



## Issue 243 - August 2022

### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Earlier in the month, we got to know of Stephanie A. Urchick, of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, as the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2024-25. She will be declared the president-nominee on 1 October if no challenging candidates have been suggested, making her only the second woman to hold the position of Rotary International President. Looking back at history, from a time when women were not permitted to be members in Rotary, to now - we have come a long way...in the positive direction.

The month of August is observed as Membership month in Rotary. An opportune time to introduce Rotary to our friends, relatives, colleagues and associates, and to invite like-minded people to join Rotary. After all, each one of us had also been invited to join Rotary at some point.

While, as a Rotarian, it is our responsibility to get another member into Rotary, it is also our duty to invite more Rotarians to join our Rotary Global History Fellowship. Please share with them this link: <https://rghf.org/join-rghf/>.

Rotary Regards,



**Jeetendra Sharma**  
Editor-in-Chief  
RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter



### Trustee Chair's Message

During my travels, Rotary often comes up in conversation. Most people associate us with local projects and fundraisers — which is great — but few know what a global force Rotary is. It's easier to understand this aspect of Rotary through an example, such as how Rotary responded to the devastating bushfires in Australia in late 2019 and early 2020.

The result of extreme drought, global warming, and adverse weather conditions, the fires caused catastrophic damage. The need for help was obvious and substantial.

No stranger to forest fires themselves, Canadian Rotarians knew the best way to help was through The Rotary Foundation. They were soon joined by Rotary clubs and districts in other countries and Taiwan, resulting in three Foundation global grants totaling \$280,000 to support the economic recovery of farmers affected by these fires.

One farmer wrote a letter of thanks on behalf of the remote communities we helped, saying they “were in disbelief that Rotary clubs from other countries would step up and help our relatively small farming region” and adding that “they were very grateful and honored to be considered worthy of such aid.”

Friends, this is the kind of impact your Foundation has every single day around the world and why it deserves the support of all Rotary members.

The most significant projects done in Rotary's name are those accomplished through The Rotary Foundation. The list goes on and on. Think of the impact of our polio eradication efforts, our peace education programs, and our Programs of Scale grants. All these efforts to make the world a better place emanate from our Foundation.

The Foundation also impacts our club experience, membership, partnerships, and so much more. The more visibility and impact we have through Foundation projects, the more people want to be part of what we are doing as partners or as members. Everybody wins.

To me, Rotary and its Foundation are inseparable — you can't have one without the other. They are two sides of the same coin. I love the friendship and fellowship and projects I experience as a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Australia; but I am also thrilled to be part of a global movement that is changing the lives of countless people through The Rotary Foundation.

Remember that other side of the Rotary coin and support your Foundation. By doing so, you will also be supporting your fellow members who are bringing to life the projects our world truly needs.



**Ian H.S. Riseley**  
Trustee Chair 2022-23

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## Rotary statement on recent polio detections in U.S., Europe

The recent detection of the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 case in New York, USA, and isolates in several environmental samples collected in London are stark reminders that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere. It also highlights the importance of vaccination as the only form of protection against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases and the work that needs to be done in our communities to encourage the uptake of vaccines. Also, as the world gets closer to zero wild poliovirus cases, it is increasingly important to track all forms of the virus wherever they may appear, including in polio-free regions.

The U.S. is still considered low risk for paralytic outbreaks of polio due to the high level of vaccine coverage across the population. If a child has received the entire course of vaccines, the risk of becoming paralyzed by polio is negligible. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), 92.6% of children aged 24 months are fully vaccinated against polio, slightly below the 95% World Health Organization target.

The best things countries can do to protect themselves from polio until the disease is eradicated from the world are to: maintain high

vaccination coverage and robust disease surveillance and be ready to respond in the event of an outbreak to minimize the risk and consequences of polio re-introduction or re-emergence anywhere.

Continue reading at: <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-statement-recent-polio-detections-us-europe>

## Virtual African Peace Concert

Rotary Africa Peace Fund  
#APeaceConcert

The Rotary Foundation

Experience Ugandan Contemporary music that will take your breath away

Performances by:  
Naava Grey, Michael Kitanda, Kaz Kasozi, BlackRoots UNLIMITED,  
Rotaract Club of Kampala North Musical, Makerere Department of Film and Performing Arts

AFRICA PEACE CONCERT  
2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

Friday 2nd Sept '22  
15H (GMT) | 18H (EAT)  
HYBRID CONCERT  
Speke Resort Munyonyo

In the presence of  
**JENNIFER JONES**  
Rotary International President

PARTICIPATION: USD \$100

HELP DESK  
JULIE +256 772 586 200  
jkamuzze@gmail.com

BOOK NOW ON  
<https://www.africapeaceconcert.org>

Think local but listen global! Attend the second Virtual African Peace Concert on Friday, 2 September 2022 and support the Rotary Peace Centers. Guest of honor Rotary President Jennifer Jones will be there, and you can too. If you can't tune in at the scheduled time, you can receive a recording. Rotary members who donate will receive Rotary Foundation Giving credit.

<https://www.africapeaceconcert.org/>

Source: Rotary Peace Centers on Facebook

## What's your Story?

In the spring of 2020, daily life as we knew it changed completely. In the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we were sheltering-in-place and—not yet understanding how the virus spread—washing hands while counting to 20, creating home-made masks from old cloth napkins and t-shirts, wiping down groceries with Clorox spray, and wearing surgical gloves to the grocery store where we bought-out hand sanitizer and toilet paper.

But even sheltered in, Rotarians wanted to keep up their good works and communities. After a short hiatus, our Oakland Rotary Club meetings resumed—online, using this new technology called Zoom. It was free then. Meetings were also broadcast on Facebook. People tuned in from kitchen tables and home offices, anxious to see one another, understand what was going on, and feel some sense of normalcy. There were a few long transitions and awkward moments as A/V volunteers figured out the new platform, but we all got used to it. And indeed, this did become part of the “new normal.”

Then a wonderful thing happened. Rotarians, being the positive-minded doers we are, identified in our new constraints some opportunities. With meetings online, we could have speakers from anywhere. Members learned many new things. Attendance at

meetings actually went up at first, since people didn't have to drive downtown from their offices. As a club, we became more tech-savvy.

There were major challenges though. Even while new members joined, the overall membership numbers went down. In March 2020, we lost a beloved past president to COVID. Committees met online to figure out how we could serve the community with mandatory distancing. What could we do to best help people suffering as a result of the pandemic? How would we get back to the service projects we were passionate about?

We did eventually, and that is the story I'm writing now.

I suspect many clubs have similar stories, and I want to know yours!

I'm Linda Hamilton, historian for the Rotary Club of Oakland, no. 3 and an active and longtime RGHF member. I worked with RGHF founder Jack Selway on several history pieces for our original RGHF website while I was writing the Rotary Club of Oakland's centennial book. I still have one story posted on the current site: <https://rghf.org/the-rotary-wheel-pin/>. I also do historical time-traveling presentations for Rotary clubs called Turn Back the Wheel.

I'm putting together a story and special presentation on how Rotary survived and thrived through the pandemic, showing Rotary resilience, creativity, fellowship and service. Perhaps clubs have even grown and evolved as a result. I could really use your input!

I'd be very grateful if you or someone from your club would send me your club's story, answering these questions:

**What did your club do to keep going, growing, and serving through the pandemic?**  
**What challenges did you face with the Covid pandemic and how did you respond to them?**

Think membership, meetings, service projects, personal tragedies and loss, finances, community support, speakers, etc.

If possible, I'd love a few digital photos to accompany the responses (and permission to use them in the story or presentation—happy to credit photographers!).

Please send your stories and pictures to me at [Linda@StoriestoLast.com](mailto:Linda@StoriestoLast.com). I need to receive them by September 6th after which I'll start compiling them together into one compelling and inspiring story that I'll share with you and in live presentations to Rotary Clubs in my area.

Thank you so much for your stories!

Rotarily Yours,



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Stories to Last



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