During this time, I also visited several club projects, focusing on basic education and literacy, disease prevention and treatment, economic empowerment, WASH, and the environment. My carbon credits have increased significantly, as I've planted a tree at every opportunity. I have a deep love for trees, so the more the merrier.

But beyond that, a recurring theme in these visits has been member engagement. I've heard from various clubs about challenges like low participation levels, attendance issues, late payment of dues, and eventual terminations. While these are valid concerns, I believe they are symptoms of a larger underlying issue that we must address. In an ever-evolving world, Rotary clubs face the ongoing challenge of staying relevant and appealing to both current and prospective members.

Managing membership in today's Rotary clubs requires a fresh perspective and a proactive approach. Modern Rotary members are diverse, ranging from young professionals seeking networking opportunities to seasoned leaders with a passion for community service. Their expectations and lifestyles differ significantly from those of previous generations, and clubs must not only recognize and respond to these changes but also anticipate and lead them.

In today's fast-paced world, people are more selective about where they invest their time and money, and ensuring that members continuously see value in their involvement is key to retention. I would therefore like to encourage all Rotary clubs in our district to adopt a business-like approach to membership growth and development. Start by "knowing your members" and offering a variety of engagement opportunities that cater to different interests and schedules. This might include project involvement, committee participation, or leadership roles that align with members' strengths and passions.

Rotary clubs must continually communicate and deliver Rotary's value proposition in terms of community service, networking opportunities, and personal and professional development to attract and retain members. This also includes leading new and existing members to opportunities outside the club, such as Rotary Fellowships and Action Groups.

Effective club management and highlighting the impact of our projects are also critical. Prospective members are often drawn to organizations where they can see tangible results and strong leadership.

Staying ahead of the curve in Rotary membership growth and engagement requires a proactive and innovative approach. By embracing technology, fostering an inclusive culture, and continuously evolving to meet the needs of modern members, Rotary clubs can remain appealing and vibrant. Focusing on flexible participation options, clear value propositions, and impactful projects will attract new members and keep existing ones engaged. Ultimately, the key to success lies in understanding and anticipating the changing landscape, ensuring that Rotary continues to thrive as a dynamic and impactful organization.

Anne Nkutu



‘Plant Your Balance’ Rotary in Uganda to plant One million trees

Rotarians in Uganda are planning to plant 1 million trees in the next three years in a bid to promote ecological balance and protect the environment. This was revealed by District Governor Anne Nkutu as she launched the ‘Plant Your Balance’ campaign, an initiative of Rotary Districts 9212, 9213, and 9214, which cover Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania respectively.

This initiative is one of the activities to commemorate over a century of Rotary in Africa. The idea behind the Plant Your Balance campaign is for each Rotary Club to subtract the years of their existence from Rotary’s 100 years in Africa, then multiply by a hundred. The result is the number of trees that each club is required to plant in the next three years.

Uganda has 128 Rotary Clubs. The oldest club in the country, the Rotary Club of Kampala, was chartered in 1957. The average age of clubs in Uganda’s Rotary District 9213 is 19 years. This means, on average, each club is expected to plant about 8,100 trees.

To launch the ‘Plant Your Balance’ campaign, 9213 District Governor Nkutu commissioned a tree nursery at Wanyange Girls Secondary School in Jinja. The nursery will supply tree seedlings to schools and communities in Jinja and surrounding areas in order to facilitate the planting of trees around Lake Victoria and River Nile.

“The environment is one of the seven areas of focus for Rotary,” Ms. Nkutu said. “If we do not protect our environment it means that even us as human beings we cannot survive... We need a healthy planet. Protecting the environment and Planet Earth is key to our continued existence.”

Rotary is committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment. The organisation empowers communities to access grants and other resources, embrace local solutions, and spur innovation to address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Governor Nkutu appealed to schools to embrace the ‘Plant Your Balance’ campaign and plant trees.

“You’re the people who will make sure that the trees grow and survive, and you are the ones who will pass on the message to others,” she said.

Ms. Nkutu added that the nursery at Wanyange Girls would foster environmental stewardship among students and the community.

The nursery has been funded from money raised through the ‘Run for the Nile’ drive

held in March 2024 and spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Kampala Central, Promote Uganda Limited and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Rotary clubs have been encouraged to embrace partnerships and plant trees at schools, hospitals, Churches, Mosques, and communities all over Uganda. The “Plant Your Balance” initiative will focus on indigenous varieties and fruit trees that offer carbon credits.

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The average age of clubs in Uganda’s Rotary District 9213 is 19 years. This means, on average, each club is expected to plant about 8,100 trees.

After launching the tree nursery at Wanyage Girls, Governor Nkutu also commissioned the installation of plastic trap gates to water channels leading into Lake Victoria. The goal of this project is to reduce plastic pollution of Lake Victoria and River Nile, from which a significant number of East Africans derive their livelihoods.

The trapped plastics will be collected by the youth and recycled into other products. It is hoped that this will promote skills development and employment for the youth in the schools and communities around Lake Victoria and River Nile.

Protecting water resources is one of the objectives of the Rotary’s environment programme.

Rotary’s other areas of focus include providing clean water and sanitation, supporting education, preventing and treating disease, saving mothers and children, growing local economies, and promoting peace.



The tree nursery at Wanyage Girls Secondary School in Jinja

2024 RYLA Launched in Gayaza



By Rtn Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze
RC Naalya States
District Chair, RYLA 2024/25

On a chilly July 21st, 2024, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) for District 9213 was launched at the Rotary Club of Gayaza. The cold weather did not dampen the spirits of the attendees, as keynote speaker Ethan Musolini quickly warmed up the audience with a dynamic and engaging start to his presentation, calling on passionate individuals to join him in a dance. This lively opening set a tone of excitement and joy for the event.

Musolini, a professional motivational speaker, shared his inspiring growth journey, perfectly illustrating the theme of RYLA 2024/25: 'Passion, Action, Reaction'. He emphasised the importance of continually gaining new knowledge to offer value to others. Through personal anecdotes, he demonstrated how consistent action leads to new horizons and better places. Musolini stressed the importance of finding one's purpose by discovering and leveraging talents to help others and generate income.

A key takeaway from his speech was, 'If there is no enemy within, the enemy outside cannot harm us'. This highlighted the need to build personal strengths and resilience. He used the metaphor of people not throwing stones at a barren mango tree to emphasise that facing challenges is a sign of progress and self-improvement. Musolini's words left a lasting impression on the audience, reinforcing the event's theme.

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*Our
greatest
public
relations is in
character*

The District Rotaract Representative, Simeo Ssebukulu, graced the occasion with a well-packaged message. He implored the team to indigenise the leadership program to the Rotary and Rotaract context,

emphasising its importance in feeding membership to Rotaract. Ssebukulu recommended that RYLA attendees should emerge distinct from the rest, with something tangible to show for their experience. He stressed the importance of communication skills that enable participants to focus public relations on actions rather than reactions.

“Our greatest public relations is in character,” he said.

DRR Simeo appreciated the branding of RYLA and urged Rotaractors to publicize their daily lives more than their nightlife, aligning with the theme’s focus on ‘Reaction’. He called for the continuation of RYLA through a continuous mentorship program. He concluded by requesting that the Rotary International President, who will be in the country during the RYLA event, officiate at the closing ceremony.

The Chief Guest, Deputy District Governor, the Honourable Dr. Mike Kennedy Ssebalu, expressed his gratitude to the RYLA team for their organization and preparation. He praised the choice of Ethan Mussolini as the keynote speaker, noting how effectively he brought the theme to life. PDG Mike highlighted the time-bound nature of ‘Passion, Action, Reaction’, emphasising the importance of timing in achieving results.

Despite the bad weather, the event kept to its schedule, demonstrating the team’s commitment. DDG Ssebalu shared his experiences in community, civic, and business leadership, all fuelled by passion. His key message to the youth was to have passion in action aimed at generating good and positive reaction. He called on them to cultivate a positive attitude, mindset and world view; and to effectively tap into their passion intentionally, deliberately and purposefully.

He officially flagged off the RYLA program, encouraging participants to prove their capabilities in the face of doubt, drawing from his life experiences. He called on the team to support RYLA through pledges, resulting in the sponsorship of 10 youths that gave the RYLA 2024 a remarkable kick-off!

The launch event marked the beginning of an RYLA that promises to impact youth profoundly. It was a celebration of passion in action, creating a reaction that will resonate throughout the Rotary community. The event successfully set a positive tone for the RYLA 2024/25 program, inspiring attendees to embrace passion, action, and reaction in their personal and professional lives.



PDG Mike Ssebalu (middle with hat) after launching the RYLA 2024/25

Rotary Cancer Run 2024 :

We are Spreading the Magic

By Rtn. Michael Niyitegeka
Chair, Rotary Cancer Run 2024

Have you registered for the 13th edition of the Rotary Cancer Run taking place on the 25th of August 2024? It is going to be massive.

The Rotary Cancer Run is the fundraising arm of the Rotary Cancer Program of Uganda. Over the years the run has gained significant traction across the board and continues to grow every year. The run will take place in Kampala and in other major cities and towns. Every location determines its core activities as part of the run.

The 2024 Kampala edition will offer a different experience from the previous runs, and you cannot miss being part of it. Here is why you should not miss it:

Medical Expo

The two-day medical expo will start on the 24th through the 25th of August 2024 at Kololo ceremonial grounds. The Expo is intended to enhance awareness about cancer through the different partners that have come on board. We believe that this will give an opportunity to create close to a one-stop cancer info centre over the two days. A detailed program will be shared.

Animated Routes

We will bring vibe to the routes! The Rotary Cancer Run is a fun run and we intend to make it fun-filled. We will have the water points animated by different partners and Rotary clubs. Besides the entertainment, we believe this will give an opportunity for partners to engage the participants. Most importantly the routes team has redesigned the 21km route to offer our participants a pleasurable experience and challenge.

Extended Entertainment

The Cancer Run ought to be the family day out plan for the day. We are working with our partners to have extended entertainment. The team is working on an amazing program for Sunday 25th August 2024.

Food court



For the first time, we will have a food court to cater for those of us who do not have access to a hospitality tent. The food court will offer variety of breakfast options to cater for those that want to stay longer and say take part in the medical expo.

At the end of the day, our goal is to raise a minimum of UGX 4 billion that will go towards the completion of the construction of an all-in-one cancer centre. We are passionate about this project because it will contribute significantly to efforts to curb the cancer burden in Uganda. Your participation in this drive is of utmost importance to the team organizing this edition of the Rotary Cancer Run.

Thank you to all our partners who have come on board to support this cause.

Be there and let us spread the magic!



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www.rotaryugandacancer.org

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Rotary Trailblazers:

KENNETH ‘GUMPO’ KIIZA

CONSUMMATE BUSINESSMAN AND GENEROUS SPIRIT

By Rtn Peter Odoki,
RC Kiwatule

He was born to the late Edward Tempo Rwehakanira Mulangira of Bushenyi, Western Uganda, well-groomed and grounded with strong values of family and friends. The foundations of commerce and business were infused in him at an early age by his late father, an accomplished businessman who ran a successful enterprise, Rwehakanira & Sons, on Kampala’s Luwum Street.

This left-handed native of Itendero, Sheema district in Western Uganda also has a knack for business and has distinguished himself as the consummate entrepreneur, having interests in telecoms (ROKE Telecom), manufacturing and agriculture.

His love for family is a very strong trait. This is very clear to see when in the company of his siblings, children and relatives. There is no union big or small as long as there is something to share. And there is always a good reason to have something to share where Gumpo is concerned. In his beloved Itendero, Christmas is celebrated for almost a week, as he very generously opens up his upcountry abode to his kinsmen, who by their very nature can be a handful and quite difficult to appease.

The darkest moment in his life is the passing of his son, Rwe, from Leukemia. In his brief life, Rwe brought a lot of joy and pride to his father and mother, family and friends. His sickness was long and painful, but Gumpo never ever relented and spared no cost to give Rwe a fighting chance. His death was however not in vain, as the Rwe Foundation has educated over 10 university students and counting.

Loyalty to friends can be traced to his days at Nakasero Primary School, where innocent, genuine and lifelong bonds were formed. These friendships still endure very firmly after 40 years, as can be seen in the daily messaging and regular interactions with his primary school classmates, among whom are Rotarians Julian Mukiibi, Alex Munobe, Barbara Nanono and myself. The most recent interaction was a vocational tour of his latest business interest, an Ethanol manufacturing plant in Kabwohe, western Uganda.

His Rotary journey started on 8th January 2020, through an interaction with the late DGND Rotarian Aggrey Kankunda, whose idea it was to start a Rotary club in the Mbuya-

Mutungo area. This bringing together of people to understand the work of Rotary led to the birth of the Rotary Club of Kampala Springs.

Rotarian Kiiza was the second President of the Club and in his year of service, a library was commissioned at Luzira Primary School. In his very young Rotary journey, he has already served beyond his club at the level of Assistant Governor, a role in which he distinguished himself with the rejuvenation of the Rotary Club of Kawempe which he has given a new lease of life and more visibility.

PAG Kenneth Kiiza has demonstrated what a huge and generous heart can bring to the world. He selflessly shares his time and resources with Rotary as has been seen at past District Conferences and other events. To date, he is the only Arch Klump Society (AKS) member in Rotary District D9213. An AKS member is one who has donated \$250,000, or more.

This father of Ataho, Natamba, Andrew, Ganzi and Miriel epitomizes the spirit of “Service above self”, and I am glad to call him my friend.



Rtn Kenneth Kiiza with the former Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones at Munyono, in 2022

The Magic of Membership:

Embracing the Spirit of Unity and Service



By Rtn Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze
RC Naalya States

As we step into August, celebrated as the month of membership in Rotary, we are reminded of the profound impact our collective efforts and diverse memberships bring to our organization. This year, under the enchanting theme of ‘The Magic of Rotary’, we have an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the essence of what makes our membership truly magical.

At the heart of Rotary is a commitment to service above self. Our members, each with unique skills, backgrounds, and perspectives come together to create a vibrant tapestry of dedication and action. The magic lies in our unity, where every member plays a crucial role in transforming lives and communities worldwide.

Let us dig deep into this magic;

The Power of Diversity

Rotary’s strength is its diversity. Our members hail from various professions, cultures, and walks of life, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. This diversity fosters innovation and creativity, enabling us to tackle complex challenges with fresh perspectives and holistic solutions. The magic of Rotary membership is evident when we see how our collective efforts lead to sustainable, impactful change.

Building Lifelong Connections

One of the most enchanting aspects of being a Rotarian is the lifelong friendships and connections we build. Rotary offers a unique platform where individuals can network, share ideas, and support one another in both personal and professional endeavours. These relationships are the foundation of our organization’s enduring success and are a testament to the magic that happens when people come together with a shared purpose.



DG Anne Nkutu pins an inductee Rotarian during her visit to the Rotary Club of Source of The Nile

Creating a Legacy of Service

Every Rotarian contributes to a legacy of service that spans over a century. Our projects, big and small, are the result of passionate members who believe in making a difference. From eradicating polio to providing clean water and promoting education, the magic of Rotary membership is visible in the smiles of those we serve and the hope we bring to communities around the globe.

Encouraging Continuous Engagement

To our esteemed Rotary leaders, it is crucial to continuously engage members. Keep the magic alive by fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. Regularly connect with members, involve them in projects, and recognise their contributions. Engaged members are the lifeblood of our organisation, driving forward our mission and amplifying our impact.

It is also important to remind all Rotarians that maintaining active membership is essential. When a member is deleted from the system, they lose their entire history, including all previous contributions to the Rotary Foundation. This history is not just a record of participation but a testament to their dedication and impact.

“

Rotary's strength is its diversity. Our members hail from various professions, cultures, and walks of life

As we celebrate the month of membership, let us also extend an invitation to others to join in this magical journey. By sharing our stories, successes, and the impact of our work, we can inspire others to become part of our Rotary family. Every new member brings fresh energy and ideas, enhancing our ability to make a difference.

Let us embrace the magic of membership. Let us continue to unite, inspire, and serve with the same passion and dedication that has defined Rotary for generations. Together, we can achieve remarkable feats and create a brighter future for all.

Membership:

Expanding Membership Through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



By Rtn Mariam Mutalaga
District 9213 Chair for Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) has emerged as a significant topic of discussion over the past year, often accompanied by controversies. As Rotarians, we cannot afford to remain passive but must instead embrace DEI wholeheartedly. Rotary has members from diverse backgrounds in race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, experience and knowledge. According to the Four-Way Test, upholding truth, fairness, and equity is paramount.

Despite this commitment, we have sometimes hesitated to promote DEI actively, often due to inherent biases. This presents an opportunity to explore all types of diversity that could help grow our membership, enhance our service projects, and expand our reach to new communities.

Different clubs define and implement DEI in various ways. It is essential to consider the communities we serve and strive to include underserved groups in our efforts. Rotary has always recommended that clubs have members representing all businesses and professions within their locations. Conducting membership surveys is crucial to ensure that clubs achieve their desired goals and foster an inclusive environment.

Embracing DEI within Rotary clubs comes with challenges, particularly given the organization's size and the cultural differences across the globe. Clubs need to define their culture while being mindful of their environments and within the context of national laws and regulations. Potential new members may be deterred by clubs that are not DEI-friendly. Rotary must bridge this gap by providing education and awareness akin to what many workplaces already offer.

“

Similarly, clubs with significant gender imbalances, such as those with 20% men and 80% women, should aim for more balanced representation.

As Rotarians embrace DEI, we open our clubs to diverse perspectives and marginalized groups, including different races, religious affiliations, youth, women, varied professional and business backgrounds, and low-income earners. For instance, the Rotary Club of Bulange, with its inclusive approach, has successfully recruited prominent Rotarians with a particular background and preference to conduct rotary meetings (weekly fellowships) in Luganda.

The increasing number of E-Clubs in District 9213 highlights another aspect of diversity, not only culturally but also internationally.

Addressing gender diversity, former Rotary International President Jennifer Jones's goal of achieving 30% female membership by 2022-2023 must continue even if the goal is attained. Similarly, clubs with significant gender imbalances, such as those with 20% men and 80%

women, should aim for more balanced representation. Empowered and energized by positive changes, the majority of Rotarians will support these efforts. We must educate and raise awareness about the importance of DEI, not only to strengthen Rotary for the future but because it is the right thing to do for the communities we serve. Continuous data collection and progress monitoring at the club level are essential in this regard.

Overcoming unconscious biases and assumptions about DEI is crucial. Implementation of DEI in our District will certainly bring about an impactful membership experience and contribution to retention. The appeal is for each club to choose its area of focus within the framework of the national laws and policies. By doing so, we ensure that Rotary remains a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking organization.



Rotarians from different nationalities, race and gender at the 2022 peace concert held at Munyonyo, Kampala

The Vital Roles of an Assistant Governor in Rotary

By AG Marion Natukunda



Assistant Governor Marion Ntukunda, right, on duty with District Governor Anne Nkutu

In the intricate and dynamic world of Rotary International, the role of an Assistant Governor (AG) is pivotal. Often described as the bridge between the Rotary District leadership and the individual clubs, Assistant Governors ensure the smooth functioning and vibrant engagement of Rotary's grassroots. Here, we explore an Assistant Governor's multifaceted roles and responsibilities and their significant impact on the Rotary Districts.

Liaison Between District and Clubs

Assistant Governors are the primary communication link between the District Governor and the Rotary clubs within their assigned areas. They relay important information, updates, and initiatives from the district

level to the clubs, ensuring alignment and coherence in Rotary's mission and the district's goals. This involves attending district meetings, participating in strategic planning, and facilitating effective two-way communication.

Mentorship and Support

One of the most crucial roles of an Assistant Governor is to provide mentorship and support to club presidents and their leadership teams (Board). They offer guidance on best practices, help resolve challenges, and foster leadership development within the clubs. By sharing their experiences and insights, AGs empower club leaders to achieve their goals and enhance their clubs' impact.

Club Visits and Engagement

Assistant Governors regularly

visit clubs within their jurisdiction to maintain a close connection and provide hands-on support. These visits are opportunities to observe club operations, celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement. AGs encourage clubs to engage in district and global initiatives, promote membership growth, and ensure the clubs are vibrant, inclusive, and effective in their service.

Facilitating Collaboration

Promoting collaboration among clubs is another essential responsibility. AGs encourage clubs to work together on joint projects, share resources, and learn from each other's successes and challenges. By fostering a sense of unity and cooperation, Assistant Governors help amplify Rotary's collective impact on the community and beyond.

Monitoring and Reporting

Assistant Governors play a key role in monitoring the progress and performance of clubs. They track key metrics such as membership growth, fundraising achievements, and project outcomes. Regular reporting to the District Governor and PIME Chairs helps ensure that clubs are on track with their goals and that any issues are addressed promptly.

Training and Development

AGs are instrumental in organising and facilitating training sessions for club officers and members. They help coordinate district training events and seminars that equip Rotarians with the skills and knowledge needed to lead effectively. Continuous learning

and development are essential for maintaining the vibrancy and effectiveness of Rotary clubs.

Promoting Rotary International Initiatives

Assistant Governors ensure that clubs are aligned with the broader goals and initiatives of Rotary International. They promote programs such as Rotary Youth Exchange, PolioPlus, TRF giving and various Humanitarian Projects. By advocating for these initiatives, AGs help clubs contribute to Rotary's global mission of promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, and supporting education without forgetting to protect the environment.

Overall

The role of an Assistant Governor in Rotary is both demanding and rewarding. AGs are instrumental in nurturing the growth and success of clubs, fostering collaboration, and ensuring alignment with Rotary's mission. Their dedication and leadership are vital to the health and vibrancy of Rotary Districts, ultimately enabling Rotary International to make a lasting difference in communities worldwide. Through their efforts, Assistant Governors exemplify Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," inspiring others to do the same.



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CLUB ACTIVITIES: Rotary E-Club of Naguru:

Improving Health and Well-Being in Kamwokya

On Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, the Rotary E-club of Naguru, in partnership with Crutches 4 Africa and the Rena Community Development Association, made a significant impact in Kamwokya, Kampala. This collaborative effort brought together dedicated volunteers and community leaders who distributed 100 mosquito nets which will help protect vulnerable residents from mosquito-borne diseases.

Addressing a Critical Health Need

In Kamwokya's Kisolosalo Zone, Kyebando Parish, residents face a high risk of malaria and other mosquito-related illnesses. Understanding the urgent need for protection, the Rotary E-club of Naguru, Crutches 4 Africa, and the Rena Community Development Association joined forces and focused on Lisa Care, a home for the disabled, which received over 100 nets to safeguard its residents.

The distribution event saw an enthusiastic turnout, with representatives from all three organisations actively participating. Olara Moses, the Local Council I (LCI) Chairman of Kisolosalo Village, highlighted the event's significance, noting

the vital role of such initiatives in enhancing community health. By providing these essential mosquito nets, the organizations aim to reduce the incidence of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases in the community. This initiative is part of a broader commitment to improving health and well-being in underserved areas.

Voices from the Field

"Our mission is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and partnerships like these are vital in achieving that goal," a spokesperson from the Rotary E-club of Naguru shared.

"Health interventions like these mosquito net distributions complement our work in enhancing the lives of disabled individuals," a representative from Crutches 4 Africa, known for supporting disabled individuals across Africa, emphasised the importance of holistic community support.

The Rena Community Development Association, instrumental in organising and facilitating the event, underscored their commitment to empowering local communities.

"We are dedicated to health,

education, and economic development initiatives that uplift our communities," a representative from Rena Community Development Association stated.

Looking Ahead

This successful event is just one example of the ongoing efforts by the Rotary E-club of Naguru and its partners to support community health and development. Future initiatives will continue to focus on health interventions, educational programs, and economic development projects, all aimed at creating a better quality of life for those in need.

Conclusion

The distribution of mosquito nets in Kamwokya highlights the power of collaboration and community-focused initiatives. Together, the Rotary E-club of Naguru, Crutches 4 Africa, and the Rena Community Development Association are making strides towards a healthier, more resilient community, demonstrating that collective efforts can lead to meaningful change.



CLUB ACTIVITIES: Rotary Club of Ntinda Metropolitan Retreat:

A Journey of Relaxation and Rejuvenation

By Rtn Kenneth Henry Ddamba Kanyike
President, Rotary Club of Ntinda-Metropolitan

The Rotary Club of Ntinda Metropolitan recently held its highly anticipated retreat at the picturesque Living Waters Resort Hotel Source of the Nile on July 12-13, 2024. Nestled in a breathtaking setting overlooking the River Nile, the resort provided the perfect ambience for club members to unwind, reflect, and connect.

The retreat kicked off on Friday afternoon, July 12, with members arriving at the resort ready to shed off the stresses of everyday life. The evening was filled with fun and bonding activities, culminating in a delightful supper. As the night progressed, the bonfire was lit, and the music began to play, showcasing the impressive dancing skills of our members. DJ Joy Karuhanga kept the vibe alive, spinning hit after hit that kept us dancing till the early hours of the morning.

On Saturday we gathered for a productive session facilitated by Rtn Dr. Peter Isabirye of the Rotary Club of Source of the Nile.

We are grateful for his exceptional facilitation, which guided us through a review of our strategic plan, a refocus on our club goals, and how they align with our District Goals.

The SWOT Analysis was a highlight, helping us identify our strengths and weaknesses and strategize for improvement. We also had the privilege of hearing from Remy Male, whose insightful presentation on the value of networks and associations profoundly impacted our mindsets. We learned the importance of being intentional in choosing friends and associates who will support our success.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Peter Isabirye and Remy Male for their contributions to our retreat. We returned home as better Rotarians, equipped with new perspectives and a renewed commitment to our club's goals. The retreat was a resounding success, and we look forward to many more opportunities to grow together as a club.



CLUB ACTIVITIES: Rotary Kampala South and Rotaract Club of Kampala South: Transforming Trash to Treasure:

The Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Solid Waste Management & Recycling Project

By: Rashida Nassanga (RAC Kampala South, Projects Director) and Catherine Nairuba (RC Kampala South, Chair Service Projects)

Friday, 12th July 2024 marked a transformative day for the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Camp in western Uganda. Amidst the vibrant communities of over 124,000 refugees primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo, an inspiring initiative was launched by the Rotary Club of Kampala South in partnership with the Rotary Club of Rheinfelden-Fricktal and the Rotaract Club of Kampala South.

This \$93,283.50 global grant project, focusing on solid waste management and recycling, promises to revolutionize how waste is perceived and managed in this bustling settlement.

A Vision for a Cleaner Future

The Kyaka II Refugee Settlement is teeming with life and activity, featuring four major trading centres that generate significant amounts of solid waste. Shop vendors and nearby households contribute to a growing waste problem that poses severe environmental and public health risks. Yet, where others see a crisis, Rotary sees an opportunity.

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

The heart of this project lies in its innovative approach to waste management. By targeting Bukere Trading Centre, a major hub within the settlement, the initiative aims to transform 80% of the biodegradable waste—food peelings, husks, papers, leaves, and stalks—into valuable

resources. The remaining 20%, consisting of polythene, plastics, metals, rubber, and glass, will also be effectively managed.

The project's reach will extend to Byabakora, Kaborogota, Sweswe, and Itambabiniga, where solid waste management groups will be trained in the 3Rs approach (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle), group dynamics, record keeping, and community engagement skills.

Launch Day: A Community United

The launch day was a testament to the power of community collaboration. Leaders from the Rotary Club of Kampala South, representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, OXFAM, Nsamizi, Adapt Plus Ltd (the cooperating partner for this project), and Aqua Methods gathered for an engagement meeting, laying

the groundwork for a unified effort.

Meanwhile, volunteers from various Rotary clubs rolled up their sleeves for a community clean-up drive, collecting waste with hoes, spades, and tricycles. The collected waste was transported to the Adapt Plus premises, the project's operational base.

Showcasing Innovation and Empowerment

A highlight of the launch was a showcase at the Adapt Plus field offices, demonstrating how waste can be transformed into valuable products. From briquettes and kids' toys to baskets, crafts, charcoal stoves, manure, and nursery beds, the exhibit highlighted the immense potential for income generation and employment, particularly for women and youth. Rotarians

joined in the briquette-making process, witnessing first-hand the transformation of waste into energy-efficient fuel.

Equipping and Educating for Success

The project's success hinges on equipping and educating the community. Cleaning kits and PPE were donated to ensure safety and efficiency in waste management activities. Items such as wheelbarrows, spades, hoes, local brooms, sanitisers, masks, heavy-duty chemical gloves, gumboots, and tricycles were distributed, with Adapt Plus overseeing their proper use and storage.

Training sessions commenced, educating community groups on the 3Rs of waste management

and the process flow from collection to disposal. These sessions are designed to instil a culture of sustainability and resourcefulness within the settlement.

Expanding Impact with WASH Initiatives

The impact of Rotary's work extends beyond waste management. At Sweswe, another site within the Kyaka II settlement, the Rotary Club of Kampala South is spearheading a two-year WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Global Grant project. This includes the construction of a 100-cubic-meter water tank at Sweswe Dam, set to be completed by the end of July 2024, and the development of a mobile water quality laboratory alongside the extension of the electricity power line.

As the sun set on this momentous day, the message was clear: through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering commitment, even the most challenging environments can be transformed. The Kyaka II Refugee Settlement is not just managing waste; it's turning trash into treasure, lighting a path toward a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for all.



Rotary Kampala South and Rotaract Club of Kampala South

CLUB ACTIVITIES: Rotary Club of Upper Kololo

Bringing hope and joy to Gulu's St. Joseph Primary School

By Eng. Agnes Nassiwa, Director Service Projects, Rotary Club of Upper Kololo



In a heart-warming display of service and compassion, the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo, along with the Rotaract Club of Upper Kololo, descended upon St. Joseph's Primary School in Gulu, Uganda, on July 26th, 2024, to bring hope and joy to the students and faculty. The event was graced by the presence of District Governor (DG) Anne Nkuutu, who served as the Chief Guest, and DGN Gerald Obai, who actively participated in the events.

As the Rotarians and Rotaractors arrived at the school, they were greeted by the bright smiles of the children, eager to receive the gifts and support that the Rotary team had brought. The school, founded 99 years ago, has faced numerous

challenges, including funding, dilapidated structures, and lack of basic necessities.

With a sense of purpose and dedication, the Rotary team set out to make a tangible difference in the lives of the students. They donated 40 classroom desks, 107 mathematical sets, over 200 reading books and 124 reusable sanitary pads, providing the students with essential tools for learning and growth.

DG Anne Nkuutu, in her remarks, emphasised the importance of education and the role that Rotary plays in supporting it. She praised the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo for their efforts and encouraged the students to make the most of the opportunities provided.

DGN Gerald Obai, who actively participated in the events, including the tree-planting ceremony, commended the Rotary team for their hard work and dedication. He emphasized the importance of giving back to the community and encouraged the students to become active participants in Rotary service activities.

But the Rotary team didn't stop there. They also conducted

a Menstrual Hygiene training session for the girls, empowering them with knowledge and confidence. The team then planted 100 fruit trees, symbolizing the growth and development that Rotary aims to foster in the community.

In a fun-filled afternoon, the Rotaract Club of Upper Kololo engaged in a friendly football match with the school children, ending in a thrilling 2-1 victory for the Rotaractors.

As the day drew to a close, the Rotary team reflected on the impact of their efforts. They had not only provided material support but had also brought joy, hope, and inspiration to the students and faculty of St. Joseph's Primary School.

"Today, we didn't just donate materials, we donated love, care, and hope, said President Dan Alinange of the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo. We are proud to be part of this community and look forward to continuing our support.

The event was a testament to the power of Rotary's service and the impact that can be made when like-minded individuals come together to make a difference.



ALL ROADS LED TO GULU FOR DGN GERALD OBAI'S HOMECOMING

By IPP David Labeja, RC Gulu



When in 1988 then young Rotarian and charter member, now Past President Charles Odora Oryem and two others jounced their way back to Gulu on a Uganda Prisons truck after attending the 63rd District Conference at the Nile Hotel in Kampala, they were awed by the glamour with which such a big gathering of Rotarians could bring.

P.P Odora Oryem had travelled to Kampala for the first time to attend a District Conference but failed to get his way back to Gulu as commercial vehicles shunned the trip to the north owing to the

insecurity at the time. Luckily for them, Charter Member of the Club Jude Tadeo Omal (RIP) was the Regional Prisons Commander for the north, and requested the Uganda Prisons Authorities to transport them as they delivered items to the region.

35 years later on July 27 2024, Charles Odora Oryem stood stunned at the entry of Jaca Gardens as he watched young Rotarians smiling from ear to ear descend on the facility for the first-ever Rotary gathering to bring such huge crowds

from all over the country. Jaca Gardens was the venue of the District Governor Nominee Dr Gerald Obai's Concourse, a Home Coming event for DGN Gerald Obai where over 400 Rotarians, Rotaractors and guests defied the threat of a heavy downpour.

"I had no idea such a huge gathering of Rotarians could ever take place in Gulu and northern Uganda as a whole, but look at this, this is a miracle and a mini District Conference," said PP Odora Oryem, as he contrasted his 1988 trip on the truck to

the multitude of sedans and SUVs that sought parking at the Jaca Gardens. The registration desk showed 64 Rotary Club and 19 Rotaract Clubs were in attendance

Speaking at the event, District Governor Anne Nkutu said the celebration is not just for northern Uganda but for the entire Rotary fraternity in D9213.

“This celebration shows how much more we can do when we work together. We must keep our values as Rotarians and serve with integrity and diversity,” said DG Anne, as she promised yet a bigger event in April 2025 when DGN Dr Gerald Obai will be ushered in as District Governor Elect.

On his part, DGN Dr. Obai said he is committed to serving the district as a whole, adding that his inspiration comes from the change Rotarians bring to the community “...as we serve humanity.” He committed to building Rotary membership, a commitment re-echoed by PDG Stephen Mwanje who believes Rotary will grow with over 25 clubs in Northern Uganda alone.

The Central Organizing Committee of the Concourse said the event was a

‘celebration of unity, leadership and service within the Rotary community and showcased the impactful work done in the region.’

The event was preceded by a procession that showcased Rotary in the Northern Region, led by District Governor Anne Nkutu who also launched and participated in a Medical Camp at Gulu Public Primary School where over 500 members of the community benefited. The camp, supported by TASO Gulu, Reproductive Health Uganda, Uganda Blood Transfusion Service-Gulu Regional Centre, Victory Medical Centre, C-Care, Pi Wan Medical Centre, Jowa Medical Centre, and St. Mary’s Hospital Lacor provided various services including, HIV, TB, and malaria screening and testing; medical male circumcision, mental health services, cervical and breast cancer screening, as well as Family planning services; among others.

Rtn Dr. Gerald Obai, a lecturer at Gulu University School of Medicine started his Rotary journey in 2007 when he joined the Rotary Club of Gulu.

He served in different positions culminating into the president of the Club in the Rotary Year 2011-2012, which catapulted him into the service of Rotary District D9213 where he became the Pioneer Lieutenant Governor (2021- 2022), Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PIME) chair (2022-2023), District Executive Secretary (2023-2024) and his recent announcement in April 2024 as District Governor the Rotary Year 2026-2027.



DG ANNE VISITS ROTARY CLUBS AROUND THE COUNTRY

One of the core duties of a District Governor is to visit all clubs in their district at least once during their tour of duty. In July DG Anne visited several clubs:



Rotary Club of Adjumani



Rotary Club of Gulu



Rotary Club of Mukono Central



Rotary Club of Gulu



DG Anne meets Inner Clubs



Rotary Club of Kitgum



Rotary Club of Lira



Rotary Club of Gulu City

THE 2024 ROTARY 5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

The 8 edition of the Rotary 5-A-Side football tournament, organised by the Rotary Club of Kiwatule, was held at the Phillip Omondi Stadium on 20th July 2024. The Rotary Club of Nakasero Central beat RC Kampala-Ssesse 2-0 in the final to win the trophy and UGX25m, which shall go towards their service projects.

The Rotaract Club of Kololo won the Rotaract category, while Centenary Bank took the Corporates category. Over 2,000 people turned up, and a total of 93 teams participated in the day-long event. These included 48 Rotary Clubs, 24 Rotaract Clubs and 21 companies.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RC KIWATULE AND KALUNGI KABUYE



Rotaract Club of Kololo





Rotary Club of Nakasero Central were crowned champions

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) launch

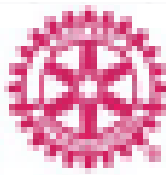




Gulu Concourse: DGN Gerald Obai's Homecoming, a pictorial
(PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROTARY MOMENTS)







Theme: Unleashing Africa's Potential ; Rotaract leading the way

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