

THE FOUNTAIN

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EMPOWERING GIRLS IN TODAYS DIGITAL WORLD (HYBRID-WEBINAR)



Cebu Fuente
Rotary
Club



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

“You Don't Imagine Yesterday, You Imagine Tomorrow”
RI President Jennifer Jones



JENNIFER JONES
Rotary International President



LILO I. ALIÑO
District Governor



ANGEL "JONG" G. FERNANDEZ
District Secretary



RAYMOND ALFAR
Assistant Governor Area 1D

Cebu Fuente
Rotary
Club



IMAGINE
ROTARY

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Design and Production



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Precious Metal Trading



ALFIE M. TORRES
BPO Operations Management



ARCH. MANUEL L. TORRES JR
Roof Manufacturing



PATRICK L. YARED
Resto Bar Management



16th General Membership Meeting

SM Bowling Center, Cebu City | February 20, 2023

Area of Focus: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

IMAGINE
ROTARY

Vol. 41, No. 16

Programme



Hosted by:
PP JUN TORRES
Treasurer

INVOCATION

For your mercy's sake, O God, deal with each of us in this hour. We bring before you the needs of this world, the needs of our neighbors, and our personal needs. Let the miracle of your grace happen, here and now, with each of us, as we come before you, humbly, in silent prayer. Let us pray.

PART 1

Call to Order	JOMAR PONCE President-Elect
Invocation	AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION
Philippine Anthem	AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION
The Rotary Hymn	AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION
Four Way Test and Objects of Rotary	EMMIE TESALONA Past President
Introduction of Rotarians Spouses, Visiting Rotarians Rotaractors Guest	JESSE BARING Past President

PART 2

Fellowship Bowling

PART 3

Secretary's Report	KRISTOFFER LLEGUNAS Secretary
Director's Report	CLUB DIRECTORS
President's Time	JOMAR PONCE President-Elect
Other matters	
Adjournment	JOMAR PONCE President-Elect

...Fellowship Continues...

Quote for the Week

"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced" - Soren Kierkegaard



President's Message



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Dear RCCF Family,

It is with great pride that I express my gratefulness to all RCCF Rotarians who participated in and supported the Area 1 Rotary Week Celebration. While the strength of our bond as a family is already beyond question, it is equally important that we manifest our sense of friendship and fellowship with our fellow Rotarians in District 3860.

Indeed, I am proud that RCCF has shown a keen sense of athleticism and sportsmanship. It may have been a competition, regardless of the want in skills and practice, our RCCF Rotarians and Rotaractors were steadfast in displaying confidence and determination. So, my warmest congratulations to our RCCF athletes!

It is my fervent hope that our unified commemoration of the RCCF ideals brings us more opportunities to Imagine Rotary and bring to fore our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Let's do continue to bring good to the world.

고맙습니다
Gomabseubnida

Very truly yours,


POULY JANG
President, RY 2022 - 2023



From Secretary's Desk



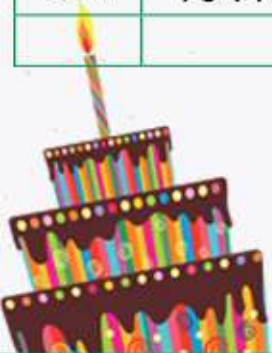
KRISTOFFER LLEGUNAS
Secretary, RY 2022 - 2023

ATTENDANCE

	ROTARY ID #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	13th 12/12	14th 01/09	15th 01/30	16th 02/13	Perfect Attendance
1.	6726464	Abad	Jose Alfonso	✓				
2.	6581939	Abarintos	Conrado	✓				
3.	8794289	Abay-Abay	Emman Reyan	✓				
4.	9330462	Amago IV	Atty. Bernardino	✓		✓		
5.	6218949	Amores	Maricel	✓	✓	✓		
6.	11227470	Amores	Atty. Ernesto Miguel	✓	✓	✓		
7.	3362897	Barba	Richard	✓	✓			
8.	6207695	Baring	Engr. Jesselito	✓		✓		
9.	1166426	Calalang	Emmanuel	✓	✓			
10.	10954392	Deiparine	Atty. Sydrick Jose Andrei	✓	✓			
11.	11227514	Elendrino	Glenford					
12.	2036342	Espina	Arch. Joseph Michael	✓	✓	✓		
13.	5983997	Filipino	Rogelio					
14.	11614251	Gratones	Regie			✓		
15.	10411469	Icamen	Francis Edhilson	✓	✓			
16.	8944393	Jang	Pouly	✓		✓		
17.	3516557	Karamihan	Dave John	✓				
18.	8599266	Kaufmann	Marina					
19.	9804883	Llegunas	Kristoffer	✓	✓	✓		
20.	8794288	Lomanta	Atty. Lolita	✓				
21.	11313408	Maglasang	Anna Mae	✓	✓	RW		
22.	10709899	Ong	Jason			✓		
23.	6726443	Pasion	Ma. Consolacion					
24.	10410040	Ponce	Jose Marie	✓	✓	✓		
25.	8599268	Rimaz	Ma. Dolores	✓				
26.	5476140	San Pedro	Luz Filipinas					
27.	8794286	Senerpida	Dr. Alain	✓	✓	✓		
28.	11103868	Spaller	Herminia					
29.	3264107	Solomon	Mary Anne	✓		RW		
30.	8543450	Sulay	Kendrick					
31.	9330558	Tesalona	Emmanuel	✓	✓			
32.	11227493	Torres	Alfie					
33.	5176670	Torres	Arch. Manuel, Jr.	✓	✓	✓		
34.	10410033	Yared	Patrick	✓	✓	RW		
TOTAL ATTENDEES				24	14	15		

BIRTHDAYS

February 02 Sps. Ninna Sulay February 15 Atty. Ernesto Amores
 February 03 Sps. Paul Jason Spaller February 17 PP Marina Kaufmann
 February 07 Rtn. Tootsie Spaller February 18 Sps. Tess Tesalona



Empowering girls is about more than creating equity

Recently, I spent time in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda. As the “settlement” in its name suggests, the people living there are free to move around and integrate as best they can — one thing that makes the place unique.

I had a chance to play soccer with boys and girls from about a dozen nations and talk with women who had fled areas of conflict. It was a tapestry of human experience shared through both laughter and tears.

As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls’ education. Most don’t get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriage to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity — sometimes, it’s about health or education. Other times it’s about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it’s always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women, and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls menstrual hygiene products. Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are

making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference.

Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily. But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine, and wherever we can inspire others.

As you do so, it’s important to provide information that helps our Rotary family connect with others who are implementing activities in their regions, as well as across the world. Let’s share our successes and learn from one another — then proudly tell our stories to a larger audience.

These are exciting times in Rotary, and the world is taking notice. As we work to empower women and girls to step into their full potential, we create new pathways for membership growth and greater collaboration with partners to create positive, lasting change. Thank you for your continued action in this vital effort.

JENNIFER JONES

President, Rotary International



Jones and Zimbabwean actor Sibongile Mlambo watch a soccer match in Nakivale settlement. It’s part of an effort to build community among residents of different nationalities.

Photograph by Esther Ruth Mbabazi



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

A global force for peace

One of the fascinating things about Rotary is that we are many things at once. We are a service organization based on action. We are also a professional and community networking group, not to mention a place to find friendship and fun.

And, when you stop to think about it, you and I are also part of a peace organization. I saw this in 2013 when I represented Rotary at an international symposium on advancing a peaceful democratic transition for Myanmar. Despite recent setbacks, the fact that Rotary was at the table demonstrates that the world sees us as peacebuilders who are not deterred by the most difficult issues.

How did we earn this reputation? Through literacy projects that help people expand their minds and viewpoints. And through water, sanitation, and hygiene projects that create common ground for communities in conflict. The Rotary Action Group for Peace promotes hands-on service projects, and our annual international conventions unite thousands in a celebration of global harmony.

Perhaps the most visible face of this cause is the Rotary Peace Centers program, now in its 21st year. Today, more than 1,600 Rotary Peace Fellows are advancing the cause of peace in more than 140 countries. On 1 February, we open applications for the next generation of peace fellows. Encourage your local

peacebuilders to learn about Rotary and apply for this unique fellowship.

And soon, we'll be recruiting fellows for a new peace center in the Middle East and North Africa region as we begin working this year with a recently selected partner university. Made possible by a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, the addition of this center furthers Rotary's vision of peacemaking in action.

As we celebrate Rotary's 118th anniversary and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we can be proud of the many ways Rotary promotes peace. Without The Rotary Foundation, and your support of it, none of that would be possible.

You can directly support this work through the Foundation by visiting rotary.org/donate and selecting the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus. I also encourage you to contribute to the Ian and Juliet Riseley Endowed Fund in The Rotary Foundation to support peace projects.

If Paul Harris could see us now, he would be amazed by the astonishing growth of the little club he founded in 1905 and the global force for good — and peace — that Rotary is today.

IAN H.S. RISELEY
Foundation trustee chair

Illustration by Viktor Miller Gausa

GENERAL OFFICERS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, 2022-23

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Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada

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South Queensferry, Scotland

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Yoshio Sato
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GENERAL SECRETARY
John Hewko
Kyiv, Ukraine

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Sandringham, Australia

CHAIR-ELECT
Barry Rassin
East Nassau, Bahamas

VICE CHAIR
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Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA

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Guatemala Sur, Guatemala

Marcelo Demétrio Haick
Santos-Praia, Brazil

Martha Peak Helman
Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA

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Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany

Hsiu-Ming Lin
Taipei Tungteh, Taiwan

Mark Daniel Maloney
Decatur, Alabama, USA

Geeta K. Manek
Muthaiga, Kenya

Aziz Memon
Karachi, Pakistan

Akira Miki
Himeji, Japan

Bharat S. Pandya
Borivli, India

Greg E. Podd
Evergreen, Colorado, USA

Dean Rohrs
Langley Central, British Columbia, Canada

GENERAL SECRETARY
John Hewko
Kyiv, Ukraine





MEETING HOSTING RY 2022 - 2023

<p>1.) AUGUST 2022</p>	<p>5.) DECEMBER 2022</p>	<p>9.) APRIL 2023</p>
<p>Membership And New Club Development Month</p>	<p>Area Of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment Month</p>	<p>Area Of Focus: Maternal and Child Health Month</p>
<p>Atty. Sydrick G. Deiparine Atty. Ernesto Miguel B. Amores</p>	<p>Jose Marie Ponce Emman Reyhan C. Abay-abay Jose Alfonso C. Abad</p>	<p>Dr. Alain O. Senerpida Richard G. Barba Emmanuel C. Calalang</p>
<p>2.) SEPTEMBER 2022</p>	<p>6.) JANUARY 2023</p>	<p>10.) MAY 2023</p>
<p>Area Of Focus: Basic Education and Literacy Month</p>	<p>Vocational Service Month</p>	<p>Youth Service Month</p>
<p>Jason Go Kiang Kee Ong Herminia Fernandez Spaller Emmanuel P. Tesalona</p>	<p>Atty. Ernesto Miguel B. Amores Dr. Maricel Amores Alfie M. Torres</p>	<p>Atty. Lolita L. Lomanta Rotaract Club of Cebu Fuente Combased, USC & UV</p>
<p>3.) OCTOBER 2022</p>	<p>7.) FEBRUARY 2023</p>	<p>11.) JUNE 2023</p>
<p>Area Of Focus: Community Economic Development Month</p>	<p>Area Of Focus: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month</p>	<p>Rotary Fellowships Month</p>
<p>Mary Anne A. Solomon Kristoffer Llegunas Maria Dolores Rimaz</p>	<p>Arch. Manuel L. Torres Jr Marina Kaufmann Kendrick S. Sulay Anna Maglasang</p>	<p>Conrado M. Abarintos Ma. Consolacion Abad Pasion Lulu San Pedro Francis Icamen</p>
<p>4.) NOVEMBER 2022</p>	<p>8.) MARCH 2023</p>	<p>Dates to Remember</p>
<p>The Rotary Foundation Month</p>	<p>Area Of Focus: Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene Month</p>	<p>Holy Week: April 2-8, 2023</p>
<p>Atty. Bernardino T. Amago IV Arch. Joseph Michael P. Espina Glenford Elendrino</p>	<p>Engr. Jesselito V. Baring Patrick L. Yared Dave John B. Karamihan Regie Gratones</p>	<p>World Rotaract Week: March 13-19, 2023 Rotary's Anniversary: February 23, 2023</p>

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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?

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

February 2023 Events Around the World

CALENDAR

February events



A FOODIE'S PARADISE

Event: Taste of Ridgefield

Host: Rotary Club of Ridgefield, Connecticut

What it benefits: The club's community grants program

Date: 5 February

At this Sunday event, attendees can sample bites from more than two dozen local eateries and pair them with tastes of wine. The culinary gathering is held at a church, with live music by the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$55 at the door, with a discount for advance online purchases. The winner of a raffle receives a \$100 gift card that can be used at participating restaurants.

LOVE TO RUN?

Event: Cupid Shuffle

Host: Rotary Club of Clemson Sunrise, South Carolina

What it benefits: Local charities

Date: 11 February

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, this 5K run/walk through the streets of Clemson is a festive early celebration of Valentine's Day. The club's own Cupid leads the way after guiding participants in a pre-race warm-up dance at Gateway Park. Awards are given to runners in several age categories, and chocolate will be waiting at the finish line.

ICE ICE BABY

Event: Winter Plunge

Host: Rotary Club of Forest Lake, Minnesota

What it benefits: Local charities

Date: 18 February

This annual cold-weather dip in one of Minnesota's 10,000-plus lakes invites participants to form teams to raise money for their nonprofit of choice.

ONE FISH, TWO FISH

Event: Great Meredith Ice Fishing Derby

Host: Rotary Club of Meredith, New Hampshire

What it benefits: Local projects and charities

Dates: 11-12 February

In its 44th year, this two-day derby held on Lake Winnepesaukee lures ice fishers from around the country with more than \$50,000 in cash prizes. Those who catch the largest fish by weight in each of seven categories are eligible for the top three prizes; first prize is \$15,000. All participants must have a valid state fishing license. In addition, a fishing clinic is planned for children under age 16.

The event includes a costume contest with prizes for best individual and team costumes. Those who don't wish to brave the elements can watch a YouTube livestream of the event from home and donate to support their favorite team.

RISE AND SHINE

Event: Good Morning Great Cause

Host: Rotary Club of Scottsdale-Sunrise, Arizona

What it benefits: Special Day for Special Kids

Date: 25 February

This fundraising breakfast supports an annual event that provides children with disabilities and their families with a free day of games, activities, and refreshments in a safe and welcoming environment. The club organizes the event, held this year in March, in partnership with the Arizona-based nonprofit Raising Special Kids. While the meal is

free, the club collects donations from attendees and raises additional money through silent and live auctions.

HEARTS HELPING HEARTS

Event: Corazón de Niño 5K

Host: Rotary Club of El Paso, Camino Real, Texas

What it benefits: The club's Corazón de Niños project

Date: 26 February

A 5K race and a 1-mile fun run/walk make up this fifth annual event. Awards are given to the overall male and female winners of the 5K, the top finishers in each age group, and the largest team. In addition, the first 600 runners to complete the race will receive a participation medal. Proceeds support the club's major project, Corazón de Niños (Children's Heart), which pays for heart surgeries across the border in Juárez, Mexico, for children living in poverty.

Connect with **THE CADRE** FOR YOUR GRANT PROJECT

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers is a network of hundreds of Rotary members who are experts from around the globe. These advisers use their professional skills and technical expertise to enhance Rotary members' grant projects in our areas of focus.

THE CADRE CAN SUPPORT YOU BY:

- Providing project planning advice and implementation guidance
- Designing community assessments
- Incorporating elements of sustainability into projects
- Answering questions about Rotary's areas of focus
- Providing financial management best practices

Connect with a Cadre member today by visiting the Cadre page on My Rotary, or email us at cadre@rotary.org.



Michael E. Lirio
Philippines, District 3820

Cadre title:
Cadre Financial Auditor

Occupation:
Certified public accountant/
chartered accountant and professor
in accountancy

What are Rotary members saying about Mike?

"Mike gave guidance on finishing reportorial requirements for a global grant to provide the island with potable water that started seven years ago. He patiently checked the voluminous documents and gave stakeholders much-needed direction and encouragement to complete the project."

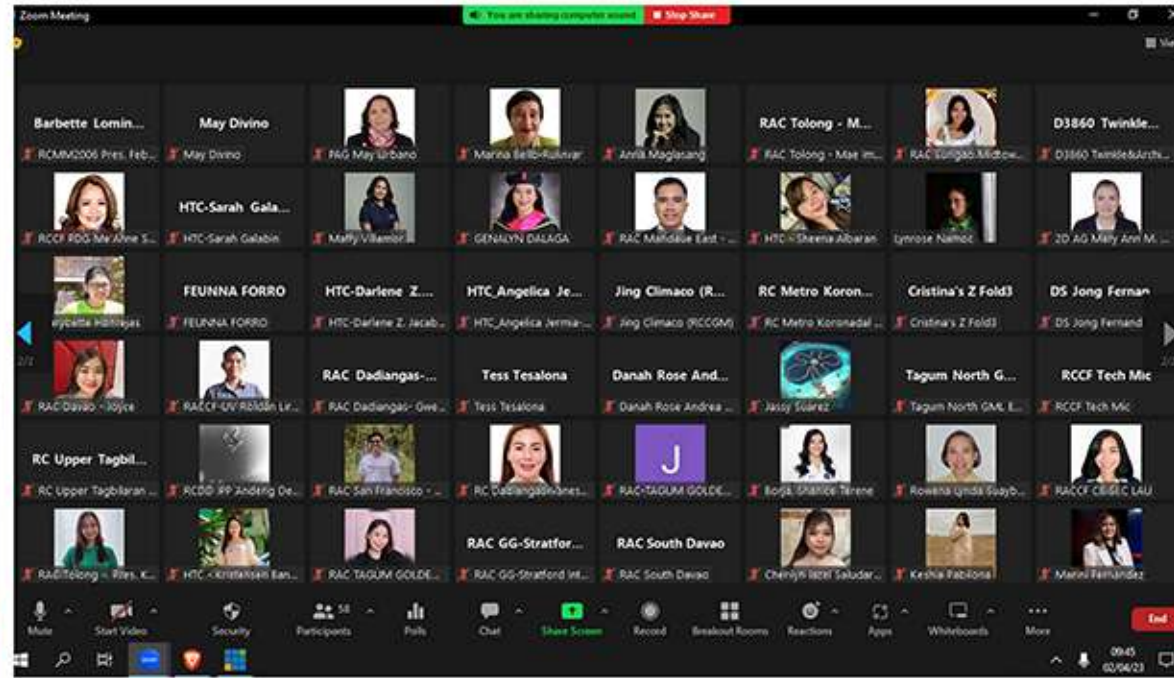
— PDG Connie N. Beltran-DV, Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator

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

01-30-2023 15th RCCF GMM RY 2022 - 2023



02-04-2023 Empowering Girls in Today's Digital World



02-13-2023 PolioPlus Recognition Night With PRIP John Germ



02-17-18-2023 PETS SETS DTTS at Butuan City

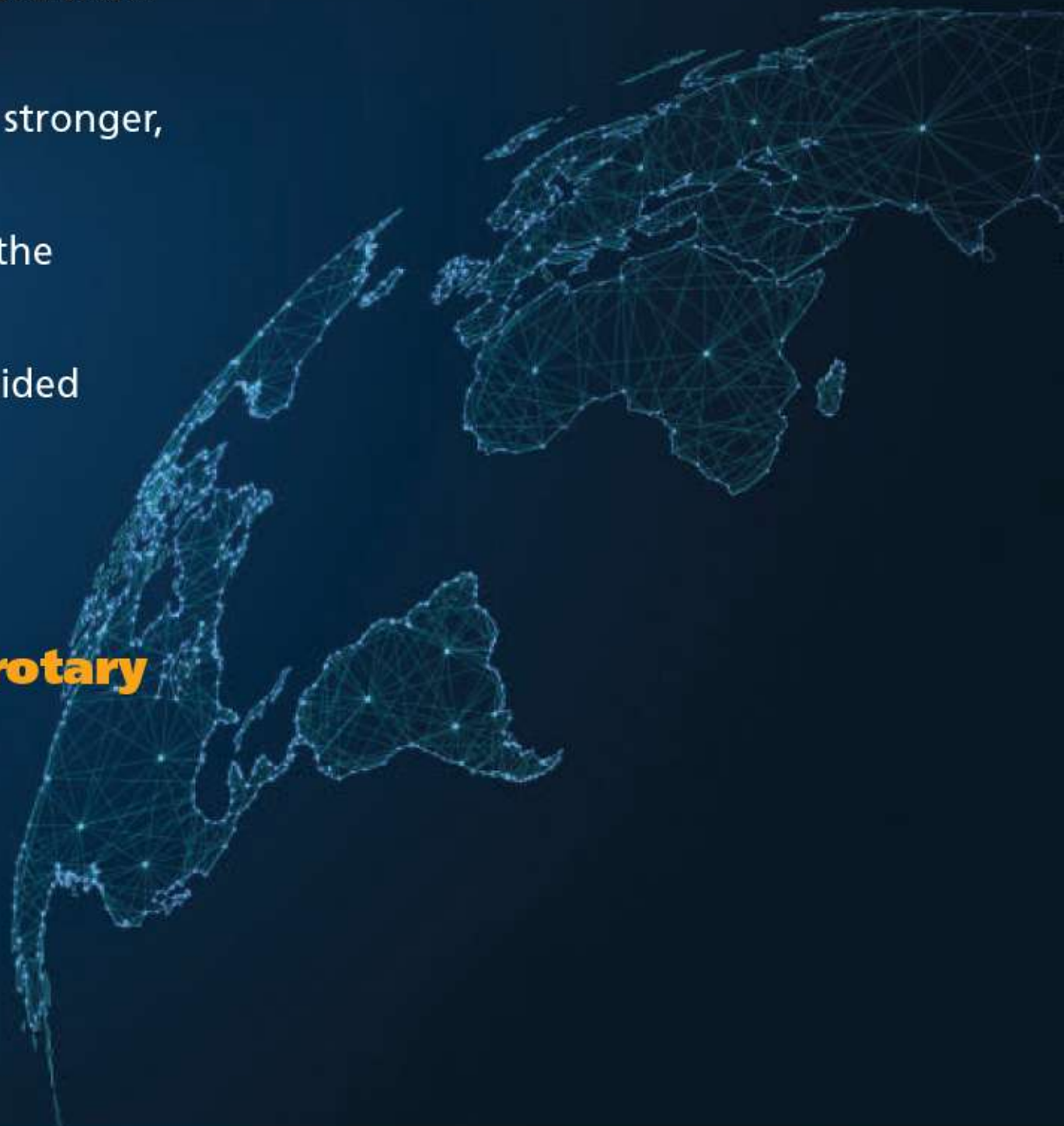


HOW CAN I BECOME A PEACEBUILDER?

Start by enrolling in the Rotary Positive Peace Academy.

- You'll learn to be an effective peacebuilder in your community
- You'll understand how to develop stronger, more sustainable projects
- You'll hear from global leaders in the study of peace
- You can complete the free, self-guided course in just two hours

Get started at
positivepeace.academy/rotary



People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber



United States
 Members of the Rotary Club of Twin Cities (Centralia-Chehalis), Washington, took to the stage to perform an interactive play, *Game of Murder: A Sword and Sorcery Murder Mystery Lunch*. A tradition over the past decade, every year's show features a different production with a different cast. The latest show in April sold out and raised \$3,400 for charitable causes, including ramps for disabled access, scholarships for Centralia College, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. "We've generally had between 100 and 140 people attend each year," says Catherine Cleveland, who co-wrote the script and was one of six Rotarian thespians who starred in the performance.

6,000
 Community theaters in the U.S.



Bolivia
 Since 2016, the Rotaract Club of Chuquiago Marka has sponsored community events to fund its signature project, providing ocular prosthetics for young eye cancer patients. In November, the club organized a food festival that drew some 4,000 people to Plaza Abaroa in La Paz, the capital. The star attraction was a traditional type of empanada called the salteña. "It is delicious, and people love it," says Pamela Tapia Salazar, the club's president. The event raised \$700 for the vision program and gave a boost to the salteñas companies, still recovering after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

41%
 Proportion of Bolivian adults who identify as Indigenous



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF ROTARY AND ROTARACT CLUBS



United Kingdom

To foster connection among older adults who may have felt isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Club of Kings Lynn Priory worked with a local cinema to offer discounted screenings through a Silver Mondays Cinema Club. Nearly 60 moviegoers turned out in November to watch *Matilda the Musical*. Club members served as greeters, ticket takers, and ushers, says Phil Davies, the club's immediate past president and main organizer of the screenings. "The benefit to the cinemagoers is probably 70 percent the opportunity to socialize and 30 percent the film itself," Davies says.



19%

Share of the UK's population over age 64

Spain

Members of the Rotary Club of Punta Prima International, in Torrevieja, sponsored and helped stage the Golf Tour Las Ramblas, a series of fundraisers begun in 2019 near the Mediterranean city. Sponsorships, start fees, and party and dinner tickets from the 2022 competitions brought in more than \$1,500. Rotarians directed some of the funds to a church charity that assists women and children who have fled Ukraine, says Gunnel Thunström, a club member and tournament organizer. She says the partnership is mutually enriching, even if only a handful of the club's members are avid golfers.



1764

The year when golf's 18-hole round originated



Malaysia

While Malaysia's citizens are among the most proficient English speakers in Asia, a gap persists between people in urban and rural areas. The country has pushed in recent years to increase English literacy because of its role in the global economy. Shortly after it was chartered in 2015, the Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu Pearl began working to reduce the disparity, says Noni Said, a club past president who inaugurated Project REAL. By 2020, the club's initiative operated in 16 rural schools in Sabah state, benefiting some 4,000 students by providing teacher training, books, and equipment. A committee including Rotarians visits schools and meets quarterly with education leaders to monitor progress. Project REAL attracted early financial support from philanthropic organizations and the Australian Embassy. New partnerships with Rotary members in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, and in Taiwan have enabled the club to expand the project to an additional 18 schools.

3rd

Malaysia's ranking among Asian countries in English proficiency





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The Museum of Play and Art opened last year with exhibits designed for ages 1 to 7, including a real car to paint and a playground that looks like tall city buildings. (Tip: The museum has been requiring advance reservations.)

At Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, watch fish and crocodile feedings and see sharks and rays up close. You can even suit up in snow gear and get onto the exhibit ice to mingle with penguins. And you can surround yourself (safely) with thousands of jellyfish in an immersive exhibit.

Check out Rotary-organized family-friendly tours too. For the Tall Ships Experience, guests as young as 12 ride on the One and All ship, the craft that Australian teenagers learn on in the Youth Sailing Challenge through District 9510. You'll sail from a wharf near the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre along the Yarra River toward Port Phillip Bay. You'll learn about landmarks you float by, talk with the crew, and eat traditional Australian food.

Rotary members and their friends and family can also sign up for a behind-the-scenes experience at the Melbourne Zoo. On the two-hour guided walking tour, you'll visit koalas, kangaroos, and a wombat's underground burrow. To browse tours and book your spot, visit rotarymelbourne2023.org/tours.

— EVA REMIJAN-TOBA

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

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World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond

Global health leaders see a clear path to polio eradication

Global health leaders expressed confidence that polio will be eradicated worldwide and praised the frontline workers who are striving to achieve that goal during an October event at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva.

Sponsored by Rotary International and WHO, World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond updated participants and viewers on the status of polio eradication. The two-day event also discussed possible community-based solutions that go beyond immunizations to improve the health of mothers and children.

At the opening session, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that polio eradication is within reach. He cited the fact that the work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has helped reduce wild polio cases by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 in 1988 to only six in 2021. However, he acknowledged that the global effort lost ground in 2022, with more than 20 cases between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the only two countries where polio remains endemic. (Several wild polio cases were also detected last year in Mozambique.)

Furthermore, the diagnosis of a vaccine-derived polio case in the U.S. and the detection of poliovirus in sewage in the UK “show that polio will remain a global threat until it is eradicated everywhere,” Tedros said. “We still face many challenges, including misinformation, hard-to-access populations, and community fatigue.”

The GPEI’s polio eradication strategy for 2022-26 is designed to meet these challenges by using proven solutions and innovative new tools. Funding toward the strategy, including \$2.6 billion committed by Rotary and other donors at the World Health Summit in Berlin earlier in October, will support polio immunizations in countries where polio is endemic and in those that have experienced recent outbreaks.

Funds will also help with the continued rollout of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2. That modified vaccine is more genetically stable and therefore less likely to lead to outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived polio, also known as variant polio, in areas of low immunization. (To learn more, read “A new weapon against polio” in the October issue.)

And the money will support the GPEI’s commitment to empowering women at all levels of health care. “Gen-



der equality is critical to achieving eradication, because in many of the most affected communities, only women are allowed access to homes and [to] children other than their own,” Tedros noted.

He assured the audience that polio eradication will remain a top priority for WHO. “With Rotary’s support,” he said, “I look forward to a future when the only thing children ever learn about polio is in history books.”

Other global leaders who spoke at the event included Aidan O’Leary, director for polio eradication at WHO; Steven Lauwerier, director of polio eradication at UNICEF; and Hans-Peter Jugel, Germany’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

On 24 October, Rotary released its World Polio Day 2022 Global Update video, which featured remarks from additional experts, including Dr. Hamid Jafari, director of polio eradication for WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean region, and John Vertefeuille, director of the global immunization division at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They underscored the importance of vaccinations as the only sure protection against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Speaking with Rotary President Jennifer Jones, partners in Pakistan emphasized the importance of employing women as frontline health workers so that campaigns can reach every child with the vaccine. “In every strategy we make and in every activity that we conduct, we ensure that females are part of it,” said Soofia Yunus of Pakistan’s Federal Directorate of Immunization.

“The path forward is absolutely clear,” O’Leary said at the Geneva event. “We have the tools. We have the strategies. We have a ruthless focus.”

— RYAN HYLAND AND ARNOLD R. GRAHL

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks at Rotary and WHO’s World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond event in Geneva in October.



Powerful words — and powerful acts

A conversation about Rotary and polio

Rotary President Jennifer Jones spoke about Rotary and polio eradication with Jeffrey Kluger, an editor at large for *Time* magazine, in October during the World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond event held in Geneva and organized by Rotary International and the World Health Organization. An edited and condensed version of their conversation follows. You can watch the entire conversation at rotary.org/watch-world-polio-day-2022-and-beyond.

JEFFREY KLUGER: Some folks in our audience might not be aware of how long Rotary has been in this fight against polio. Can you let us know how rich Rotary's legacy is in the polio eradication world?

JENNIFER JONES: Let me take you back to 1979 and the Philippines. It was the power of one person to say:

Let's try to eliminate polio from this island nation. Others gathered around and said that this was possible. And they came forward to challenge the rest of us to say: If we can do it here, can't we replicate it around the world? It was an unrealistic goal in many people's eyes, but slowly we started to collect our [Global Polio Eradication Initiative] partners: UNICEF, WHO, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. We're down to two endemic countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our membership has raised more than \$2.6 billion to move this forward, and I'm really proud that, as an organization, we were able to commit to an additional \$150 million over the next three years. But we [the GPEI] need to get to \$4.8 billion, and that's going to require all of us working with our governments making sure it's on the front burner.

KLUGER: I often think of a time when my younger daughter was 7 years old. I was doing some reporting on polio, and she saw a picture of a child in leg braces. She said,

"What's wrong with that boy?" And I said, "Well, he has polio." She asked, "Could that happen to me?" And I was able to say four of the most powerful words I've ever been able to say to one of my children: "No, honey, it can't." And the reason is, she was vaccinated. We have to remember that this is not something that is guaranteed around the world. This is something that has to be worked for, so that all parents can say, "No, honey, it can't."

JONES: In the early days, when you were writing about polio, Rotary was not on your radar. I know when we first came to you to be included in some of those writings, it was a bit of a wake-up call.

KLUGER: When I was first approached by Rotary, I was surprised. When I thought of the key players in polio eradication, I had not thought of Rotarians. I was unfamiliar with not just the enormity of Rotary's footprint but the leadership role Rotary has taken. Now, whenever I'm writing a story about polio and I list the partners in the GPEI, I always list Rotary International first, simply because Rotary stepped forward and said: We were not founded to do this, but we have elected to make it our mission. We have chosen to eradicate polio.

JONES: You had a chance to provide those critical lifesaving drops to a child.

KLUGER: I had the privilege to travel to Nigeria with Rotary and UNICEF in 2018. I was able to attend a naming ceremony of a 7-day-old baby named Ramlatu Musaa. I will never forget her name. I was able to administer her first polio vaccine. I didn't pretend that I was a hero that day. She would have gotten her vaccine anyway. But to have a hand, a literal hand, in preventing a child from ever coming down with this disease that has so terrorized humanity for so long was one of the most moving and gratifying experiences of my career and of my life. ■

RI President Jennifer Jones speaks with Jeffrey Kluger, a *Time* magazine editor, at World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond.

HANDBOOK

Rotary welcomes you in

New building displays draw in community, inspire visitors

Rotary International's headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, has an exciting new experience for visitors.

When headquarters closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rotary staff took advantage of the nearly empty building to fast-track a plan to renovate exhibit spaces, with a close eye to creating a cohesive visitor experience. New first floor exhibits at One Rotary Center introduce the organization to visitors as a network of People of Action, while displays on the 17th floor encourage visitors to support that network, and the 18th floor inspires them to take action by joining as a program participant, donor, or member.

The updated lobby space, pictured in the main photo at right, is designed to draw in passersby and engage more actively with the local community. "Our goal is to inspire visitors," Rotary General Secretary John Hewko says. "A lot of people know the Rotary building, but some do not really understand what Rotary is and does."

Schedule a tour: Free 45-minute tours of Rotary's headquarters are available to members and the public. Learn more and schedule a tour at rotary.org/visit.

Short text and photos inside the sphere inform visitors about Rotary's work ending polio, building partnerships, developing leaders, and helping members grow their connections.



For curb appeal, the windows are decorated with bold phrases, and an electronic banner lights up with photos and video.



A kiosk gives visitors an opportunity to take a deeper dive through videos, photos, and short stories.

EXHIBITS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING



A first floor exhibit space explores Rotary's beginnings and how vision, leadership, and action have been a part of the organization since the start. The "Focusing Our Actions" area includes an interactive where visitors can lift heavy buckets to imagine what it's like to carry water long distances.



The 17th floor exhibit shows how The Rotary Foundation helps our network put ideas into action. Digital displays provide updates on polio statistics, acknowledge our partners and sponsors, and honor some of our leaders in philanthropy.



An interactive wall on the 18th floor highlights how Rotary evolved into a global network. Rotary's vision statement encourages visitors to look into the future, and an interactive kiosk asks them to make a pledge about an action they will take when they leave.



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RAC Cebu Council Holds DRR Visit

Last February 5, 2023, the Cebu Council of Rotaract clubs hosted the visit by District Rotaract Representative (DRR) Shevee Resolado at the Waterfront Hotel and Casino in Lahug, Cebu City. The member clubs presented their various respective updates about the current situations within their club. DRR Shevee then provided her own updates regarding upcoming events and other items to work on. The success of the gathering ensured that everyone came away with a resolve to have all clubs of the council possess the competence, courage, and cohesiveness to continue serving humanity, one person at a time.



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