

MARCH ISSUE | WOMEN'S MONTH

THE CLUB 101

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March 2026

Women in Rotary: **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



INSPIRING CHANGE

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Francesco Arezzo

RI President's Message

March 2026

Water connects us all. From a river in a remote forest to a stream running past a city neighborhood, freshwater ecosystems sustain humanity. Yet these waters are increasingly under strain. Pollution, overuse, and climate pressures remind us that protecting freshwater is a global challenge. Rotary has always believed change begins within communities. Now we are working to see how far the impact of community action can travel. When local service is connected, measured, and shared, it becomes a force that extends beyond geography and borders.

A water project led by the Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste exemplifies this idea. The project served Indigenous communities in Panama's Darién province, a region accessible only by canoe and small boat. With no roads, limited electricity, and reliance on untreated river water, families faced serious health risks. To reach these communities, Rotarians had to rethink how supplies and services could be delivered. Working with a partner club in the United States and a specialized water organization, they introduced solar-powered water treatment systems for an area without access to an electrical grid. Local leaders were trained to operate and maintain the system, ensuring that clean water would continue flowing long after installation crews departed. The results were immediate. Children who once missed school due to illness returned to classrooms. No longer needing to haul water from rivers, adults gained time and strength to work and support their families. What began as a water project became a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities. This is how we extend our reach: combine local leadership with global partnerships, technical expertise, and long-term thinking.

That same spirit is at the heart of Rotary's partnership with the United Nations Environment Program through the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. Around the world, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are restoring waterways, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding vital freshwater sources. By collecting data to map and measure this work, we can better understand its impact and show how local service contributes to worldwide solutions. Data is not an end. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that Rotary's service delivers real, measurable change. Each project entered and each waterway restored adds to a shared story of stewardship and responsibility. You can learn more and get involved at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

As we observe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, I encourage you to reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them. When we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly **Unite for Good**.

President's Page

By: Pres. Gina de Guzman

Celebrating Women in Service & Water and Sanitation Month

March is a month of purpose and recognition—a time when we celebrate Women's Month while also embracing Rotary's focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). These two themes beautifully reflect the heart of Rotary service: compassion in action and leadership with impact. a difference.

In our club, Rotarian women stand as pillars of strength, dedication, and inspiration. Beyond titles and roles, they are women who give their time, energy, and hearts to meaningful service. Whether leading community projects, mentoring the youth, supporting health initiatives, or simply extending a helping hand to those in need, their presence brings life and purpose to every activity we undertake.

Rotarian women are not only leaders—they are nurturers of change. They embody empathy, resilience, and commitment. With every outreach program, every meeting, and every act of kindness, they remind us that true service is not measured by grand gestures alone, but by consistent and sincere efforts to uplift others.

As we honor Women's Month, we recognize and celebrate these remarkable women who continue to shape our club and community. Their dedication inspires us all to do more, to care more, and to serve beyond ourselves.

At the same time, March calls us to reflect on one of Rotary's key areas of focus—Water and Sanitation. Access to clean water and proper sanitation is not just a basic need; it is a fundamental human right. Through our collective efforts, we have the opportunity to create lasting change by supporting sustainable water systems, promoting hygiene education, and improving health conditions in our communities.

Let us continue working together—empowered by the strength of our women leaders and guided by Rotary's mission—to build a healthier, more dignified future for all. Together, we serve. Together, we make a difference.





Editorial

By PAG May Urbano

Women in Rotary: Flowing with Purpose

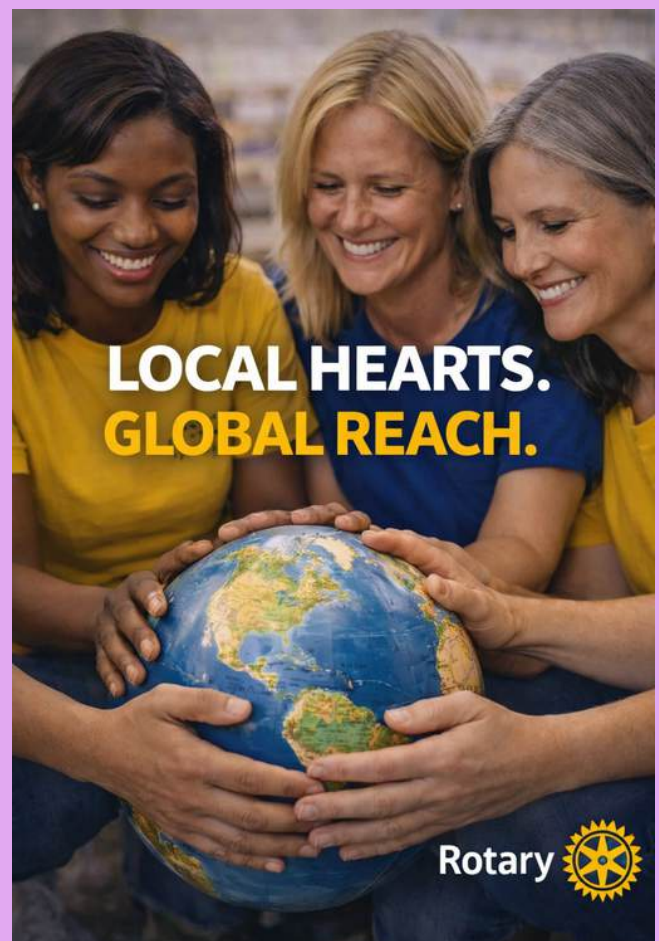
March is a month of dual significance for Rotary – a time to honor Women’s Month and to reaffirm our commitment to Water and Sanitation, one of Rotary’s seven areas of focus. These two themes intertwine beautifully, reflecting the compassion, leadership, and resilience that women bring to service.

Across Rotary clubs worldwide, women have become powerful catalysts for change. They lead projects that uplift communities, mentor future leaders, and embody the Rotary ideal of “Service Above Self.” Their participation has transformed Rotary into a more inclusive, dynamic organization – one that listens deeply, acts boldly, and serves with empathy. In every initiative, women remind us that leadership is not about authority but about impact.



This month, as we spotlight Water and Sanitation, we recognize how vital this cause is to human dignity and health. Access to clean water and proper sanitation is not just a basic need – it’s a foundation for education, economic growth, and equality. Women, often the primary caregivers and water gatherers in many communities, understand firsthand the ripple effect of clean water. When Rotary empowers women to lead water projects, entire communities thrive: children stay in school, families stay healthy, and futures become brighter.

In Rotary, women are not just participants – they are visionaries shaping sustainable solutions. Their compassion flows like water, nourishing lives and bridging divides. As we celebrate Women’s Month and Water and Sanitation Month, let us honor the women who make Rotary’s mission tangible – those who turn service into hope, and hope into lasting change.



Treasurer's Page

by: PP Gladys Balano



Responsible Stewardship and the Power of Timely Giving

In celebration of Women's Month, we recognize the invaluable role of women and mothers as stewards of the family's financial stability. In the face of rising costs and economic challenges, careful budgeting, disciplined spending, and wise financial planning have become essential in ensuring that the needs of the family are met. Yet, beyond our homes, we are also called to serve a greater purpose. As Rotarians, we uphold the principle of Service Above Self, extending our support to those who are less fortunate in our communities.

In this light, the timely payment of monthly dues is of utmost importance. It is not merely a financial obligation, but a commitment to the mission and sustainability of our club. Prompt payment ensures that our projects are continuously funded, properly implemented, and able to reach beneficiaries without delay. It reflects accountability, strengthens our organization, and enables us to respond effectively to the needs of those we serve.

Indeed, every contribution matters. When combined, our dues become a powerful resource that transforms lives—supporting education, healthcare, livelihood, and community development initiatives.

As women, as mothers, and as Rotarians, may we continue to lead with wisdom in managing our resources and with generosity in serving others. Let us remain committed not only to our families, but also to the communities that rely on our collective efforts.

“When we give with purpose and fulfill our commitments with integrity, we turn simple contributions into lasting impact.”



HALL OF PAST PRESIDENTS

CP OMAR GALLINERO
PHF+1
RY 2005-2006

PP ESPIE MALIWAT
RFSM+2
RY 2006-2007

PAG ALAN INES
PHF+1
RY 2007-2008

PP ROGELIO RALLOS, JR
PHF+7
RY 2008-2009

PP MARIBEL ACUESTA
PHF
RY 2009-2010

PP XAVIER BAYAN
PHF+3
RY 2010-2011

GRACE SALAZAR
RFSM
RY 2011-2012

REY TRASPORTO
RFSM
2012-2013

BENHUR DAPANAS
RFSM
2013-2014

PP REX MACHAN
RFSM
RY 2014-2015

PP CELEMA GRIÑO
PHF
RY 2015-2016

PAG MAYVELYN URBANO
PHF+2
RY 2016-2017

PP GLADYS BALANO
PHF
RY 2017-2018

PP MELANI DEYPALAN
PHF
RY 2018-2019

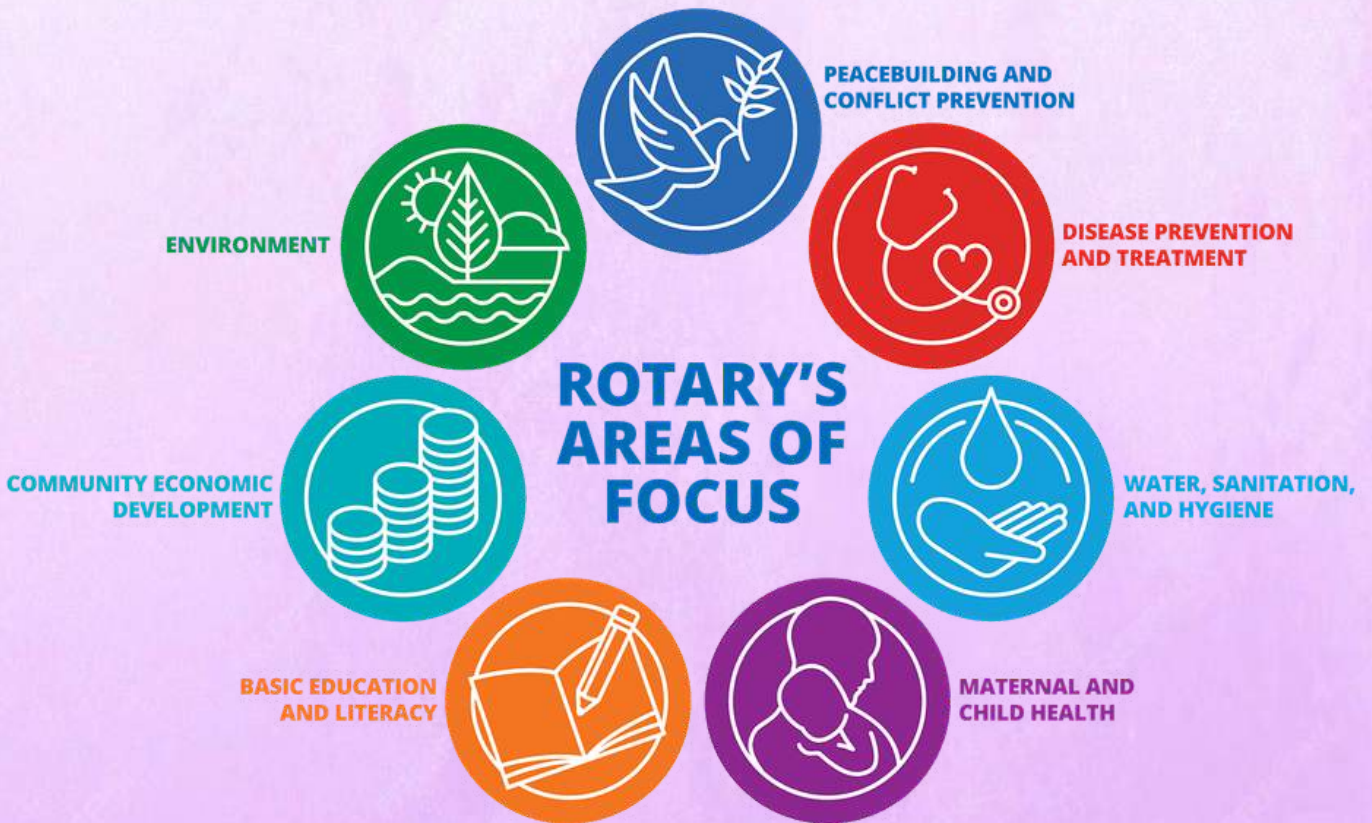
PP FANNY FERNANDEZ
PHF
RY 2019-2020

PP NIEVEN MAY ALFECHE
PHF
RY 2020-2021

HALL OF PAST PRESIDENTS



Name	District	Term
PP LANI CASTANIAGA	PHF	RY 2021-2022
PP EVERNIE ALFECHE	RFSM	RY 2022-2023
PP MALOU TEOXON	PHF	RY 2023-2024
IPP TOMMY TONGUIA	PHF	RY 2024-2025





CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES RY2025-26

by: PP Cel I. Griño

JULY

MATERNAL & CHILD
HEALTH

AUGUST

MEMBERSHIP
& NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER

BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY

OCTOBER

COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC &
DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER

Rotary Foundation

DECEMBER

Disease
Prevention
& Treatment

JANUARY

Vocational
Service

FEBRUARY

Peacebuilding
& Conflict
Resolution

MARCH

Water,
Sanitation
& Hygiene

APRIL

Environment

MAY

Youth Service
DiSCON- CEBU

JUNE

Rotary Fellowship
RI Convention-Taipei

SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY- PRES. GINA DE GUZMAN/RTN VLADIMIR ORBESIDO

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT- PP MEL DEYPALAN/PP BEL ACUESTA

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- RTN RYNELL ILETO/RTN DAY ALERTA-NG

WATER & SANITATION- IPP TOMMY TONGUIA, JR/RTN ROYME CABARABAN

MATERNAL & CHILD- RTN DOLORES LABAJA/RTN RHODORA LUIG

PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION- PAG ALAN INES/PP XVIER BAYAN

ENVIRONMENT- PP WANG RALLOS/PE RUTCIE TITO



**26th Membership Meeting
& Fellowship Night
March 8, 2026/ 6pm
Brader's Cafe Conference Room**

**Call to Order
Phil. National Anthem
Invocation
The Rotarian Pledge/
& 4 Way Test
Rotary Hymn
Sec & Treas. Report
President's Time
Open Forum
Adjournment**

**Pres. Gina de Guzman
AVP
PP Mel Deypalan
Rtn Rhoda Luig

AVP
PP Gladys Balano
Pres. Gina de Guzman

Pres. Gina de Guzman**

Moderator- PP Wang Rallos



Invocation



Heavenly Father,
We come before You tonight with grateful hearts, thankful for the blessings of Rotary, for the gift of friendship, and for the chance to serve others with love and purpose. Thank You for bringing us together once again as one Rotary family—united in fellowship, guided by service above self.
Bless this gathering, Lord. May our meeting be filled with wisdom, understanding, and meaningful discussion. Inspire us to make decisions that reflect integrity, compassion, and fairness. Help us remember that every plan we make and every action we take is an opportunity to touch lives and make a difference in our community.
Grant us hearts that serve with humility, minds that seek wisdom, and hands that are ready to help. May the spirit of camaraderie and service continue to grow within us, strengthening our commitment to do good in the world.
We entrust this evening and all our endeavors into Your loving hands. Be with us in every word we speak and every deed we do.
We ask all these in the precious name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Rotarian Pledge

I am a Rotarian. I will always uphold the truth.
I am a Rotarian. I will always strive to be fair in all my dealings with my fellow human beings.
I am a Rotarian. I will always endeavor to build goodwill and understanding in my community. Among my countrymen, and among peoples of all nations.
I am a Rotarian. I will always seek to promote the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the spirit of Rotary service.
I am a Rotarian. I will always observe Rotary International's motto: Service Above Self.

Rotary



The Four-Way Test

of what we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



ROTARY HYMN

SUNSHINE GREETINGS

*I want to be, A Rotarian for the world
 Make the Rotary flag, be the flag of peace unfurled
 I will serve my community
 Help to seek international unity
 Thru Rotary, I will dedicate my all
 World understanding shall be my cherished goal*

*Refrain : With the Four Way Test
 I'll pursue my quest
 And I in a way help obtain
 Peace in the world
 Then I won't have lived in vain.*

*I'll observe Service Above Self
 Lend a hand to all who'll need my help
 I'll get my spouse to involve in Rotary
 And in Rotary ways, I will train my family
 (Repeat Refrain - substitute "I" with "We")*

*Build a bridge for tomorrow's youth
 Strengthened by nothing but the truth
 Let's join our hands, there's no reason to divide
 We shall all understand, while the good Lord is our guide
 (Repeat Refrain - substitute "I" with "We")*

*CODA: Peace be achieved
 So we won't have lived in vain.*



**RTK IANNA- MARCH 5
 PP CELEM- MARCH 21
 PP GLADYS- MARCH 22
 RTN JADE- MARCH 22
 RTK- EJAY- MAARCH 24**



The Rotarian Pledge

I am a Rotarian.
 I will always uphold the truth.


I am a Rotarian.
 I will always strive to be fair in all my dealings with fellow human beings.

I am a Rotarian.
 I will always endeavor to build goodwill and understanding in my community, among my countrymen, and among people of all nations.

I am a Rotarian.
 I will always seek to promote the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the spirit of Rotary service.

I am a Rotarian.
 I will always observe the Rotary International motto:
Service Above Self.

The National Rotarians World



DECLARATION FOR ROTARIANS IN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession, I am expected to:

- Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
- Be faithful to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the moral standards of my community;
- Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
- Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
- Recognise the honour and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
- Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
- Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business and profession;
- Neither seek from nor grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.

Rotary 

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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Strong Mothers, Healthy Families

Mothers are often called the heart of the home—quietly holding everything together with strength, love, and unwavering dedication.

This Women’s Month, we celebrate not only the sacrifices of mothers but also their vital role in shaping strong, healthy families. As mothers, we strive to be strong for our children—providing them with unconditional love, guidance, and care. But to do this effectively, we must first take care of ourselves. A healthy mother nurtures a healthy family. This begins with maintaining balanced nutrition and engaging in regular exercise. By prioritizing our own well-being, we gain the energy and strength needed to fulfill our roles with joy and purpose. More importantly, mothers play a vital role in shaping the habits of their families. Introducing a well-balanced diet at home and promoting healthy routines can create lasting positive impacts on our children. Simple choices—like preparing nutritious meals, staying active, and practicing self-care—teach our children the value of a healthy lifestyle. Children learn best by example. When they see us choosing healthy foods and living balanced lives, they are more likely to follow the same path. In this way, a mother’s influence extends far beyond today—it helps build a healthier future for the next generation. This Women’s Month, let us remember: taking care of ourselves is not a luxury, but a responsibility. For when mothers are strong and healthy, families and communities thrive.



Supporting the End Polio Fund: Small Acts, Big Impact

By: PP Rogelio “Wang” Rallos
TRF Chair



Eradicating polio has long been one of Rotary’s greatest humanitarian goals. Through the global initiative End Polio Now, millions of children around the world have been protected from this life-threatening disease. While tremendous progress has been made, the fight is not yet over—and continued support is essential to ensure that no child is ever affected by polio again.

In our own simple yet meaningful way, the Rotary Club of Polomolok 101 has initiated the End Polio Coin Bank Project. Each member was given a coin bank to be placed in their establishments, offices, or any accessible area where people can voluntarily drop their coins. This initiative allows everyone, even through the smallest contribution, to become part of a global movement that saves lives.

On March 8, 2026 we conducted the initial opening of some coin banks and were encouraged to collect a fair amount. This early result shows that collective generosity, no matter how small, can create a significant impact when united by a common purpose.

All coin banks will be collected on April 27, 2026, and the proceeds will be accounted for under each member before being directly donated to the End Polio Fund. This initiative, led by yours truly, reflects our shared commitment as Rotarians to service above self and to making a difference in the world.

Indeed, ending polio starts with each of us. Through small acts of giving, we help bring the world one step closer to a polio-free future.



The Rotary Club of Polomolok 101: A Legacy of Service



The Rotary Club of Polomolok 101 was officially chartered by Rotary International on August 31, 2005, through the dedicated efforts of its mother club, the Rotary Club of Midtown General Santos. While initial attempts to establish a Rotary club in Polomolok began as early as February 2003, it was only in January 2005 that persistence bore fruit. With the support of Rotary Club of Midtown General Santos, Omar Gallinero was appointed as the club's Charter President, leading 25 charter members from diverse professional backgrounds. The club was established under the leadership of then-District Governor Len Magno of District 3860.

The number 101 in the club's name holds special significance. First, it marks the club's founding during Rotary International's 101st anniversary. Second, it represents the club's distinction as the 101st chartered club under District 3860.

Registered under District 3860, Area 2F with Club Number 70517, the Rotary Club of Polomolok 101 continues to thrive, powered by a dedicated team of 26 committed individuals who embody the spirit of service above self.

Mission Statement

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Vision Statement

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

MARCH Meetings



CELEBRATING YOUNG LEADERS IN SERVICE

PAG May Urbano

The Rotary Club of Polomolok 101 proudly continues its commitment to supporting education and recognizing excellence among our youth.

During the graduation ceremonies held last March 25, 2026, at Mt. Matutum Christian School, we had the honor of awarding two outstanding students for their exemplary leadership abilities and strong commitment—qualities that truly reflect the spirit of service and leadership.

Aiyana Rane Rotelo - Grade 10 Aleck Yvonnelle Macabacyao - Grade 6

These young achievers embody the values we uphold in Rotary—integrity, leadership, and service above self.

The medals and certificates were proudly presented by PE Rutcie Tito and PP Maribel Acuesta, recognizing not only academic excellence but also the character and leadership these students have demonstrated.

Congratulations to our awardees! May you continue to inspire others and lead with purpose as you move forward in your journey.



Acknowledgement



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