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Our first look at the 2024 WASH World

Meet the 2024 WASH-RAG Operations Team



The 2024 WASH-RAG Operations Team from left to right: **Lisa Talley** (Marketing & Communications), **Michael Brown** (Vice-Chair & IT Support), **Monica Louie** (Professional Services), **Big Rich Churchman** (Technical Officer), **Carolyn Meub** (Ambassador Program), **Abdul Rashid Alhassan** (Rotaract), **Ian Rumbles** (Administration), **Patrick Coleman** (Membership), **Michael Fernando** (World Water Summit), **Wade Nomura** (Chair), and **Steve Werner** (Sponsorships and Fundraising) *Not available for this photo.*

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) Operations Team meets once a year in person. Twice a



The WASH-RAG Operations Team in Orlando, Florida, USA.



month the WASH-RAG Operations Team coordinates a virtual team meeting, as well as multiple committee meetings.

On January 27, they meet to discuss the upcoming year and final preparations for the World Water Summit 16 in Singapore on May 24, 2024.

The 2024 WASH-RAG Operations Team lives in multiple cities all over America, Europe, and Africa. This year they met in Orlando, Florida, United States of America, and individuals traveled from England, Luxembourg, Zambia, and Ghana.

They invite you to become a WASH-RAG member, WASH Ambassador or meet them in Singapore at the World Water Summit 16!

The WASH-RAG Operations Team would also like to thank and introduce the WASH-RAG Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-24

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(Chair - District 6250, USA)

Patricia Merryweather-Arges
(Vice-Chair- District 6450, USA)

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(Treasurer, District 7505, USA)

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Brian Hall (District 6840, USA)

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Julia Phelps (Secretary, Non-Voting)



Pictured: WASH-RAG Operations Team **Patrick Coleman** (Membership), **Abdul Rashid Alhassan** (Rotaract), **Abdul Rashid Alhassan** (Rotaract), and **Michael Fernando** (World Water Summit).



Learn more about WASH-RAG

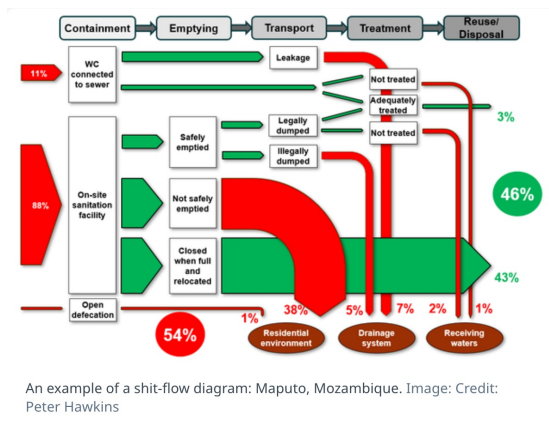
International WASH News



There is no other
single **issue**
that can **impact** the health,
education, economy, equality and
progress of all people
than the need for
clean water
and **sanitation**

SHIT and Sustainable Sanitation: We can't wait!

Submitted by the World Water Summit 16 committee



Ever wonder what happens to "shit"?

After all, as a critical part of WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene), *sanitation* addresses the important need to keep human excreta separate and safely managed – from the time it is produced until it is safe for human contact.

Ever seen a "shit-flow diagram"?

Toilets are a big part of the solution, but sanitation involves more. A whole supply chain can provide income for entrepreneurs: pit emptying, transportation, processing, distribution, and sales of fertilizer or briquettes. And in healthcare facilities, sanitation includes the important process of contaminated waste management.

Held each year on the Friday before the *International Convention*, the WASH-RAG World Water Summit provides an opportunity for Rotarians to share knowledge and experience, learn from experts, and strengthen relationships.

YOU MUST LOGIN TO RECEIVE THE MEMBER PRICING

- WASH-RAG MEMBER: \$100 USD
- NON-MEMBER: \$125 USD (includes annual membership)
- Rotaractor: \$25/WASH-RAG member, \$50/non-member (includes annual membership)
- Virtual Attendance: Plenary Sessions and Breakout - WASH-RAG Member: \$10 / Non-Member: \$25 (includes annual membership)

For inquiries about your registration or the event, please [email](#) or visit our [website](#).

Come Learn, Share, and Take Action!

[Register Now!](#)



Will you attend the World Water Summit 16?

Yes, I will attend in-person!

Yes, I will attend virtually!

Not this year.

I'd like to learn more about attending.

What are our WASH WARRIORS doing?

Gratitude – The Key to a Healthy Heart and Mind!

Submitted by WASH-RAG Membership Chair and Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor
Dr. Patrick Coleman from Luanshya, Zambia

ROTARY AFRICA | south

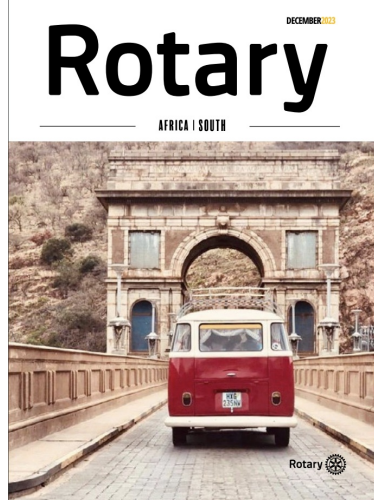


Author Dr. Patrick Coleman, Rotary Africa Magazine December 2023.

I am currently in South Africa for surgery on my back following a fall two and a half years ago. The fall caused a disk in my lower spine to become pinched, leading to extraordinary pain. After over a year of physiotherapy and pain medication with little improvement, Dr Ncumisa Jilata diagnosed the need for surgery. She skilfully removed the damaged disk, built a new one and made necessary adjustments to alleviate the pressure on my nerve. Her expertise has been invaluable and I expressed my gratitude to her.

Recovery means I cannot travel for two weeks, so PDG Shirley Downie, a long-time friend in Rotary, has kindly offered her home for my recuperation. My journey from Sandton Mediclinic to Midrand was made possible thanks to PDG Francis Callard and PDG Jankees Sligcher. Their collective efforts showcase the essence of Rotary's spirit of cooperation and support.

I am grateful to my extended Rotary family and I have made sure they know it. I'll be home in Zambia in a few days but I must avoid sitting upright for another four weeks. PDG Shirley's



Rotary Africa Magazine December 2023.



WASH-RAG Rotaract Chair Abdul Rashid Alhassan with WASH-RAG Membership Chair Dr. Patrick Coleman. January 2024.

Here are some tips for expressing gratitude:

- Write a thank-you note or email that's specific to the recipient's actions.
- Choose the method - handwritten, typed or emailed - based on your preference and the urgency of your appreciation.

Finally, thank you for reading this and other articles over the years. By saying "Thank you," we contribute to the world's emotional health and "Create Hope in the World."

-Originally appearing in [Rotary Africa's December 2023 Edition](#).

-Reprinted with special permission from the author

Become a WASH-RAG Member

Are you Working for WASH?

You Can Introduce Your Club to WASH-RAG

reclining chair and a similar one at my home will aid my recovery. Driving might resume in about eight weeks, albeit over short, smooth distances.

Teaching and Rotary presentations will be confined to Zoom for a few weeks. I am thankful for Eric Yuan, whose platform has been a crucial tool for maintaining connections during Covid and beyond.

The past year has been filled with opportunities to express gratitude to friends and strangers alike for their assistance. It's vital to acknowledge even the smallest acts of kindness. We often forget to appreciate those who have helped us in the past, whose actions have significantly shaped our current circumstances. We must remember to express our gratitude, as it can influence our journey in the future. As we approach the end of 2023, many consider New Year's resolutions.

Here's a suggestion: set daily reminders to express gratitude. It could be a note on your phone, bathroom mirror or car dashboard. I plan to place a reminder on my laptop to ensure I show gratitude in all my interactions.

According to The Mayo Clinic, expressing gratitude has numerous mental and physical benefits. It improves sleep, mood, immunity and can decrease depression, anxiety, chronic pain and disease risk.

It's easy to become a WASH Advocate! Why not be a presenter at your next Club, District or Zone meeting! Expand your reach and promote WASH in your community.

Did you know you don't have to be a Rotarian to join WASH-RAG?

Your environmentally minded friends, water-conscious community members, and the general public can join us too! Tell them to check us out at www.wash-rag.org or forward this newsletter!

Find or become an Ambassador or Cadre Member!

The WASH Rotary Action Group Ambassadors is a corps of knowledgeable members who provide support and promotion of the WASH goals of WASH Rotary Action Group and The Rotary Foundation.

For more information click the button below:

WASH-RAG Ambassadors

Apply to become a WASH-RAG Ambassador

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers is a group of Rotarians who volunteer to use their professional skills and technical expertise in Rotary's **Areas of Focus** or financial auditing to advise Rotarians who are planning and working on Rotary Foundation grant projects. The Cadre includes more than 700 members from 75 countries, speaking more than 80 languages.

WORK WITH ROTARY EXPERTS
Consult a Rotary expert for assistance with your service project. Connect with members of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and Rotary Action Groups through your District Resource Network. Each group of Rotary experts can help your project succeed. Find out more about what each group does.

WHO THEY ARE	HOW THEY CAN HELP
CADRE OF TECHNICAL ADVISERS Cadre members are Rotarians around the world who have professional experience and expertise in Rotary's areas of focus or financial auditing. Cadre members receive advice and in-person training from Foundation staff and guidance and oversight from Rotary staff and Cadre leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advising Rotary members who are planning or working on Rotary Foundation grant projects, especially on topics like community assessments, sustainability, and financial management. Establishing monitoring and evaluation plans that safeguard Foundation funds, maximize global grant effectiveness, and revitalize projects on behalf of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees.
ROTARY ACTION GROUPS Rotary Action Groups are independent, Rotary-affiliated organizations whose members take expertise in a particular subject field and apply it to one of Rotary's areas of focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advising about how to conduct community assessments. Making recommendations about how to maximize resource utilization. Giving advice about preparing a project plan and budget. Guiding the creation of a monitoring and evaluation plan. Offering direction on identifying partners and finding resources. Giftwrapping and distributing resources and the best practices on a specific topic.

DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CHAIR

WHO THEY ARE	HOW THEY CAN HELP
District international service chairs encourage dialogue about international service and motivate clubs to get involved in international service and plan higher quality, sustainable projects and grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting clubs with the District Resource Network of local subject matter and project experts. Identifying resources to support clubs with their service goals, projects, or global grants. Helping clubs find international project partners. Publishing success stories and promoting the best practices.

Become a CADRE Member

Introduction to WASH-RAG
The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group

WWW.WASH-RAG.ORG

Download a PowerPoint Presentation

FAQ

Rotary WASH Rotary Action Group

What is the WASH Rotary Action Group?

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH) was formed in 2007 by a group of Rotarians to help clubs and districts with their WASH projects. The group's primary focus is to develop and support projects that provide sustainable and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. We believe water is not an end in itself, but rather the means to a better life and livelihood in communities that lack these basic essentials. We can assist in many ways, providing clubs and districts with human, technical, and financial advice.

How can I get involved?

Interested in the program, but wonder what might be expected of you if you join? There are so many ways to get involved! WASH Rotary Action Group members are Rotarians from around the world who engage in efforts to provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all who lack these essentials of life. Find your perfect fit in one of the following roles:

Member: Joining the WASH Rotary Action Group supports our initiatives worldwide.

Volunteer: Our Operations Team is always on the lookout for new members to broaden the scope of our activities. Generating membership, building member satisfaction, World Water Summits/ training, communications and fundraising are just a few areas where you might be involved.

Professional Resources Team: Many of our members bring their outstanding skills to the WASH Rotary Action Group. Volunteer your experience to ongoing projects and help project leaders organize their initiatives to ensure efficient, effective and sustainable projects.

Ambassador: Represent the WASH Rotary Action Group in your district. Motivate and inspire clubs by speaking at club meetings and other events. Share relevant information about the WASH Rotary Action Group's resources and ongoing projects to your region. Connect local Rotarians with professionals worldwide who can address the specific technical needs of individual projects. Ambassadors can help liaise with WASH projects in different regions to create partnerships, facilitate project development and enhance funding opportunities.

Download our FAQ PDF Flyer

Print out our FAQ PDF to hand out at your next club social!
Thank you for sharing our mission!

Calendar of Events

24 May 2024 WWS16 - SUSTAINABLE SANITATION - we can't wait
<https://wash-rag.org/events/wws16-sustainable-sanitation/>

25-29 May 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore
https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwy9-kBhCHARIsAHpBjHiKvVxhNsv9rsLLzSFH5x61hO9A3OkX5ylmrlonmRdNnodxX1B4770aArV6EALw_wcB

[Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wasrag.org.](mailto:info@wasrag.org)

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permission to publish and make public your contact information including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the unique attributes of water sources and water provision, acceptance of corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular water technology. Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary partners must evaluate any technology to determine if it is the best solution for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Rotary Action Group can provide guidance about where different technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must make the final decision about how to implement their programs. Email us about your ongoing or finished project at info@wash-rag.org.

This Rotary Action Group is RI-recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International. To learn more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at infor@wasrag.org Thank you.



WASH Rotary Action Group | c/o A.T. Kearney, P.O. Box 102, TD North Tower, 77 King Street West, Toronto, M5K 1G8 Canada

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