



**WASH ROTARY ACTION GROUP**  
**CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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June 6, 2020

**Chair's Report to the Membership of the  
WASH Rotary Action Group**

Friends,

Good day, and welcome to the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

My name is Mike Webb and I am Chair of the Board of Directors.

It was in 2007 at a Water Resource Group meeting in Houston, Texas, that past RI President Frank Devlyn proposed the formation of a Rotarian Action Group for Water and Sanitation - and that the first chair be Ron Denham. And so was born our present-day Action Group. As many of you will know Frank passed away a week ago – may I call for a moments silence in memory of our founder Frank Devlyn.

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (now known as **“WASH Rotary Action Group”**) Annual General Meeting. You will be aware that some twelve months ago The Rotary Foundation Trustees made amendments to some Action Group names. In our case they added “Hygiene” to the title to better represent what we do. The title was also changed from “Rotarian” to Rotary Action Group. On the recommendation of the Operations Team I am delighted to say our Board of Directors agreed to the change of name which has also been approved by Rotary International.

We realize that many of our members have a great emotional attachment to WASRAG. But times have changed, and we must move with them. Two particularly compelling arguments governed the change:

- Hygiene is an integral part of all we do. The current Covid-19 crisis and its emphasis on handwashing has alerted us all to just how important that simple action can be. Along with Water and Sanitation it has become a critical element in all of our WASH work.
- Rotary International guidelines have changed. Many felt that the continued use of the acronym “RAG” had unpleasant connotations and should be eliminated. It has therefore been mandated that use of the term “RAG” be eliminated. In future we will always use the full name: WASH Rotary Action Group.

In June 2019 your Board of Directors met with Julie Robbins of Mangan Holcolm who had been working with the Operations Team to develop a marketing plan. This work is almost complete and we look forward to reporting on developments very shortly.

Our Finances are in good health. Indeed, the Hamburg World Water Summit in 2019 gave rise to a surplus of \$41,000 including sponsorships. However, the cancelation of the Honolulu Summit will leave a hole in our finances for 2020. Our reserves are strong and the Board has agreed that we should always hold \$150,000 in reserve to cover one year's expenditure. We have also allocated \$30,000 to fund WASH grants. We are most grateful for the diligent work and care taken by our Treasurer Mike Colasurdo who will give his detailed report later in proceedings (see Appendix A).

A particularly significant part of our activities has been to encourage those in clubs and districts who are writing WASH grants to contact us for advice and assistance in submitting the application. Once our recommendations are incorporated, they have been receiving a grant of \$500. This has recently been increased to \$1,000.

As Chair of the Board I am grateful to so many people and the contributions they have made in the last twelve months.

The Operations Team meets every two weeks on a Sunday at 7.00 am (Central Time), and includes:

- Nicholas Mancus (Chair)
- Mary Beth Growney Selene (Vice Chair)
- Mike Colasurdo
- Ron Denham
- Chris Etienne
- Brian Hall
- Julia Phelps
- Ginny Ryan
- Anna Shepherd

The Board of Directors meets four times a year. In addition to me, it includes:

- Mark Balla (Vice Chair)
- Bharat Pandya (Secretary)
- Ramesh Aggarwal
- Michael Barrington
- Monica Louie
- Pat Merryweather-Arges
- Chris Mutalya
- Neil Van Dine

While Bharat Pandya holds the legal position of Secretary to our Board, I must pay tribute to Ginny Ryan who organizes the difficult logistics around a global call, takes minutes and provides all the necessary documentation for board members.

Other very important contributors to our success are Ian Rumbles and Terri Black. Every month they produce an interesting newsletter that keeps our membership and 46,000+ contact list up-to-date on our activities.



The WASH Rotary Action Group is also indebted to Michael Brown who takes care of the logistics that keep our website operating efficiently and to Keith Helferich. In 2019 Keith took charge of the project listings on the website, ensuring that they are represented accurately and updated regularly.

We are incredibly fortunate in having such a dedicated team of Rotarians who share so generously of their time and talent for the benefit of WASH worldwide.

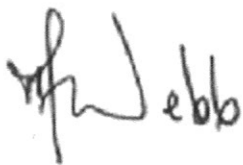
This report would not be complete without an enormous vote of thanks to the Wallace Genetic Foundation. The continued financial support of the Foundation and its Chair, David Douglas, have played a very significant part in our success.

Unfortunately one of our Directors - Bharat Pandya - is resigning on June 30, 2020. On July 1<sup>st</sup> he takes on the duties of RI Treasurer. We thank him for his contribution to the Board and congratulate him on the appointment.

This creates three positions for election to the WASH Rotary Action Group Board of Directors, and I am pleased to announce the results of the balloting. In alphabetical order, the successful candidates and Directors from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 for a three-year period are **Ramesh Aggarwal, Mary Beth Growney Selene** and **Monica Louie**. We congratulate all of them and I thank the other candidates for standing

It is now my pleasure to honour **Dr. Virginia Ryan** otherwise known to all of us as Ginny. She has been the backbone of our finances for a number of years, ably supported by husband Michael Ryan. Ginny was founding Secretary and Treasurer of WASRAG and has worked in different capacities so diligently for the Action Group over thirteen years. She has been my right hand as secretary to the Board of Directors. The Board is delighted to recognize her service and to name the WASH in Schools project at the South Delhi Primary School in her honour.

Yours in Rotary Service

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael Webb'.

Michael Webb, Chair  
WASH Rotary Action Group.

## **Annual Report of the Operations Team**

### **WASH Rotary Action Group**

TO: Members of WASH Rotary Action Group

WHEN: Annual General Meeting, June 6, 2020

The WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team serves under the oversight of the WASH Rotary Action Group's Board of Directors. We are the arm of the WASH Rotary Action Group responsible for carrying out our day to day work.

The Operations Team works diligently towards our goal of making the WASH Rotary Action Group a meaningful, relevant Rotary Action Group, in line with our mission:

***Providing human, technical and financial support to Rotary clubs and districts seeking to help communities gain sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene.***

The most significant change in the 2019-2020 Rotary year was the approval by our Board of Directors to officially change our name from the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) to:

***Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group, (a.k.a. WASH Rotary Action Group)***

The new branding will be unveiled during our Virtual World Water Summit 12 events (June 18, 19, 2020)

### **Organizational Structure**

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The Operations Team meets our mandate through sub-committees:

- ***Professional Services (Chair - Ron Denham)***: provides technical grant review support to Clubs and Districts through our Professional Support Team of WASH experts and; recommends financial support to approved Global Grants through the WASH Rotary Action Group Donor Advised Fund (DAF);
- ***Membership Growth (Chair - Ginny Ryan)***: implements our very successful WASH Rotary Action Group Ambassador program and membership growth campaigns;
- ***Membership Satisfaction (Chair - Chris Etienne)*** focuses on making the WASH Rotary Action Group membership experience fun and enjoyable; implementing our WASH related Club and District competitions, and organizing special events typically held in conjunction with the Rotary International Convention.

- **Meetings and Learning (Chair - Julia Phelps)** orchestrates our annual World Water Summit and other learning events;
- **Fundraising (Chaired by Operations Team Vice-Chair Mary Beth Growney-Selene)** is responsible for developing resources and financial support which the WASH Rotary Action Group used to enhance Rotary Club and District WASH project funding;
- **Communications (Chair - Brian Hall)** produces the WASH Rotary Action Group's communications such as our monthly newsletter, maintaining our website, social media accounts, marketing, all relative to getting the word out about the WASH Rotary Action Group's activities;
- **Finance (Chaired - Treasurer Mike Colasurdo)** maintains and manages the WASH Rotary Action Group's finances, assuring legal compliance with tax authorities and Rotary requirements, and all matters involved with finance; and
- **Administration (Anna Shepherd)** orchestrates the WASH Rotary Action Group's many moving parts and ensures that the WASH Rotary Action Group remains organized, functional and coordinated.

None of the work we do would be possible without the incredible support that we get from the many members who serve on sub-committees, such as our:

- **WASH professionals** who help Rotary Clubs and Districts present the best WASH Global Grant proposals possible to The Rotary Foundation and who answer technical questions posed by Rotarians through our "Ask an Expert" forum;
- **Ambassadors** who represent the WASH Rotary Action Group in their Rotary District or country (whichever is smaller), and who promote numerous activities on the ground to raise awareness of The Rotary Foundation's Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) Area of Focus to Rotary Clubs in their respective parts of the world;
- **Membership Satisfaction Sub-Committee Members** who help us make the WASH Rotary Action Group a more enjoyable and fun Rotary Action Group. They enable us to focus on the most interesting, innovative WASH projects through various competitions, that Rotary Clubs and Districts from around the world share with us;
- Our tireless **Newsletter Editors, Website Administrators, Social Media Content Developers and Communications/ Marketing Team** who spend countless hours developing interesting content and who encourage Rotary Clubs and Districts all over the world to share their WASH stories;
- Our **Fundraising Team** and the WASH Rotary Action Group's many generous donors and supporters;

- Our rigorous and diligent **World Water Summit Team** who work for a year in advance to promote our annual World Water Summit. This event - which brings together Rotarians and top WASH professionals – has become one of the foremost annual WASH conferences in the world; and
- Our sub-committee members who assure that the WASH Rotary Action Group remains organized, financially responsible, and professionally administrated.

## Call to Action

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Every year, the WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team looks for members committed to WASH who can help us serve our mission and goals.

We invite all WASH Rotary Action Group member, interested in serving on one of our sub-committees, to contact us through “Contact Us” on our website. WASH Rotary Action Group members are expected to serve spokespersons for the Group.

Please remind your Rotary Clubs and Districts about the resources that the WASH Rotary Action Group offers them, including financial and technical support, and ask them to share their WASH stories with us so that we can spread the word to the rest of the Rotary world.

WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team Chair, Nicholas Mancus, recently represented us at a global WASH forum in The Hague, Netherlands. While there he attended a donors’ forum focused on the work of global foundations and organizations that support water, hygiene and sanitation. He was surprised to learn that **Rotary**, via our Foundation and individual Club support, is the **second largest private funder of WASH projects in the world** (the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest.) Who knew?

But Nicholas also realized that we do not have the commensurate visibility and recognition in the WASH sector that reflects our size. We hope to create an **on-line reflection group** in the next Rotary year to hear your views and ideas on how we can raise Rotary’s visibility in the sector.

## Future Activities

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In 2018 the Operations Team conducted a visioning session to reflect on the WASH Rotary Action Group’s future direction. Stemming from that meeting, five strategies were approved by our Board of Directors. Our focus continues on them all:

- Restructure Operations by 2020
- Diversify and increase fundraising
- Increase visibility
- Increase membership
- Expand programs

## **1. Restructure Operations by 2020**

Operations of the WASH Rotary Action Group are strong and functional.

As required by our bylaws, term limits for Operations Team members must be staggered. Team members may not serve for more than two terms of three years each, for a total of six years. The Board has confirmed the following Operations Team Membership:

Through the Rotary Year 2020-2021:

Mary Beth Growney-Selene  
Chris Etienne  
Ginny Ryan (retiring in June, 2020)

Through the Rotary Year 2021-2022:

Ron Denham  
Mike Colasurdo  
Nicholas Mancus

Through the Rotary Year 2022-2023:

Julia Phelps  
Brian Hall

Per the WASH Rotary Action Group bylaws, there is one open seat on the team. We need a leader for the WASH Rotary Action Group's Marketing Team and are in the process of selecting a candidate with strong technical skills. Upon Board approval, this person will join the Operations Team in the first quarter of the next Rotary year.

Another vacancy has been created by Ginny Ryan's retirement. Her role as Membership Chair is critical and the Operations Team is in the process of selecting her successor.

Since its inception in 2007, WASH Rotary Action Group has been headquartered at the AT Kearney Office in Toronto, Canada. This will continue for the foreseeable future. AT Kearney donates office space and office resources to the WASH Rotary Action Group as a much appreciated "in-kind" contribution to our work. This venue incurs no cost to the WASH Rotary Action Group.

The WASH Rotary Action Group Administrator Anna Shepherd will continue in her role for the time being.

## **2. Diversify and Increase Fundraising**

The **Fundraising** sub-committee has identified the following objectives to increase the WASH Rotary Action Group's fundraising efforts:

- Increase financial support for projects/programs from Rotary Clubs (and their collaborating organizations) through our Donor Advised Fund (DAF).u

- Encourage WASH Rotary Action Group members to support the WASH Rotary Action Group's mission through personal support of the WASH Rotary Action Group Foundation or the WASH Rotary Action Group DAF.
- Promote World Water Summit sponsors to the WASH Rotary Action Group members. Our goal is to encourage ongoing financial support for WASH projects and programs promoted by Rotary Clubs and Districts.
- Develop partnerships with collaborating organizations to share financial burdens with Rotary Clubs and Districts and increase Global Grant partnerships and fundraising opportunities.

### **3. Increase Visibility**

After an extensive search by the **Communications** Sub-Committee and following approval from the WASH Rotary Action Group Board, Mangan Holcomb Partners of Little Rock, Arkansas was selected to develop a marketing plan and strategy to increase the WASH Rotary Action Group's visibility inside Rotary and to the general public.

Under the leadership of the **Membership Satisfaction** Sub-Committee, you can expect to see an increasing number of active competitions to involve Rotary Clubs and Districts. These initiatives are targeted at increasing recognition of the WASH Rotary Action Group; to support special initiatives like the River Clean Up Program; and special events in partnership with other Rotary organizations like the BREW Rotary Fellowship (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide).

Led by the **Meetings and Learning** Sub-Committee, our World Water Summit 12 will be held as a virtual event on June 18 and 19 (to allow the entire Rotary world to experience the event live)! An invitation to register has been distributed and we encourage all WASH Rotary Action Group members to participate. We are planning additional virtual learning opportunities later in 2020 – so please stay tuned

Increased attention will be focussed on the WASH Rotary Action Group's outstanding programs and funding opportunities. Technical support from the **Technical Services Team** and financial support from the WASH Rotary Action Group DAF will be marketed and made known to an increasingly large number of Rotary Clubs and Districts.

### **4. Increase membership**

Under the leadership of Board Chair Mike Webb, an ad-hoc working group of the Board and the Operations Team has been established to devise strategies to define the WASH Rotary Action Group's **Vision, Mission, and Values**, which will be used to build the WASH Rotary Action Group's membership. Questions like "What would it take to expand our membership from 1,500 members to 15,000 members?" will be addressed.

Under the leadership of the **Membership** sub-committee, we can expect increased growth and new initiatives in our very successful WASH Rotary Action Group **Ambassadors Program**.

#### **5. *Expand programs***

Led by the **Programs** sub-committee, the WASH Rotary Action Group is systematizing and continuing to expand our WASH Project Review Process. As a result, we anticipate increased donations to Rotary club projects through the WASH Rotary Action Group DAF.

The WASH Rotary Action Group Board of Directors recently approved increasing Global Grant support to Clubs and Districts to \$1,000 (following a Professional Service Team review), to allow for WASH sector program/project growth opportunities.

An increased focus on taking a leadership position in WASH in Health Care Facilities is under way with a goal to increase support to Rotary in monitoring and evaluation approaches for WASH projects through Club and District Global Grants.

In addition, an effort to work more closely with The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisors is currently under discussion.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

This has been a year of significant activity for the WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team. In the following pages we have summarized the reports of our sub-committee chairs, highlighting key accomplishments during this Rotary year:

**On behalf of the WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team, we would like to thank the WASH Rotary Action Group's membership for providing us with an incredibly meaningful opportunity to serve.**

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Beth Growney Selene  
Vice-Chair, WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team

on behalf of

Nicholas Mancus  
Chair, WASH Rotary Action Group Operations Team



**The Mandate:** embraces a variety of activities, including:

- Assisting clubs and districts, on demand, to prepare robust applications for Global Grants and other requests for funding.
- Assisting in the evaluation of optional solutions for WASH projects and programs.
- Assisting in the planning, implementing monitoring and evaluating projects and programs
- Facilitating workshops to enable Rotary clubs and partners to produce the most effective and sustainable WASH project and program plans.
- Providing expertise and guidance on any WASH issue.
- Collating “Lessons Learned” on all aspects of WASH projects
- Providing guidance to clubs and districts on implications of Sustainability to ensure that Rotary projects meet the requirements of the SDGs.
- facilitating discussions between clubs and TRF staff on the grant approval process.

### **The Resources**

We continually seek Rotarians and friends who are normally employed in some aspect of WASH and/or share our passion to improve the lot of millions who lack these basics of life.

Currently we number 31 members. Their expertise covers the full range of enquiries and requests received from clubs including: program management, water supply and quality, sanitation and septage, hygiene, handwashing, behavior change, community assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and WASH in Schools. More recently the team has been enhanced with Rotarians having in-depth knowledge and understanding of WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCF). The members are domiciled throughout the Rotary world. While the majority live in North America, others live in Brazil, the United Kingdom, Nepal, India, Nigeria, Netherlands, Laos and Malawi.

### **Range of Requests and Enquiries:**

Since formation, the group has received over 170 enquiries. Many do not require explicit assistance with a project. To illustrate, in the past three months clubs have asked:

- How to treat waste water from sewerage for agricultural purposes in Zimbabwe
- Where can we find an international partner for a WinS project in Tanzania
- How to implement handwashing with soap in a Kenyan school to prevent COVID-19
- Will WASRAG help to promote plastic free rivers and oceans
- Is there a district with DDF to support our project in Mozambique
- Help us to find an international partner for irrigation project in Malawi
- How can we eliminate the high metal content in the water
- Is there someone to help us write a Global Grant

Another request has resulted in a member of WASRAG acting as advisor to HANWASH-the Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene program.



### **Incentive to Use the Professional Resources Group**

A year ago WASRAG offered \$500 as an incentive to clubs to seek the services of this group. Subsequently the amount was increased to \$1000. This donation will supplement the Global Grant. Furthermore, as of June 2018, this funding has come from BREW (the Fellowship, Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide).

To-date we have received requests from five clubs seeking this support.

**WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCF)** Over 21% of health care facilities lack adequate water, sanitation and hygiene. Under normal conditions this has resulted in serious incidences of maternal and child disease and, too often, death. With the arrival of COVID-19 the situation has become critical.

Many organizations, including WHO, UNICEF, Emory University, WaterAid, to name only a few have recognized the need for urgent action to prevent a huge surge in fatalities.

Rotary clubs are recognizing the importance of this issue. It is already a significant element in the India Rotary Wash Program and is emerging as even more critical in sub-Saharan Africa. In anticipation of future requests for support, the Professional Resources Team is developing appropriate intellectual capital.

The initial focus is a smart-phone enabled Assessment Tool. Its purpose-to enable Rotarians to assess the total WASH situation in a health care facility, to agree with the community on priorities and to prepare an implementation plan.

It has been a busy year for this team! Activities have included:

**People of WASH Photography and Video Competition:** A new initiative for 2020. Chaired by Newsletter Editor Ian Rumbles, it was designed to attract WASH images and videos. Cash prizes are being awarded in both amateur and professional categories. The competition attracted no fewer than 78 images and seven videos. Later in this meeting Ian will announce the winners and showcase some of the entries. (Attached as Appendix B)

**World Polio Day Challenge:** Organized and promoted the World Polio Day Challenge encouraging clubs and districts to submit water projects in conjunction with World Polio Day on October 24, 2019. Seven projects were submitted. Winners were:

- The Most Impactful project from the Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Dalma, India.
- The Most Innovative project selected from the Rotary Club of Arcata, CA, USA.

**WASH Rotary Action Group/BREW Joint Event:** A Hawaiian Beer Luau was originally planned with the BREW Fellowship for June 7, 2020 in Honolulu. In lieu of this social activity, an online event was held on April 25. Ron Denham gave a presentation about the water projects that BREW's donations have supported.

**Breakout Sessions 2020 Convention:** Facilitated communication with WASH Rotary Action Group members to propose a breakout session to be considered for the 2020 Rotary International Convention. Two were submitted, and one was selected: **"Learning from WASH Failures"**. The breakout session will be presented online in July.

**Annual General Meeting – 2020:** Assisted in the coordination of the Annual General Meeting, which was rescheduled to be held online on June 6 at 8:00 am Eastern DaylightTime. Also coordinated awards that will be presented to two Rotarians to be recognized for their dedication and support of the WASH Rotary Action Group.

**Special Joint Committee:** A special committee was formed in 2020 to evaluate the relationships between the WASH Rotary Action Group, the Operations Team and the Rotarian Safe Water & Sanitation Foundation. The committee met initially on May 16, 2020 and is reviewing organizational and financial documents. The committee includes two members of the WASH Rotary Action Group Board of Directors, two from the Operations Team and two from the Rotarian Safe Water & Sanitation Foundation Board of Directors. Based on the findings of the committee, recommendations will be made for potential changes and updates.

## FUNDRAISING – Mary Beth Growney Selene

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The major focus of the Fundraising Committee is to develop sponsorships for the World Water Summit. For 2020 we had commitments for \$31,000 as follows:

- UNICEF
- Procter & Gamble
- Sawyer Products
- HANWASH
- Engineers Without Borders

Our engagement with additional sponsors ended abruptly with the cancellation of the 2020 Rotary International Convention in Honolulu, and subsequently the WWS12.

Since that time the Fundraising Committee and the Programs Committee of WWS-12 have been collaborating to define potential opportunities for our sponsors, in order for them to remain engaged in the Virtual WWS12 event and program. To that end, we have secured the following sponsorships of \$18,500 for our Virtual WWS12 event(s).

- Procter & Gamble
- UNICEF
- HANWASH
- Engineers Without Borders

The most significant and ongoing contributions to the WASH Rotary Action Group is the continued support of the Wallace Genetic Foundation, a relationship developed over many years, between Ron Denham and the Wallace Genetic Foundation Chair, David Douglas.

2019 – 2020	\$25,000	To support the services of the Executive Secretary in the day-to-day operations of the WASH Rotary Action Group
	\$25,000	For general operating support
2020 – 2021	\$25,000	PROPOSED: to support an Executive Secretary
	\$25,000	PROPOSED: to develop sustainable needs assessment tools for the use and involvement of Rotary Clubs and Districts in WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCF) programs

The BREW Fellowship continues to support of the WASH Rotary Action Group. They have confirmed they will make a \$5000 donation in 2020.

Future Fundraising: We are in the process of working with the WASH Rotary Action Group Board of Directors to identify and develop long-term funding relationships with WASH sector foundations. Our goal is to assist Clubs and Districts in the development of large scale, sustainable WASH programs.

## COMMUNICATIONS – Brian Hall

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Once again, the 2019 – 2020 Rotary year has been a good year for the WASH Rotary Action Group's communications arena. We are continuing to refine the systems we have in place: Member Nova, Freshdesk and AirTable. Those products are the backbone of our efforts in the technology area. We have more growing to do, but we are moving forward.

We are progressing with our marketing efforts and you will begin to see the results very soon. As announced at the 2020 Annual General Meeting we have officially changed our name. We'll be rolling out new logos, a streamlined email and newsletter template, and other marketing materials with the new **WASH Rotary Action Group** name front and center. We had some issues in the last year that prevented us from moving forward as quickly as we would have liked. These are now resolved and it is full steam ahead!

As in the past few years, our website is managed by PDG Michael Brown, who has done an outstanding job. Our newsletter team of Ian Rumbles and Terri Black consistently produce one of the best newsletters in Rotary. We have excellent statistics on the newsletter with open rates that are enviable. If you haven't checked our website and newsletter recently you owe it to yourself to do so!

We continue to strive to make our processes better and smoother while also getting the WASH Rotary Action Group name in front of potential members. This coming year should be a strong one and we are expecting strong results.

## MEETINGS AND LEARNING – Julia Phelps

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Planning for World Water Summit 12 (WWS#12) was well underway, even before the 2019 Hamburg Convention, when the WASH Rotary Action Group agreed to collaborate with Rotary International in the celebration of RI's seventy-five year partnership with the United Nations. Focusing on the theme "Partnerships that Work", Ron Denham, Julia Phelps and representatives from ESRAAG (the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) met regularly with Past RI General Secretary Ed Futa and Rotary staff.

Fast Forward to mid-March 2020 when the RI Board of Directors regretfully decided to cancel the International Convention. The WWS#12 Program Committee decided to move forward with a Virtual WWS#12. To ensure the Summit is available live in all parts of the world, two dates will be offered:

- Thursday June 18, 2020 – 7.00 pm Eastern Daylight Time
- Friday June 19, 2020 – 11.00 am Eastern Daylight Time

The program will include:

1. **Session #1** – Past Rotary International President Barry Rassin will share details of the collaboration between HANWASH (Haiti National Clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy), Rotary District 7020, The Rotary Foundation and DINEPA (The Haitian Government's National Water & Sanitation Agency). Other partners include NGOs such as Haiti Outreach and Pure Water for the World. These group is committed to providing thoughtfully managed and sustainable clean water and sanitation to all the citizens of Haiti, along with the associated health, community and economic benefits. This part of the program will conclude with a Q&A about the partnership.

This will be followed by **WASH Rotary Action Group Promotions**, where will showcase the following:

- Winners of our Photo & Video Competitions
- Membership Opportunities for Service:
  - How to Become a Member
  - Expectations of WASH Ambassadors
  - What the Professional Services Team members do for WASH, and
  - "Save the Date" for the WASH Rotary Action Group's Breakout Session in July, as part of the RI Virtual Convention
- Watch for the WASH Rotary Action Group's Fall Sessions, with continued focus on "Partnerships that Work."

2. **Session #2** – After a 10-minute break, Session 2 will feature Panelists from UNICEF, HANWASH and USAID. Topic will be “Sanitation & Hygiene in the Era of Covid-19”. Focus will be simple solutions that Rotarians can share and implement with their community partners, e.g. making sanitizers to clean your hands when there’s not much water available. This session will conclude with a Q&A period and repeat the **WASH Rotary Action Group Promotions** listed above.
3. **Post-Summit** – Participants will be surveyed for feedback on future topics of interest, speakers, organizations for future WASH programs, etc.

The virtual Summit will be followed by three follow-up seminars in September, October and November 2020. In early 2021 promotion of WWS#13 will begin, to be held in conjunction with the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

Committee Members involved in the planning of World Water Summit 12 are:

- Julia Phelps, Chair – WWS#12
- Brian Hall – PR, Marketing and IT Support
- Carolyn Meub, Nancy Gilbert, Monica Louie & Ron Denham - Program
- Mary Beth Growney-Selene – Sponsorships
- Ron Denham – Advisor to the entire Committee
- Anna Shepherd – Administrative Support



Again, the members of the WASH Rotary Action Group gather together for the Annual General Meeting and reflect on what we have done and to set our sights on the future.

Together, we have accomplished a great deal, and have not gone unnoticed by Rotary International. Significantly, we have been formally recognized as being a critical force within the Rotary world. Have you considered the change in our name? We are no longer considered an outside group of Rotarians committed to WASH – no longer a Rotarian Action Group. Rotary International has requested that we change our name to be a Rotary Action Group – reflecting the fact that we are an integral part of Rotary International. In fact, we represent that part of Rotary that gets WASH things done on the ground, whether we work to develop, implement or fund a project, or provide education, or change governmental policies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had many deleterious effects on the Rotary world, including the inability of the WASH Rotary Action Group to increase its membership. Historically, our primary means of enlisting Rotarians in the Group were through their registration for the World Water Summit and interactions in the Rotary House of Friendship at the Rotary International Convention. As both of these opportunities were cancelled this year due to the virus, our attempts to seek new members have been stifled. Nevertheless our membership remains at about 1,500 and we now have Ambassadors in 70 Districts in 29 countries.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is able to support Rotarians worldwide through the efforts of these Ambassadors. They provide a conduit from the English-speaking world to the culturally and linguistically diverse international world of Rotary. PDG Peter Staermose, an Ambassador from Denmark, has conducted the annual evaluation of the group. In analyzing the activity reports submitted by 29 of the Ambassadors, he found that this group alone made 270 presentations, 81 of which were given outside of their own district. These presentations serve to enhance understanding of WASH, but with particular reference to local needs. The presentations bring awareness of the challenges ahead, and the resources available through the WASH Rotary Action Group. They enhance project development and increase membership growth.

In addition these 29 Ambassadors alone, addressed 341 requests for help or information. They visited areas in need of a WASH project, invited others to join projects, helped with grant applications, sought financial support, evaluated proposed solutions and, in some cases, supervised project work. We thank them and congratulate them on their various successes.

By the way, if you are interested in joining them, you can find out more by going to [www.wasrag.org](http://www.wasrag.org), selecting “Get Involved” and “Ambassadors”. At that site you will find a description of the Ambassadors project and the means to apply to become an Ambassador. You will also find a list of current Ambassadors, sorted in the order of their District number. You can contact any of them directly by email just by highlighting their name. They can help you find a project, review and help you with a grant, connect you with experts who can provide information and suggestions, get a speaker for your Rotary club and answer any WASH questions you may have.

Clearly, the work of the Ambassadors is the foundation of our ability to impact a positive change in WASH worldwide. But we also need more members to join us, to learn, share and do the important work of WASH. All a potential member needs to do is go to [www.wasra.org](http://www.wasra.org) and click on "Join". We urge you to encourage your fellow Rotarians to do so.

Working together brings us strength, fellowship, and success. On behalf of the Board and Operations Team of the WASH Rotary Action Group, I thank you all for what you have done, what you will do, and for what you dream of doing.

Thank You!

### **AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

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This year we would like to recognize the ambassador who responded to our call when we needed help and stepped up to conduct the 2019/2020 analysis of the annual reports of the Ambassadors. This was a time consuming, and sometimes tedious job that required organizational skills, attention to detail, and, most important, close attention to and analysis of the comments and suggestions made by the ambassadors. Based upon Peter's work to collate all of the responses, the WASH Rotary Action Group will be able to support the ambassadors in increased ways, providing more resources and helping them to make a greater impact.

**On behalf of the WASH Rotary Action Group, I am pleased to be able to present the WASH Rotary Action Group 2020 Ambassador of the Year award to PDG Peter Staermose.**

Thank You Peter!

### **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

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This year we are recognizing an individual who has been carrying the banner of Rotary WASH efforts throughout Mexico longer than there have been Ambassadors. Sometimes he worked on the local level, but often he worked on the national level to promote awareness, sustainability and financial support of WASH initiatives. He is devoted to achieving a Mexico in which clean water is available to all, both by committing his time and personal finances to achieving this goal. Marcos has traveled the hard road to attend meetings and conferences at which he can promote the goals of WASH, providing education and leadership to those who have attended. The WASH Rotary Action Group recognizes this leadership by awarding him the WASH Rotary Action Group Outstanding Service Award.

**On behalf of the WASH Rotary Action Group, I am pleased to be able to present the WASH Rotary Action Group Outstanding Service Award to Marcos Calvert Ramirez.**

Thank You Marcos!



## **APPENDIX A – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**WASH Rotary Action Group****Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 2019**

	2019	2019	2018	2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Restricted Contributions</b>		4,000		6,000
<b>Unrestricted Contributions</b>				
Corporate contributions	50,000		50,000	
Personal contributions	500		225	
World Water Summit net	40,796		62,613	
Memberships	12,240		17,425	
Interest Received	1,190		1,727	
WWS BREW event net	8,104		0	
Miscellaneous	0		17	
		112,830		132,007
		116,830		138,007
<b>Deduct</b>				
Annual Management Meeting	10,771		12,041	
RI Convention	9,972		11,560	
Finance and administration	41,330		27,746	
Membership	1,111		525	
Program Expenses	0		10,000	
Technology Support	6,805		7,208	
Bank Charges	72		79	
		70,061		69,159
		46,769		68,848
Restricted Expenses		2,500		0
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		44,269		68,848

**Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2019****Assets**

Bank	305,711		269,085	
Prepayments	8,473		3,386	
The Rotary Foundation DAF	13,500		10,000	
		327,684		282,471

**Deduct Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	13,648		11,300	
Prepaid Income	13,875		15,280	
		27,523		26,580

**Net Assets**

		300,161		255,891
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**Represented by**

Unrestricted Funds Brought Forward	239,892		177,043	
Surplus for the year	42,769		62,848	
		282,661		239,891

Restricted Funds Brought Forward	16,000		10,000	
Balance for the year	1,500		6,000	
		17,500		16,000

<b>Funds Carried Forward</b>		300,161		255,891
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**APPENDIX B – PEOPLE OF WASH PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO COMPETITION:**

**Ian Rumbles & Terri Black**

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# People of WASH

## Photograph and Video Competition

Total of 85 entries – 78 photographs and 7 videos

Submissions from India, Netherlands, Swaziland, United States, and Australia

Highlighting projects in India, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Uganda, Indonesia, Malawi, and Fiji.

Projects covered handwashing, water filters, boreholes, WASH in Schools, menstrual hygiene, and water projects.

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**

### People of WASH - Photographs



**THIRD PLACE - \$50**

Submitted by Chris de Groot

Rotary Club of Leerdam, Leerdam, Netherlands

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**



## People of WASH - Photographs

After

Before



**SECOND PLACE - \$100**

Submitted by Chris de Groot

Rotary Club of Leerdam, Leerdam, Netherlands

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**

## People of WASH - Photographs

Before



After



**FIRST PLACE - \$200**

Submitted by Murali Manohar

Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Dalma, Jamshedpur, India

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**



## People of WASH – Videos - Amateur

### THE MOONCATCHER PROJECT

*Removing Barriers for Girls*



**THIRD PLACE - \$100**

Submitted by Lawrence (Lon) Penna  
Rotary Club of Niskayuna, Niskayuna, NY

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**

## People of WASH – Videos - Amateur



**Hand Hygiene for Health**

Ramkrishna School, Fiji

232 Students 4 Taps

Rotary



ROTARY AUSTRALIA  
WORLD COMMUNITY  
SERVICE



**SPATAP**



**SECOND PLACE - \$250**

Submitted by Stuart Mason  
Rotary Club of Noosa Heads, Tewantin, Queensland, Australia

**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**



## People of WASH – Videos - Amateur



TODAY, 2.2 BILLION PEOPLE LACK ACCESS TO  
SAFELY MANAGED DRINKING WATER SERVICES  
AND 4.2 BILLION PEOPLE LACK SAFELY  
MANAGED SANITATION SERVICES

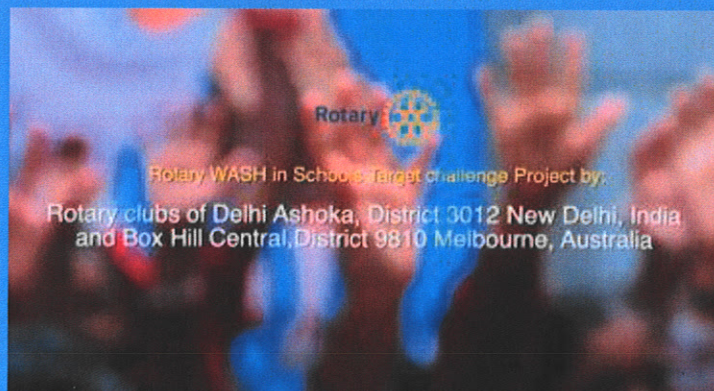
**FIRST PLACE - \$500**

Submitted by John Nonnemaker and Jeffrey Munding

Without Orders Eclub, Satellite eClub of Rotary Club of Leavenworth KS

**WA**ter, Sanitation and Hygiene **Rotary Action Group**

## People of WASH – Videos - Professional



**FIRST PLACE - \$500**

Submitted by Ramesh Aggarwal

Rotary Club of Delhi Ahoka, New Delhi, India

**WA**ter, Sanitation and Hygiene **Rotary Action Group**



# **People of WASH**

## **2021 Photograph and Video Competition**

**You can start submitting photographs and videos NOW, until April 30, 2021**

**Looking for pictures and videos of People in Action doing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects.**

**Content is a lot more important than the quality of photography.**

**Photographs and videos will be available on People of WASH gallery on the website. Anyone can use materials to promote your projects or the activities of Rotary.**

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**WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group**