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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Happy New Rotary year to all our readers! I love this time of year; it is full of excitement and optimism as the new leaders take office.

This month, I really enjoyed learning more about our new Rotary President, Stephanie Urchick. I had the pleasure of briefly meeting her in Evanston in March and have a feeling we are in for a great year!

Another article worth reading, is the one on the Rotary International committee positions. It would be wonderful to see more familiar faces apply and be seated on these committees, so give it a try.

Last month, I was thrilled to attend my first Rotary International Convention and WASHRAG Water Summit. Both presented incredible learning and networking opportunities. While I missed the last half of the convention, thanks to a wee germ I picked up, I still came away knowing more about things such as toilets and waste recycling than I ever expected.

What I find extremely valuable about experiences such as these is that learning so much automatically adds to my 'what if' problem-solving toolbox. This helps when trying to develop solutions to problems by conceptualising sustainable common-sense solutions by asking, "what if we do this?"

For me, this is one of the main benefits of our Rotary Action Groups and international gatherings. These function as enormous pools of inspiration and shared opportunities. Additionally, it also provides you with a new way to meet more like-minded People of Action. I was so impressed by the experience with WASH Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG) that I not only joined them, but also joined Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG).

So, if you have some time to spare this month, why don't you Google Rotary Action Groups and see what is on offer? You never know where you will find a nugget of inspiration!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOWARD A GREATER VISION



STEPHANIE URCHICK
President, Rotary International

Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is *The Magic of Rotary* itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses and address challenges.

The world is changing and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic - building on one another toward a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work toward that vision and create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to

each other's well-being is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times.

Peacebuilding is one of our top priorities and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centres at leading universities around the globe, where more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace centre at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace centre is a monumental achievement and it is my great honour to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul centre. The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is

officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peacebuilding efforts - but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you.

You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing *The Magic of Rotary*.

Foundation Trustee Chair's Message

The engine that powers us

This month, we begin a new journey together to celebrate *The Magic of Rotary*. So, buckle up for an exciting trip.

If Rotary is a beautiful car that you are proud to drive, The Rotary Foundation is the engine that propels it to your chosen destination. And it's the strengths of Rotary - especially you and our other incredible members - who make The Rotary Foundation powerful.

Like many new members, I knew little about The Rotary Foundation when I joined Rotary. However, everything changed in 1985 when, as incoming president of my club, I attended my first Rotary International Convention with my wife, Gay, in Kansas City, Missouri. We will never forget the thunderous support the audience showed for Dr Albert Sabin, creator of the oral polio vaccine, who called upon Rotary to vaccinate the world's children. It marked the dawn of PolioPlus, a pivotal moment in Rotary's commitment to children worldwide and I was there!

You, as a member of Rotary, are also a part of The Rotary Foundation. You are part of a worldwide movement that implements global grants to build



Mark Maloney
Foundation Trustee Chair

sustainable systems for clean water and sanitation where there are none. You help train peace builders in a world plagued by unrest. And through supporting the Foundation, you help people rebuild their lives after natural disasters.

This is the magic of The Rotary Foundation. But let's remember that magic doesn't happen on its own, which is why I am counting on your support and engagement this year.

To accomplish more good throughout the world, the Foundation trustees have set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million for 2024-25. Achieving this goal will require the support of everyone reading this message. It will also help us reach our goal of building the Endowment Fund to \$2.025 billion by 2025.

To help us keep financial support of the Foundation at the forefront throughout this year, I have developed Mark's Magical Markers - a set of specific targets to help us achieve our overall goals. The first Magical Marker focuses on personal commitment, particularly to the Annual Fund, which supports the grants, scholarships and vocational training

teams that make the magic happen. Please contribute what you can to the Annual Fund no later than 31 August.

This year, let's fuel the engine that takes us around the globe to do good. Let's unleash The Magic of Rotary through the Foundation. And let's make this year an unforgettable one - for us and for the people whose lives we will touch.



It's time to start making plans to meet up with your Rotary besties in Canada at a convention with an epic backdrop: the Rocky Mountain foothills.

The Rotary International Convention returns for a second time to Calgary, site of the 1988 Winter Olympics and a city known for its bicycling culture and strong Indigenous heritage. Clubs will use Rotary's signature event 21-25 June to boost membership and interest in working with the organisation, while exchanging ideas with attendees on how to do the same in their hometowns - whether that's Toronto or Tokyo. You'll leave renewed with Action Plan inspiration to make your club the place to be.

Organisers will showcase inspiring community projects - you might be asked to help with one - to drive awareness

of Rotary around the convention, last held in the city in 1996. It will be one of the largest events in the recently expanded BMO Centre. You'll help spread the story of Rotary's good work simply by attending. And you'll find plenty of excitement in the city, known for its Calgary Stampede summer rodeo (search online for snapshots of cowgirl hat-wearing 2022-23 RI President Jennifer Jones in the parade).

This gateway to the Canadian Rockies will tempt you to extend your travels. Many people visit Calgary to start or end a Western Canada rail tour. Calgary is an ideal launching point to explore a piece of North America. A stopover on your way home in sunny Hawaii or Mexico, toting a souvenir bottle of cherished Canadian maple syrup in your luggage, would be oh-so-sweet.

Rotary



Rotary Africa Magazine

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Subscription rates from 1st July 2024

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Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records. Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

DEADLINE

The cut-off date for membership updates for the July to December 2024 billing period is the 20th June 2024.

At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.

New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.

Happy New Year

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation
Major Gifts Advisor



As July rolls around each year, Rotarians look forward to a new theme, new goals, new challenges and, of course, new opportunities to demonstrate The Magic of Rotary!

A couple of weeks ago, Past RI President Gordon McInally spoke to the Fellowship of Rotarian Past District Governors (and friends). You don't have to be a PDG to join - just have one as a friend and I'll be your friend!

It was his swan song to this illustrious group of Rotary leaders and it gave us an opportunity to ask him about the victories and challenges of his year at the helm of the Rotary Cruise Ship. One of his most poignant observations concerned the branding of Rotary.

Sherry and I had the joy of attending the Rotary International Convention (RICON) in Singapore in May. It was our second trip to Singapore for RICON; we were there in 1999 and Singapore has really developed over the past 25 years!

As we walked through the convention centre and the House of Friendship, we were branded as Rotarians because of our shirts and pins. One young man stopped me and asked if there was a major Rotary event because he

noticed hundreds of Rotary-branded shirts, blouses and hats being worn by Rotarians all over the convention centre and in the city. He was a youth exchange student several years ago and now lives in Singapore. He introduced me to his wife and young son. I told him that it was "time to come home" and join one of the 23 Rotary clubs in Singapore. His reply: "I think you're right! It is time I joined!"

That conversation never would have happened if we had not been branded with our Rotary emblems.

PRIP Gordon was asked what he saw as one of the biggest challenges in the Rotary world. His reply was simple: Branding!

In places where Rotary is growing, such as India and northern Africa, Rotary projects are branded with LARGE Rotary wheels and signs identifying projects as being accomplished by Rotary clubs. Rotarians wear shirts, hats and waistcoats proudly displaying the Rotary Wheel and often the name of their Rotary club.

In areas where Rotary is actually shrinking, the Rotary emblems are hard to find. Some of the pins being sold by vendors in the House of Friendship were so small that I could not read them

without holding them close to my face! Meanwhile, Rotarians from Nigeria and Ghana had complete sets of clothing made of Rotary-branded cloth. I bought some of the cloth and will have a shirt made.

Because we stayed a few days after the RICON to see a bit of Singapore, we continued to walk through the city wearing our Rotary apparel. We were recognised by other Rotarians as RICON participants, even by those who were not advertising their Rotary affiliation. I asked them why they weren't wearing their Rotary shirts and their answers were almost always the same: "The convention is over."

This reminded me of a question asked by a relatively new Rotarian several years ago: "Can we wear our Rotary pins even when not going to a Rotary club meeting?" My answer: PLEASE!

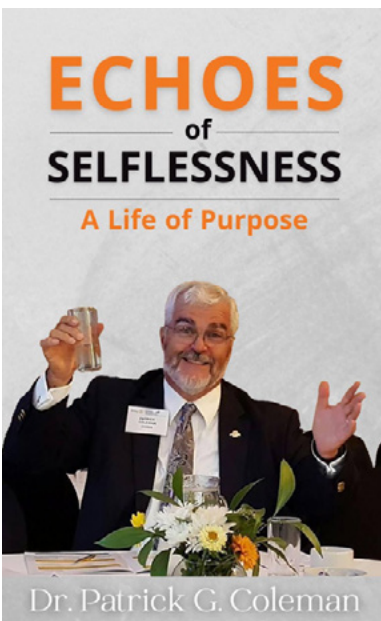
PRIP Gordon's suggestion to the

fellowship was to make the Rotary Wheel prominent at project sites and in the towns and cities where we have a Rotary club. Let people KNOW what we are doing and let them get excited about joining an organisation that has been bringing hope to the world!

Allow me to go a step further... make the Rotary Wheel prominent in your personal life! Wear the pin! (Not the tiny one... a BIG one!) Brand your car, truck and motorcycle with a Rotary emblem. Display the Four Way Test in your office or workspace.

If we want the world to see The Magic of Rotary, then we must let them see it in our lives!

I hope that at the next RICON in Calgary, we can all be there to show the world that Rotary in Africa is not only alive but flourishing! Wear the pin. Brand yourself, your car, your office and your lifestyle with Rotary!



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of
SELFLESSNESS
A Life of Purpose
Dr. Patrick G. Coleman

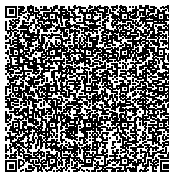
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— Drake Zimmerman, Founder and Past Chair,
Rotary Action Group, Rotarians Against Malaria-Global,
District 6490 (USA)

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There are hundreds of experts standing by to help you plan or enhance your Rotary project!

As an avid sports fan, President Stephanie Urchick is well-positioned to light the lamp, clear the bases, and split the uprights. Whatever the sports metaphor, she's destined to keep Rotary in the winner's circle

BY DIANA SCHOBERG

Photography by Christine Armbruster



Rotary President Stephanie Urchick's hometown of Pittsburgh is known as the City of Bridges.

The ↑ playmaker

It's a frigid January night, the second in a row to dip below zero degrees Fahrenheit in Chicago. Schools are closed, events cancelled, flights grounded. Outside an arctic blast is howling, but inside Stephanie Urchick's condo, the party is sizzling.

Urchick wears jeans and a Pittsburgh Steelers T-shirt with a "Magic of Rotary" pin affixed. Draped over one of her shoulders is a "Terrible Towel," an iconic yellow dishtowel-size piece of fabric that stalwart fans of the American football team wave to rally their team. The occasional cheer or groan punctuates the party's chatter.

This playoff game between the Steelers and the Buffalo Bills has already been rescheduled once because of the dangerous winter weather sweeping across the United States. A group of Rotarians visiting Rotary headquarters was stuck in suburban Evanston because

of a flight delay and Urchick invited them to watch the game with her. The 2024-25 Rotary International president, Urchick has just returned from a trip to the International Assembly in Orlando. She pulls out some pierogis, a type of Polish dumpling, from her freezer and sets out beverages of all kinds for her unexpected guests.

To call Urchick a sports fan might be a Hall of Fame-worthy understatement. At her home in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, about 20 minutes outside Pittsburgh, Urchick's basement "woman cave" is floor to ceiling Pittsburgh sports: 1990s-era cereal boxes featuring baseball great Roberto Clemente and the Stanley Cup-winning Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team; photos of her with Pittsburgh sports legends including Steelers running back Rocky Bleier, along with one of Bleier's framed jerseys; a Steelers piggy bank; Penguins hockey pucks; a signed football; a collection of tickets; a Steelers quilt. Her most recent acquisition is a bobblehead of Pirates baseball player Richie Hebner, whose photo Urchick plastered in her high school locker. In a nearby closet hang her two favourite uniforms: her Rotary T-shirts and her Pittsburgh fan gear.

The Bills score three touchdowns in a row to open the game, making the

score 21-0 by the middle of the second quarter. Urchick steps away from the group gathered in front of the television and perches behind the kitchen counter, checking her phone and the food she's heating up in the oven.

Her enjoyment of sports extends well beyond that of a typical fan. One summer, she assisted with character analyses for Canadian Football League scouts, attending NFL training camps to watch for players who might be cut, but would be a good fit for that league. (She recalls Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh approaching her about her role. "I've never worked with a lady before!" "Well," she replied, "I don't bite.") She also participated in a women's training camp put on by the Steelers and run by former players; her experience was cut short after she snapped her Achilles tendon doing footwork drills through car tyres. Didn't matter. "It was just a fun, fun summer," she says.

She met the vice president of the Steelers, Art Rooney Jr, when he spoke to her Rotary club. Afterward, she brought him some chocolates from Sarris Candies, a well-known confectionery founded in Canonsburg. It's a tradition she's continued to uphold a few times a year, the two united by their love of the game.

That kind of connection is what's happening at the party tonight. Fellow Steelers fan René Laws, 2023-24 governor of District 7610 (Virginia), wears her #90 TJ Watt jersey for the occasion. The two met when they sat at the same table at a presidents-elect training seminar and their mutual love of the Steelers came up. "Ever since then, we would see each other at events and we would always have football and Rotary to talk about," Laws says. The Steelers score early in the fourth quarter and pull within a

touchdown of tying the game. The two laugh as they both signal a Steelers first down along with the refs.

Life couldn't be better, unless the Steelers were actually winning, which unfortunately is not the case. Not tonight. The Bills score one more touchdown with 6:27 remaining in the game. Their fans celebrate by tossing snow in the air. The Steelers lose the game 31-17 and that's the end of their season. But for Urchick it's just the beginning. Only this year, Urchick will get her own chance to head up a winning team: Rotary.

Spend a bit of time with
her and you're likely to
hear family lore involving
a misunderstanding
around beets and the
power of a patron saint.

A few weeks later, Urchick gathers with family back in western Pennsylvania for the birthday of her eldest cousin, Michael Hatalowich. The two grew up like siblings, always at each other's houses and they still tease each other as if brother and sister. The kitchen counter is spread with pizza and chicken wings, pasta salad, fruit, crackers and dips, as the news plays in the background on the television in the living room. But before



To call Urchick a sports fan might be a
Hall of Fame-worthy understatement.

Club members
Greg Incardona
(left) and William
Kern join Urchick
at Acrisure
Stadium, home
of the Pittsburgh
Steelers.



Urchick's club, the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, began meeting for breakfast to reach new members.

they eat, the dozen or so gathered - cousins and their spouses, children and grandchildren - sing "Happy Birthday," first in English and then in Slavonic, harmonising to "Mnohaja Lita," a traditional Carpatho-Rusyn birthday song whose title means "many years." Urchick joins in, her voice clear and strong.

Music has been a touchstone throughout Urchick's life. Her dad played the accordion and led a polka band, the Harmoneers, for more than 35 years. "I learned to polka before I learned to walk," she says. Urchick was a singer with her father's band and when she's in town, she sings with the Eastern Orthodox church choir directed by another of her cousins. "You know how some families get together and play cards?" she asks. "My father was a musician. My grandmother, my aunts, they were all singers. So, when we got together, we sang."

Urchick grew up here in western Pennsylvania, near the border of West Virginia, a countryside of forests and farms in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents moved here from Eastern Europe (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), settling down to take advantage of the jobs in the region's coal mines and steel mills. When she arrived in the United States, her mother knew one sentence: "Give me some potatoes."

Urchick's culture and her family remain important to her. Spend a bit of time with her and you're likely to hear stories about her visits to meet distant relatives in Eastern Europe and family lore involving a misunderstanding around beets and the powers of a patron saint. She gathers regularly with Hatalowich and her other maternal cousins who live nearby and she gets together with her more far-flung paternal cousins for an annual trip.

Western Pennsylvania is part of what

was once known as the Steel Belt for its steel mills and coal mines, though it's now called the Rust Belt after the decline of those industries in the 1970s and '80s. The population of Urchick's childhood hometown, Monessen, peaked at around 20,000 people in the 1930s but as of 2022 had declined to less than 7,000. Rows of stores along the main street stand vacant and there's only one full-fledged grocery store left in town. Holy Name Cemetery, the Slovak cemetery where Urchick's paternal grandparents are buried, is more than half empty, its pristine lawns an indication of the number of graves originally anticipated. "They'll never fill it up," Urchick explains, "because so many people left town."

As a child, Urchick devoured Nancy Drew mystery novels and dreamed of being a spy. "I was in this little place in Pennsylvania and I really had never gone anywhere," she says. "I wanted to see the world." When she went to college, she channelled that desire into a major in international relations, with its focuses on history, political science and languages. She studied Russian, Polish, Serbian and Italian, on top of the French she'd learned in high school. As she was finishing up college, she applied to work for the FBI, the CIA and other US intelligence agencies. But there was one obstacle: All four of her grandparents were from Eastern Europe. "Most people's background checks take about three or four months," she recalls. "Well, mine apparently took a year and a half."

By the time the FBI called with a job offer, Urchick had started down a new career path as an administrator in higher education. And she loved it. She declined what had been her dream job (although she jokes that her work with Rotary is merely an elaborate cover for her cloak-and-dagger pursuits) and she went on to

earn a master's degree in education and a doctorate in leadership studies. Her dreams of an international career were back-burnered - that is until Rotary came along.

Over dinner at the birthday party, Urchick's nephew Jeremy Layne reflects on his aunt. Layne, now 38, didn't meet Urchick until he was a teenager and he recalls the impact that moment eventually had on the trajectory of his life. She encouraged him to push himself toward his goals and refuse to accept 'no' as an option. "The day I met her at my Baba's [grandmother's] house, from that day forward she has meant everything to me," he says. "Her vibe, her energy, her spark that she gives off is just intoxicating. She's just an amazing woman. I'm so thankful for her to be in my life."

"She really is very authentic and very genuine," says Rebecca Bazzar, Hatalowich's daughter. "She could fit in anywhere, in a room full of diplomats or a room full of local yokels. Everybody loves her and she's going to have a good time everywhere she goes." Bazzar leans over and in a conspiratorial whisper

adds, "You won't meet anyone more fun than her."

The dozen people gathered toast "Na zdrowie!" and then Urchick begins the long process of hugging everybody goodbye. They discuss where she's travelling next, her family members wishing that she stays safe. As they walk outside, she and her cousin Peter Merella, the choir director, say goodbye "their way," in Polish. "Do widzenia." They loosely translate: "Until we see each other again."

The next morning, as she walks into a side room at a diner in Canonsburg, Urchick is welcomed by hoots and applause from the couple of dozen Rotary members seated along a string of tables. But it isn't just Urchick who's cheered as she enters the room. It's the greeting that every member gets when they arrive for a meeting of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Urchick's home club.

The tradition started a few years ago when someone arrived late to the meeting. Everybody cheered - and it caught on. Now no matter when they arrive at the meeting, all members are greeted as if they're the president of an international organisation. "How could you not feel good?" Urchick says.

She hugs William Kern, the club president and the meeting starts. It's a breakfast meeting and the smell of toast permeates the air. The table is a jumble of coffee mugs and carafes, empty cups of half-and-half and water glasses. The food begins to arrive, classic diner fare including French toast, bagel sandwiches, hash browns and oatmeal. Urchick isn't much of a breakfast eater and sticks to

"She really is very
authentic and very
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local yokels."



Urchick and Incardona relax at S&D Polish Deli in Pittsburgh. Urchick's family immigrated to the area from Eastern Europe.

decaf coffee.

For years, the club had been stuck at around 35 members, Urchick says. But it used Rotary's Action Plan to take a look at itself with new eyes. Club leaders asked every member about the club's performance - things such as the club meeting date, time and location and club projects. With that information, they determined that meeting at a different time of day might work for more people and switched from a lunch club to breakfast. "Instantly and I mean instantly, we had two new people come into the club," Urchick says. "They said they were invited before but could never come."

The club didn't stop there. Members talked to other groups in the area and found people who wanted to serve but didn't want to attend club meetings. Looking into options, club leaders started a satellite club for people to do just that. The concept brought 15 new members to the club. "They pay full dues," Urchick says. "We don't discount anything. But we also know they're not coming to weekly meetings." Instead, they hold "PBR" nights, referring not to the familiar monogram of the American beer Pabst Blue Ribbon, but to "pizza, beer and Rotary."

This morning's meeting is vibrant, full of lively conversations and bursts of laughter. The cheering, the shared breakfast, the camaraderie is all part of the club's intention to be, to borrow Urchick's catchphrase, "simply irresistible." "It makes my job easier talking about being a Rotarian in an active club," she says. Being irresistible "means the experience is so compelling, so fun, so dynamic that people are drawn to it and don't want to leave," she adds. "At the bottom of that is the whole concept of belonging: Is this the kind of group I want to belong to?"

That was the question Urchick asked herself in 1991, when an acquaintance walked into her office at the California University of Pennsylvania and asked if she'd like to go to a Rotary club meeting. Urchick didn't know much about Rotary, but she was recently divorced and looking for ways to meet new people. And when the woman mentioned Rotary's internationality, something clicked.

When she went to her first meeting of the Rotary Club of California, in a town south of Pittsburgh, she met Chuck Keller, a member of the club and RI's 1987-88 president. "He introduced himself and we got to be friends quickly," she says. "I had a built-in Rotary godfather. It was amazing." Urchick dove in, hosting Group Study Exchange team members and pitching in with the club's Youth Exchange students. She organised an indoor picnic complete with a three-legged sack race. "Oh, my gawd," she says in her Pittsburgh accent, "it was hilarious."

Urchick was drawn especially to the work of The Rotary Foundation, becoming first the Foundation chair for her club and then for her district. Later, at the zone level, she served as a regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, focusing on fund development. She worked with Lou Piconi, another Pittsburgh-area Rotarian who had served Rotary on the international level as both a director and trustee, to train what they called "major donor possibility teams," groups of five to seven people who focused on fundraising for The Rotary Foundation. "Lou and his wife, Barbara, and I would get in his big red Cadillac," she says and travel around the region. "We had a great time."

Her work with the Foundation meant more people got to know her and led to a 5am phone call in 2012. Her name had been put forward to replace Anne

Matthews as a Rotary Foundation trustee. (Matthews left her post to join the Rotary International Board of Directors.) Later, Urchick became a director herself and led the organisation's Strategic Planning Committee, a role that proved pivotal to shaping her thinking about how to move Rotary into a thriving future.

Given Urchick's background in international relations, her interest in peace as another of her priorities as president likely comes as no surprise. She encourages living The Four-Way Test, investing in a positive club culture and engaging with Rotary Peace Centres as ways members can help spread the message of Rotary's commitment to peace. "We're not going to get a Nobel Peace Prize for stopping a war," Urchick says, "but we can use what we have in Rotary to make the world a better place."

One of the pillars of Urchick's peace push is, well, a pillar. That afternoon after the club meeting, she joins members of the Rotary Club of White Oak, another Pittsburgh-area club. They have gathered on a grassy field outside of the White Oak community pool and near a historic marker honouring the spot of an encampment by George Washington during the French and Indian War.

Dan Dougherty, the 2024-25 governor of District 7305 and a member of the White Oak club, is holding a white 8-foot pole. The words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" are inscribed on it in eight languages - English, Irish, Italian, Polish, German, Croatian, Spanish and Vietnamese - all of which are spoken in the community. The phrase also appears

She encourages clubs
to put up these poles
as visible signals of
their commitment to
peace.



in Braille and there is a rainbow flag sticker and another decal for Veterans for Peace. Urchick walks up and immediately pulls out her phone, scanning the QR code on the peace pole's side that links to a website with more information.

She encourages clubs to put up these poles as visible signals of their commitment to peace, whether at members' homes, in their club, community or around the world. Dougherty's wife, Autumn, who is also a member of the White Oak club, has made it her goal to get every club in their district to erect a peace pole in the coming year.

When the last White Oak club member arrives, everyone clusters around Urchick like players huddled around their coach during a crucial time out. "The peace pole project is a favourite of mine because it's a visual representation," she tells them. "It's going to tell everybody in White Oak who comes to this park that your club is about peacebuilding. Rotary is about peacebuilding."

To conclude the ceremony, Urchick invites the members to reach out and touch the pole. They unite, all part of the same team - the Rotary team. Urchick smiles. Game on.



Urchick works with McMurray Club President William Kern to scout a location for a peace pole in the community.

Being irresistible means the experience is so compelling, so fun, so dynamic that people are drawn to it and don't want to leave.



Urchick mentors Kate Matz (centre) of the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh. Matz and her daughter, Mason, join Urchick at Sarris Candies.



Apply yourself

As part of the family of Rotary, members are people of purpose, people of influence, and people of action. Each year, committees which support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation focus on putting Rotary's strategic priorities into action, challenging clubs to increase their impact, expand their reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase Rotary's ability to adapt.

Would you like to contribute to Rotary's success?

RI and the Foundation are searching for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to apply their leadership skills to serve on a committee in the 2025-26 Rotary year. These positions offer an opportunity for you to share your vocational expertise and skill set and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee. Rotarians and Rotaractors with areas

of expertise as detailed in the following pages are encouraged to apply. The number of openings is limited. If you are not selected this year, you are welcome to apply again next year.

All committees correspond through email and on virtual platforms, typically with one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Rotaractors are encouraged to apply to any area of expertise based on their background and the skills and experience detailed for each area. Dual members of Rotary and Rotaract are especially encouraged to apply.

To apply or to recommend someone, visit **on.rotary.org/application2024**. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at **my.rotary.org** and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications close **15 August**.

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS
AUDIT	Advises leadership on audited financial reports, internal and external audits and internal control systems	Independence, appropriate business experience and demonstrated financial literacy in accounting, auditing, banking, insurance, investment, risk management, executive management or audit governance	One position with a four-year term
COMMUNICATIONS	Advises leadership on Rotary's overall public image, branding, communications, content strategy and approach	Professional background and experience in internal and external communications, marketing, public image, brand and content strategy	Three positions with three-year terms
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION	Advises leadership and assists in the regional implementation of a diversity, equity and inclusion action plan	Professional or educational experience related to diversity, equity and inclusion	Three positions with three-year terms
FINANCE	Advises the RI Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field, with NGO experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	Two positions with three-year terms
FUND DEVELOPMENT	Provides guidance and advice to The Rotary Foundation Trustees on all aspects of fundraising	Significant professional experience in fund development or fundraising. Committee members actively fundraise and support the Foundation.	Two positions with three-year terms
INVESTMENT	Oversees the management of Rotary's investments and the implementation of investment policies	Experience in investment and/or foundations or endowments, with a preference for institutional investment experience	One position with a four-year term

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS
LEARNING	Advises leadership on the creation of effective learning opportunities for Rotary leaders and members	Adult learning expertise within or outside Rotary. Experience in the professional learning field including e-learning and/ or experience with planning and implementing learning events at the member, club, district, zone and international levels.	Three positions with three-year terms
OPERATIONS REVIEW	Advises leadership on the effectiveness of operations, administrative procedures and standards of conduct. Serves as the advisory compensation committee to the Executive Committee of the RI Board.	Experience in management, leadership development or financial management and thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations. Appointments are limited to past RI directors and past Foundation trustees.	One position with a six-year term
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Advises leadership on matters relating to the strategic plan	Significant experience in long-term planning, financial management and RI and Foundation programme activities	Two positions with four-year terms
TECHNOLOGY	Advises leadership on enhancing technology practices, products and strategy to improve the member and participant experience at Rotary	Expertise in technology development, product management, user/ participant experience and security and data privacy. Non-Rotarian technology experts may be appointed.	Two positions with three-year terms

To apply for committee membership or to recommend someone, visit on.rotary.org/application2024. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at my.rotary.org and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information.

Applications are due 15 August.

Drought and Extreme Weather



By Rotaractor Ezra Tesfaye, with contributions from Yabets Ayansa and Meheret Kebede (Rotaract Club of Abugida, D9212), Halleluya Biredaw, Mesfin Bogale and Izedin Tijani

As a Rotary volunteer, I had the privilege of participating in the emergency shelter and non-food item (ES-NFI) distribution project implemented by ShelterBox and Rotary in the Kilalu Woreda area of Ethiopia's Afar region.

Over the course of two consecutive days, 18 and 19 May, our team worked alongside the local community and representatives from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to ensure the timely and equitable delivery of crucial aid to families displaced by the ongoing drought crisis. The Afar region has been dealing with the devastating effects of a prolonged drought, which has overwhelmed livelihoods, displaced thousands and left many families without access to adequate shelter and basic

necessities.

Witnessing the resilience and determination of these drought-affected populations was deeply moving. However, the distribution was further complicated by the challenging weather conditions our team faced. Prior to the actual distribution, our team received a detailed briefing from Helina Tafesse, a representative of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), on 18 May.

Helina's comprehensive presentation provided us with crucial information about the ongoing drought crisis in the Afar region and the specific challenges faced by the affected communities. Her briefing was instrumental in preparing us for the distribution, giving us a deep

understanding of the context and the needs of the beneficiaries, which helped us approach the task with empathy and a clear sense of purpose.

The distribution process was not without its challenges, as we navigated the logistical complexities of reaching remote communities affected by the drought and extreme weather. However, the collaborative efforts of the community leaders, ShelterBox, IOM and our Rotary team ensured that the assistance reached those who needed it most. During the distribution, our Rotary team worked closely with the ShelterBox and IOM representatives to ensure the smooth delivery of essential items. The collaborative efforts of all involved were crucial in overcoming logistical challenges and harsh conditions.

As we reflect on this experience, we are

reminded of the profound impact that can be achieved through collective action. The ES-NFI kits and cash assistance provided a lifeline to vulnerable families, restoring their dignity and hope during this difficult time. We hope that this project serves as a model for future humanitarian interventions, in the Afar region and beyond, as the community works to overcome the overwhelming effects of the drought and extreme weather conditions.

The deployment was not without challenges. As one volunteer, Yabets Ayansa, a member of the Rotaract Club of Abugida (D9212) described it, "The heat was unlike anything I've ever experienced. At times, it felt nearly impossible to continue, but the strength and perseverance of the local community and team inspired us to push on."



Our willpower, together with the resilience of the local community and fellow humanitarians who worked beside us to serve the community, kept us going - Rotaractor Meheret Kebede



President Herb Hunter up to face the fierce bowling of Team Epilepsy SA.

Clash of the **TITANS**

Annual Knysna Rotary vs Epilepsy SA Cricket Match

An epic battle played out in May as rivals, Team Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) and Team Epilepsy SA South Cape/Karoo Branch took to the pitch for their annual cricket match. These teams have met annually for the last 15 years to play for the coveted Rotary/Epilepsy Cricket Floating Trophy.

Team Epilepsy arrived prepped and ready to do battle, hungry for a win after last year's surprise defeat. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for Team Rotary, who appeared confident and without a care in the world.

Alas, the single-mindedness and steely resolve of the opposition soon created uncertainty among the Rotarians. Captain Mike Mills, feeling the burn of another annihilation approaching, as had been the case in years gone by, rallied his troops, admonishing them for their laissez-faire attitude.



... And he is out! The dynamic fielders of Epilepsy SA send Knysna Rotarian Mario du Toit on his merry way.

Team Rotary players heeded this stern warning and started to focus, bowling with great accuracy and scoring one run after another. But to no avail, as the intrepid members of Team Epilepsy were simply too strong for the opposition. There was great jubilation in the Epilepsy ranks as the highly desired trophy was claimed once again.

As in battles lost and won, reconciliation and peace were declared and everyone sat down together to enjoy the traditional post-match boerie-rolls, salads and ice cream. With much handshaking, back-patting and a promise that the contest of 2025 would be one to remember, the participants went home, dreaming of next year's win.



Showing them how it's done. Rotarian Maurita Borchers-Hendricks scores a run.



A team of visitors embarked on a humanitarian and projects tour of South Africa. When they disembarked in Durban, it was with about 150 kg of educational items, medical supplies and books for distribution at their projects. During the tour, the team decided to pay a quick visit to the Eastern Cape.

REFLECTIONS from the Road

I have just returned from an amazing visit to Rotarian Khaya Mposula in Taweni, Eastern Cape, South Africa, writes Charmaine Wheatley of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370).

As a group of five Australian volunteers, touring South Africa to deliver aid and hope, we decided to hire a bus and drive to Taweni to spend a couple of days with Khaya Mposula and her community.

Khaya had cautioned us that her village in the Eastern Cape is very remote and isolated, with bad roads. The bus contained medical supplies, our luggage, and the books and educational equipment we had put aside for this project. Due to the long distances, we had to overnight in each direction, as it was not advisable to drive at twilight through bad roads, potholes, and areas with roaming animals owing to broken and neglected boundary fences.

What a delight it was to meet her community and see the benefits of

Khaya's hard work and dedication. We passed hundreds of decimated farms and lands, but her gardens next to the school stood out like a shining jewel as she humbly showed us their accomplishments. I was moved when she explained how hard it had been to convince the old gogos (grandmothers) what and when to plant. We also learned how confusing, frustrating, and real the effects of climate change are in this remote area. Labour is very expensive, and most of the work is done by elderly ladies and a disabled, but eager, garden assistant who helps whenever his health allows.

The community warmly welcomed us and cooked a delicious meal over an open wood fire. The children at the school

were an absolute delight. We enjoyed playing with them and, to their amusement, eagerly shared a traditional meal of pap (a type of maize porridge) for the first time.

Buying a simple bag of maize requires a taxi to cover about 30 kilometres each way. On the way home, the people are charged an extra fee for the 25-kilogramme bag of maize meal.

As we drove to the river to see a water pump designed by Rotarian Pat Draper, we saw people pulling the old green Hippo Rollers. I wondered if the donors of these water



portability devices realised how life-changing they were for so many families in this rural area. We have seen photos of delighted Hippo Roller recipients, but in reality, months and years later, the impact of the donors' generosity is still being felt.

I truly thank people like Grant Gibbs (CEO of Hippo Roller) and his family, Luke and Linda Vostermans, fellow Rotarians, and their friends who continue to support this water project, ensuring that everyday life is made a lot easier for these families.



EarlyActors with the snacks they supplied for the visit to Bethesda.

Helping is fun!

Recently, the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), concluded its latest community service project.

"For several years, we have been involved with the Milestone Development Programme (MDP) at Bethesda," said Danielle Barnard, teacher and EarlyAct coordinator at Outeniqua Primary. The initiative comprises a stimulation project for children from vulnerable communities who have developmental delays and are between two to six years of age. The club has previously supported the programme, but this year, the members wanted to do something special.

A group of approximately 26

EarlyActors arrived at the MDP area at Bethesda, handed over cakes and snacks, and then played with the children in the play area.

"Part of our mission as a centre of excellence is providing maximum opportunities for our learners to develop and to be the difference," said Dr Nico Venter, principal of Outeniqua Primary. "EarlyAct provides us the forum for fulfilling this responsibility."

"We are so proud to be associated with the Outeniqua Primary EarlyActors," said President Di Kershaw of the George club. "Their initiatives embody the leadership, compassion, and community spirit our country needs."



The learners during their visit to the water reclamation plant in Windhoek.

Adventuring Citizens

The annual Adventure into Citizenship, held by the Rotary Club of Windhoek (D9350), ended with rave reviews from the Grade 11 adventurers!

Albeit on a much smaller scale than the 'mother club's' event in Cape Town, Windhoek has been organising this event for many years. Each year, the club invites two Grade 11 learners from each of the high schools in Windhoek.

This year's event took place in June at the NUST Hotel School and had the theme of Water. The 34 learners from 17 secondary schools in Windhoek enjoyed

a day of interesting presentations, an excursion to WINGOC, Namibia's unique water reclamation plant and lunch with members of the Rotary Club of Windhoek.

Speakers included representatives from Namwater, City of Windhoek (CoW), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Legal Assistance Centre (LAC). They shared thought-provoking insights about Namibia's water resources, the capital city's water supply, water as a tool to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the basic human right to water and dignity.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



During the school holidays Interactors from six schools in Knysna attended a five-day RYLA camp at Outward Bound, Sedgefield. Members of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) were proud to see how the Interactors worked together to learn new skills and embrace new, and at times scary, challenges.



To celebrate Rotary's Youth Month, the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) delivered nearly 1,000 textbooks and science kits to Goue Arend Primary School. The club made the donation after hearing from Wyman Slambert of his dream to open a media centre for the learners before he retires. At the presentation were Allison de Lange (Rotary Club of Klerksdorp), Wyman Slambert (Goue Arend), Thebe Moruane, Phillip Monare and Freddy Tsholofelo (Department of Education), and Kristin Janse van Rensburg (Rotary Club of Klerksdorp).



The Anns of the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370) purchase wool for various people to knit items that are then donated to charity. At the end of April, the Anns hosted a tea for the Knit 'n Natter women at Dunant Lodge. At the tea, the knitters gave the Anns a huge consignment of knitted items to be distributed to those in need. With the donation are Philippa Stephenson, Sandy Wells, Rotarian Deidre Burger, Melanie Roberts, Bev Ahlschlager, and Annette Skelton with the Dunant Lodge Knitters.



The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) recently held its annual Head Boy and Head Girl Dinner. The head prefects of 14 high schools attended the event and had the opportunity to deliver short presentations on one of the topics which formed the theme of the evening: "Outer Space, the New Frontier" or "The Next Big Thing." The presentations were lively and entertaining, with a recurring theme, like a golden thread, throughout the evening: today's youth are, indeed, the Next Big Thing!



The Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370) supports the Junior City Council in Port Elizabeth. Recently, Councillor Sina Qwayi, responsible for the junior council's public relations, met with the club and reported on the council's activities. The junior council comprises young, elected leaders from various high schools who attend monthly meetings to discuss key issues facing the youth and the community of Port Elizabeth. It raises funds to support people in need and forges relationships with various companies and schools to fund the council's events. With Councillor Sina Qwayi is President Karen de Jager.



Casey Sounes, Andreas Demetriou, Allison de Lange (President), and Carmelo Graceffa of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) delivered a donation of vegetables and ingredients to Michelle van Niekerk of the Klerksdorp Community Centre. The donation supports the centre's soup kitchen, which feeds about 600 people a week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

2024-25 Presidents



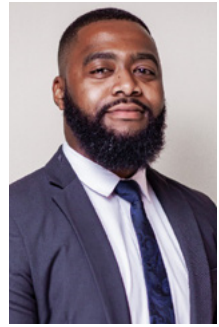
Pfumai Nyambe
Lusaka, 9210



Robin Bottomley
Hunyani, 9210



Munalula Lukonga.
Lusaka, 9210



Reuben Kumwenda
Limbe, 9210



Bradley Bloomfield
Kitwe North, 9210



Victor Ojionye
Mokopane (D9400).



Robert Chikuse
Lilongwe, 9210



Victor Nyanhete
Gweru, 9210



Andrew Paschalides
Knights Pendragon,
9400



Chrysostoma
Kanjoma, Bulawayo
Sunrise. 9210



CONGRATULATE YOUR PRESIDENT

Celebrate the start of a brilliant year by including your club's president in our New Presidents feature in the August and September magazines.

Please send the **name of your president** and **club**, as well as a **head and shoulders photo** to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

The final deadline for submissions is
15 August 2024

WALL OF HONOUR



The Rotary Club of Harare City (D9210) paid tribute to John Travlos (left) for 44 years of Rotary service. Speaking at the celebratory lunch, President Andrew Makoni (right) thanked John for his dedication and commitment to serving communities, his wise counsel and for promoting sound governance within the club. John thanked his wife, Pipina, for her unfailing support, counsel and guidance before telling guests that “there has been no better time to reflect on our hopes and dream; no better time where there has been so much strife and deceit, to join hands, to rebuild goodwill and peace... to dream and practise what we truly desire for our children and grandchildren.”



The Rotary Club of Harare City (D9210) was recognised for the dedication and hard work of its members when it was awarded a Citation for the Rotary Year 2023-24. The certificate was presented at the District Conference in May. The club has completed several projects benefiting various communities during the year and was awarded a global grant for an environmental project undertaken in partnership with World Vision. With the citation certificate are President Andrew Makoni and President-Elect Leslie Mukarati.

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MISCELLANEOUS

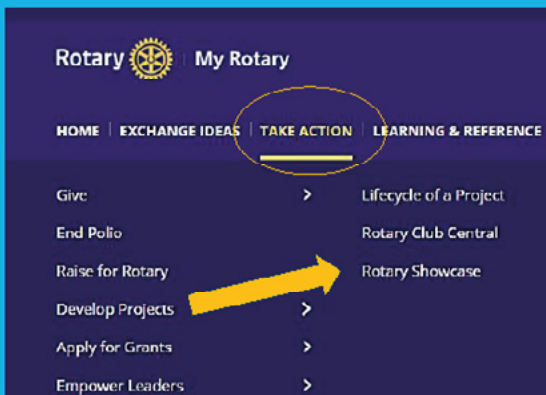
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Attention Rotary clubs!

Please don't forget to record your project details on Rotary Showcase. This web-based platform helps promote your projects and will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!

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