



Issue 249 - July 2023

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,
Start of a new Rotary year - new possibilities and new opportunities to "Create Hope in the World."

Most Rotary Clubs in India usher in the new Rotary year by having grand Installation Ceremonies of the incoming club office bearers. These are elaborate celebratory events with the District Governor (present, past or future) as Chief Guests for the function.

Whenever I attend any of these Club Installation Ceremonies, I am excited with one item on the agenda of most ceremonies - The Rotary Foundation giving announcement. Since these events are a gathering of a large number of Rotarians and Rotary leaders, Clubs find this an opportune time to announce their commitments to The Rotary Foundation for the year.

Of late, most districts have adopted the process of having actual contributions made to be announced at these events. I happened to be at the Installation Ceremonies of a few clubs in my District and it was so satisfying to see the large sums of actual contributions made by members just at the beginning of the Rotary year.

Have you come across any such innovative ways of encouraging members to contribute to The Rotary Foundation? If yes, we would be happy to hear your story. Please write to us.

Rotary Regards,



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

Trustee Chair's Message

I love Rotary for many reasons, perhaps most of all for the impact we make when we work together. There is really no other group like us.

In the last five years, The Rotary Foundation has helped 100 million beneficiaries. That is staggering.

But the need is great. There are countless more we could be reaching and supporting right now if we had the resources. We could reach twice as many in the next five years. And your fellow Rotaractors and Rotarians are ready to help. They're hungry for more grants to help more people who need us.

That's why, this year, The Rotary Foundation Trustees have set an ambitious goal for giving of \$500 million, our highest ever.

This breaks down to \$150 million for the Annual Fund to help fund grants and \$50 million for polio eradication, to be matched by \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For the Endowment Fund and our future, we are targeting \$60 million in outright giving and \$80 million in commitments, totaling \$140 million. And we want to collect \$60 million in other contributions, such as direct giving, cash for global grants, and Disaster Response Fund donations.

To make this happen, we need all of you — each and every Rotarian and Rotaractor.

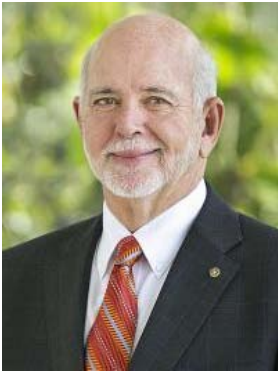
Did you know that over 80 percent of Rotary members make no contributions to PolioPlus, or that over 60 percent make no donation at all to The Rotary Foundation? For an organization of 1.4 million members, that means that nearly 1 million of us are not contributing each year.

Imagine the tremendous difference it would make if each of those 1 million could contribute just \$25 a year. That would be \$25 million we wouldn't need to raise from our best donors.

We can all give something. That's why I am asking each of you to set a goal to give what you can to The Rotary Foundation this year.

Never have we set such an audacious goal, but I believe that you, who make up Rotary, always respond to a challenge, especially when you see the difference we can make with those funds. We are part of an audacious organization, one that dreams big and makes our dreams a reality.

Let's think bigger and differently this year, so we can meet our goal and do more to *Create Hope in the World*. In this way, we will make the Rotary year ahead an unforgettable one, not just for ourselves, but most importantly, for those whose lives we will soon touch.



Barry Rassin
Trustee Chair 2023-24

Donors honored at 2023 Rotary International Convention

By **Etelka Lehoczky**

An inspirational summit and a black-tie dinner were among numerous events held before and during the Rotary International Convention to celebrate the donors who make projects around the world possible.

The Arch Klumph Society Preconvention Ceremony honored new members and those being elevated to new recognition levels. At The Rotary Foundation Donor Summit, Rotary leaders spoke to more than 1,000 people about the impact they have by supporting Rotary's programs.

"Everyone in this room is on their own journey, both in their lives and in their service to others," Trustee Chair Ian H.S. Riseley said.

He noted that some of those being honored had been members for decades, like himself, and others were new to Rotary. Some had made significant investments and others were just starting to give — but everyone had something in common.

"No matter where you are on your path, you are here today because you have chosen to be a part of something bigger than all of us," he said.

Read more [here](#).

1905 Society of RGHF - Presentation to RI President



RGHF's highest recognition award was recently conferred upon RI President Gordon McNally, member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian, Scotland.

The presentation was made by Kent Vesterberg, member of RC Stockholms-Västa and Board member of RGHF in Sweden on June 21, 2023, during a boat trip in Stockholm archipelago.

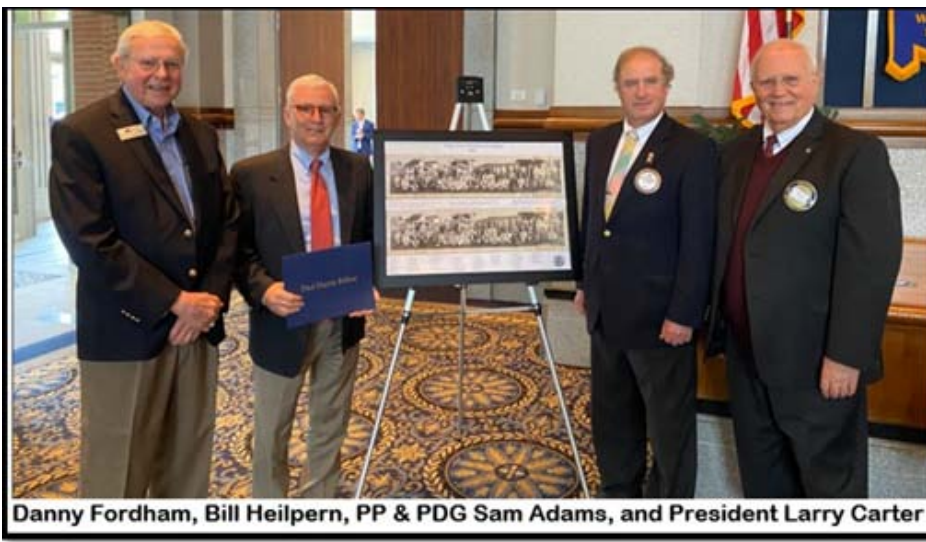
Read more [here](#).

History: The 80th Rotary Club in the World

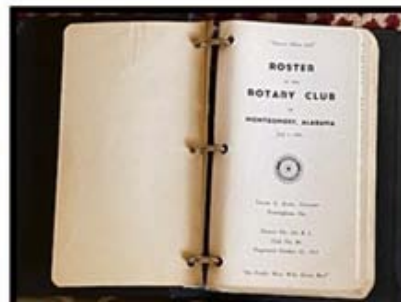
Story by PDG Sam Adams, District 6880 - Montgomery, AL

Leo Klein founded *Klein's Jewelers* in 1893. His son, B.H. Klein, continued the Jewelry business and in 1913 became one of Montgomery Rotary Club's charter members. B.H. remained an active member, and it was the 1920 photo of his club's members that his grandson, Bill Heilpern, found in the vault of *Kline and Sons Jewelry* after it closed in 2012. *Kline & Sons* was a familiar business in the Montgomery area for over 120 years, and its legacy continues thanks to the large Dexter Avenue clock the family donated to the city in 2009 and which was returned to sit across from the Court Square Fountain where Kline Jewelers had been located for many years.

Bill Heilpern knew his friend Danny Fordham was a current member of his grandfather's Rotary club and offered him the treasured historic photo and its associated Roster, a loose-leaf notebook containing a photo and bios on all the club members in 1920. Danny contacted Sam Adams, (past president, past district governor, and unofficial club historian) who successfully used the Roster to associate names with all the members shown in the photograph. Sam and Danny recommended Bill for *Paul Harris Fellow* recognition for providing our club with this important piece of our 110-year heritage. Sam and Danny made that presentation to Bill on Monday, April 3rd.



Danny Fordham, Bill Heilpern, PP & PDG Sam Adams, and President Larry Carter



This presentation served as a catalyst to learn more of our club's history. Lucien Samuel Loeb was also a charter member of the Club in 1913. He was in his two-year term as its president five years later when he had to resign to serve in World War I. The Club presented him with a watch (probably purchased from Klein and Sons) to honor of his service to the Club and the Nation. Lucien Samuel Loeb's great-grandson is our fellow Rotarian Jamie Loeb, who today has the treasured watch the Club presented to his great-grandfather 105 years ago.

Montgomery Rotary Club reenacted the 1920 group picture in April 2023. A large number of the over 125 current members posed for this historic Rotary event. The photograph includes many leaders in the community including three living Past District Governors of District 6880.

The Club also has many state leaders including the State Superintendent of Education, State Treasurer, The Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, two Supreme Court Justices, and the Governor of the State of the State of Alabama, Governor Kay Ivey has been a member of the Montgomery Rotary Club for over 30 years. She is a proud Paul Harris Fellow + and a major supporter of Rotary.

Governor Kay is standing on the front row dressed in red. There is not another Rotary Club in the United States that can boast of having five state Constitutional officers among its members.



For additional details, please write to:
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Remembering the child in each polio case

Story Written By: Brenda Cressey, Global PolioPlus Society Chair

Districts around the world are launching PolioPlus societies or reinvigorating their current ones, and the response has been amazing and positive. This initiative allows each district to establish criteria for membership in their society, including a minimum recurring gift, and decide on their own recognition awards and marketing materials.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees are giving districts flexibility to implement this fundraising approach for the PolioPlus Fund in ways that work best in their own regions. A district that establishes a PolioPlus Society is emphasizing the importance of reliable and recurring donations to fulfill our promise to the children of the world.

Recently, news of a fifth case of polio this year was reported in Afghanistan. Whenever I hear the term case, I cannot think of it as a number or a fact — instead, I immediately think about the *child*. This *child* (not this *case*) will now live with polio forever, and their family will now have to support that child in ways they could never imagine.

Read more [here](#).

Africa's polio certification commission calls for urgent action to bolster vaccination

With 117 confirmed cases of circulating variant polioviruses and 107 detections in sampled wastewater so far in the African Region in 2023, the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) has urged countries and health partners to urgently address gaps in polio immunity to avert outbreaks.

The ARCC, which held its 31st meeting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 3 to 7 July, also called for an accelerated implementation of supplementary immunization activities, while considering challenges in accessibility to services including gender-related issues. The commission stressed the importance of gender equality in the polio fight, noting the crucial role women play in management, supervision, decision-making, message development and monitoring for polio control. The ARCC also urged countries to conduct robust preparations and ensure the vaccination campaigns are of the highest quality.

“The guidance will allow health authorities and partners to provide focused support to strengthen microplanning and

social mobilization in areas with poor campaign performance, among other key areas of action“ said Professor Rose Leke, head of the Africa Regional Certification Commission.

The meeting gathered representatives of national and provincial health authorities from Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Mozambique who committed to strengthen disease surveillance and consolidate the Expanded Programme on Immunization in hard-to-reach areas, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and health partners.

Read more [here](#).

Our Foundation Newsletter



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