

JULY 2021

Rotary

AFRICA | south

**Shekhar and
Rashi Mehta
dare you to
dream**

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Sarah van Heerden

Editor

WELCOME

This is always an exciting time of the year in Rotary as we welcome our new leaders and celebrate the accomplishments of the outgoing leadership.

The 2020/21 Rotary year was not an easy one and I have to applaud all the district governors who kept their districts running smoothly during the year. They missed out on many of the traditional DG experiences, but they did a great job leading our clubs as they adapted to new ways of ‘doing Rotary’. This year we have an incredible team of DGs taking office and I am certain that they too shall excel.

The club leadership teams also excelled as they also navigated these uncharted waters. It was undoubtedly a year of change and it seems fitting that this Rotary year we strive to be changemakers under the leadership of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta.

We also have changes to the way that the Rotary Foundation funding works and while change is always a little unsettling, I know that these changes will not deter our clubs and we can still expect to see great things.

This is also the time of the year that Rotary opens applications for its various committees. I encourage all our Rotary members to have a look at what is available and to apply for those which interest them. Remember, for most of the committees you do not need to have been a district leader or club president. These positions are open to ordinary Rotarians who meet the specific criteria and I would love to see more members from our region representing us at a global level.

This last month I have heard of too many Rotary club members who have had COVID-19 and in some cases, died from it. I follow social distancing protocols and wear my mask correctly, not to protect myself, but to protect those I come into contact with - love thy neighbour takes on a whole new meaning during this pandemic. So, please stay safe, be careful and look after one another.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



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President's message

My Dear Changemakers,

I wish each of you and your families a great Rotary New Year! Together, let us make it the best year of our lives, by making it a year to grow more and do more. Let this be a year of changemakers and let us begin with our membership.

That is precisely why the Each One, Bring One initiative is so important. During this year, I urge you to dream of new ways in which Rotary can expand its reach into your community and therefore the world. If each member tries to introduce one person to Rotary, our membership could increase substantially by July 2022. So, let's just do it!

Imagine the change we, as Rotary members, can make when there are so many more of us! More people to care for others, more people to Serve to Change Lives. Think of the impact we can have through 'grow more, do more'. More members will enable us to embark on bigger and bolder service projects. And each of us can also continue to serve in our own personal ways, responding to needs in our communities.

The beauty of Rotary is that service means different things to different people around the world. One element, however, that we can incorporate into all of our service initiatives is empowering girls. Unfortunately, even in this day and age, girls and young women face disproportionate challenges all over the world. We have the power to lead the charge for gender equality. Empowering girls and young women to have greater access to education, better health care, more employment and equality in all walks of life should be embedded in every Rotary project we launch. Girls are future leaders, so we must ensure that we help them shape their future.



Shekhar Mehta,
Rotary International President (2021/22)

**The biggest gift we are given
Is the power to touch a life,
To change, to make a difference
In the circle of life.**

**If we can reach out
With our hand, heart, and soul,**

**The magic will start to happen
As the wheel begins to roll.**

**Let's turn the wheel together
So all humanity thrives,**

**We have the power and the magic
To Serve to Change Lives.**

These are challenging times, and I compliment each of your efforts in grappling with COVID-19. No challenge is too big for Rotarians. The bigger the challenge, the more passionate the Rotarian. Look at what we can do when we take on a colossal challenge such as eradicating polio. Look at the millions of lives we improve by strengthening access to water, sanitation and hygiene. Look at what we do every year to promote peace in places where it seems unimaginable. Our basic education and literacy programmes have nation-building impact.

This year, let us challenge ourselves to do more such projects and programmes that have national reach and impact. This year, let us Serve to Change Lives.

Shekhar Mehta



Foundation Trustee Chair

John Germ

July is the most exciting month in Rotary, a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. For many, it's an opportunity to take on new leadership roles. Rotarians brim with optimism, thinking about the good we can do for humanity in the 12 months ahead.

As I write this message, I recall a quote often attributed to Helen Keller, a renowned American activist for people with disabilities: "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision."

How profound that a woman who was blind taught us such a powerful lesson about the difference between sight and vision. Indeed, it is one thing to see the world as it is, but entirely another to envision it as it could be. The Rotary Foundation is all about envisioning possibilities - and making them happen.

As we begin this Rotary year, I ask: what is your vision for the next 12 months? Could a community or region you know benefit from a grant from the Foundation? One probably could.

As you read these words, many people in that community are waiting for our help and leadership. We are still reeling from the challenges of serving the world during COVID-19, but we cannot let that

or anything else stop us. Many educational and health care needs have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. The world needs us.

Beginning 1 July, you can apply for Foundation grants supporting Rotary's new area of focus: the environment. July also brings changes, such as the financial restructuring of the World Fund, that have been implemented with an eye toward sustainability.

We are just beginning a year when we will continue our first Programmes of Scale grant in Zambia, seek a home for our next Rotary Peace Centre, and plan and implement District and Global Grants that will make positive impacts for generations to come.

To paraphrase the ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi, today we begin the journey of a thousand miles by taking our first step.

Let's walk together, looking forward, not to the past. Rotarians love a good challenge, so here's one for us all: let's challenge ourselves to think bigger this year and enlarge our vision of what we can and will do.

Make the Foundation a part of your vision for a better world, and you will see the world, and yourself, change.

Rotary at a glance

- Rotary clubs: 36 782**
- Members: 1 198 766**
- Rotaract clubs: 10 063**
- Members: 216 186**
- Interact clubs: 15 035**
- Members: 368 805**
- RCCs: 11 587**

As at 18 May 2021



Increase



Decrease





Find Project Partners

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared their projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Now Rotary has added new features that make this online tool even more useful.

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly.

Learn more at my.rotary.org



Begin Countdown

2022 Rotary International Convention

Houston calls itself “the city with no limits,” and when you attend the 2022 Rotary International Convention, 4-8 June, you will see what that means. It is a city of big numbers: Houston covers more than 900 square kilometres and with 2.3 million residents, it’s the fourth-largest city in the United States. The metropolitan area’s seven million people speak at least 145 languages; Houston is by some measures the most diverse metropolis in the country.

The city contains more than 300 parks, with some 40 000 acres of parks and green space. It’s a hub of entrepreneurship; more than 250 early-stage software and digital technology companies call downtown Houston home. It’s also a hub of biomedical research: The Texas Medical Centre is one of the largest hospital campuses in the world, employing more than 100 000 people.

And, of course, Houston is home to NASA’s Lyndon B Johnson Space Centre, which has been one of the country’s centres of space flight for more than 50 years. Home to the US astronaut corps, it continues to foster innovative space research. While you are in Houston, make time to visit Space Centre Houston, NASA’s official visitor centre, which offers a variety of educational exhibits and programmes about space exploration.

Whether you are looking to the stars or making connections with Rotary members from around the world, the 2022 convention is a chance to discover new horizons.

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

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Changemakers

**ROTARY GOVERNORS' COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
CHAIRMAN, PDG PATRICK COLEMAN**

My wife is one of the most organised people I know. Both her work office and her home office are examples of meticulous order. Evernote has asked her to be on their Beta Team for new projects and programmes. She watches DottoTech videos to increase her productivity and effectiveness for her YouTube presentations. Her enthusiasm for organisation is insatiable! She is so organised that I sometimes call her Monk (after the TV detective who had a place for everything and everything in its place).

I do not suffer from such an ailment...

She has been encouraging me to clean and organise my desk and office. Perhaps "encouraging" is a bit mild, but I have spent hours going through old files, sorting books and clearing my to-do list.

While going through the piles of papers on my desk and folders in the cabinets that have accumulated for the past several years, I rediscovered notes, photos and reminders of Rotary successes and victories of the past.

Making such a change requires a change in practices that kept so many memories hidden in plain sight. It required planning to set aside a bit of time every day to sort and determine what was important and what was clutter. I enjoyed reading and re-reading the reports and notes from the victories of years gone by. I then realised that new challenges bring new opportunities for new victories. My dust

bin filled and was emptied many times over while the good memories encouraged me with my past successes.

Wayde Goodall, in his book *Why Great Men Fall: 15 Winning Strategies to Rise Above It All*, said, "Yesterday's victory doesn't win today's battle."

I needed to make room for new challenges and new opportunities. I needed to prepare for change. Quite honestly, change is not an easy task. It means planning for different activities and different reactions. It may mean new relationships and the relinquishing of past relationships.

Henry Ford is not my favourite person in history, but he did make one very poignant observation: "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." He recognised that the accepted way of manufacturing automobiles was not producing enough product for a growing demand. He took chances. He invested his time and energy. He changed the way the automobile industry operated. Many of the innovations created by Henry Ford's team are still being used today with modifications for various steps in manufacturing process. The vehicle you drive today, even though it may not be a Ford, was brought to you by his efforts. He was a changemaker!

As Rotarians, we are looking at a new Rotary Year. RI President Shekhar Mehta wants Rotarians to Serve to Change Lives! He is urging members

to become more involved in service projects as, “Caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people’s lives, but also our own.”

I know that most Rotarians are accustomed to serving. We do it because it is a part of our DNA. Service Above Self is more than a motto. It is a way of life.

My challenge is...

Don’t be satisfied with yesterday’s victories.

Don’t be satisfied with yesterday’s contributions.

Don’t be satisfied with doing what we have always done!

As I said earlier, change requires planning and planning requires determination. If we really want to be changemakers then we must choose to change ourselves; to decide to do more than we have ever done, to accomplish more than we have ever accomplished and to be more than we have ever been.

This Rotary year I want to write about the people that have pushed, encouraged and challenged us to come this far and beyond. We will look at the changemakers in our Rotary family.

In so doing, we can all... Serve to Change Lives!

Your enhanced online Rotary experience is beginning to unfold. Enjoy a modern design and search functionality that’s fast and easy-to-use.

Easily manage your club’s administration functions. Gain access from your mobile device. Search for Rotarians or clubs to connect instantly. Update your personal profile to control what information is shared with whom.

All of these improvements now funnel into one clear and simple platform.

Welcome to the start of the new

MY ROTARY.

VISIT **MY.ROTARY.ORG** TO SEE YOUR LATEST IMPROVEMENTS.



2021/22 District Governors

Meet the new district leaders who took office on 1 July. We wish them all the best and a wonderful year as they Serve to Change Lives



Victor Mensah
District 9210



Alex Nyaga
District 9212



John Magezi Ndamira and spouse
Barbara, District 9213



Young Kimaro and
spouse Sadikiel,
District 9214



Ian Robertson
District 9350



Madeleine (Maddy)
Webber, District 9370



Stella Anyangwe
District 9400

A GUIDE TO

the updated Rotary Foundation funding model

The amount of money The Rotary Foundation has awarded annually in global grants has more than doubled since the grants were introduced: from \$47.3 million in 2013/14 to \$95.6 million in 2019-20. Yet demand for Global Grants is so high that it has outpaced Annual Fund contributions, which means that not all eligible Global Grant requests are able to receive funding.

To ensure that the Foundation can fund as many Global Grants as possible in the future, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have approved policy changes effective 1 July. The changes will have a big impact on the Foundation's ability to support more large-scale, sustainable projects for years to come. Read on to learn more.

Our funds: a glossary

Annual Fund-SHARE is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international Rotary Foundation activities. Every Rotarian, Every Year is the initiative to encourage support for the Foundation's Annual Fund. It encourages every Rotarian to contribute to the Annual Fund every year. Contributions to Annual Fund-SHARE from Rotary members and other donors are directed into two subfunds: the World Fund and District Designated Funds. Through the SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants.

The **World Fund** provides funding for our highest priority activities around the globe. A percentage of SHARE-designated contributions is applied to the World Fund. The Foundation uses the World Fund to pay for grant and programme opportunities available to all Rotary districts, including PolioPlus, Rotary Peace Centres, Programmes of Scale grants, Global Grants and more.

District Designated Funds (DDF) can be used by districts to pay for Foundation, club and district projects that a club and others in the district choose. Districts may use up to half of their DDF to fund District Grants. The remainder may be used for Global Grants or donated to PolioPlus, the peace centres or another district.

The **Endowment Fund**, financed by cash gifts and bequests left by Rotary members and their families, ensures the long-term viability of the Foundation and its grants and programmes. Spendable earnings from the Endowment enable the Foundation to expand existing activities and underwrite new ones. Contributions are invested in perpetuity: A percentage of the total value of the fund is directed annually to Foundation grants and programmes.



How the model works

What's unchanged

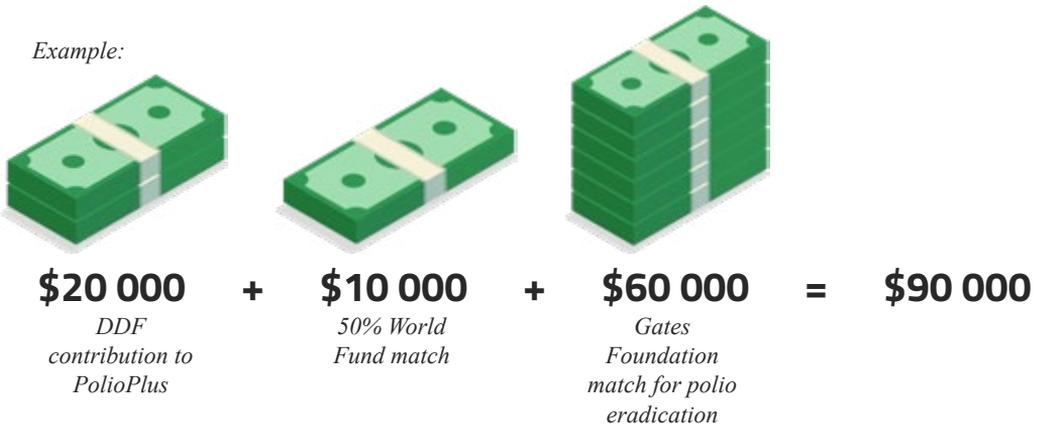
The Foundation's basic funding model will remain the same. All Annual Fund-SHARE contributions are invested for three years, after which they are split between DDF and the World Fund. Earnings from the invested funds will continue to pay many of the Foundation's operating expenses, which include fundraising and general administration. (A portion of investment earnings from the Endowment Fund, designated by the Trustees, also helps to pay operating expenses.)

What's changing

50% MATCH ON DDF CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLIOPLUS

DDF contributions to PolioPlus will now be matched by the World Fund at 50 percent rather than at 100 percent as in the past two years. This will allow \$5 million to be redirected each year, which could be used for other Foundation programs, including Global Grants. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will continue to match 2-to-1 every dollar that Rotary commits to polio eradication, up to \$50 million per year. That makes it vital that we continue to make fundraising for polio eradication a top priority.

Example:



80% MATCH ON DDF APPLIED TO GLOBAL GRANTS

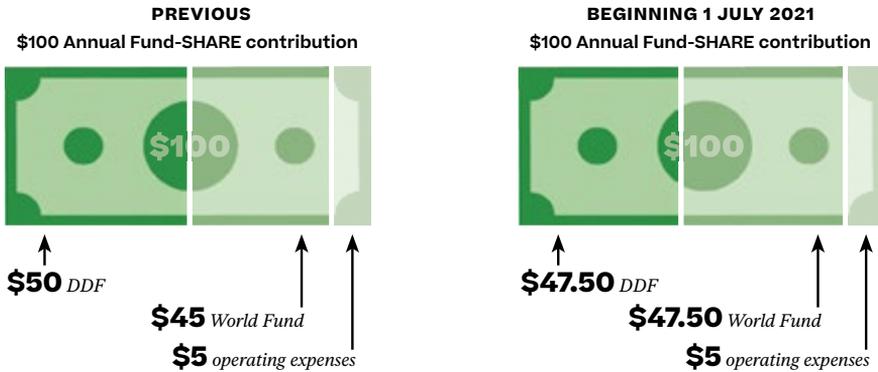
In recent years, the World Fund has been depleted before the Rotary year ends. Because of this, the Foundation has not been able to fund all the eligible Global Grant requests received. To allow greater participation in Global Grants, DDF applied to Global Grants will now be matched by the World Fund at 80 percent rather than at 100 percent as in the past. This change will enable us to fund more grants throughout the year.

Example:



SHARED FUNDING OF OPERATING EXPENSES

Five percent of Annual Fund-SHARE contributions are used to cover Rotary Foundation operating expenses. Previously, 45 percent of the contributions were directed to the World Fund and 50 percent were directed to DDF. For Annual Fund-SHARE contributions received beginning on 1 July 2021 (and allocated beginning on 1 July 2024), the remaining 95 percent will be split equally between DDF and the World Fund.



FIVE-YEAR LIMIT ON DDF ROLLOVER

Donors contribute to the Annual Fund with the expectation that these donations will be used to help communities in the near term. But the amount of DDF rolled over from one year to the next remains high. For example, on 1 July 2020, \$48.8 million in DDF was unused and rolled over from the preceding Rotary year. Starting on 1 July 2026, and at the end of each Rotary year thereafter, DDF amounts that have been held for five years or more must be used. Unused DDF can be applied to the Disaster Response Fund, the Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, the Rotary Peace Centres or the World Fund, at the district’s discretion. If no fund is selected by the district, the rollover will default to the World Fund.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
DDF new	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$50 000
DDF rollover	\$20 000	\$30 000	\$35 000	\$30 000	\$20 000
DDF spent	-\$40 000	-\$45 000	-\$55 000	-\$60 000	-\$65 000
Rollover remaining	\$20 000	\$20 000	\$15 000	\$5 000	\$0
	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$0
		\$5 000	\$5 000	\$5 000	\$5 000
			\$0	\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0
					\$0
<i>Rollover amount remaining after</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 years</i>

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

The Foundation Trustees had already approved several other measures to increase Global Grant funding in 2020/21. Cost-saving measures such as reducing operating costs have enabled an additional \$4.4 million in Global Grants to be funded. And in January 2021, the Foundation Trustees and the RI Board of Directors transferred \$15 million from the Foundation’s operating reserves and the RI budget surplus to the World Fund as a one-time measure to fund additional Global Grants in 2020/21. These two measures made nearly \$20 million more in funding available in 2020/21. Additionally, the match on cash contributions to grants was eliminated effective 1 July 2020, freeing up an expected \$7 million annually in the World Fund.

A conversation with

2021/22 Trustee Chair **JOHN F GERM**

What concerns have you heard from members about the changes?

One of the greatest concerns was the five percent going for operational costs: handling the money, stewardship, programming and everything else we do. Previously, that money had come from the World Fund portion of Annual Fund contributions. But that is not fair. We have administrative costs involved with District Grants too. So effective 1 July 2024, the five percent for operating costs will be split between the World Fund and DDF.

What process did you use to decide on these changes? What other options did you eliminate and why?

Two years ago, we began to realise we needed more money in order to fund the programmes and priorities that Rotary members have identified. We formed a World Fund working group of the Trustees to look at both how to generate more money - the fundraising side - and how to change the way the programme is operating now.

We were trying to look at how to make funding work over a long period of time, so that we aren't going to Rotary members every year with changes. We didn't eliminate a whole lot. We left everything on the table; there was nothing sacred, including looking at staffing and ways to cut operational costs. We looked at our options and which would make the most impact. One option was to leave things just as they were and if we ran out of money, we ran out of money. In 2019/20 we ran out of money in May.

In 2020/21 we were scheduled to run out of money in mid-December. That's not really fair to the Rotarians around the world who are giving money expecting to get a return after it's invested for three years.

What is the most important thing for Rotarians to know about the Foundation's funding model?

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have three responsibilities: one, to raise money; two, to invest money; and three, to spend money. Right now we're about \$17 million per year short. We have to increase funding. It's not just a funding model. We have to have money there in order to invest it and spend it.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Rotary members and others contribute more than \$300 million to the Foundation annually. How can there be a shortfall in the World Fund?

Of the \$300 million contributed in an outright fashion each year, about \$130 million is contributed to the Annual Fund-SHARE. The rest is given for specific purposes including PolioPlus, the Endowment Fund, Global Grants, the Disaster Response Fund, Rotary Peace Centres or donor advised funds.

What are operating expenses?

Operating expenses are expenditures used for fundraising and general administration. These are funded with Annual Fund investment returns, Endowment Fund spendable earnings, five percent of cash contributions for Global Grants and five percent of Annual Fund contributions.

Many donors have heard that "half comes back to the district." Is this true?

After five percent is deducted, half of all Annual Fund-SHARE contributions can be spent as DDF directed to the Rotary Foundation programmes most important to each district.

Will this affect our reputation as a leading charity?

Our stewardship of contributions has made The Rotary Foundation one of the most highly rated NGOs, according to reviews conducted by several independent charity rating agencies.

We have received the top four star rating from Charity Navigator for 13 years straight, which puts us in the top one percent of charities. In fact, the three leading agencies that provide information about NGOs - the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator and GuideStar - changed their model of re-viewing NGOs to emphasise impact.

While it is still important to keep overhead costs reasonable, the agencies say that investments in training, planning, evaluation, internal systems and operations are also critical. You can read the joint letter at overheadmyth.com.



When does the clock start on the rollover of DDF?

Any DDF rolled over from 2020/21 to 2021/22 will be subject to the new five-year limit on rolling over those funds.

When a district applies for a new Global Grant, will it use the current DDF or the oldest rollover?

Funding for new Global Grants will first be deducted from the current year's DDF and then from the oldest rollover year.

Questions?

We encourage you to share this information with anyone who has questions about The Rotary Foundation's funding model. You can also direct funding model questions to rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org.

Apply yourself

As members of the family of Rotary, we are people of purpose, people of influence and people of action. Each year, committees that support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation focus on putting Rotary’s strategic priorities into action, challenging us to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

Would you like to contribute to Rotary’s success?

The following committees are searching for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to serve as members and apply their leadership skills to advance our organisation. Although the number of openings is limited, they offer an opportunity for you to share

your vocational expertise and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee.

All committees correspond via email and on virtual platforms and some involve at least one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Dual members of both Rotary and Rotaract are especially encouraged to apply.

To be considered for committee membership or to recommend someone for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/application2021. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at rotary.org/myrotary and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications are due by 15 August for appointments starting 1 July 2022.

COMMITTEE	FUNCTION	PREREQUISITES	COMMITMENT
Communications	Advises the Board on communication with key audiences	Professional background and experience in a communications-related field	Two positions for three-year terms; annual in-person meeting in Evanston; virtual meetings as needed
Finance	Advises the Board on Rotary’s finances, including budgets, investment policy and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; NGO experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	Two positions for three-year terms; one or two in-person meetings per year in Evanston; virtual meetings as needed
Leadership Development and Training	Advises the Board on Rotary’s leadership training programme for Rotarians, clubs, and districts, with a special emphasis on training for district governors	Must have significant training or education experience with a preference for leadership development	Two positions for three-year terms; annual in-person meeting in Evanston; virtual meetings as needed
Operations Review	Monitors the effectiveness, efficiency, and implementation of operations and all internal systems; advises the Executive Committee on compensation matters; and performs other oversight functions as requested by the Board	Experience in management, leadership development, or financial management, and a thorough knowledge of Rotary’s operations. Appointments will be limited to past RI directors.	One position for a six-year term; two in-person meetings per year in Evanston; virtual meetings as needed



COMMITTEE FUNCTION

PREREQUISITES

COMMITMENT

Rotaract Advises the Board on Rotaract; develops the Rotaract Preconvention programme

Rotarians: Experience working with Rotaract; direct experience as a mentor or Rotaract adviser or district chair. Rotaract alumni are strong candidates.

Rotarians: One position for a three-year term; meets virtually or has annual in-person meeting in Evanston

Rotaractors: Leadership at the club, district or international level. Strong candidates have served as a district Rotaract representative, organised projects or attended a Rotaract Preconvention.

Rotaractors: Three positions for one-year terms; meets virtually or has annual in-person meeting in Evanston

Strategic Planning Reviews Rotary’s strategic plan and associated measures; advises leadership on other matters of long-term significance

10+ years of experience in strategy development, monitoring and implementation, and strong understanding of RI and Foundation programmes and services

One position with a four-year term; one or two in-person meetings per year in Evanston; virtual meetings as needed



Dream Weaver

Our new president, Shekhar Mehta, envisions Rotary's next chapter – and is ready to make it a reality, writes JOHN REZEK





*Shekhar and Rashi Mehta at their home in Kolkata.
Rashi painted the picture Mother and Child, behind her.*

Over the years, I caught glimpses of Shekhar Mehta when he came to One Rotary Centre in Evanston, Illinois, for Board of Directors meetings. I met him formally during one of the days of back-to-back meetings with various staff members that every incoming Rotary president participates in. During the session I attended, he was the most relaxed person in the room, despite being the only one suffering from jet lag. He was alert, patient and asked perceptive questions - not surprising for someone as successful as he is in his professional and philanthropic life. I kept thinking that he was assessing each of us to see how we could be recruited to help him achieve his dreams for Rotary.

I was lucky to have met Shekhar in person back when we could meet in person. We are now well into the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic and, as I write this, India is in the depths of a tragic outbreak. Rotary has had to adjust, but the business of Rotary goes on.

In a normal year, one of the Rotary editors would have travelled to Kolkata, where Shekhar lives with his wife, Rashi. We would have spent time with him, his family members, his friends and fellow Rotarians, exploring how his upbringing and adulthood in India have shaped his perspective on life and on Rotary. This year, of course, no one was able to travel - so instead, we asked the people who know Shekhar best to tell us about him in their own words.

In the following pages, members of Shekhar's family, some of his oldest friends, his personal assistant and his presidential aide share anecdotes and talk about the man they know, in order to help Rotary members everywhere feel that they know him, too. Many of you will, of course, meet him yourselves (virtually, if not in person) over the course of the coming year.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar (D3291), has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based NGO focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50 000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2 500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and some African countries and that is now an India-wide programme.

As you'll read in these pages, he also has been

actively involved in disaster relief work. Among other undertakings, he helped build 500 homes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

At the International Assembly this year, Shekhar talked about how he and some fellow Rotarians decided to start a local version of ShelterBox, a Rotarian-founded organisation based in the UK. "We named it Shelter Kit and put 52 items of daily need in a large trunk," he told the incoming district governors. "Over the last 15 years, in every major disaster in India, Indian Rotarians have volunteered to bring Shelter Kits to areas struck by disasters." The programme already has served about 75 000 people. Shekhar also served on the ShelterBox board of trustees.

And he is also the architect of the TEACH programme, which aims to do nothing less than end illiteracy in India. (You'll read more about this ambitious programme in a future issue.)

Although Shekhar is skilled in the business arts, he prefers to engage his other fluencies. He told me that, after so much studying and reading during his career, he now favours learning by talking to people. He added, "I hate accounting." It all follows his belief that we would do well to think from our hearts as much as our minds.

CHIRAAG MEHTA

Shekhar and Rashi's son

For as long as I can recall, Dad has lived and breathed Rotary. He and my mother have worked hard at both the service and fellowship aspects: planning and attending events, then staying afterward with Rotary friends into the wee hours of innumerable mornings. My sister, Chandni and I would joke that we have an invisible elder sibling: Rotary. And Rotary has given back to our entire family. It gave Chandni and me our earliest friends and it gave us the spirit of service, which Dad has always emphasised to us and in his countless Rotary speeches. Throughout his many leadership roles, he always made us part of his journey. We've been to eye hospitals and polio vaccination camps, participated in disaster relief kit work, discussed every aspect of his literacy mission and attended many conferences. We learned and grew so much as a result.

Rotary has contributed hugely to my parents' growth as individuals. Traveling the world and meeting people from many countries has made them more knowledgeable, self-aware, humble and compassionate. As their son, I feel very privileged to have been a part of it and proud of who they are today.



As part of the TEACH programme to increase literacy rates in India, Mehta often visits schools that are part of the programme, which are known as Happy Schools. Rotary members in India have transformed more than 3000 schools into Happy Schools. The Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar supports this girls' school in Kolkata, Bhowanipur Arya Vidya Mandir, with a daily breakfast for more than 1 000 students.

One of my earliest childhood memories is of poring over Rotary directories and memorising the names and themes of Rotary presidents. Now it is surreal, albeit thoroughly deserved, that my dad is Rotary president himself.

DEEPAK CHOUDHURY

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

Main hoon na: This Hindi phrase, meaning “Don’t worry, I am there for you,” embodies Shekhar’s mindset.

He has been there not only for me, but for many people in Rotary and other parts of his life. He has been this way for as long as I’ve known him - first as his lawyer before he introduced me to Rotary in 2002 and ever since.

With his encyclopaedic knowledge and his wit, he can have you laughing at any moment. But when he sees suffering, he has an unrelenting zeal to eliminate its cause. He dreams about a smiling world and when he wakes up, he works to make it happen.

He is a changemaker who aims to inspire an entire generation to Serve to Change Lives.

I read a few years back that good things happen when you engage in Rotary. Shekhar and Rashi have been instrumental in imbuing this belief in me and others.

RAVI VADLAMANI

**Rotary Club of Guntur, India
2001/02 governor of District 3150**

When I met Shekhar almost 20 years ago, he was busily manning a booth at the Rotary International Convention. His enthusiasm and energy in showcasing his club’s projects were infectious. A project man myself, I was inspired by the work exhibited at the booth. That casual encounter developed into a strong friendship.

Shekhar is a visionary leader. He always sees things others can’t. He envisaged a way to eradicate illiteracy in India by 2025 and designed the TEACH programme (which stands for Teacher support,

E-learning, Adult literacy, Child development, Happy school). He started the Shelter Kit project that now is in the vanguard of disaster relief in India. His Saving Little Hearts project, which provides heart surgeries to thousands of children, along with the more than 15 eye hospitals he helped establish, which have served hundreds of thousands, speaks to the scope of his dreams.

He has an exceptional talent for building teams and driving them to achieve their goals. Shekhar's programmes and ideas may seem larger than life, but he always walks the extra mile to make Rotarians feel at home.

His power of dreaming big is backed up by planning, perseverance and patience. He's an excellent communicator who connects with his audience instantly and can motivate people to move mountains. He is also a family man, ably supported by his spouse, Rashi.

Shekhar's X factor as a leader? Nobody is able to say no to him when he asks for something.

SARLA AND NISHEETH TOTLA

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

We met Shekhar and Rashi about 32 years ago through a mutual friend. Today they are not just our friends, but our family. Shekhar is the first person there in all life's joys and sorrows. He was there for our daughter's marriage, taking on major responsibilities. He was there for the cremation of Sarla's mother. Shekhar also introduced us to the Rotary world, something that's been a gigantic part of our lives.

Shekhar has many extraordinary qualities. He is an unparalleled visionary, a great motivator and an absolute optimist; he's super energetic, enthusiastic, unbelievably kind and sensitive. He's a perfect family person and, above all, a fantastic human being.

NANCY BARBEE

Rotary Club of Maysville, North Carolina 2018-21 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Zone 33

In 2010, to honour Rotary President-elect Kalyan Banerjee, Shekhar stated his vision of opening 100 schools, 100 hospitals, 100 training centres for young women and 100 eye hospitals in India. We were sitting in his home in Kolkata. As I listened, I realised I was in the presence of a visionary.

Since then, he has had a profound influence around the world. Paediatric heart surgeries, eye surgeries, the TEACH programme for literacy and memorandums of understanding signed by governments, NGOs and foundations - all are the results of his vision.

Every time he speaks, he motivates us all to "dream big." Shekhar inspires us to do better, be better, think better and do grand things. No more small projects.

He was thinking big a decade ago and I knew I wanted to be a part of his dream, which now has become reality. Shekhar has inspired others to create positive and sustainable change worldwide.

ANANTHANARAYANAN S "VENKY" VENKATESH

Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam, India 2021-23 Rotary International director

Closest to Shekhar's heart is humanitarian work, the very DNA of Rotary. Conversations with him invariably last late into the night. I have spent hours with him over the last several years and have yet to figure out when he eats or sleeps. He has unending energy, exquisite people skills and inspiring thoughts. His enthusiasm is infectious. I am excited to be serving on the Board during his term as president.

RASHMI SINGH AND MADHULIKA JAIN

Shekhar's sisters

Shekhar, our elder brother, is a dreamer whose next dream is always bigger and more audacious than the previous one. He inherited a love of community service from our parents and his optimism, meticulousness and dedication are the secrets to his success.

His favourite response to us is Main hoon na, which translates as, "Don't worry, I am there for you." In our more than 50 years together, he has always been true to his word.

BRYN STYLES

Rotary Club of Barrie-Huron, Ontario Aide to the president

I first met Shekhar when we sat on Rotary's Board for 2012-13. Our relationship was cordial, but not close. When Shekhar was nominated as 2021/22 Rotary International president, he asked my wife, Randy and me to be aides to Rashi and him. Since then, we have developed a close friendship.

What I have learned to appreciate about Shekhar

is that he listens to advice. He realises that he is not an expert in all things. Since becoming president-nominee, for example, he has developed a greater understanding and appreciation of Rotary’s peace efforts. He has spoken with staff, Rotarians and our peace partners to learn how we can enhance our efforts with the United Nations, our Rotary Peace Centres and our peace fellows, among others.

I would be remiss in not mentioning that Shekhar has a wonderful sense of humour, which allows him to engage with people and put them at ease. He’s an excellent speaker and ensures that everyone feels welcome. Although I know he regrets not being able to attend presidents-elect training seminars where he would have met Rotary club presidents face to face, his passion comes through even in a virtual setting.

RITU KEDIA

Shekhar’s Rotary assistant

Shekhar’s guiding mantra is: “Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth and I want to be a good tenant.” He envisions goals that might seem impossible to others. He can transform his dreams into realistic goals. He is at his best when he works with a team, figuring out a strategy and a timeline. Shekhar excels because of his passion for what he does. He is an amazing orator, persuading others to join his efforts. He is a great planner and digs deep to the grassroots level to ensure that his plan of action will be successful. His involvement is hands-on throughout the process.

Shekhar is a man of his word; if he says he will do something, he will. He helps those in need and teaches them to help others. He is a patient listener and a great mentor - I am lucky to have experienced that first hand. He has taught me how to be comfortable juggling multiple priorities, as he does. He is very kind to the people around him.

KAMAL SANGHVI

**Rotary Club of Dhanbad, India
2019-21 Rotary International director**

People are so accustomed to thinking like everybody else that they are afraid to explore the possibilities of their mind. Shekhar, on the other hand, has an uncanny ability to picture something that isn’t yet there. He sees possibilities where others find dead ends.

He constantly questions the status quo and thinks of improving the Rotary experience, product, or service. Shekhar is one of the most innovative people I have known. He has a solution for every



Top: Mehta’s club has constructed some 7 000 toilets in villages where people don’t have toilets in their homes; here, he and fellow members (from left) Pranay Agarwal and Sandeep Shah help build one. Above: With Past RI Director and Trustee Ashok Mahajan; past District 3142 Governor Chandrashekhar Kolvekar; and Rotary Club of Thane Hills, India, member Anindya Dasgupta, inaugurating a programme to provide computer learning for students with visual impairments.

problem.

Shekhar has a tremendous capacity to overcome obstacles with sheer steadfastness and grit. He will not sleep until he achieves his goals, no matter how hard that may be. His team members do not rest either and Shekhar ensures that each one follows a mantra of excellence.

For him, everything has to be larger than life. Thinking big is not unique but thinking big and



Above: Responding to massive flooding in the state of Andhra Pradesh in 2013 by bringing in Shelter Kits.

Left: Playing carrom with students at the Paresh Nath Vidyalaya school in Kolkata. “They always beat me,” Mehta notes.

achieving the audacious is. Shekhar believes that a dream is not what you see while sleeping; a dream is what won't let you sleep.

He believes that “love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries; humanity cannot survive without them.” He also believes that if you cannot keep your family happy, you cannot keep anybody else happy.

ANAND SUREKA

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar

I've known Shekhar since 2001 and had the privilege of working closely with him during the year of Rotary's centennial in 2005. Here's what I've learned: He is highly focused, he never says no to anything, he is witty and has a great sense of humour, he always delights his audience when he speaks and, more than anything, he is a very good human being and a great friend. At the base of all of his activities is the philosophy that mankind is his

business.

In 2008, Shekhar dreamed of setting up another eye hospital, in Kolkata. He established a partnership with the LV Prasad Eye Institute, one of the best eye care hospitals in the country. He helped raise funds and gave his time, resources and energy to make it self-sustaining.

He always leads from the front. Whenever a disaster struck the nation, I saw Shekhar present. When there were floods in Guntur and Begusarai or earthquakes near the Pakistan border or in Nepal, Shekhar was there, lending his hand for Service Above Self.

He is always looking for ways to do more and explore new areas of service. Whether constructing toilets or setting up a library, he is never short of energy and vision.

KISHORE KUMAR CHERUKUMALLI

Rotary Club of Vizag Elite, India

2009/10 governor of District 3020

I first encountered Shekhar when he spoke at a club in Kolkata in 2008. I was moved by his speech, which was laced with candid and bold ideas. In 2010, I invited him to our district conference; it turned out to be the beginning of a strong friendship. I have also had the privilege of working with him on events and committees and have witnessed his exceptional work ethic. His mission in Rotary is service, service, service.

He has big dreams, but he is also a keen listener who observes, analyses and then implements a plan in order to achieve his objective. He believes strongly in Rotary and practises what he preaches. He respects democracy and carefully weighs every opinion in group decisions. This encourages everyone he works with to give their best. He can precisely identify the strengths of his team members and match them with the Rotary responsibilities best suited to them. In meetings he often breaks the

monotony with anecdotes and humour.

Shekhar once had to address a conference with just a couple of hours to prepare. One of his former employees lived in the town where the event was being held and had invited him to visit. Although he was on an impossible timetable, Shekhar obliged. He has demonstrated the importance of sustaining relationships - as well as a mysterious supply of constant energy, a capacity for 18-hour workdays and an ability to provide instant solutions for any problem.

ANIRUDHA ROYCHOWDHURY

**Rotary Club of Calcutta Mega City
2007/08 governor of District 3291**

Shekhar is a charismatic leader who always exudes positive energy. He's a great motivator and an out-of-the-box thinker. He fosters friendships, generates goodwill and is easily approachable. His never-say-die attitude is one of his greatest assets.



Rashi and Shekhar Mehta with Anu Rampal Vidhawan visiting a child who received cardiac surgery through the Saving Little Hearts project.

Meeting patients at an eye hospital founded by the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar.





The Mehta family: children Chandni and Chiraag; Rashi and Shekhar; and daughter-in-law Geeta.

He is a down-to-earth person; he enjoys simple food from ordinary places and often visits roadside joints to eat spicy Indian snacks.

He and Rashi complement each other: Rashi is calm and rooted to the ground, providing strength for Shekhar to fly high.

CHANDNI MEHTA

Shekhar and Rashi's daughter

Dad has tremendous zeal and enthusiasm for life. He exudes energy and warmth and wins people over with his sense of humour and thoughtfulness. He has an intuitive awareness of inequities and his commitment to service springs from his commitment to fairness and fellowship among people. He ignites enthusiasm in others. He is, most important, a free soul with an undying spirit for life and action.

RAJENDRA "RAJA" SABOO

Rotary Club of Chandigarh, India 1991/92 Rotary International president

I got to know Shekhar through Vijay Bhandari, a past district governor who spoke highly of Shekhar, saying that he had potential to rise within Rotary. My friend Vinay Nevatia, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, told me that if I were to go to Shekhar's apartment I would find that it was full of materials for disaster relief kits and that both Shekhar and his wife, Rashi, would themselves be

busy packing the boxes. I realised Shekhar was a hands-on, service-oriented Rotarian.

When the Boxing Day tsunami hit in 2004, Shekhar's club put together hundreds of kits for people on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which had been devastated. Shekhar travelled thousands of miles, many times, to and from those islands in the Bay of Bengal to deliver kits and help set up shelters. And in 2015, Shekhar packed and organised the kits that were destined for Nepal after a catastrophic earthquake there.

RASHI MEHTA

Shekhar's wife

Shekhar has a deep soul and a large heart. He is not only genuinely kind but also sees kindness in others, and never shies from praising and encouraging others for the smallest acts of goodness. He loves to work with people, is a team guy as much as a leader. His joy, energy and capabilities double up when he works with a team. He is an exceptionally positive and enthusiastic person. I have not seen the thought of failure bogging him down. If anything, he emerges stronger and smarter out of challenging situations. He has trained his mind to see the silver lining in difficult situations and firmly holds on to the faith that we will overcome.

KALYAN BANERJEE**Rotary Club of Vapi, India
2011/12 Rotary International president**

I first met Shekhar 25 years ago. I was a Rotary International director and RI President Herb Brown asked me to convene a South Asia conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, which was in the same district as Kolkata. The district governor had assigned a team of young Rotarians to help me organise the event and one particularly bright, smart and often outspoken young man engaged my attention. He was full of ideas, enthusiasm and innovations and was always willing to learn. That's how I first got to know Shekhar.

Following the success of the Nepal event, Shekhar and I stayed connected. I followed his Rotary career with interest, first as he was elected governor of his district and then, a few years later, as a director. I was always amazed by his ability to get people to support him enthusiastically in whatever task he gave them. He was irrepressible and bustled with

new ideas.

After the Boxing Day tsunami, he travelled to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands - which, though a part of his district, are 1 600 kilometres away in the Indian Ocean. And he later devised an amazing kit, which included a tent, bedding, toiletries, candles, clothing and basic tools. Rotarians from all Indian districts helped with funds and if there was an earthquake in Nepal, as there often are, or a tsunami in Chennai or a cyclone in Odisha or a disaster in Maharashtra, the kits would be there in 24 hours flat. Shekhar himself would be there just a bit later. The UK-based ShelterBox, which was started by Rotarians, is internationally known for providing relief after disasters anywhere in the world. Around 2015, the Rotary Board asked Shekhar to meet with ShelterBox to negotiate a long-term arrangement. Not only was he successful in that, he served as a ShelterBox trustee as well.

Over the years, with his obvious sincerity and commitment to Rotary, Shekhar has elicited amazing trust and devotion from almost every



Mehta's parents, Sumer Chand and Vallabh Mehta, surrounded by their children and grandchildren: (back row) Chirag and Madhulika Jain, Rashi and Shekhar Mehta, and Rashmi and K.K. Singh, (middle row) Geeta and Chiraag Mehta with Shekhar's parents, and (front row) Ishita and Roshni Jain; Shekhar's daughter, Chandni Mehta; and Sejal and Sanjana Singh.



Shekhar Mehta at his desk: "This is where I put all my dreams into action," Mehta says.



Chiraag and Geeta Mehta's son, Veer. "He's our only grandchild so far," Mehta says. "He's the sunshine of our life."

Rotarian he meets, everywhere. I have watched with admiration as he became somewhat of a piper in Rotary and was not surprised when he took on the assignment to help make India fully literate. No one was sure how this could be done. India has a population of 1.3 billion people, about a quarter of whom are not literate. Shekhar connected with the Indian government, joined with all the appropriate NGOs and got Rotary's efforts and sincerity recognised.

This literacy task is as big as making India polio-free. Now, with Shekhar leading Rotary, I'm confident that it will be achieved. And Shekhar will ensure that Rotary is recognised all over the world not only for the service that it does, but for bringing people everywhere together.



This apartment complex, which Mehta developed through his company, Skyline Group, is the largest in the state of Rajasthan.

Do More, Grow More:

A Clarion Call for Changemakers

Imagine this ... Patrick has been a Rotarian for ages. Inducted at the age of 28 into a Rotary club in 1981 was an unusual experience in itself. With Rotary at that time mainly accepting men above 40 years for invitation into clubs, his club was ridiculed as a “rebel club” and took pride in redefining the norms. Three years later, as club president, two women were admitted, well before the 1987 changes that led to Rotary formally accepting women as members of Rotary International. It was a time of change and the leaders in these clubs were Changemakers, writes *DG Victor Mensah of District 9210*.

As the world changes, so does Rotary. Heraclitus is credited with saying, “Change is the only constant in life”, and Paul Harris made the call for change declaring that “this is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again”. With the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps the need for change has never been stronger. We need to change quickly, adapt our existing structures and take on new challenges.

While Rotary has changed according to the vicissitudes of life, its core mandate hasn't. The concepts of *Service Above Self* and *One Profits Most Who Serves Best* have remained constant. In both these, the common denominator is service. If change is urgently required to meet the new challenges of this world and service is our ever constant mandate, then it is apt that our Rotary theme is *Serve to Change Lives*. In this theme, our mandate is service and the outcome we seek is to change the lives of people in our community, including Rotary club members.

So how do we serve to change lives? RI President Shekher Metha has asked that we be Changemakers and challenged us to do more and grow more this Rotary year. As it is up to us in the trenches to action this, I suggest five ways we can Do More and five areas in which we can Grow More.

FIVE WAYS TO DO MORE

1. More projects and community engagement

In District 9210, more than 50 percent of clubs are not running a single Global Grant project. More than 30 percent of clubs are not running any community project on their own either and some clubs have no clear definition of who their community really is. And other districts are in similar positions. It is time to change this. Let each club quickly define its community, conduct a needs assessments and just START a project!

2. More fellowship in clubs and with others

Fellowship is the first core value of Rotary. We

are however losing the art of fellowship in our clubs. With the pandemic, some clubs have not met in a year. Without fellowship - virtual or physical or hybrid - we lose the spirit of Rotary. As changemakers, we must ‘fellowship’ more. Our weekly meetings must be more fun and engaging. I encourage clubs to include other clubs. You and your members can ‘invade’ their meetings or invite other clubs for a fellowship. You can plan social events with other Rotary and Rotaract clubs - the idea is to make your meetings fun!

3. Do something new you have not done before

Dream it, do it! The age of “we have never done that before in this club” should be declared over! Discuss and find interesting and ‘crazy’ things to do outside what you have always done. Explore each new idea on its merits and find that one positive reason to merit a rethink of why a new idea should not be explored.

4. Provide more professional experiences for members

Give something back to our members for joining and still being members of your club. Hold more professional trainings and presentations for the benefit of members and their vocations. Share Rotary professional expertise with the communities and potential members. Organise more events that showcase the talents and skills of your members. Focus on great speakers at your DISCON. Pair new members with others in their professions within or outside your club for linkages and mentorship and consider holding career sessions with Rotaractors and other young professionals in the community.

5. Give more to TRF

As at February 2021, almost 25 percent of clubs in D9210 had given nothing to the Rotary Foundation and the situation is the same or worse in many districts across Africa. In the same vain, several clubs are not accessing funds from the Rotary Foundation – some because they feel they have not given enough (although not a necessary prerequisite for Global Grant funding)

to merit it. We must push for change here. Simply put, we must aim for 100 percent of all clubs in the district and across Africa giving something in the year to the Foundation. This comes back to help us support more projects in our communities.

FIVE WAYS TO GROW MORE

1. Grow more in the public’s eye

It is time to stop the excuses. There is no “new logo” – there is only one correct logo! Each club must adopt and use the proper and consistent branding in all its materials. Each club must take action to be front and centre in community dialogues and events. They must know, feel and remember your Rotary club as a key stakeholder in the community. Do this by participating in and mounting booths at local expos, projects fairs, fêtes and events. To achieve more prominent signage for your projects, first consider going back to all the projects you have completed in the community over the past 10 years and replacing the old signage with the correct logo. These easy efforts can lead to quick wins and a reconnection with your communities.

2. New members, now!

There must be Rotary Presence in every town in Africa! The clarion call is - Each One Bring One and Maintain All. We should acknowledge everyone who brings in at least one member. Furthermore, I challenge you that we must aim for every member to bring in five more members and then... to cast the net wider! Those five new members don’t have to be in your own club, country or even district. Just make it “Gimme 5!” across Africa. District Governors have committed to acknowledging and awarding every member who brings in at least five people into Rotary anywhere! Join the wagon and get this fire started!

3. Grow more new club forms

It is time to explore and set-up new club forms. We have heard of the various types of clubs, such as E-Clubs, satellite clubs, passport clubs, family clubs, corporate clubs and caused-based clubs. Each district

must ensure that new clubs formed include some of these. The beauty is that you can experiment with and create new types of clubs that mix these new types or create your own. You have a blank canvas in front of you and we will celebrate your Changemaker ideas!

4. More partnerships

It is time to make some changes in the way we partner with others. We must improve partnerships with other like-minded organisations, with corporate organisations and with their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes. If your club is not already holding at least one annual joint event or project with other service clubs (such as Toastmasters, Lions, Round Table, JCI) in your community, then be a Changemaker and start now.

5. Let DEI be the corner stone for all our work.

There must be diversity in gender, race, age, professions and persons with disabilities in all Rotary and Rotaract clubs. This must reflect in the way we plan for our meetings and events and the equitable opportunities we give to all. We must challenge ourselves to be more mindful in this area.

There is no better time to be a Changemaker

Incoming club leaders face great challenges, but these come with great opportunities. It will be challenging to continue navigating the new club experience in this COVID-19 and lockdown era.

Paul Harris said that “Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time”. Yes, this is the opportunity to have conversations that either were too difficult to have or propose the changes needed for transformation of your clubs and our communities. Now, ‘Rotarian Patrick’ at the beginning of this article was fictional, but his story and experiences remain true and you can find that in your clubs. If not, create a legacy so that future generations can tell a story of their Changemaker history. There is no better time to think of yourself as a Changemaker and to exemplify it – but don’t think too much, just do it!



EMAIL YOUR ROTARY-RELATED ARTICLES & PHOTOS

EMAIL ROTARY, ROTARACT AND INTERACT CONTENT TO ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA



Project Embrace was a collaborative effort between the Southern Cluster of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One and the Interact Club of Port Alfred High School.

Project Embrace

Many children who are victims of violence and sexual abuse don't have access to the little things that can help them feel cleaner and more secure after their traumatic experience. All too often the little victims are left without even underwear as theirs is taken for forensic testing, writes *Past President Hans Hon of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370)*.

The Rotary E-Club of South Africa One was made aware of this need by a member of the South African Police Service. There are two rooms, one at the police station and the other at the CID office, where police officers in Port Alfred interview children who are victims of violent crime, primarily sexual offences. The E-club was asked to help create a more comforting environment in these rooms.

While the rooms had been painted with child-friendly images, they were empty. The club members felt that this was not an environment where children could feel safe expressing the horrors of their trauma.

Funds were collected from member donations

and by raffling of a donated bicycle. The raffle sales were extremely brisk and Sheena Louca, a past president of the Interact Club of Port Alfred High School, and the members collected almost R1 000 during the first hour!

Once enough funds had been raised, Rotarian Mike Millard and the members purchased bean bags, toys, puzzles, blankets, a bookshelf, table and chairs for Project Embrace.

The Interactors of the Port Alfred High School Interact Club collected clothing which was sorted according to age and sizes and packed in plastic bags. The Interactors also sponsored colouring-in books and crayons for the children.



Rotarians were among the 150 volunteers who arrived for the clean up campaign in Diepsloot.

Community clean up

Last year, the Rotary Club of Randburg (D9400) helped with an eco-brick classroom building project at Khensani's Collection, an organisation that provides extra lessons to children from schools in Diepsloot.

A 20-seater classroom was built using 16 000 eco-bricks and consequently eliminating 8.3 tons of plastic litter from the surrounding environment. This project created 15 temporary jobs and training for 20 women and youth from the community.

Earthly Touch Foundation NPC partnered with the Randburg club to spearhead the eco-brick movement. The foundation project team, which was led by Josephine Sidambe, of the Randburg club, and Juliet Badry Awad, of the The Rotary Satellite Club of Sandton Central (a satellite of the Rotary Club of Kyalami), held its first eco-brick and clean up event in April at Khensani's Collection. This project will build the Khensani Earthly Touch Eco Centre, which will have three new classrooms, a library, toilets, gym and a shop.

Diana Musara, the president-elect of the Randburg club, is a director at both Khensani's Collection NPC and Earthly Touch Foundation NPC. She mobilised communities and organisations to join the initiative and support this worthy cause.

Sybille Essmann of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) heard of the project and helped encourage more schools to get involved.

She also introduced Claudio Marangonic, an educator at St David's Marist Brothers, and his wife Jane, who teaches at St Mary's, to the project. The couple actively encouraged their learners to make eco-bricks in support of the project.

The event brought together 150 volunteers from Rotary clubs, the Diepsloot community, schools, business and other NGOs. Some volunteers helped with cleaning up and making eco-bricks, while others got involved in painting and making eco-bins. Parents of the Khensani learners helped by providing catering services during the day.



Online Opportunities

By Janey Ball, Rotary Club of Newlands (D9350)

Monday 3 May. An anxious Rotary Zoom host, for the umpteenth time, checked her time-zone calculations. Was Minnesota really GMT+5? Minneapolis, too? And was Cape Town GMT-2? And had she given the speaker for the Rotary meeting later that day the correct start time?

She had. And so it was that DG Tom Gump (D5950, Minneapolis) logged on at 11h30 in Minnesota and spoke at 18h30 in Cape Town. His topic? *Innovations for Growing Rotary Membership*. Tom could just as well have been speaking on growing Zoom meeting

attendance for, as depicted above, Rotarians and Rotaractors from across the world logged in to hear him. Tom's formula for membership success is well tried-and-tested in his own district and entails:

- a) making membership the number one priority of clubs
- b) having a clear membership strategy and
- c) making sure that every member understands that they need to be an active part of the membership drive in the club — Each One, Bring One!

Log in to MyRotary and make use of the many tools available to help Rotarians achieve these goals.

Coming up...

Submit your Rotary club or district events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za. Please include 'calendar' in the subject

July

10 JULY

Zoom 2021 AGM and Annual Governors' Council of Southern Africa (COSA) conference will be on Saturday 10th July.

CONTACT: geraldinehnicol@gmail.com

16-18 JULY

ZUURBERG WEEKEND hosted by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West (D9370). A bench overlooking the Addo Park will be unveiled in memory of PDG Mel Smethurst and a tree planting held to celebrate the seventh Area of Focus. Cost: R2 100/person, (includes two nights'

accommodation, meals, goody bag, entertainment and treasure hunt).

CONTACT: Angela Newton on 072 9400422 or email: info@organicalchemy.co.za

30 JULY - 1 AUGUST

YARDS OF ART EXHIBITION a project by the Rotary Club of Sandton (D9400) at Victoria Yards, 16 Viljoen Street, Lorentzville. Reception and official opening: 30 July, 5-8pm. Exhibition: 31 July to 1 August 9am - 5pm. A commission on all art sales will support projects of the Rotary Club of Sandton.

CONTACT: Val at yardsofartfestival@gmail.com



Pinnacle Point was one of the courses used during the four-day fundraising event.

Golfers with a cause

The 21st annual charity golf event was held by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) in May. The four-day event was played on five different golf courses.

The day originated 21 years ago when the president of the Rotary Club of Knysna Des Wearne and Jeff Clause, the director of golf, met at the newly opened Sparrebosch Championship Golf Course and decided to invite the golfers playing in a fledgling Rotary fundraising event on Saturday at Knysna Golf Club to play on Sunday at Sparrebosch.

Today the event is held at Pinnacle Point, Pezula (formerly Sparrebosch), Simola, Knysna Golf Club and Goose Valley and is played over four days starting Thursday. Since the COVID-19 lockdown resulted in the event being cancelled in 2020, the organisers canvassed previous guests and received an overwhelming thumbs up to stage the event this year. A whopping 235 golfers booked and played 794 rounds of golf. Every day, each of the courses were booked out. The weather played its part except for a period on Friday morning and a short shower on Saturday afternoon. Sunday presented the golfers with perfect weather.

The event raised funds for the many and varied projects of the Rotary club. Some recent examples include the extensive and comprehensive lockdown feeding scheme where more than R3.5 million was spent on vouchers, individual food parcels and supplies to soup kitchens in greater Knysna. The club also spent almost R1 million on a portable X-Ray unit that was urgently needed by the Knysna Provincial Hospital. Another large amount was used for enlarging the Hospice unit at the same hospital.

Currently, the club is actively exploring funding options for a project of the Knysna Education Trust (KET) to enable it to give approximately 3 500 children access to quality early childhood development facilities by 2025.



Louise Pannell with the event schedule of play.



Rotarians Peter Klews and Nico du Plessis.



Crafty Global Grant

A project to provide youth with the knowledge and tools to create traditional crafts that are significant to their cultural identities was launched by the Rotary Club of Durban (D9370).

The Global Grant was undertaken in partnership with the Rotary Club of Brunswick Coastal (D7780, USA) and has trained 80 people in pottery, leatherwork and beadwork.

The project was due to have commenced in March 2020 and to run for a year. However, due to COVID-19, it was extended to run until the end of May 2021. The training took place at the Phansi Museum in Glenwood, Durban,

The participants who showed a great interest in learning traditional arts were chosen from about 10 under-resourced schools in the rural areas around Durban.

Exhibitions of their work have been held at the Phansi Ubuntu Art Museum, the Clermont Cultural Festival and the Bluff Cultural Festival and achieved great acclaim. Some of it was sold and it's envisaged that, in time, about 500 people will earn a living this way.

On completion of the project, the eighty trained participants will return to their areas and train others in traditional crafts for years to come.



AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400) celebrated its centennial anniversary during the African Centennial Celebrations that were held from 23 to 25 April. A documentary about the club was made and is available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzAl6GWEATk&t=15s>. During the centennial celebration the club launched its centennial project to change the face of Education in Africa, by addressing malnutrition in the Early Childhood Development stages. Rotarian Nick Wood raised more than R33 000 for the project by swimming from Robben Island to Blouberg on 7 April and the Rotary Club of Hamburg International (D5130) donated 1 000 Euros towards the project. The project will be implemented at an early childhood development centre (ECD) in Muldersdrift and will focus on improving the nutrition of the children at the centre. The successful model will be replicated at more ECD centres.



The Rotary Club of Durban Clairwood Park (D9370) and its partners gave TAFTA a donation of toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, face cloths, masks, sanitary towels and toilet rolls for its residents at John Conradie House. At the presentation are PP Gona Naidoo, President Sidney Govindsamy, Kamala Naidoo, Debbie Reddy and Camie Moodley



In Knysna, teamwork does more than make the dream work. The management and staff of Supa Quick Knysna recently partnered with the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) to help a pre-school in Concordia. Magdalene Moos, who runs the pre-school, grows the vegetables used in the school's feeding scheme on a very steep slope. She had used old tyres to terrace the slope, but needed more tyres to finish the project. Supa Quick agreed to help and donated 60 used tyres and the use of a trailer to transport them to Concordia. Phil Golson of Knysna Hope lent the members a vehicle to tow the trailer. The Rotary club also gave Magdalene some seedlings and compost for the garden.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400), through the hard work of its member Debi Lilford, distributed DUPLO and LEGO from Care for Education and the Lego Foundation to Siloe School for Partially Sighted and the Blind and Kabosadi Disability Centre. The club also provided training in the effective use of the building blocks.



For the last few years, the Rotary club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) has received a donation of 500 blankets from an anonymous sponsor. The only condition attached to the donation was that the club matches the donation with another 500 blankets. To achieve this, neighbouring Rotary clubs and organisations in the Vaal area were asked to help. As a result the club has been able to give a thousand blankets to deserving organisations in the area. With part of the donation are PP Petro Bestor and Annelize Niewhout, a representative of Helplift NG Driehoek Church.



Due to HIV, Tuberculosis and an unemployment rate of 30 percent following the closure of mines, the community of Klerksdorp was already facing serious challenges before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The pandemic has wiped out many more economic activities in and around Klerksdorp and as a result, food security has become a priority. The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) partnered with the local Catholic Church and formed the Gardening Project, a feeding scheme where crops are cultivated and the produce is given to the volunteers or sold and reinvested in the project. The project has been successfully implemented and local communities are already reaping the rewards.



After a two year gap because of COVID-19, the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370) and the Kingsmead Mynahs were finally able to hold their golf day. With perfect weather and a full field of 120 golfers, the day got off to a great start. The Durban Data/Olivetti team won first prize with 90 points. The event raised R76 000 for the club and Kingsmead Mynas. Getting “into the swing” of things are Past President Chris Owen, President Geoff Dawson and Rotarian Su Boertje with John Arthur and Colin Chater of Kingsmead Mynahs.

The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) delivered gardening equipment to Duduetsang Primary School. This project will teach families how to create self-sustainable vegetable gardens. They are taught what to plant and succession planting. With a representative from the school are PDG Jaco and Lisa Stander.



NEW PRESIDENTS



Andrew Killick
Empangeni, 9370



Nancy Nhliziyo
Port Elizabeth, 9370



Sarah Ndalama
Mosi oa Tunya
Livingstone, 9210



Chris Somerai
Masvingo, 9210



Mary Ncube
Maluba, 9210



Kafula Mwiche
Lusaka, 9210



Daniel Dunga
Limbe, 9210



Jason Mulaisho
Kusinta, 9210



Harriet Sikasula
Kitwe North, 9210



Thokozani Joseph Mwale
Kabwe, 9210



Tina Matoushaya
Highlands, 9210



Chris Mbanga
Harare West, 9210



Rumbidza Tizora
Harare The Bridge, 9210



Viola Dondo
Harare Dawn, 9210



Luxon Zembe
Harare City, 9210



Rutendo Mawoyo
Harare Central, 9210



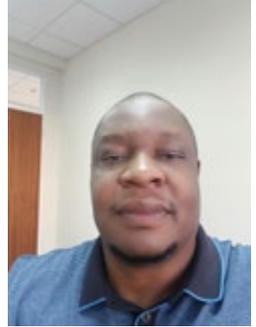
Max Mgangira
Msasa, 9210



Dorothy Nyika
Chitungwiza, 9210



Zelu Frederich Nyirenda
Chilanga, 9210



Richard Dilawo
Bwaila-Lilongwe, 9210



Mercy Moyo
Bulawayo South, 9210



Phil Mlambo
Borrowdale Brooke, 9210



Derrick Abraham Katusha
Belmont, 9210



Maria Nelia Manaca
Beira, 9210



Sue Kilkie
Westville, 9370



Precious Mokoena
Phalaborwa, 9400



Debbie Smuts
Grahamstown Sunset, 9370



Hennah Soorjee
Gately, 9370 (Rotaract)



NEW PRESIDENTS FEATURE
EMAIL: ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA



WALL OF HONOUR



Fulvio Pace received the Rotary Theme of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370).



Andrew Killick was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370).



Carol Alexander is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Stephen Howard is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth (D9370).



Loshni Pillay is a new member of the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400).



Minenhle Majola is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Charmaine and Ragu Govender are new members of the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400).



Angela Long was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Helen Stone received a Sapphire Pin from the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Craig Neave is a new member of the Rotary Club of Kimberley South (D9370).



Avril Allan is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).

To celebrate your member's accomplishments and welcome new members email photos and details to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

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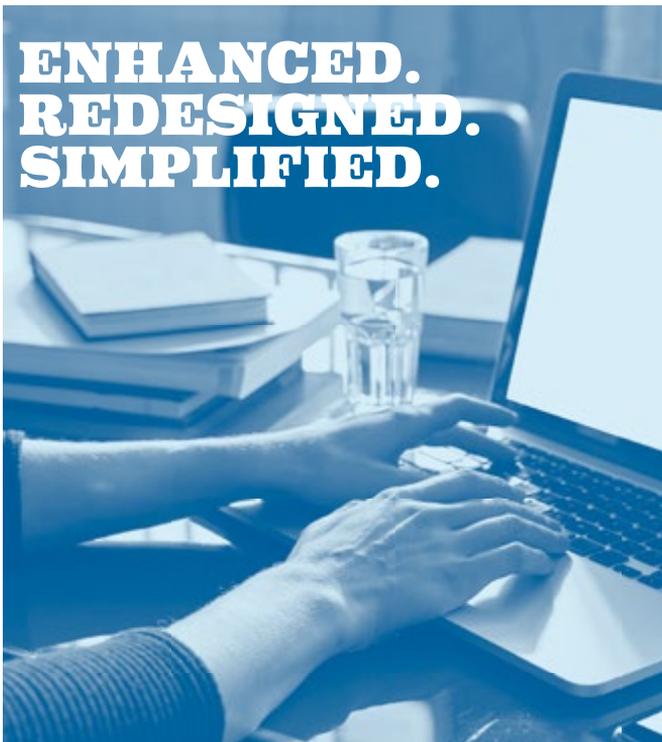
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