

Rotary

Thailand

โรตารีประเทศไทย

July – August 2024

No. 213

Directory Edition

Rotary International
Leaders, District Leaders
and Board of Directors
of the Rotary Centre in
Thailand

RI President Stephanie A. Urchick

Ready to lead Rotary for
another successful year



Support the production of Rotary Thailand magazines
by PDG Prawit and Rotary Ann Chintana Rojkajonnalai
Rotary Club of Suan Luang, District 3350

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK, July 2024



Toward a greater vision

Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is The Magic of Rotary itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses, and address challenges.

The world is changing, and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic — building on one another toward a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work toward that vision and create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to each other's well-being is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times.

Peacebuilding is one of our top priorities, and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities around the globe, where more than

1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace center is a monumental achievement, and it is my great honor to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul center. The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peacebuilding efforts — but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing The Magic of Rotary.

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK

President, Rotary International

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK, August 2024



From challenge to opportunity

If we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyzes the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them accessible for all members.

Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of inclusivity — the first step toward belonging.

If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact.

For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funneled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives.

BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is the spark that ignites The Magic of Rotary.

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK

President, Rotary International

Rotary Thailand Magazine

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Ms. Jittraporn Santithamcharoen (Rotary Centre in Thailand)

Greetings to all fellow Rotarians,



I have been elected as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rotary Centre in Thailand during the administrative years of 2024-26. I humbly accept this role and commit to serving all Rotarians to the best of my abilities, assisting and facilitating various matters for all four districts and every club. I would also like to extend my gratitude to PDG Anurak Napawan from District 3360 for taking on the role as Editor in Chief of the Rotary Thailand magazine. His extensive experience in Rotary and management, along with support from the Rotary Centre's Board of Directors year 2024-26, our advisory board, and all of our staff, will ensure our continued success.

We also need to address tasks such as budgeting, document translation, library management, public relations, and financial matters, which requires cooperation from all sectors to achieve our goals. Finally, I would like to thank all advisors and committee members for their ongoing efforts for continuous improvement.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Niwes Khunavisarut'.

PDG Niwes Khunavisarut
Chair the Board of Directors
Rotary Centre in Thailand 2024-26

Rotary

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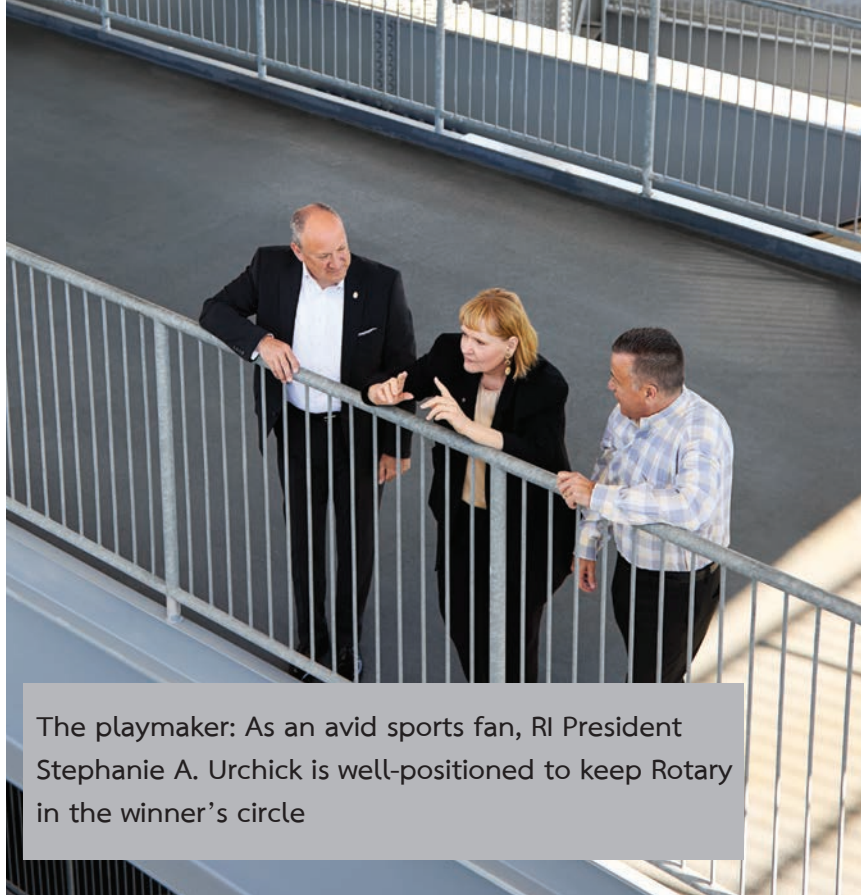
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The playmaker: As an avid sports fan, RI President
Stephanie A. Urchick is well-positioned to keep Rotary
in the winner's circle



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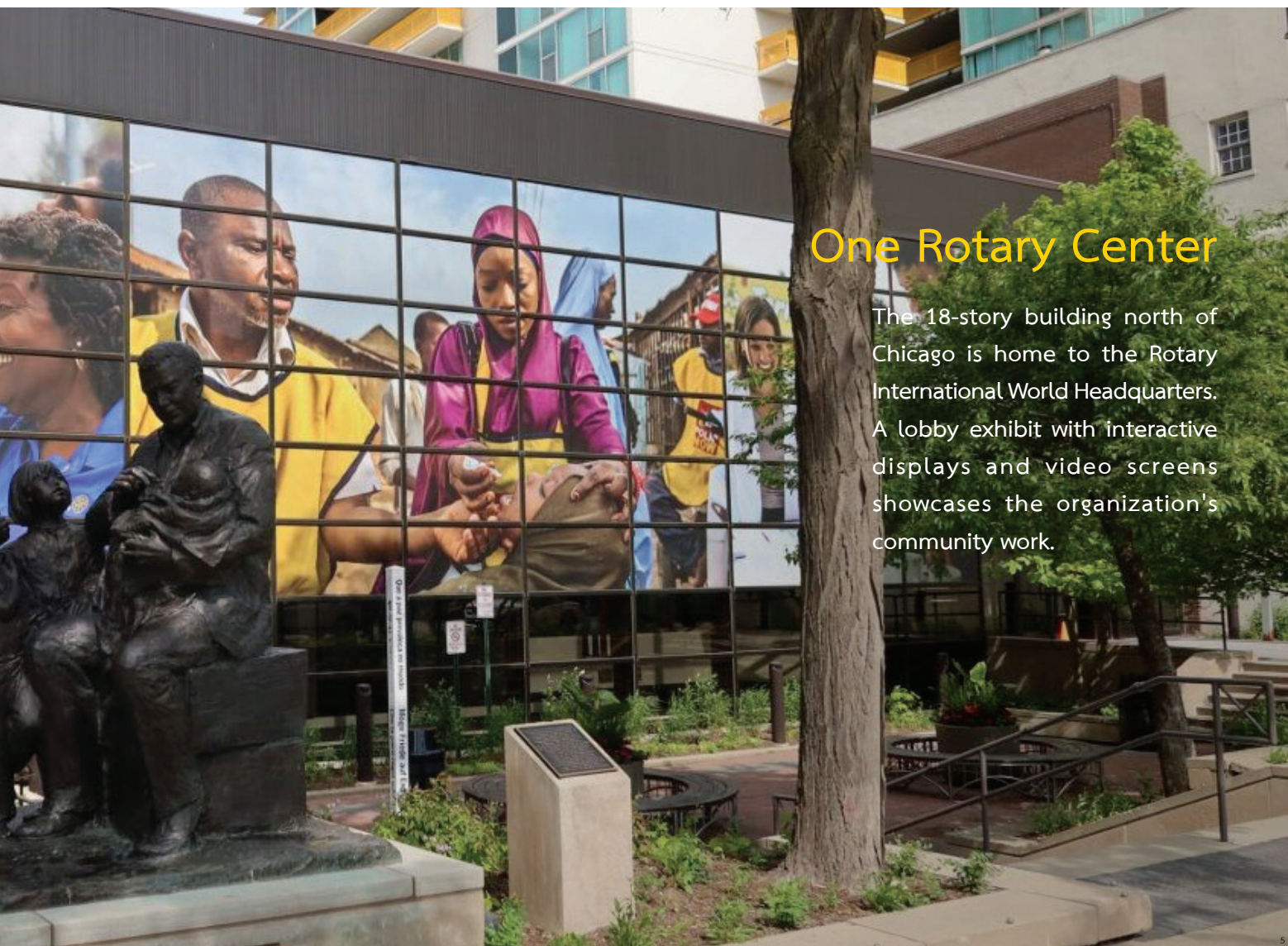
Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand and District Leaders 2024-26

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Rotary International Leaders

On the cover

Rotary gave Stephanie Urchick the international work she dreamed of from her small hometown outside Pittsburgh. She's just the person to show others RI's possibilities.



One Rotary Center

The 18-story building north of Chicago is home to the Rotary International World Headquarters. A lobby exhibit with interactive displays and video screens showcases the organization's community work.

Rotary Centre in Thailand

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3330

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3340

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3360

25. DG Apisak Jompong
26. PDG Chamnan Chanruang
27. DGE Dr. Jarruwat Techawut

At a Glance: Our District Governors for "The Magic of Rotary" Year



District 3330

DG Jakchai Visutthakul Rotary Club of Poochaosamingprai

Sometimes we succeed, and other times we fail. We learn to forgive with sporting spirit. These qualifications are commendable for athletes.

A young man from Pak Nam Pho, Jakchai was passionate about all kinds of sports and was a football player at Assumption Sriracha School, and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Thonburi Rajabhat University. He got married to Rotary Ann Porjit Yimpakorn and welcomed two daughters into the family. Currently, he is the owner of Kong Ping Intertrade Co., Ltd. and the chief executive officer of Marketing Rectrix Co., Ltd.

He served three terms totaling twelve years as a Lay Judge at the Kanchanaburi Juvenile and Family Court. In 1997, he became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Poochaosamingprai. In 1999, he assumed the role of club president and served as club secretary for four consecutive years. For 27 years, he consistently maintained 100% attendance at club meetings.

At the district level, he served as assistant governor, chair of the District Interact Committee for four years, secretary of the RYLA Committee twice, District Membership chair, and Disaster Relief Committee chair.

He is a driven and idealistic individual who will uphold moral standards, make advancements, responsibly raise the next generation, and show respect to the elder generations before him. This Rotary year has been fantastic in his "Take it Easy" manner because he is recognized as an accomplished district governor from his Interact and RYLA experience.



District 3350

DG Patsri Suwimol Rotary Club of Sathorn

District Governor Patsri has been a member of the Rotary Club of Sathorn since 1994, the year of "Be A Friend" led by PDG Krit Indhewat. She served as club president in the 104th Rotary year of "Make Dreams Real" led by PDG Krai Tangsa-gna.

She has taken part in nearly every area of Rotary service, with a primary focus on youth. "Human resource development to build up the nation" was her early belief and her goal is to "build up quality people" for the nation.

Those close to her describe her as intelligent, hardworking, patient, quick-thinking, quick-acting, kind-hearted, and always willing to volunteer for community service. She gets along well with others, has many friends from various backgrounds and occupations, and always lives her life with integrity, sacrifice, and gratitude. She enjoys spending time with her family, singing, dancing, and traveling, both domestically and internationally. She has attended over 15 RI Conventions, which have provided her with opportunities to travel.

She is now the district governor, and she is determined to learn, pay attention to her responsibilities, and work tirelessly as an "iron lady". We all encourage her to lead District 3350 successfully during "The Magic of Rotary" year.



District 3340

DG Sangtiwa Tong-U-Chang Rotary Club of Nongkhai

District Governor Sangtiwa from the Rotary Club of Nongkhai joined Rotary in 2007. She is the president of Be Green Company Limited, which is engaged in importing designer jewelry for export. She graduated from Victor Valley High School in Victorville, California, USA and then proceeded with her studies for a Bachelor of Business Administration at the Association of Business Executives, England-Singapore Campus. She later completed her bachelor's degree as well as a master's degree in marketing at Charles Sturt University in Australia.

In this Rotary year, DG Sangtiwa is committed to implementing the 3-Year Rolling Leadership model at both the district and club levels, passing on the ideas and framework to the next generation. In order to achieve magical results and maintain Rotarians in good standing who are "irresistible" to the public and draw them to JOIN ROTARY in THE MAGIC OF ROTARY year and every year thereafter, she plans to continue the development while supporting Rotarians who are prepared to step up to become top leaders at the club, district, and national level.



District 3360

DG Apisak Jompong Rotary Club of Maechan

District Governor Apisak, also known as Khun Song from the Rotary Club of Maechan in Chiang Rai province, was named one of the 50 district governors under the age of 50 by the International Assembly in the USA earlier this year. Many members unanimously stated, "He's still a young guy." Khun Song is a badminton player who has coached and organized numerous badminton tournaments. It's no surprise that his personality appears active and charming, and irresistible.

DG Apisak joined Rotary in 2008. He has held various positions in the Rotary Club of Maechan, including the role of club president in 2014-15, the year of "Light Up Rotary". Following that, he has worked in District 3360 as a training leader, training organizer, district secretary, assistant governor, "My Rotary" chair, Stewardship Subcommittee chair, and the Grant Subcommittee. He also served in a variety of capacities at the Rotary Centre in Thailand.

Khun Song emphasized the importance of two-way communication, stating that if communication between the district and members is effective, District 3360 will continue to transform into modernization and accomplishment as new goals are set.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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?

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4) Avoid behaviour that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
- 5) Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment



Trustee's message July 2024

The engine that powers us

This month, we begin a new journey together to celebrate The Magic of Rotary. So buckle up for an exciting trip.

If Rotary is a beautiful car that you are proud to drive, The Rotary Foundation is the engine that propels it to your chosen destination. And it's the strengths of Rotary — especially you and our other incredible 1.4 million members — that make The Rotary Foundation powerful.

Like many new members, I knew little about The Rotary Foundation when I joined Rotary. However, everything changed in 1985 when, as incoming president of my club, I attended my first Rotary International Convention with my wife, Gay, in Kansas City, Missouri. We will never forget the thunderous support the audience showed for Dr. Albert Sabin, creator of the oral polio vaccine, who called upon Rotary to vaccinate the world's children. It marked the dawn of PolioPlus, a pivotal moment in Rotary's commitment to children worldwide, and I was there!

You, as a member of Rotary, are also a part of The Rotary Foundation. You are part of a worldwide movement that implements global grants to build sustainable systems for clean water and sanitation where there are none. You help train peacebuilders in a world plagued by unrest. And through supporting the Foundation, you help people rebuild their lives after natural disasters.

This is the magic of The Rotary Foundation. But let's remember that magic doesn't happen on its own, which is why I am counting on your support and engagement this year.

To accomplish more good throughout the world, the Foundation trustees have set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million for 2024-25. Achieving this goal will require the support of everyone reading this



message. It will also help us reach our goal of building the Endowment Fund to \$2.025 billion by 2025.

To help us keep financial support of the Foundation at the forefront throughout this year, I have developed Mark's Magical Markers — a set of specific targets to help us achieve our overall goals. The first Magical Marker focuses on personal commitment, particularly to the Annual Fund, which supports the grants, scholarships, and vocational training teams that make the magic happen. Please contribute what you can to the Annual Fund no later than 31 August.

This year, let's fuel the engine that takes us around the globe to do good. Let's unleash The Magic of Rotary through the Foundation. And let's make this year an unforgettable one — for us and for the people whose lives we will touch.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY
Foundation trustee chair

Trustee's message August 2024

Members are the magic

I love our many Rotary traditions, especially our emblem: the wheel. Whenever I put on my Rotary pin, admire a new club's logo, or spot the emblem on a volunteer's T-shirt, I am inspired by the possibilities that wheel represents.

Early in Rotary, our predecessors envisioned it as a gear, part of a sturdy machine making great things happen. It remains that, and much more. To me, it also symbolizes cycles and movement on our journey of doing good in the world.

August is Rotary's Membership and New Club Development Month, and I encourage you to think about the cyclical connection between membership and The Rotary Foundation.

When we have engaged members in dynamic clubs, The Magic of Rotary happens. Members — both new and experienced — deepen their commitment to each other and their communities. And that local engagement attracts attention and more members.

Gradually, the new members realize their club is part of a powerful organization that is making lasting change in the world. They learn about the Foundation, support it, and perhaps apply for a grant. They see themselves as part of the movement that will eradicate polio.

As our members' experience deepens, so does their commitment to Rotary at all levels. The public sees our impact, making Rotary irresistible. New members join, new clubs are formed, and the cycle continues. With each turn of the wheel, we grow Rotary and our Foundation.

There are countless ways this magical connection between clubs and our Foundation can unfold. For instance, 100% Paul Harris Fellow Clubs, where every member is a Paul Harris Fellow,

showcase how engaged clubs are directly connected to the Foundation. Some clubs even up the ante, like the Rotary Club of Crescent (Greensboro), North Carolina, whose 125 members are all Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, and Sustaining Members simultaneously.

But you do not need to be in such a "triple crown" club to make a difference.

I am asking all Rotary members to remember this month's goal for what I'm calling Mark's Magical Markers: Please make the personal commitment to contribute what you can to the Annual Fund by 31 August. Do it right now, before you forget, at rotary.org/give. While you are there, set up a recurring direct donation.

With your help, we can keep that great wheel of Rotary and its Foundation rolling in the right direction, moving toward something greater tomorrow than we can even imagine today.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY
Foundation trustee chair



Rotary President
Stephanie Urchick's
hometown of
Pittsburgh is known
as the City of
Bridges.

The ↑ playmaker



**As an avid sports fan,
President Stephanie Urchick
is well-positioned to keep
Rotary in the winner's circle**

By Diana Schoberg

Photography by Christine Armbruster

➔ It's a frigid January night, the second in a row to dip below zero degrees Fahrenheit in Chicago.

Schools are closed, events canceled, flights grounded. Outside an arctic blast is howling, but inside Stephanie Urchick's condo, the party is sizzling.

Urchick wears jeans and a Pittsburgh Steelers T-shirt with a "Magic of Rotary" pin affixed. Draped over one of her shoulders is a "Terrible Towel," an iconic yellow dishtowel-size piece of fabric that stalwart fans of the American football team wave to rally their team. The occasional cheer or groan punctuates the party's chatter.

This playoff game between the Steelers and the Buffalo Bills has already been rescheduled once because of the dangerous winter weather sweeping across the United States. A group of Rotarians visiting Rotary headquarters was stuck in suburban Evanston because of a flight delay, and Urchick invited them to watch the game with her. The 2024-25 Rotary International president, Urchick has just returned from a trip to the International Assembly in Orlando. She pulls out some pierogis, a type of Polish dumpling, from her freezer and sets out beverages of all kinds for her unexpected guests.

To call Urchick a sports fan might be a Hall of Fame-worthy understatement. At her home in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, about 20 minutes outside Pittsburgh, Urchick's basement "woman cave" is floor to

ceiling Pittsburgh sports: 1990s-era cereal boxes featuring baseball great Roberto Clemente and the Stanley Cup-winning Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team; photos of her with Pittsburgh sports legends including Steelers running back Rocky Bleier, along with one of Bleier's framed jerseys; a Steelers piggy bank; Penguins hockey pucks; a signed football; a collection of tickets; a Steelers quilt. Her most recent acquisition is a bobblehead of Pirates baseball player Richie Hebner, whose photo Urchick plastered in her high school locker. In a nearby closet hang her two favorite uniforms: her Rotary T-shirts and her Pittsburgh fan gear.

The Bills score three touchdowns in a row to open the game, making the score 21-0 by the middle of the second quarter. Urchick steps away from the group gathered in front of the television and perches behind the kitchen counter, checking her phone and the food she's heating up in the oven.

Her enjoyment of sports extends well beyond that of a typical fan. One summer, she assisted with character analyses for Canadian Football League scouts, attending NFL training camps to watch for players who might be cut that would be a good fit for that league. (She recalls Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh approaching her about her role: "I've never worked with a lady before!" "Well," she replied, "I don't bite.") She also participated in a women's training camp put on by the Steelers and run by former players; her experience was cut short after she snapped her Achilles tendon doing footwork drills through car tires. Didn't matter. "It was just a fun, fun summer," she says.

She met the vice president of the Steelers, Art Rooney Jr., when he spoke to her Rotary club. Afterward, she brought him some chocolates from Sarris Candies, a well-known confectionery founded in Canonsburg. It's a tradition she's continued to uphold a few times a year, the two united by their love of the game.

That kind of connection is what's happening at the party tonight. Fellow Steelers fan René Laws, 2023-24 governor of District 7610 (Virginia), wears her #90 TJ Watt jersey for the occasion. The two met when they sat at the same table at a presidents-elect training seminar and their mutual love of the Steelers came up. "Ever since then, we would see each other at events and we would always have football and Rotary to talk about," Laws says. The Steelers score early in the fourth quarter and pull within a touchdown of tying the game. The two laugh as they both signal a Steelers first down along with the refs.

Life couldn't be better, unless the Steelers were actually winning, which unfortunately is not the case. Not tonight. The Bills score one more touchdown with 6:27 remaining in the game. Their fans celebrate by tossing snow in the air. The Steelers lose the game 31-17 and that's the end of their season. But for Urchick it's just the beginning. Only this year, Urchick will get her own chance to head up a winning team: Rotary.

A few weeks later, Urchick gathers with family back in western Pennsylvania for the birthday of her eldest cousin, Michael Hatalowich. The two grew up like siblings, always at each other's houses, and they still tease each





other as if brother and sister. The kitchen counter is spread with pizza and chicken wings, pasta salad, fruit, crackers, and dips, as the news plays in the background on the television in the living room. But before they eat, the dozen or so gathered — cousins and their spouses, children, and grandchildren — sing “Happy Birthday,” first in English, and then in

Slavonic, harmonizing to “Mnohaja Lita,” a traditional Carpatho-Rusyn birthday song whose title means “many years.” Urchick joins in, her voice clear and strong.

Music has been a touchstone throughout Urchick’s life. Her dad played the accordion and led a polka band, the Harmoneers, for more than 35 years. “I learned to polka before

Club members Greg Incardona (left) and William Kern join Urchick at Acrisure Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

To call Urchick a sports fan might be a Hall of Fame—worthy understatement.

I learned to walk,” she says. Urchick was a singer with her father’s band and when she’s in town, she sings with the Eastern Orthodox church choir directed by another of her cousins. “You know how some families get together and play cards?” she asks. “My father was a musician. My grandmother, my aunts, they were all singers. So when we got together, we sang.”

Urchick grew up here in western Pennsylvania, near the border of West Virginia, a countryside of forests and farms in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents moved here from Eastern Europe (Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine), settling down to take advantage of the jobs in the region’s coal mines and steel mills. When she arrived in the United States, her mother knew one sentence: “Give me some potatoes.”

Urchick’s culture and her family remain important to her. Spend a bit of time with her and you’re likely to hear stories about her visits to meet distant relatives in Eastern Europe and family lore involving a misunderstanding around beets and the powers of a patron saint. She gathers regularly with Hatalowich and her other maternal cousins who live nearby, and she gets together with her more far-flung paternal cousins for an annual trip.

**Spend a bit of time with
her and you’re likely to
hear family lore involving
a misunderstanding
around beets and the
powers of a patron saint.**

Western Pennsylvania is part of what was once known as the Steel Belt for its steel mills and coal mines, though it’s now called the Rust Belt after the decline of those industries in the 1970s and ’80s. The population of Urchick’s childhood hometown, Monessen, peaked at around 20,000 people in the 1930s but as of 2022 had declined to less than 7,000. Rows of stores along the main street stand vacant, and there’s only one full-fledged grocery store left in town. Holy Name Cemetery, the Slovak cemetery where Urchick’s paternal grandparents are buried, is more than half empty, its pristine lawns an indication of the number of graves originally anticipated. “They’ll never fill it up,” Urchick explains, “because so many people left town.”

As a child, Urchick devoured Nancy Drew mystery novels and dreamed of being a spy. “I was in this little place in Pennsylvania, and I really had never gone anywhere,” she says. “I wanted to see the world.” When she went to college, she channeled that desire into a major in international relations, with its focuses on history, political science, and languages. She studied Russian, Polish, Serbian, and Italian, on top of the French she’d learned in high school. As she was finishing up college, she applied to work for the FBI, the CIA, and other U.S. intelligence agencies. But there was one obstacle: All four of her grandparents were from Eastern Europe. “Most people’s background checks take about three or four months,” she recalls. “Well, mine apparently took a year and a half.”

By the time the FBI called with a job offer, Urchick had started down a new career path as an administrator in higher education. And she loved it. She declined what had been her dream job (although she jokes that

her work with Rotary is merely an elaborate cover for her cloak-and-dagger pursuits), and she went on to earn a master’s degree in education and a doctorate in leadership studies. Her dreams of an international career were back-burnered — that is until Rotary came along.

Over dinner at the birthday party, Urchick’s nephew Jeremy Layne reflects on his aunt. Layne, now 38, didn’t meet Urchick until he was a teenager, and he recalls the impact that moment eventually had on the trajectory of his life. She encouraged him to push himself toward his goals and refuse to accept ‘no’ as an option. “The day I met her at my Baba’s [grandmother’s] house, from that day forward she has meant everything to me,” he says. “Her vibe, her energy, her spark that she gives off is just intoxicating. She’s just an amazing woman. I’m so thankful for her to be in my life.”

“She really is very authentic and very genuine,” says Rebecca Bazzar, Hatalowich’s daughter. “She could fit in anywhere, in a room full of diplomats or a room full of local yokels. Everybody loves her and she’s going to have a good time everywhere she goes.” Bazzar leans over and in a conspiratorial whisper adds, “You won’t meet anyone more fun than her.”

The dozen people gathered toast “Na zdrowie!” and then Urchick begins the long process of hugging everybody goodbye. They discuss where she’s traveling next, her family members wishing that she stay safe. As they walk outside, she and her cousin Peter Merella, the choir director, say goodbye “their way,” in Polish. “Do widzenia.” They loosely translate: “Until we see each other again.”

The next morning, as she walks into a side room at a diner in Canonsburg, Urchick is welcomed by hoots and applause from the couple dozen Rotary members seated along a string of tables. But it isn't just Urchick who's cheered as she enters the room. It's the greeting that every member gets when they arrive for a meeting of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Urchick's home club.

The tradition started a few years ago when someone arrived late to the meeting. Everybody cheered — and it caught on. Now no matter when they arrive at the meeting, all members are greeted as if they're the president of an international organization. "How could you not feel good?" Urchick says.

She hugs William Kern, the club president, and the meeting starts. It's a breakfast meeting, and the smell of toast permeates the air. The table is a jumble of coffee mugs and carafes, empty cups of half-and-half, and water glasses. The food begins to arrive, classic diner fare including French toast, bagel sandwiches, hash browns, and oatmeal. Urchick isn't much of a breakfast eater and sticks to decaf coffee.

For years, the club had been stuck at around 35 members, Urchick says. But it used Rotary's Action Plan to take a look at itself with new eyes. Club leaders asked every member about the club's performance — things such as the club meeting date, time, and location, and club projects. With that information, they determined that meeting at a different time of day might work for more people and switched from a lunch club to breakfast. "Instantly, and I mean instantly, we had two new people come into the club," Urchick says.



Urchick and Incardona relax at S&D Polish Deli in Pittsburgh. Urchick's family immigrated to the area from Eastern Europe.

"They said they were invited before but could never come."

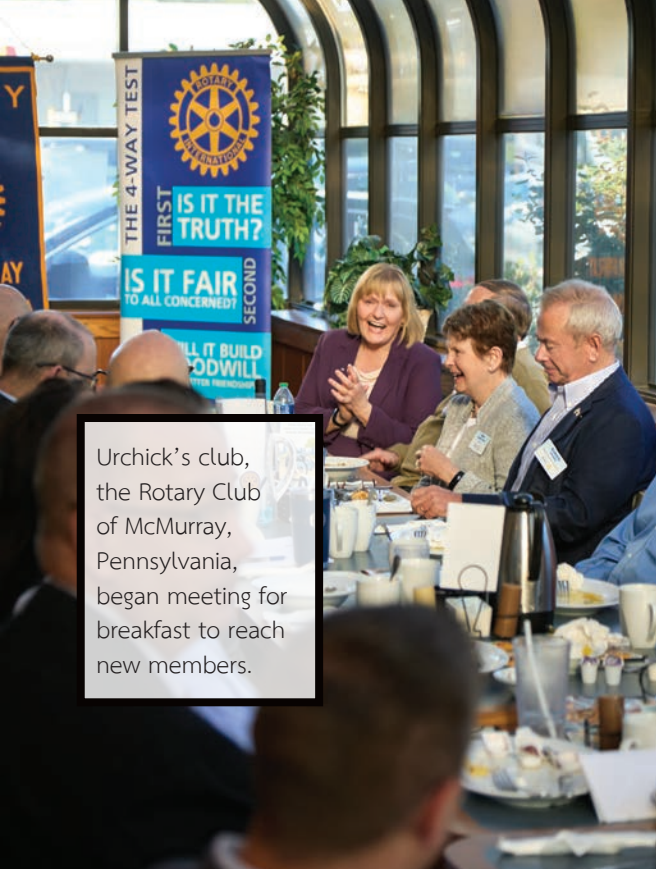
The club didn't stop there. Members talked to other groups in the area and found people who wanted to serve but didn't want to attend club meetings. Looking into options, club leaders started a satellite club for people to do just that. The concept brought 15 new members to the club. "They pay full dues," Urchick says. "We don't discount anything. But we also know they're not coming to weekly meetings." Instead, they hold "PBR" nights, referring not to the familiar monogram of the American beer Pabst Blue Ribbon, but to "pizza, beer, and Rotary."

This morning's meeting is vibrant, full of lively conversations and bursts of laughter. The cheering, the shared breakfast, the camaraderie is all part of the club's intention to be, to borrow Urchick's catchphrase, "simply irresistible." "It makes my job easier talking about being a Rotarian

"She really is very authentic and very genuine. She could fit in anywhere, in a room full of diplomats or a room full of local yokels."

in an active club," she says. Being irresistible "means the experience is so compelling, so fun, so dynamic that people are drawn to it and don't want to leave," she adds. "At the bottom of that is the whole concept of belonging: Is this the kind of group I want to belong to?"

That was the question Urchick asked herself in 1991, when an acquaintance walked into her office at the California University of Pennsylvania and asked if she'd like to go to a Rotary club



Urchick's club, the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, began meeting for breakfast to reach new members.



Urchick mentors Kate Matz (center) of the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh. Matz and her daughter, Mason, join Urchick at Sarris Candies.

Being irresistible means the experience is so compelling, so fun, so dynamic that people are drawn to it and don't want to leave.

meeting. Urchick didn't know much about Rotary, but she was recently divorced and looking for ways to meet new people. And when the woman mentioned Rotary's internationality, something clicked.

When she went to her first meeting of the Rotary Club of California, in the town south of Pittsburgh, she met Chuck Keller, a member of the club and RI's 1987-88 president. "He introduced himself and we got to be friends quickly," she says. "I had a built-in Rotary godfather. It was amazing." Urchick dove in, hosting Group Study Exchange team members and pitching in with the club's Youth Exchange students. She organized an indoor picnic complete with a three-legged sack race. "Oh, my gawd," she says in her Pittsburgh accent, "it was hilarious."

Urchick was drawn especially to the work of The Rotary Foundation, becoming first the Foundation chair for her club and then for her district. Later, at the zone level, she served as a regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, focusing on fund development. She worked with Lou Piconi, another Pittsburgh-area Rotarian who had served Rotary on the international level as both

a director and trustee, to train what they called "major donor possibility teams," groups of five to seven people who focused on fundraising for The Rotary Foundation. "Lou and his wife, Barbara, and I would get in his big red Cadillac," she says, and travel around the region. "We had a great time."

Her work with the Foundation meant more people got to know her and led to a 5 a.m. phone call in 2012. Her name had been put forward to replace Anne Matthews as a Rotary Foundation trustee. (Matthews left her post to join the Rotary International Board of Directors.) Later, Urchick became a director herself and led the organization's Strategic Planning Committee, a role that proved pivotal to shaping her thinking about how to move Rotary into a thriving future.

Given Urchick's background in international relations, her interest in peace as another of her priorities as president likely comes as no surprise. She encourages living The Four-Way Test,



investing in a positive club culture, and engaging with Rotary Peace Centers as ways members can help spread the message of Rotary's commitment to peace. "We're not going to get a Nobel Peace Prize for stopping a war," Urchick says, "but we can use what we have in Rotary to make the world a better place."

One of the pillars of Urchick's peace push is, well, a pillar. That afternoon after the club meeting, she joins members of the Rotary Club of White Oak, another Pittsburgh-area club. They have gathered on a grassy field outside of the White Oak community pool and near a historic marker honoring the spot of an encampment by George Washington during the French and Indian War.

Dan Dougherty, the 2024-25 governor of District 7305 and a member of the White Oak club, is holding a white 8-foot pole. The words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" are inscribed on it in eight languages — English, Irish, Italian, Polish, German, Croatian, Spanish, and Vietnamese — spoken in the community. The phrase also appears in Braille, and there is a rainbow flag sticker and another

decal for Veterans for Peace. Urchick walks up and immediately pulls out her phone, scanning the QR code on the peace pole's side that links to a website with more information.

She encourages clubs to put up these poles as visible signals of their commitment to peace, whether at members' homes, in their club, their community, or around the world. Dougherty's wife, Autumn, who is also a member of the White Oak club, has made it her goal to get every club in their district to erect a peace pole in the coming year.

When the last White Oak club member arrives, everyone clusters around Urchick like players huddled around their coach during a crucial time out. "The peace pole project is a favorite of mine because it's a visual representation," she tells them. "It's going to tell everybody in White Oak who comes to this park that your club is about peacebuilding. Rotary is about peacebuilding."

To conclude the ceremony, Urchick invites the members to reach out and touch the pole. They unite, all part of the same team — the Rotary team. Urchick smiles. Game on!



Urchick works with McMurray club President William Kern to scout a location for a peace pole in the community.

She encourages clubs
to put up these poles as
visible signals of their
commitment to peace.

RI Board of Directors 2024-25

The RI Board of Directors manages Rotary International affairs and funds in accordance with the RI Constitution and Bylaws. Directors are nominated by their zones and elected to two-year terms. Eight new directors and the president-elect join the Board on 1 July.



Stephanie A. Urchick
President
Rotary Club of McMurray,
Pennsylvania, USA



**Mário César Martins
de Camargo**
President-elect
Rotary Club of
Santo André, Brazil



Hans-Hermann Kasten
Vice President
Rotary Club of
Aachen-Frankenburg,
Germany



Rhonda "Beth" Stubbs
Treasurer
Rotary Club of Maryville,
Tennessee, USA



Ghim Bok Chew
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of
Bugis Junction,
Singapore



Eve Conway-Ghazi
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of Redbridge,
England



Daniel C. Himelspach
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of
Denver Mile High,
Colorado, USA



**Anirudha Roy
Chowdhury**
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of
Calcutta Mega City, India



**Trichur Narayan "Raju"
Subramanian**
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of Deonar,
India



Henrique Vasconcelos
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of
Fortaleza-Alagadiço,
Brazil



Yeong Ho Yun
Director 2023-25
Rotary Club of
Masan South, Korea



Patrick Eakes
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of Crescent
(Greensboro),
North Carolina, USA



Christine Etienne
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Petoskey, Michigan, USA



Naomi Luan-Fong Lin
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of Taipei Lily,
Taiwan



Isao "Mick" Mizuno
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Tokyo Tobihino,
Japan



Salvador Rizzo Tavares
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Monterrey Carlos Canseco,
Mexico



Suzan Stenberg
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Östersund Åre, Sweden



Daniel V. Tanase
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Suceava Bucovina,
Romania



Alain Van de Poel
Director 2024-26
Rotary Club of
Wezembeek-Kraainem,
Belgium



John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary Club of Kyiv,
Ukraine

The Rotary Foundation Trustees 2024-25

The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation manage the business of the Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary that funds service activities. The RI president-elect nominates the trustees, who are elected by the RI Board to four-year terms. Four new trustees take office on 1 July.



Mark Daniel Maloney
Chair 2024-25
Trustee 2021-25
Rotary Club of Decatur,
Alabama, USA



Holger Knaack
Chair-elect 2024-25
Trustee 2022-26
Rotary Club of Herzogtum
Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany



Larry A. Lunsford
Vice chair 2024-25
Trustee 2021-25
Rotary Club of Kansas
City-Plaza, Missouri, USA



Akira Miki
Trustee 2021-25
Rotary Club of Himeji,
Japan



Martha Peak Helman
Trustee 2022-26
Rotary Club of
Boothbay Harbor, Maine,
USA



Bharat S. Pandya
Trustee 2022-26
Rotary Club of Borivli, India



Greg E. Podd
Trustee 2022-26
Rotary Club of Evergreen,
Colorado, USA



Chun-Wook Hyun
Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of
Seoul-Hansoo, Korea



Jennifer Jones
Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of
Windsor-Roseland, Ontario,
Canada



Carlos Sandoval
Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of San Nicolas
de los Garza, Mexico



Dennis J. Shore
Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of Hawthorn,
Australia



Ann-Britt Sabol
Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
Falun Kopparvågen,
Sweden



**Ching-Huei "Frank"
Horng**
Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
Panchiao West, Taiwan



Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
Port Harcourt, Nigeria



R. Gordon R. McNally
Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
South Queensferry,
Scotland



John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary Club of Kyiv,
Ukraine

Adaptation, Innovation and Rotary

Clubs look for new ways to grow membership

In 2023, the Rotary Board of Directors approved the concept of **regional adaptability**, which encourages clubs, districts, and zones to address challenges in new culturally and geographically appropriate ways.

“It’s really just a common-sense idea,” says Jeremy Hurst, 2022-24 Rotary director. “There is no single way to do Rotary. We simply ask Rotary clubs to ponder what they can do differently on a region-to-region basis and use their knowledge of local culture and customs to meet current and future members’ needs.” Michele Berg, deputy general secretary of Rotary International, says regional diversity is what makes Rotary unique and notes that adaptability is the fourth priority of Rotary’s strategic Action Plan. “We’re encouraging innovation and adapting to ensure your club is relevant in your community,” Berg says. “The fundamentals of who we are — the core values, Rotary’s objectives, The Four-Way Test — will all stay the same.”

To be more adaptable, the Board and The Rotary Foundation Trustees have authorized innovative pilot programs in two regions. Zone 8, which includes Australia, New Zealand, and some Pacific island countries, is creating a new organizational structure to provide more leadership opportunities and expand community impact. Rotary International in



Great Britain and Ireland is offering new membership options to improve recruitment.

Hurst says each pilot is designed to allow flexibility in club operations and structures, and provide clubs with an opportunity to explore innovative ways to grow membership by improving their members’ experiences. These measures can also help improve engagement, projects, and public image, and boost support of The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Gold Coast Corporate, Australia, has grown thanks to the flexibility offered by corporate memberships.

Photograph by Rhys Martin

Meanwhile, Hurst says his zones have developed an online Membership Success Center, where leaders can see how their club numbers have changed over the past five years. It predicts how much a given club needs to grow each month to offset attrition, and advises clubs on how to achieve consistent growth. And Rotary's Action Plan champions help club leaders and regional coordinators be more effective, Berg says. RI will closely monitor these programs to evaluate the effectiveness of each change.

Other membership pilots

Different fees: District 3650 (Korea) charges different district membership fees for satellite club members, Rotarians under 30 years old, and corporate club members. These members pay a third of the regular district fees.

Mega club: District 9940 (New Zealand) has merged several small clubs into one large one, allowing members to focus on Rotary without the added tasks of running individual clubs. Club operations are supported by district leaders.

Continuity: When a member of the Rotary Club of Brugge-Zuid, Belgium, is elected to the club board, the person is re-elected every year until becoming the president. This allows for continuity among the club's leaders.

Corporate satellite club: The Rotary Club of Seoul-Hansoo All-Key, Korea, is a companion club whose members are employees of the same corporation. At first, some employees

were hesitant to join. But by listening to what prospective members wanted, the club changed its meeting formats and added fun elements. The group has attracted more members, many of whom cite service projects as their favorite part of the club experience.

Shared presidency: Some clubs in the South Pacific and Philippines region have two or three members share the position of club president. Only one is reported to the RI Secretariat, and that person is responsible for ensuring that presidential duties are completed as outlined in Rotary's governing documents.

A.M. and P.M. clubs: In District 6000 (Iowa), these companion clubs offer working parents and young professionals the chance to join Rotary at times, and with dues structures, that work for them. Clubs typically meet early in the morning and are particularly popular with teachers, shop owners, and medical professionals.

Next-generation clubs: Popular in India, these clubs bring in Rotarians' young-adult children who aren't interested in joining their parents' clubs.

Learn more by contacting your district's governor or membership chair, or by visiting rotary.org/membership.

Interviewing the Chairs of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand

As the Rotary Wheel transitions through the Rotary year every 1 July, so will the leaders of each level of Rotary. We'll take you to meet the immediate past and the newly appointed Chairs of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand to get to know and learn more about the role as the leader of the Rotary Centre in Thailand.

PDG Somphop Thirasan

Chair of the Board of Directors 2022-24

PDG Somphop Thirasan is a member of the Rotary Club of Kanchanaburi, the Governor of District 3330 in 2012-13, and was the Chair of the Board of Directors of Rotary Centre in Thailand in 2022-24.

PDG Somphop explained, "It is a great opportunity to assume a role in Rotary, which has been declared an 'organization of good people', and shows that the service and administration of the Rotary Centre and Rotary clubs nationwide are effective and are recognized as 'people of action', with transparency and sustainability. I have received good cooperation from the advisory board who provided useful comments and advice all along, especially Vice Chairs of the Board who oversee various committees resulting in several achievements for the past two years.

Examples are PDG Nakarin Ratanakitsunthorn, who oversees the translation work, and has translated various English documents such as the Rotary Theme brochure and training manuals for officers in various positions, as well as other important knowledge into Thai. The translations help Rotary club members in Thailand to study and learn. One of the most exciting things is the collaboration with Rotary International to organize a Thai language course in Rotary's Learning Center for the first time, which means we have Thai language courses available and we will continue to add more



courses with time. However, we must ask Rotary club members in Thailand to make use of them so that Rotary International will see the importance of having more Thai language courses.

For the Rotary Thailand magazine, PDG Chalermchat Chun-in as Editor in Chief, was able to manage the delivery of the magazine to Rotarians within the scheduled time frame. In addition, we have created an application that allows members to read the magazine in both Thai and English on

their mobile phones for the first time. We are still depending on the delivery of the magazine to members overseas and will have to develop it to be suitable for the paperless era in order to turn Rotary Thailand magazine into 100% online.

In terms of public relations, PDG Thanongsak Pongsri set up various subcommittees to create PR platforms and enhance public image, such as Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, and improved the website www.rotarythailand.org to be similar to the Rotary International website. In addition, there are external PR initiatives in collaboration with Mr. Suttichai Yoon's team to develop PR awareness and trainings to create media productions on mobile phones, as well as live broadcasting of Rotary activities.

PDG Anurak Napawan kindly helped take care of the Centre's Library and valuable historical items. He helped to improve and organize the Library to display photos of Rotary activities in Thailand. He also categorized souvenirs that Past Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul had given to the Rotary Centre, and arranged QR Codes to scan to read details to learn about the history. About 10 podcasts and articles have been created using AI to make them easy to listen to and study. In addition, there have been other improvements and developments for better services.

Digital signage with touch-screens were provided and supported by a budget from District 3330, PDG Wiwat

Pipatchaisiri (District 3340), PDG Nakin Rattanakitsunthon (District 3350), and PDG Dr. Waewdao Limlenglert (District 3360). We provided tools for more efficient online meetings and stored data using the One Drive system. We coordinated with the Fiscal Agent of Rotary in Thailand to enable the transfer of Rotary International dues and donations to The Rotary Foundation through bank accounts in Thailand.

During this two-year term, there was an auspicious event; the Rotary Centre in Thailand received a statue of HRH Prince Purachatra Jayakara, the Founder of Rotary in Thailand, which is the first statue of him at the Rotary Centre. The last task was to prepare for the handover of work to the new Board, and we organized an off-site activity for the Rotary Centre staff for the first time, so they could have the opportunity to train and develop themselves, and their thoughts and attitudes to adapt to new things and changes. I was also a special lecturer on “The Power of Life”.

I would like to thank the Advisory Board, vice chairs, the committees, the secretary of the Rotary Centre in Thailand, PDG Wichai Maneewacharakiat who helped as the treasurer, the four district governors, all the Rotary Centre staff, and especially all the Rotary clubs that have given their cooperation and support for the Rotary Centre and me. I would also like to congratulate the new Chair, PDG Niwes Khunavisarut of District 3340, and all the committee members.

PDG Niwes Khunavisarut **Chair of the Board of Directors 2024-26**

PDG Niwes Khunavisarut is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Chanthaburi from 14 October 1971, and Dr. Chalot Kiraphat, the Director of Phrapokklao Hospital, was the Charter President. The district governor at that time was Dr. Walter Rintoul from Singapore, District 330 (covering Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei). PDG Niwesana was the President of the Rotary Club of Chanthaburi in 1980-81 and the Governor of District 3340 in 1992-93. PDG Niwes said, “I am very proud to be the first governor of District 3340. The President of Rotary International at that time was Cliff Dochterman. I had the opportunity to attend the International Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and I was very proud to shake hands with the President of Rotary International during the Assembly”.



On the occasion of assuming the Office of the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand in 2024-26, PDG Niwes had a meeting to receive the work from the Immediate Past Chair and Board. On 25 July, he invited the Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre, the Advisory Board, Rotary Centre staff, and those involved to meet and set guidelines and management policies, study problems, and organize various activities, including further tasks to be done such as document translation, publishing of Rotary Thailand magazine, Library development, public relations, finance, and providing services to all Rotarians in Thailand.

“I would like to congratulate all Rotary club presidents and their boards in Thailand who assumed their offices from 1 July 2024 onwards. I would like to ask the presidents to help take care of the existing members to remain as strong members by creating friendship activities within the club and help attract at least 10% more new members to keep our Rotary organization strong and progressive, and always ready to serve the community according to the motto ‘Service Above Self’. I would also like to invite all Rotarians throughout Thailand to use the services at the Rotary Centre by visiting our website www.rotarythailand.org”.

The comprehensive information from the Immediate Past Chair gives us a clear picture of the work of the Board of Directors of the Centre and staff, and the readiness of the new board led by PDG Niwes Khunavisarut, who is ready to support every Rotary club and Rotarian in Thailand.

Building Connections at the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore

PDG Suparie Chatkunyarat
District 3360

For some Rotarians, attending the **Rotary International Convention** might not be very exciting. This could be due to the fact that it is held abroad, requiring a budget for travel, long-term planning, visa applications for many countries, and relatively high registration fees. Additionally, the convention is conducted in English. However, those who have previously attended the convention may consider it a once-in-a-lifetime experience that all Rotarians should try.

The convention's format remains consistent each year, beginning with preconvention events. These preconventions include seminars for global networking programs such as Youth Exchange (YE), Rotaract, and other programs that require brainstorming to address urgent issues. The main convention usually opens on a Sunday for the convenience of the attendees. On this day, there is a general session with a keynote speaker. The following three days consist of breakout sessions where participants can engage in discussions and workshops. The final day features the closing ceremony.

Another important feature is the House of Friendship (HOF), which opens a day before the main convention. The HOF is a space where Rotarians can meet, build friendships, exchange information, and interact with various Rotary booths, including one for early bird registration for the following year's convention in Calgary, Canada. Visitors to this booth are welcomed by two ladies from Calgary wearing traditional white cowboy hats – a symbol of hospitality in Calgary. The HOF also includes a banner exchange board, a pin exchange area, booths for shopping Rotary-branded merchandise, and areas to relax with coffee and food.

Last year's convention in Singapore marked the first time that those not registered for the main convention could purchase separate HOF passes, although limited to one day only. Thai Rotarians from all four districts participated in the HOF opening ceremony, which included traditional Thai dances and invitations for attendees to join in. Many participants wore Thai costumes, adding color and vibrancy to the event, leaving a lasting impression and plenty of memorable photos.





A new feature at the convention is the “Rotary Village”, where attendees can quickly and deeply learn about Rotary’s history, vision, and key initiatives such as the Polio program. Here, visitors can converse with staff from the Secretariat and volunteers, including Thai Rotarians. Some booths feature small group discussions on topics from different regions or projects seeking collaboration, such as a booth where Rotary International President-elect Stephanie A. Urchick engaged with attendees. Club Runner also showcased its platform for interested clubs.

In addition, there are networking events and social gatherings in various locations around the city, with tickets available for purchase in advance via the convention website. The Rotary Events App is the most convenient way to navigate these events, providing travel details, photo-sharing, activity feeds, and session updates, as well as the ability to send feedback to the organizers.

Many Rotarians have attended several conventions, while for others, it’s their first time. Experiences and opinions about the convention vary. Some felt that the keynote speakers were mostly older, and they wished there were more speakers from younger generations. Nevertheless, they were excited by the diversity of attendees from around the world, showcased through their varied attire, friendly greetings, and exchanges of business cards and selfies. However, those who attended sometimes compared it to past conventions, noting differences such as the less grand opening ceremony due to having two sessions or the shortage of seating despite knowing the number of registered participants in advance. Still, the entertainment, featuring world-class performers, provided enjoyment and a vibrant atmosphere, just as in previous years.

Some attendees found the insightful talks on humanitarian efforts, leadership, and innovation in Rotary to be valuable and inspiring. Others were thrilled by the in-depth discussions and hands-on workshops during the breakout sessions, which demonstrated Rotary’s commitment to providing engaging and comprehensive learning experiences with top-notch speakers.

On the final day, many felt the highlight was hearing Rotary International President-nominee Mário César Martins de Camargo from Santo André, São Paulo, Brazil speak and witnessed the passing of the RI President’s torch, symbolizing continuity and Rotary’s enduring spirit. The event closed with a musical performance, including the timeless song “YMCA” bridging generations and concluding the convention on a high note, leaving attendees with memories of a powerful Rotary.

Reflections from Attending Rotarians

PE Cherdphong Chaiyawatthamrong
Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North

“This was my first time attending the convention, and I realized how significant Rotary is as an organization that brings together many high-quality individuals. It’s well-organized with modern and comprehensive communication. However, the wealth of information is more than one person can fully absorb, so I chose to focus on certain areas. I met Rotarians from various countries who I had never met before but could converse with immediately. I interpret this as a shared positive attitude among Rotarians and a common direction of thought”.

Rtn Pakamas Bussakarnuto
Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North

“At the age of 25, this was the first time I participated in such a large global event, and I attended as a part of Rotary, not just as a follower or outsider. I expected the atmosphere to be formal and strict, but upon attending, I was pleasantly



surprised by how friendly it was. The organizers were professional, with smiles everywhere. Even though my friends and I were much younger than most participants, everyone—including the staff—welcomed and cared for us, making us feel truly part of the organization. This experience has motivated me to continue working for society.”



PDG Rathprateep Keeratiurai

District 3340

“I had the opportunity to join the traditional Thai dance performance in the HOF with Rotarians from all four districts in Thailand. We invited international friends to join, creating a joyful atmosphere filled with friendship and fun. The event was a highlight for many, leaving lasting positive impressions.”



PDG Somchai Kerddecho

District 3360

“At the opening ceremony, when the Thai national flag was presented, the cheers from the Thai audience filled me with pride, reminding me of our role in Rotary to do good for the world. Another memorable moment was when the blue and yellow flag of Ukraine was raised, sparking cheers throughout the hall, reinforcing our collective commitment to promoting world peace. It was a deeply moving moment, and I hope that global conflicts and wars will decrease as much as possible.”



DGE Dr. Jaruwat Techawut

District 3360

“I appreciated the spacious and convenient venue, easily accessible by subway or taxi. The breakout sessions offered a variety of interesting topics. I also had the chance to meet with the Rotary Club of Wonju Central, District 3730, a partner of the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai, District 3360, during the

opening ceremony. We discussed the successful Aussie Peace Walk in Australia as well.”

PDG Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn

District 3330

“The first Rotary Club in Singapore was established in 1930, and 69 years later, in 1999, Singapore hosted its first RI Convention with over 19,000 attendees. Now, 25 years later, in 2024, Singapore hosted it again with over 20,000 participants, including many who registered on-site. The convention was held at the Singapore EXPO Convention and Exhibition Centre, near a giant shopping mall and casino. Across the street is the Marina Bay Sands Hotel, with its iconic architecture featuring a ship-shaped structure connecting three towers. Nearby is the famous Garden by the Bay, a must-visit spot. Singapore’s diverse population also brought a wide variety of cuisines. In 2025, the next convention will be hosted in Calgary, Canada, followed by Taipei, Taiwan.”



For Rotarians who missed this year’s convention, reports, videos, and downloads are available at: <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/about/past-and-future-conventions>

<https://my.rotary.org/en/2024-rotary-convention-videos>

You can also view event photos on the **Rotary Events App** (Guide: 2024 Rotary International Convention).

Introducing Our Co-editors of the Four Districts



District 3330

CP Apaladee Lekhakul
Rotary Club of
Khuanlang-Hatyai

First of all, I would like to thank PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont for his honor and trust to appoint me as the co-editor of District 3330 during 2024-25, THE MAGIC OF ROTARY year.

I became a founding member of the Rotary Club of Kok Samet Chun in 2004 and was the club president in 2005-06. Seven years later, I founded the Rotary Club of Khuanlang-Hatyai, the 83rd club of District 3330. I have been the Chair of Thailand-Malaysia Inter Country Service Subcommittee for 11 years until now, the chair of the District Vocational Services Committee for two years, the chair of the District Membership Attraction Committee, the Chair of the Governor's Monthly Newsletter Editorial for three years, on the E-News Subcommittee for two years and the club newsletter, and the editor of the club's installation book. Recently, I have only been a reader, so I can't help but feel worried that I will be able to revive it like I used to. However, I will try my best.



District 3340

PP Deara Piboolwatthanawong
Rotary Club of Magkang

In this Rotary year, I have been entrusted by the district governor to be the editor for District 3340, which is an important mission to connect with the District Governor's Newsletter to produce continuous content to reinforce the focus that the district wants to disseminate in the same direction. This year's theme of THE MAGIC OF ROTARY is the beginning of a year that starts with amazing enthusiasm from every club president. With the enthusiasm of the presidents, DG Sangthiwa Tong-U-Chang has a plan to support their eagerness to be at a suitable level and consistent to move forward steadily throughout the year. Along with the policy of giving importance to all Rotarians, and not just leaders, under the concept of "Being an Irresistible Rotarian", Rotary Thailand magazine will continue to be a medium that helps disseminate important news, performance, and projects to Rotarians in Thailand very well.



District 3350

PP Trong Sangswangwatana
Rotary Club of Bangkok
Suwanabhumi

I have loved reading since I was a child, something that my father instilled in me. Later on, he helped found the Rotary Club of Thonburi, and he was its president for two consecutive terms. I have to give credit to my father for this, including instilling in me the ideals of Rotary. Since I read a lot, I also like writing. During my teenage fantasies, I wrote poems and short stories to publish in magazines to earn some money with a little pride. When I joined Rotary, I started with the club newsletter, the governor's newsletter, and then Rotary Thailand magazine. That sums it up.

I became a Rotarian in 2001, assuming the position of club president in Rotary Year 102, and the assistant-governor for six terms. Until recently, I focused on working from home, and writing for magazines was the best fit for me. I have been the editor of the governor's newsletter with six governors, which is the same number of years I have worked with Rotary Thailand magazine.



District 3360

PP Thanijporn Khomson
Rotary Club of DoiPrabaht

As the co-editor for District 3360, I am a new editor for Rotary Thailand magazine, but have been in the Rotary family from my father's generation to now. I have been fully involved with Rotary since 2012 and was the club president in 2017-18 with the RI theme of "Rotary: Making A Difference" in Rotary Year 113.

Though I am new to the Rotary Thailand magazine editorial team, I have helped District 3360 in many ways as a trainer, Chair of the District Conference Organizing Committee, Chair of Club Activities Organizers, Assistant Governor, an Assistant Empowering Girls Ambassador, and most recently, District Chair of Public Image and Awareness Committee. It can be said that I have come to help Rotary with concrete goodwill.

Since experiencing Rotary from my childhood days until heartily and seriously joining the organization, Rotary has provided me with friendships, vision, opportunity and a lot more.



PDG Theeranan Wonglaw
Chair of the Road Safety
Committee, District 3330
Road Safety Project
Rotary Year 2024-25

"Safe Roads Save Lives"

Rotary Thailand, across all four districts, has been proactively advancing since January. The Safe Roads Save Lives (SRSL) Thailand project was established with PDG Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn (Rotary Club of Tongkah, District 3330) as the project chair and PP Preecha Klinkaeo (Rotary Club of Phra Nakhon, District 3350) as the committee secretary. The assistant secretary is PP Ratchada Thepnava (Rotary Club of Khuanlang-Hatyai, District 3330). The project is led by the leaders from the four districts:

- District 3330: PDG Theeranan Wongloh – Rotary Club of Songkhla
- District 3340: PP Phakphum Jumparak – Rotary Club of Magkang
- District 3350: PDG Tanongsak Pongsri – Rotary Club of Buengkum
- District 3360: CP Patthana Pittarapand – Rotary Club of Buddhachinnaraj

For District 3330, the following actions have been undertaken:

1. Representatives from 22 provinces have been appointed, with PDG Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn and Rotarian Dr. Chuchart Nitcharat from the Rotary Club of Tongkah as advisors. PP Rachada Thepnava has been appointed as the project secretary, and CP Apaladee Lekhakul from the Rotary Club of Khuanlang-Hatyai has been appointed as the district project treasurer.
2. Meetings are scheduled on the first Saturday of every month from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.
3. Each province has established various committees with members selected from local clubs.
4. Training has been provided for instructors to lead safety training for students from elementary through high school levels to reduce road accident fatalities.

According to the Department of Land Transport, there are approximately 25,000 to 30,000 road fatalities per year in Thailand, while globally, over 1.2 million people die annually in road accidents. The United Nations has partnered with Rotary clubs worldwide to reduce these numbers. This project, which began last year, is seen as a significant and challenging task for Rotary clubs all around the world.

Kick-off Activities





The Rotary Club of Nakorn Hatyai, led by President Worrawee Rittewa and members, in collaboration with Luang Prachan Ratnikorn Vocational College, invited a traffic police officer from Hat Yai Police Station to give a talk on "Safe Driving and Traffic Awareness" and donated 100 crash helmets to students at the college on 2 July 2024.



The Rotary Club of Suratthani, led by President Adisorn Wangsangskul and members, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bannasan, donated 210 helmets to kindergarten children and their parents at Ban Na Doem Subdistrict Municipality Kindergarten School in Ban Na Doem district, Surat Thani province. This campaign aims to encourage children and to persuade their parents and guardians to wear crash helmets every time they ride a motorcycle, with the hope of reducing road accidents in the area. This event took place on 6 July 2024.



Rotary
District 3330



District Governor Installation Ceremony of DG Jakchai Visutthakul on 11 May 2024, at River Hotel in Nakhon Pathom province







DG Sangtiwa Thong-U-Chang
District 3340

All Rotarians are Irresistible this Year

In *"The Magic Of Rotary"* year, District 3340 led by Governor Sangtiwa Thong-U-Chang, started the year with complete readiness. From the first day of announcing the working policy together with the district team and the elected presidents at the district PETS, the overall response from the presidents of all 65 clubs was outstanding. This led to effective club management plans and the arrangement of various service activities throughout the year, while also strengthening the district by starting with every Rotarian in the clubs.

"Every Rotarian has the potential to be a leader, whether at the club or district level, as long as they showcase their unique abilities that benefit the community. The district is ready to support, promote, and drive them forward. It's not necessary to be the club president only", expressed the District 3340 Governor to

the district team, emphasizing the commitment to promoting every Rotary member to create new personnel and bring in younger generations to work at the district level and coordinate between districts.

This approach aims to strengthen District 3340 by rooting the understanding of Rotary among those who become members, moving beyond traditional images. Instead, the focus is on the



concept and practice of "what already exists, to be improved for the better." Clubs are encouraged to find new generations of members and give them opportunities to take on important roles, and understand the Rotary principles.

The signature service project of the district this year involves providing learning materials, educational equipment, and sports gear to schools and communities in need. DG Sangtiwa sees education as the cornerstone of society, and a well-educated population is essential for societal progress and national development. Therefore, having proper learning tools is crucial for encouraging youth to enjoy their studies, enabling schools to be better equipped for teaching. Sports equipment also plays an essential role in promoting health among youth. These factors formed the basis for planning this project for District 3340.

Moreover, DG Sangtiwa has plans to further enhance Rotary's public image through the "People of Action" initiative, continuing from previous Rotary years. This includes revisiting knowledge on photography and videography to achieve a clearer image, reinforcing this through formal training sessions. Additionally, there will be exhibitions showcasing the outstanding activities of each club, presenting them to the public as a way to promote Rotary's image within communities.





PDG Phanthida Rojwannasin
Chairperson of The Rotary
Foundation Committee
District 3340

Why Should We Donate to The Rotary Foundation?

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International helps improve the quality of life for those in need worldwide through Rotarians and Rotary clubs around the globe. These clubs work diligently to assess the needs of communities, providing what is necessary to address deficiencies and build capacity for sustainable living.

District 3340 identified and supported various initiatives using grants from the Foundation. Last year, the district carried out several projects funded by the Foundation to help many people improve their lives. Below are a few examples of projects funded by the Foundation.

The district collaborated on an ambulance project led by the **Rotary Club of Patumwan**, District 3350, in partnership with the **Rotary Club of Hitachi**, Japan, and the **Rotary Club of Udonthani**, to deliver an ambulance to Udon Thani province. Another project involved the **Rotary Club of Patumwan**, District 3350, and the **Rotary Club of Chumphae**, with support from the **Rotary Club of Jinju-Seonhak**, South Korea, providing an ambulance to Chum Phae Hospital in Khon Kaen province. Both locations urgently needed ambulances due to their current vehicles being unfit for use, with life-saving equipment inside them being inadequate. In emergencies requiring ambulances, these facilities might not be able to save lives.



Another significant project is the Stroke Rehabilitation System at Thawachaburee Hospital. The **Rotary Club of Roi Et** collaborated with the **Rotary Club of Taishan**, Taipei, Taiwan, to deliver the project at Thawachaburee Hospital, Roi Et province. This project supports patients after brain surgery, helping them rehabilitate physically and mentally to return to a normal life at home. The project provides medical equipment and training for staff to assist patients outside the hospital, reducing overcrowding and better addressing community needs.

Additionally, the **Rotary Club of Chonburi**, in collaboration with the **Rotary Club of Kwangju-Bia**, South Korea, supported medical equipment for Koh Chan Hospital, Chonburi province. The project also involved the **Rotary Club of Mitraparp Khon Kaen**, working with the **Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya**, Japan, with support from the **Rotary Club of Silom**, District 3350. Special

thanks to all Rotary clubs in District 3340 for their donations to The Rotary Foundation, supporting various funds and initiatives of Rotary International.





Zone 9, three clubs in Surin province



Zone 10-11, seven clubs in Ubon Ratchathani province

The installation ceremony of club presidents and club committees for Rotary Year 2024-25.



Zone 12, three clubs in Roi Et province



Rotary Club of Sattahip



Rotary Club of Plutaluang



Zone 7-8, eight clubs in Nakhon Ratchasima province



Rotary Club of Nongkhai



Rotary Club of Chumphae



Rotary Club of Ko Chang



The Rotary Club of Krasang-Buriram organized activities by donating socks, masks, educational materials, scholarships, and provided supplemental meals to students at Ban Sawayso School, Krasang district, Buriram province.



The Rotary family in Udon Thani participated in a ceremony to offer blessings to His Majesty the King during the consecration of holy water at Wat Matchimawat, Udon Thani province. This event was an important opportunity for the Thai people to collectively express loyalty and gratitude to His Majesty during the auspicious occasion of His 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary. They also distributed water and grilled sticky rice at the event.



The Rotary Club of Chanthaburi, in collaboration with partner clubs from District 3350, including the Rotary Club of Prakanong, participated in the ceremony to donate five defibrillators to five hospitals in Chanthaburi province under the “Revive Hearts for Life” project, valued at USD 44,352.



The Rotaract Club of Kasetsart University Chalermphrakiat Sakon Nakhon organized the “Preventing Teen Pregnancy” project as part of the Rotaract for Teens initiative. They conducted a training session for Rotaract representatives, attended by 30 participants, with support from the Office of Social Development and Human Security of Sakon Nakhon province. They provided knowledge on how to prevent and practice safe behavior to avoid premature pregnancy, with guidance from the Rotary Club of Sakon Nakhon.



The Rotary Club of Khunying Mo-Korat signed a partnership agreement with the Rotary E-Club of District 3340 under the District 3340 student exchange program at the Chaolao Tosang Beach Hotel, Chanthaburi province, witnessed by PDG Phanthida Rojwannasin and PDG Siri Eiamchamroonlarp.



DGN Srifa Siriudomseth
District Grant
Subcommittee Chair
District 3350

Recently, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) made an announcement regarding changes to its funding. There are four key updates that we should be aware of and understand because this Foundation is considered to belong to all of us.

It is known that the amount of money received from the World Fund to assist global communities each year depends primarily on donations to the Annual Fund. Over the past several years, the World Fund, which provides funding for our activities, has been depleted before the end of each Rotary year. This resulted in many projects or activities not receiving the support they need. The Foundation has addressed this issue by implementing various cost-saving measures to increase funds for Global Grants. These measures include using the Foundation's reserves and discontinuing cash contributions to Global Grants. However, it's unfortunate that these actions have not been sufficient to meet the demand. The Foundation's board anticipates financial deficits this year and in the coming years. Therefore, in order to provide more funding for Global Grants, changes have been made to the support policies, effective July 1.

1. Contributions from the District Designated Fund (DDF) transferred to PolioPlus will now receive a 50% match from the World Fund instead of the previous 100%. Additionally, these contributions will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for each dollar, as long as Rotary International commits to donating up to 50 million dollars annually to eradicate polio.

2. In the past, when we used DDF money for Global Grant projects, we received a 100% match from the World Fund. However, the DDF money currently used for these projects will receive a reduced match from the World Fund, lowered from 100% to 80%. This change began from the Rotary Year 2020-21 onwards.

Changes to The Rotary Foundation's Funding Model

3. The Allocation of Operational Expenses from 5% of Annual Fund Contributions in the SHARE System

Effective from 1 July 2021, there was a change in the allocation of the 5% operational expense fee from the Annual Fund in the SHARE system. Previously, the Annual Fund was divided into two parts: 50% to the World Fund and 50% to the DDF. The 5% operational fee was deducted solely from the World Fund, resulting in the World Fund receiving 45% and the DDF receiving 50%.

With the new change, the 5% operational fee will be evenly split between the World Fund and the DDF, with each contributing 2.5%. As a result, our district will now receive 47.5% back in DDF, instead of the previous 50%.

4. Unused DDF Carryover Limited to Five Years

Districts are encouraged to fully utilize their DDF to create a positive impact through our programs. However, the amount of DDF carried over each year remains high. Therefore, starting from 1 July 2026, any DDF carried over for more than five years will be allocated to the Disaster Response Fund, Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, or Rotary Peace Centers, based on the district's discretion. If the district does not make a selection, the carried-over funds will be defaulted to the World Fund. The table below provides an example of unused DDF carryovers exceeding five years.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
DDF new	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
DDF rollover	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
DDF spent	-\$40,000	-\$45,000	-\$55,000	-\$60,000	-\$65,000
Rollover remaining	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$0
	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
			\$0	\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0
					\$0
<i>Rollover amount remaining after</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 years</i>

The Rotary Foundation has three main responsibilities: firstly, to raise funds; secondly, to invest those funds; and thirdly, to use them for expenditures. Currently, the Foundation faces an estimated annual shortfall of 17 million dollars. Therefore, there is a need to increase funds not only through fundraising efforts but also to allocate resources for investments and expenditures.

(Source: Rotary News, July 2021 edition)



The Joint Installation of Rotary Club Officers 2024-25 in District 3350 was held at the ESC Park Hotel on 30 June 2024, with the Organizing Committee chaired by PP Thanongsak Wiboonma of the Rotary Club of Sathorn. The event covered 40 clubs with 517 members, and there were 41 clubs and 110 people from different clubs present for a total of 627 participants, exceeding the set target. Embracing THE MAGIC OF ROTARY, we saved time and money under the slogan, "Honorable, smooth, elegant, good-looking, economical, amazing, inscribed on social media forever".

Stay tuned for clips and information to be released on all of Rotary's channels.





Rotary Club of Yannawa, together with sister clubs from Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Crocodile Foundation in Singapore, donated medical equipment in the Global Grant project to “Improve Maternal and Child Health in the Community” to Charoen Krung Pracharak Hospital on 6 July 2024.



Rotary Club of Bang Pa-in donated computers for teaching and learning to develop students' potential as well as lunch for students and teachers at Sakhli Witthaya School, Sena district, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province on 9 July 2024.



The charter installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Bangkok Mahanakon was held at the Phaya Thai Palace on 7 July 2024, and their club meetings are conducted on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at 12.00 pm at Mellow Restaurant in the Thonglor area.



Rotary Club of Pramesuan Lopburi in collaboration with the Lopburi Provincial Businessmen's Club organized the project at Wat Luang Tai Talat in Lopburi province by providing lunch meals to students and teachers, scholarships, sports and school supplies, dry nutritious rice to support the project on Wednesday, 10 July 2024.





PP Thanijporn Khomson
Rotary Club of Doiprabaht

The Rotary Wheel has now turned into Rotary Year 120 (2024-25) and will continue to roll on. It is believed that every district has completed the training seminars for club committees, as well as the installations of the new club presidents and club officers. During this period, many members have expressed their joy at the opportunity to travel again, as visiting and giving encouragement to the new presidents who assume the office and responsibilities for the next year is considered a very important source of support.

This year's first issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine aims to present tips and tricks to help us be effective organizational leaders. One of the most important things is to be bold in thinking, doing, and making decisions. In reality, preparing your thoughts effectively to make the right decisions and, importantly, having confidence combined with the vision that Rotary provides, ensures that being a leader is not as difficult as many fear. During the one year as club president, there is only one thing to remember, "Give it your all and do your best".

In other countries, the opportunity to become a club president often requires a long wait. Imagine if we joined a club with more than 80 members and there are over 40 people ahead in the queue to become president. By the time it's our turn to lead, we might be waiting until old age! Therefore, the opportunity to be a club president is in your hands this year. We hope that every president will make the most of this opportunity, enjoying it to the fullest, learning as much as possible, and sharing generously.

Indeed, Rotary is continually evolving and updating to become a more modern organization. Previously, if we achieved the goals set by RI, our club would receive a Rotary Citation or recognition from Rotary International. However, starting this year, the Rotary Citation will be changed to the Club Excellence Award. We hope that every club will be able to receive this award if you set your goals and enter the information in My Rotary accurately.

Tips and Tricks for Successful Organizational Leaders



This year, District 3360 has set new goals aligned with its changing leadership. Under the guidance of DG Apisak Chomphong, he has planned various aspects and organized collaborative learning to help District 3360 achieve its goals in every area.

The Goals for District 3360 in Rotary Year 2024-25

"The Magic of Rotary" under the leadership of DG Apisak will be remarkable. We can see this from the successful organization of the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) and District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) in March 2024 conducted in Phrae province, as well as the District Training Assembly (DTA) in Chiang Rai province. These events received excellent cooperation from all clubs in the district, ensuring that everything rolled out smoothly. The participants gained new knowledge and friendships, which Rotary always emphasizes as goodwill.



In terms of Membership, this year the district continues to emphasize diversity, aiming to increase the number of younger members while providing opportunities for members to actively participate in both club and district activities. DG Apisak has clearly set goals for the district in five key areas:

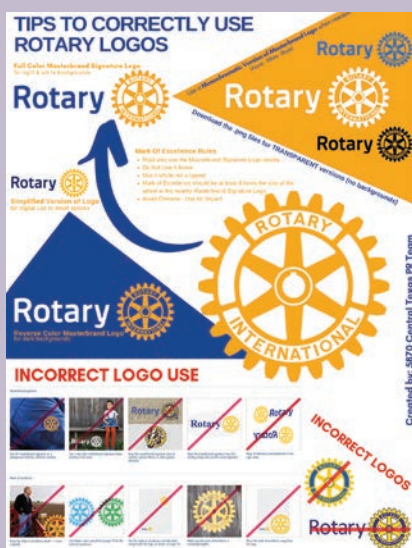
1. Increase net membership by 100 members.
2. Establish four new clubs.
3. Promote understanding and implementation of the Rotary Action Plan.
4. Promote understanding and implementation of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).
5. Develop clubs to become "Simply Irresistible", or help a club to become more modern and attractive.

To help support The Rotary Foundation, District 3360 plans to organize the Run to End Polio event – "Run and Prosper, Help and Be Happy". This year, the event will be led by DGN Paya Tharawut of the Rotary Club of Wangchan. The goal is to achieve 100% participation from all clubs in the district, with a donation target of no less than USD 10,000 to the PolioPlus Fund. Additionally, the target for donations to The Rotary Foundation is set at no less than USD 200,000. All donors will receive a uniquely-designed, modern mug. The district also aims to support at least 10 Global Grant projects, with DG Apisak ready to provide guidance on international partnerships.

In part of promoting our Public Image, the district will definitely encourage all clubs to use the Rotary logo correctly and more broadly. This includes publicizing club activities across all social media platforms such as Facebook, LINE, TikTok, the Rotary Application, YouTube, and reels. Clubs will also be encouraged to focus more on capturing "People of Action" photos and submit their work for zone-level competitions. Importantly, every club's Public Image chairperson is urged to deepen their knowledge of public image strategies through the Learning Center.

The district will continue to support community service projects that enhance Rotary's image, whether they are ongoing initiatives or new collaborative projects among the four Rotary districts. An example of such a project is "Safe Roads Save Lives", which aims to promote road safety in the country. This year's campaign will take place on Sunday, 17 November 2024.

In addition, there is a modern goal aimed at natural resource conservation to become a "Paperless District". This initiative supports the reduction of paper usage by sending more files through the district's LINE group instead of the postal service.





The Presidents-Elect and District Team Training Seminars to prepare for Rotary Year 2024-25 were held in Phrae province, with Past President Dr. Natthanin Sethawanit serving as the event chairperson. The events were filled with camaraderie and the exchange of valuable leadership knowledge.



The District Training Assembly (DTA) for District 3360 this Rotary Year 2024-25 was held at the Kong Garden View Resort in Chiang Rai province. The event also included the installation ceremony for the District Governor of District 3360. The atmosphere was warm and engaging, with opportunities for knowledge exchange and sharing experiences in breakout sessions to inspire our work for the "Magic of Rotary" year.



The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat, led by Charter President Chalida and the club's board, along with Dr. Chatchan Ekkachaipatanakul, Executive of Oka-Ju (Vegetables for Mom Co., Ltd.), traveled to survey the area for the "Project to Assist, Develop, Educate, and Promote Careers for Organic Vegetable Farmers". They also contributed funds to build a water storage tank for use during the dry season and donated a wood chipper to the director of Ban Huai Tong School in Mae Win sub-district, Mae Wang district, Chiang Mai province.



PDG Dr. Wathit and Rotary Ann Somsamai Thangrapeelear had the honor of presiding over the handover of the "New Theory Agriculture Project" to 13 farming households in Phrae province. This project aims to provide sustainable livelihoods and promote self-sufficiency in line with the principles of moderation, reasonableness, and immunity. This Global Grant project received support from The Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Club of Patumwan (District 3350), the Rotary Club of Suncity City in Singapore (District 3310), and the Rotary Club of Wiangkosa (District 3360), with the total funding of THB 1,518,116.



District Governor Apisak Chomphon with President Swat Boonta of the Rotary Club of Chiang Rai, led the Rotary Clubs of Maechan, Chiangsaen, Chiangkhong, and Nakornphan, as well as the Rotaract Club of Chiang Rai, joined forces with the village head of Moo 8, Ban Patung, and the local administrative organization (PA Tung) to continue the forest planting project for the 7th consecutive year. This event took place at Huai Tham Suea, Doi Jorake, in Patung sub-district, Mae Chan district, Chiang Rai province.



The Rotary Club of Nakornping Chiang Mai, in collaboration with its partner the Rotary Club of Wonju Daewon (District 3730, South Korea), donated educational materials, snacks, and various supplies to Mit Muan Chon School in Ping Kong sub-district, Chiang Dao district, Chiang Mai province. They also conducted a site visit to the school to plan a project for renovating the restrooms and cafeteria to improve the hygiene and well-being of the students.



Passing of PDG Praphan Hutasingh

Rotary Club of Bangkok South, District 3350



I can remember the decade, but not the date. I met PDG Praphan Hutasingh in the late 1970s. I was an aspiring member of a then-unknown, Bangkok-based start-up known as DHL and Praphan was the Managing Director of Pan Advertising which specialized in commercial sidewalk and road signage displays.

We were introduced socially and were soon struck by an unusual coincidence between our industries. DHL was the first international delivery service, and Praphan's company, Pan Advertising, was the first professional outdoor advertising enterprise — we're talking 50 years ago, remember!

What we had in common was our business customer base and a personal joie de vivre, the basis for our frequent encounters. Once or twice a week we would run into each other on Patpong Road at the Patpong Café, Derby King, The Barrel, and ultimately, The Madrid and Cosmos. Long before I learned about Rotary, we were making our contributions to the community, unbidden.

I later learned that a childhood friend of mine, Nelson Alexander, and Praphan also knew each other through this organization whose name kept popping up — Rotary. Both men were longtime stalwarts and leaders of Rotary, but I was on the road constantly and it wasn't until 1995 that I joined Bangkok South.

By that time Praphan had become a member of Thailand's parliament and its Human Rights Committee while serving as Rotary International's representative to UNESCAP. Foreigners

who met him assumed his mild British accent had derived from an education abroad. But he was a member of the Assumption generation, an exceptional cohort of Bangkok-raised students who for decades dominated government and business circles in the Kingdom.

He became president of the Rotary Club of Bangkok South in 1981. He was elected District Governor in 1987 — interestingly, the year preceding that of his close friend and fellow club member, PDG Xanxai Visittkul. For the remainder of his life, Praphan frequently represented Rotary regionally and internationally.

As club president, he was known for his quick and witty repartee, traits which speak to the club's healthy irreverence imprimatur. PDG Praphan's character, values, and ideals have become an indelible part of our bloodline, today. PDG Praphan Hutasingh will be missed but never forgotten by all who knew him.



By PDG Alex Mavro
Rotary Club of Bangkok South





บ้านวัสดุ จันทบุรี

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Princess Rose

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