



# Catching the Wave at CPC 2013!!

Boca Raton, Florida  
September 8-9, 2013



CPC 2013 was a blast!! A large group of Rotarians and family gathered in Boca Raton, Florida, September 8-9, 2013 to enjoy a grand event at the Boca Raton Resort and Spa. What a Celebration! All had a super fun time with great networking and relationship building for

enhancement of the Caribbean Partnership Program where we do excellent humanitarian work in the region!

The event was attended by our Rotary International Vice President and Director Anne Matthews and Rotary International Director-Elect Robert Hall, who addressed the conference delegates and encouraged increased efforts for supporting more partnering within our zones.



Also in attendance were Past Rotary International Directors Barry Rassin and John Smarge, who continue to show interest and support for the CP Program. The districts of the Caribbean were amply represented by their current District Governors in attendance and fully participating.



The Opening Session also featured a warm welcome from District Governor Arthur Hodge of District 6930 which included Boca Raton. Our CP Treasurer Phil Lustig introduced the Vice Mayor of Boca Raton, Mrs. Susan Haynie, who extended a very warm and pleasant welcome to everyone and conferring the City of Boca Raton Proclamation declaring Sunday,

September 8, 2013 as **"Caribbean Partnership Day in Boca Raton, Florida"**.

As always, there were interesting program displays set up in the conference room showing the needs and the capabilities of Clubs and Districts.

We had a great cross-section of our two Zones in attendance at CPC 2013. It was a pleasure to have with us District Governors



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Jeremy Hurst (D7030 Cayman Islands) and Herve Honore (D-7030-Martinique) who were very involved and networked with other DGs, DGEs, DGNs, PDGs and Club Presidents from Mainland USA. We are also happy that we had representation from Austin, Texas and Kentucky. This means our organization is growing and gaining attention in other Zones, Districts, and States. We are encouraged by this, and would like to embrace this support within the Caribbean Partnership as we attempt to expand the organization to make it more resourceful.

PDG Gene Wyndham, Partnering Chair, also addressed the gathering offering encouragement to all clubs to continue pursuing partnering projects and to utilize the program's website and resources.

We were also blessed with the presence of a representative group from Food for the Poor, and the Military Southern Command. Both groups made presentations to the conference and shared their willingness to participate in international projects between the mainland and the Caribbean. Clubs are encouraged to follow-up with these entities by visiting their websites.



Our delegates at CPC 2013 received numerous presentations and project opportunities of all types. DG Jeremy Hurst shared a significant list of approximately 30 projects, which were from a number of Clubs and Countries in District 7020. These projects were well received by the audience from the mainland as they collected copies of the presentations and other literature to take back to their clubs for consideration, and possibly engaging in Global Grants. A number of other delegates presented projects and ideas for partnering between the US Mainland and the Caribbean. All these projects are available on the CP website and will remain there until such projects are undertaken or completed.



The main objective of the Caribbean Partnership Celebration was to create an environment for hard working Rotarians and friends to gather, network, and share time with each other with the outcome of friendships being formed and

potential partnerships between clubs on the US Mainland and the Caribbean. In other words "Engage Rotary, Change Lives." Based on observations, numerous partnerships were developed and these will be formalized on our website [www.caribbeanpartnership.org](http://www.caribbeanpartnership.org). The intent is for clubs to log on and

complete the on-line form expressing interest or commitment with other clubs. We will finalize and get the clubs partnered and encourage them to build relations between themselves with the hope that projects will be performed.

We had a strong representation from Haiti, led by PDG Guy Theodore and PAG Claude Surena. They came out in large number to demonstrate their continued commitment in support for the many challenges being experienced in Haiti. The Haitian representatives were very enthusiastic about the event and the level of networking they were experiencing to build on as they returned to Haiti.

All the delegates engaged in dialogue at the “round table talks” where they discussed current issues, risks, challenges with respect to Rotary’s six (6) areas of focus, namely: Water and Sanitation, Disease Prevention, Peace and Conflict Prevention, Health and Hunger, Education and Literacy, and Economic and Community Development.

The groups worked together in breakout sessions and generated excellent ideas and thoughts about how clubs and districts could work together to impact these issues. The outcomes will be summarized by the table scribes or leads



and posted on the CP website or in the CPC Drop Box which is currently in operation for sharing invaluable information from CPC 2013. Rotarians are asked to contact our Conference Chair, PDG Todd Dayton ([governortodd@gmail.com](mailto:governortodd@gmail.com)) for access

to the Drop Box if they are not able to gain access.

One of the highlights of the CPC 2013 Conference was the Sunday evening dinner/dance which was done in true Caribbean Calypso style. We had a grand time: folk were dressed in Caribbean attire, feasted on Caribbean Cuisine, and was entertained by and danced to the Rhythm Steel Band, who played amazing music covering some of our Calypso and Reggae stars of the Caribbean. We danced and had tasty drinks all evening long, to keep the spirits high! The dinner was followed by the usual get-together in the Hospitality... uh... I meant “Hospitality” Room. It was great fellowship there too! (smile).

Added to the great festivities was the superb presentation we received from our Keynote Speaker, Ms. Marga Fripp of Empowered Women International (EWI), [www.ewi.org](http://www.ewi.org). Ms. Fripp thrilled the gathering with her emotional story of moving from Romania; facing adverse challenges there and within the USA upon her migration. She was able to overcome these challenges and have turned her attention to helping other women in their efforts to get ahead.

The audience was moved by Marga's speech and it created much dialogue after the event, that night and the following day. As an outcome from the meeting, Marga was touched by the fascinating work the Rotarians were doing with respect to humanitarian and economic support that she has indicated her interest to becoming a Rotarian in the near future. This makes sense as she already does the work of Rotary in her own way through the EWI. Rotary welcomes all upstanding citizens who are willing to "Engage Rotary, and Change Lives!"



Overall, CPC 2013 was a tremendous success and achieved its objectives. It was a time well spent remembering the past, celebrating the current, and anticipating and planning for the future of the Caribbean Partnership Program. A few members received Certificates of Acknowledgement for

their participation at Zone and CPC.

Special thanks to the CP Executive Committee members who continued their hard work to make this event happen in such a successful manner, and to PP Carlota McCormack (Falls Church) and Wendy Todd (spouse of CPC Chair Todd) for their wonderful assistance. A very "extra" special thanks to our Conference Chairman PDG Todd Dayton of D6930 and his committee members for their hard work of planning, executing and coordinating all aspects of CPC 2013. I am honored and pleased to continue as CP Chairman through 2014, and look forward to working with the newly appointed Executive Committee and everyone, as we continue to "Catch the Wave!" Job well done by all! Keep it going...!



Caribbean Partnership....No Problem Man!!

Submitted by: PDG Horace McCormack  
*Chairman, Caribbean Partnership Program*



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