Tech Talk



Newsletter of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers • November 2015

2015-16 Technical Coordinators

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FINANCIAL AUDITORS

Graciela Marchesano (Argentina)
Alan Michael Pollard (France)
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Message from the Chair

Phil Silvers

Dear fellow cadre members and senior leaders:

Our Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers has hit its stride. Never before has it played a more significant role in *assuring the quality* of what Rotarians do around the world. Currently, cadre members are:

- Conducting trustee-mandated desk reviews, site visits, operational audits, and random audits of district grants and global grants, with over 75 such assignments undertaken so far this Rotary year
- Conducting an evaluation of the Rotary Peace Centers
- Playing a key role in the worldwide grant model evaluation, with 53 cadre members performing on-site evaluations of a sample of 100 global grant projects, including both humanitarian and vocational training teams projects
- Conducting feedback sessions, in both their regular assignments and program evaluations, in which they offer suggestions to sponsors for improving program quality
- Conducting training on the grant model in their districts and zones, and providing technical assistance to clubs and districts in preparing grant applications; we are currently gathering data to document these types of assistance

In addition, our technical coordinators in each area of focus have been working with TRF staff to develop and implement "job descriptions" for their positions.

Gradually, Rotary's tightly held secret is leaking out: Clubs and districts are discovering that by contacting <u>cadre@rotary.org</u>, they can receive assistance from a member skilled and experienced in designing or modifying a grant application. Using our database, TRF staff can match areas of focus, language/culture, and project type with the requests.

Needless to say, cadre members save our Foundation a significant amount of money by donating their time and expertise. And we have learned that clubs and districts have more confidence in their fellow Rotarians than in hired consultants.

The grant model evaluation has multiple components in addition to the cadre site visits. In 2016 we should learn what is working well, as well as areas where clubs and districts are struggling. These findings will help cadre members provide training and technical assistance to applicants and projects.

The recent flurry of cadre activity has once again revealed the dedication and productivity of TRF staff in the grants, stewardship, and program evaluation units. It is not uncommon to receive responses from them after normal working hours. Thanks for all you do!

Best wishes,

Phil



New Cadre leaders welcomed as technical coordinator role evolves

Rotary cadre technical coordinators are cadre members with extensive experience in their sector and a strong familiarity with Rotary grants.

Technical coordinators serve as resources for Rotary staff and Rotarians around the world. They provide guidance to cadre technical advisers, consult with Rotarians and Rotary staff on projects within their area of expertise, and take steps to strengthen the cadre program. Technical coordinators are just the people to seek out for advice on performing a cadre review or evaluation.

Three technical coordinators for each technical sector (21 total) are appointed by the Foundation Trustee chair-elect to serve three-year terms. Our sincere thanks to the following cadre members whose appointments as technical coordinators ended on 30 June:

- Jones Kyazze, District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda), basic education and literacy
- Estela Emeric, District 4895 (Argentina), disease prevention and treatment
- PDG Deniel M. Banks, District 5100 (parts of Oregon and Washington, USA), economic and community development
- Hugh Munro, District 1010 (Scotland), peace and conflict prevention/ resolution
- PDG Vishwas Sahasrabhojanee, District 3030 (parts of Maharashtra, India), water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Vikram Sanghani, District 3060 (Union Territories of Daman and Diu and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra, India), financial auditors

With the new Rotary year, cadre chair Phil Silvers and stewardship staff expanded the technical coordinator terms of reference to encourage technical coordinators to take a more active role in cadre recruitment, in connecting Rotarians planning projects to local cadre members for guidance, and in collecting and sharing lessons learned and best practices. An initial conference call to kick off the Rotary year was held with each sector of technical coordinators, Phil Silvers, stewardship staff, and The Rotary Foundation's areas of focus managers.

These technical coordinators began their roles on 1 July and will serve through 30 June 2018:

William Stumbaugh, of the Rotary Club of Bahía de Caráquez, Ecuador (District 4400), basic education and literacy. Bill has a BA, an MA, and a PhD in education, and is licensed in California as an elementary school teacher, bilingual/cross-cultural specialist, and school administrator. He started his career in public education as a bilingual elementary school teacher, taught adult

immigrants English, and performed administrative roles as a school principal, school district superintendent, and director of personnel, of bilingual education, and of special education. Bill's first cadre assignment was a basic education and literacy project

in Belize in 2011, and he has since conducted multiple similar reviews in both Guatemala and Colombia. Bill, who speaks Spanish fluently, has lived in the Dominican Republic and Mexico. He currently resides in Ecuador.



Recent Cadre Visits



Patricia Canning (back, center) visits a school during her evaluation of a disease prevention project in Papua New Guinea.



Dr. Dennis Addo (right) examines an X-ray during an advance site visit of a tuberculosis prevention project in India.



New cadre leaders welcomed as technical coordinator role evolves

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Dr. Babu Chacko, of the Rotary Club of Kottayam, Kerala, India (District 3211), disease prevention and treatment. Trained in India, the UK, and Ireland, Babu earned a diploma from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England. He is a past district governor and recipient of the Service Above Self Award. Babu was invited to join the cadre in 2006 and has since evaluated 10 3-H and global grant projects in parts of India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Currently, he is guiding his district in promoting handwashing among schoolchildren, and in constructing 100 toilet blocks for students. He is proficient in English, Malayalam, and Hindi, and can speak Tamil.

Don't miss out on the 2015-16 Presidential Conferences highlighting Rotary's areas of focus!		
15-16 January	Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution	Ontario, California, USA
19-20 February	Disease Prevention and Treatment	Cannes, France
27 February	Economic Development	Cape Town, South Africa
11-13 March	Literacy and WASH in Schools	Kolkata, India
18-19 March	WASH in Schools	Pasay City, Philippines

If you plan to attend a conference, please let us know by contacting cadre@rotary.org

Cecelia Babkirk, of the Rotary Club of Cupertino, California, USA (District 5170), economic and community development. Cecelia has been a Rotarian since 1994 and a member of the cadre since 2008. She is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Cupertino, a leading club in international service activities. At the district level, Cecelia has chaired multiple committees and is currently the district Rotary Foundation chair. She speaks Spanish and, as a cadre member, has evaluated 11 Rotary grant projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. She believes that well-planned humanitarian projects that feature a travel opportunity are among the best ways to engage Rotarians in the internationality of Rotary.

Simona Pinton, of the Rotary Club of Padova Euganea, Italy (District 2060), peace and conflict prevention/resolution. Simona is a senior research fellow in international law and human rights at the University of Venice. She holds a PhD in international law from the University of Padua. Simona was a Rotary Peace Fellow at the University of California-Berkeley, where she earned a Master of Laws in international law and peacebuilding. She served on the prosecutorial team for the UN Tribunal for Rwandan Genocide and practiced with the law firm of Grimaldi & Clifford Chance in Padua. An expert in electoral observation, she has participated in missions with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and currently with the European Union. Simona is fluent in Italian and English.

Gedson Bersanete, Rotary Club of Biriguí, São Paulo, Brazil (District 4470), water, sanitation, and hygiene. Gedson is a civil engineer. He graduated from Escola de Engenharia de Lins and has an accounting degree from *Instituto Noroeste de Birigui*. He is the owner of Ayuni, an engineering services company specializing in concrete structures and hospital architecture, and a real estate development firm. Gedson is a member of the São Paulo State Regional Council of Engineers and Architects, the Engineers Union of São Paulo State, and the Birigui Association of Engineers and Architects. A Rotarian since 1982 and cadre member since 2004, Gedson is a past district governor and past district Rotary Foundation chair. As a cadre member, he has evaluated 14 Rotary grant projects throughout South and Central America. He speaks fluent Portuguese, English, and Spanish.

Graciela Marchesano, Rotary Club of Cid Campeador, Capital Federal, Argentina (District 4895), financial auditors. Graciela, a certified public accountant, received her degree from Buenos Aires University. She is a partner at DM&A Accountants and Consultants. She joined Rotary in 1993 and the cadre in 2002 and has conducted 18 audits in 12 countries. She speaks Spanish, English, and Portuguese. Graciela served as district Rotary Foundation chair in 2000-01 and currently serves as vice chair. She feels it is a great honor to have the chance to apply her expertise to help people better use Rotary Foundation resources, and to perform her technical coordinator duties with the utmost dedication as a steward of Rotary funds.

Cadre training in Mombasa



Participants listen attentively at the cadre training in Mombasa, Kenya.

When 50 Rotarians from 15 countries gather, you can always expect exciting interactions as well as Rotarian situational humor and loud laughter. When the gathering is held in one of the best holiday resort locations

— Mombasa, Kenya (just before the Rotary institute for zone 20A) — you have

a really exciting, and relaxing, opportunity for learning.

Veteran cadre member Mark Dole, from South Africa, led with a discussion on the responsibilities and rewards of cadre service, followed by Edward Wahome, from Kenya, discussing how — outside their formal assignments — cadre members can play a supportive role for

clubs through their grant advice. Ingrid Schwab from TRF gave an insightful presentation about the ways that past grant applications can help guide our work. For example, we can learn the likely gaps and how we can identify them, and ways we can help improve the design and implementation of grants. Flavia Nakayima, from Uganda, illustrated the ways

that proper approaches to community assessment can lay the foundation for sustainability.

SOUR SOUR SOUR LANDET LIST

The interactive training provided an opportunity to learn about the resources TRF has available to support Rotarians planning and implementing grant projects.

Remember to visit the cadre's shared site

If you're a registered cadre member, you can use the site by signing in to My Rotary at www.rotary.org and visiting the Rotary Workgroup section in your profile. The site serves as a document resource, survey tool, and news and information center. Contribute to discussion groups, download training documents, access the *Tech Talk* archive, view photo galleries, and more.

While these short presentations generated a lot of discussion, the real energy—thanks to well-designed activity guides from the Stewardship Department—was generated in the group working sessions, which addressed grant-planning resources and grant advising.

One participant summed up the general feeling in the evaluation remarks: "It was great to be introduced to the cadre's work in this very interactive workshop."

Francis "Tusu" Tusubira, cadre vice chair

Upcoming cadre training events

The next cadre training will be held on **Thursday, 5 November,** at the zone 20B Rotary institute in Antalya, Turkey. A cadre training will also take place before the 2016 RI Convention in Seoul, Korea. Additional details, including the exact date of the training, will be shared when available. For more information, contact cadre@rotary.org.

Focus on Recruitment

The composition and operation of the cadre continues to evolve alongside Rotary's grant activity. The cadre will be used increasingly to assist Rotarians with planning measurable and sustainable grant projects, and the Foundation is looking to add members with the following skills and areas:

- Community needs assessments
- Monitoring and evaluation plans
- Sustainable projects development
- Water and sanitation professionals
- Health professionals
- Spanish-speaking auditors in North and Central America
- Rotarians living in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America in all areas of focus

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