



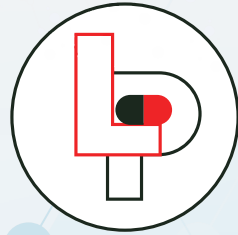
THE SIREN

MONTHLY Bulletin

ISSUE I
JULY
2023



Welcoming
Hope Creator **Presidents**



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» Table of Contents

5-14

MESSAGES

RI President
District Governor
Hope Creator President, RC Bwebajja
Hope Creator President, RAC Bwebajja



20

Rotary Club of Bwebajja's
9th Installation Ceremony
**Ignites Hope and
Fundraising Excitement**



25

**DG Francisco
Launches
the District
Flagship Project**



ARTICLES

17 Effective Conflict Management in Rotary Clubs
20 Why must we educate a girl child

18 RAC Bwebajja's 5th Installation



27

**Rotary:
Where Service
Meets Fun**

Embracing a Promising Rotary Year: #NkubaMpya



Rtn. Joseph Ssuuna
Editor in Chief



As you delve into the pages of this inaugural edition, prepare to be captivated and enlightened. Every article, feature, and story serve as a portal into the radiant Rotary future that awaits us"

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Friends of Rotary,

Welcome to the vibrant and promising new Rotary year 2023/2024, where we embark together on an exhilarating mission to Create Hope! As the Editor-in-Chief of the Siren Newsletter, it is my great honor and privilege to guide you through captivating content that will educate, inspire, entertain, and motivate each and every one of you our cherished Rotarians, Rotaractors, partners, and friends.

As you delve into the pages of this inaugural edition, prepare to be captivated and enlightened. Every article, feature, and story serve as a portal into the radiant Rotary future that awaits us. I express my deepest gratitude to our devoted editorial team and the contributions from our fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors, for they have played a pivotal role in bringing this edition to life.

In this moment, I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to President Annie Ninyesiga and her exceptional team as they embark on their new leadership roles in the illustrious Bwebajja club.

Thank you, and may this new Rotary year bestow upon each of you an abundance of enriching experiences and rewarding endeavors.

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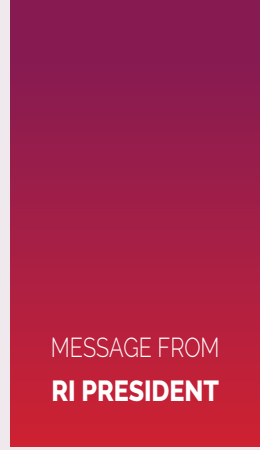
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Gordon R. McInally
RI President 2023 - 2024



Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and Create Hope in the World."

My call to Action

Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.

This year, we're prioritizing projects to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being, and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world.

Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for Positive Peace. We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections. This year, we'll promote virtual international exchanges

for members to strengthen those vital connections.

Peace isn't a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently — and bravely. Everything we do across our areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible.

The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members.

We must make our clubs as welcoming and as engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to our service activities. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where everyone can be their authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary — it's up to us to ensure they can do so.

Over the next year, I will be putting a focus on continuing our journey in diversity, equity, and inclusion

— ensuring that Rotary reflects the communities we serve and continues to take significant steps toward accessing the full range of human talents and experiences,

so that we can better serve humanity. And we will continue to empower women and girls by helping them unlock the potential already within them.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "sense and worth, over all the earth." This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and Create Hope in the World.



Francis & Angella *Ssemwanga*

District Governor 2023/24



MESSAGE FROM

**DISTRICT
GOVERNOR**

“

We are going to Create Hope in the World through construction of school buildings, offering scholastic materials, providing clean safe water to schools, paying fees to needy children. Career guidance and counseling in schools, among other interventions.”

Francisco Ssemwanga
District Governor 2023 - 2024

The end of an Era marks **the beginning of a new one**

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary, I warmly welcome you to this New Rotary Year 2023/2024!!!

I would start by congratulating my brother and leader, the Immediate Past District Governor Geoffrey Peace Taremwa for the Visionary Leadership, the Visionary Presidents and all Rotarians for Imagining Rotary in 2022/2023. I want to pledge that I am going to take it from there as the new leader of this great District by consolidating our achievement of 2022/2023 and build on them to take our District to the

next level.

I would like to congratulate our Hope Creator Presidents, the Country and District officers of 2023/24 upon your election and appointment to these offices. We have conducted Numerous trainings like the District Team Training Seminars, President Elect Training Seminars, Club Officers Training Seminars among others. I am greatly indebted to the District Training Team led by Past District Governor Harish Bhatt, the Vice District Trainer Apollo Ampumwize, the Secretariate including the Country Chairs for a job well done.

This Rotary Year, our International President Gordon

McInally has asked us to Create Hope in the World. We are therefore going to do this by doubling our efforts in the Service to Humanity that we have been offering through Our Seven Areas of focus.

As your team leader, I have requested you to grow Our Membership through more recruitment, sponsoring new clubs but ensuring "Quality at the Gate". Most importantly, let's focus on member Retention through Engagement of our existing members and giving great experience and value to them in our respective clubs. With more members, we shall be able to get more Helping hands on the job hence Creating Hope.

We are also going to Create Hope in the World through Increased support to our Rotary Foundation by donating more and utilizing from the Foundation. This will enable us to do bigger, bolder and impactful projects hence Increasing Impact.

Our signature Project is on Basic Education and Literacy. We are going to Create Hope in the World through construction of school buildings, offering scholastic materials, providing clean safe water to schools, paying fees to needy children. Career guidance and counseling in schools, among other interventions. Remember, Education is an Equalizer, Enabler, Energizer, Empowers and traverses and supports all the other six Areas of Focus of Rotary.

We are going to Create Hope in the World by working closely with our Youth, the Rotaractors and Interactors. Rotaractors are now our partners in service and no longer a program of Rotary. With elevate Rotaract, we are tasked to jointly work with our Rotaractors, support them get Global Grants but most importantly, continuing to mentor, nurture and guide them in developing their leadership, Professional and Business skills. By empowering our Youth, the future of Rotary will be guaranteed in terms of continuity.

Dear friends, I want to state that I am ready and fired up as your team leader to support and guide our Clubs to achieve all our goals we have set. But remember, my energy to serve is generated from you and I will be counting on each and every one of you in this great journey of Service to Humanity of Creating Hope in the World.

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.



Rtn. Annie Ninyesiga
Hope Creator President, RC Bwebajja
President of Presidents, Rotary District 9214

MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT



I am awestruck by the tremendous potential that lies within our collective hands."

Embracing the Power of Hope: **A Journey of Compassion and Change**

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As we mark the beginning of another era, I am personally honored that July 2023 not only signifies my first month as President of the Rotary Club of Bwebajja but also as the President of Presidents for Rotary District 9214. It is a profound responsibility, one that fills my heart with hope and anticipation for the incredible journey we are about to embark on together.

This year's theme "Create Hope in the World," encapsulates the very essence of Rotary and the powerful impact we can make when we come together as caring and dedicated individuals. Hope, my friends, is a precious and transformative force. It has the power to inspire, uplift, and create change in the lives of those that need it most.

The Rotary Club of Bwebajja has always been a beacon of hope in our communities, touching the lives of countless individuals and families. Through our unwavering commitment to service, we have provided clean water to schools, conducive learning spaces to children eager to learn, healthcare to those without access to basic medical facilities and many more life changing projects across Uganda. Our club has been a source of solace and support to

the vulnerable and marginalized, reminding them that they are not alone, that there is a community of caring individuals standing beside them, ready to extend a helping hand.

As President of Presidents for District 9214, I am fascinated by the tremendous potential that lies within our collective hands. Together, we represent an army of hope, capable of fostering positive change on a scale beyond our imagination. Each club, with its unique strengths and talents, contributes to the larger tapestry of hope we are weaving in our district and beyond.

My fellow Rotarians, let us embrace this new Rotary year with open hearts and a burning desire to make a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us. Together, let us create hope in the world, one act of kindness at a time. As we embark on this incredible journey, let us be guided by compassion, empathy, and an unyielding commitment to service. I am honored and humbled to serve alongside each and every one of you, and I am confident that together, we will create a better, brighter, and more hopeful world.

In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." Together, my friends, let us embark on this remarkable journey of hope and leave an indelible mark on the lives we touch.



Our diversity is our strength, and by harnessing the unique perspectives and talents of each member, we can amplify our impact and create lasting change.

MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Igniting Hope: A Message from President Hope Tushemererwe

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude, enthusiasm, and hope. July marks the beginning of my tenure, and I am eager to lead our club towards new heights of service and impact.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those who have placed their trust in me and have supported my journey thus far. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the first lady president of our club, and I am committed to upholding the values and principles that define our Rotaract family. Together, we will create a legacy of service that will leave an indelible mark on our community and the world.

The theme for this Rotary year is "Create Hope in the World," and it resonates deeply with me. I firmly believe that hope is the driving force behind positive change and transformation. In our roles as young leaders, we have the power to ignite hope in the lives of those we touch. Whether it's through community projects, fundraising initiatives, or advocacy campaigns, each action we take has the potential to make a difference.

As we begin this new chapter, I want to emphasize the importance of collaboration and inclusivity within our club. Our diversity is our strength, and by harnessing the unique perspectives and talents of each member, we can amplify our impact and create lasting change. Let us embrace teamwork, encourage open dialogue, and support one another on this incredible journey.

One of my priorities for this year is to continue our unwavering commitment to the district's flagship project, "End Polio." The fight against polio is one that resonates deeply with me, as I believe that no child should suffer from this preventable disease. I am proud to announce that we will be supporting this cause on a monthly basis, demonstrating our dedication to eradicating polio once and for all.

However, our impact extends beyond a single project. We have the opportunity to address a myriad of societal challenges and make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Together, we can tackle issues such as education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and social inequality. Let us think big, dream boldly, and embrace innovation as we embark on transformative initiatives that leave a lasting legacy.

I am also excited to announce that our club will be embarking on our first-ever trip fundraiser. In January 2024, we will set off on a journey to Dubai, combining adventure, friendship, and the noble cause of raising funds for the Rotary Foundation. This trip will not only provide us with an opportunity to bond and create lifelong memories but also contribute to the remarkable humanitarian work carried out by the Rotary Foundation.

As we navigate the challenges that lie ahead, I urge each one of you to remember that together, we are a force to be reckoned with. Let us embrace resilience, adaptability, and a growth mindset as we confront obstacles head-on and find creative solutions. Our journey may not always be smooth, but it is in overcoming hurdles that we learn, grow, and become better versions of ourselves.

I encourage you all to actively engage in club activities, share your ideas, and take on leadership roles. Your passion, dedication, and unique perspectives are what make our club thrive. Together, we will push boundaries, challenge norms, and create a better future for all.

As we step into this new Rotary year, I am filled with excitement for what lies ahead. I am confident that, as a united Rotaract family, we will make an indelible impact and inspire hope in the lives of countless individuals. Let us embrace this opportunity to serve, create, and transform, leaving a lasting legacy that will continue to shape our community long after our time as Rotaractors.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to an incredible year of service, friendship, and growth.



The Dubai Excursion

REGISTRATION FEE:
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8th - 13th

January 2024

Inclusive of Accommodation, Visa,
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Activities

Fellowship | Boat Cruise | Desert safari | Dubai Tours



For Registration

Rtn. Dan Ssetuba **+256 752 446 131**

Rtn. Norah Ssekandi **+256 782 742 957**

Register before the 15th of December 2023





Embark on an Unforgettable Journey to Dubai



Rtn. Norah Ssekandi
Dubai Trip Coordinator 2023 - 2024

The Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Bwebajja are delighted to announce the eagerly awaited Dubai Excursion, scheduled to take place from the 8th to the 13th of January 2024. This extraordinary adventure offers participants the

chance to immerse themselves in the wonders of Dubai, while also fostering connections, personal growth, and community impact.

Dubai, a city renowned for its grandeur, innovation, and cultural diversity, serves as the backdrop for this exceptional excursion. Participants will have the opportunity to marvel at architectural marvels like the Burj Khalifa, indulge in authentic Emirati experiences, and explore the mesmerizing beauty of the desert with thrilling safaris.

The Dubai Excursion, jointly organized by the Rotary and Rotaract Club of Bwebajja, goes beyond traditional travel experiences. It combines adventure, networking, and community service to create a truly transformative

journey. Participants will engage with like-minded individuals, forging lifelong friendships, expanding their professional networks, and actively contributing to community development initiatives supported by the Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

Under the expert guidance of experienced leaders, participants will enjoy comfortable accommodations, meticulously planned itineraries, and a diverse range of activities that showcase the best of Dubai. Whether it's exploring traditional souks, indulging in exquisite cuisine, or engaging in impactful community projects, each moment of the Dubai Excursion will be filled with discovery and purpose.

Registration for the Dubai Excursion is now open, but availability is limited. Detailed information regarding the itinerary, registration process, and the exceptional experiences awaiting participants can be found on the website.

Interested individuals are encouraged to secure their spot by visiting the official website at <https://www.rc-bwebajja.org/the-dubai-excursion/>



Rotary Club of Bwebajja's 9th Installation Ceremony Ignites Hope and Fundraising Excitement

“

A major highlight of the evening was the launch of the inaugural trip fundraiser. Rotary Club of Bwebajja announced its ambitious plan to visit Dubai in January 2024, with the noble objective of raising funds for the renowned Rotary Foundation.

The Voice Mall Hotel in Bwebajja was ablaze with anticipation and excitement as RC Bwebajja hosted its 9th Installation Ceremony. The event marked a significant milestone for the club, as Rtn. Annie Ninyesiga was formally installed as the 9th President, promising to lead the club under the inspiring theme "Create Hope in the World."

The ceremony garnered an impressive turnout, with nearly 400 guests hailing from both District 9213 and 9214. The atmosphere was electric as the room filled with past, current and future District Governors, representing a testament to the

remarkable impact and camaraderie fostered by Rotary.

A major highlight of the evening was the launch of the inaugural trip fundraiser. RC Bwebajja announced its ambitious plan to visit Dubai in January 2024, with the noble objective of raising funds for the renowned Rotary Foundation. The trip promised not only a thrilling adventure but also an opportunity to make a significant difference in communities worldwide through the foundation's philanthropic initiatives.

In a moment of anticipation and hope, the newly appointed Board of Directors, aptly named the



"Hope Creators," was introduced. Each board member was presented with a hard copy of their appointment letter, along with their detailed terms of reference. The exceptional individuals who stepped up to take on these vital roles exuded a shared passion for service, embodying the Rotary spirit that binds them together.

The evening was a vibrant affair, filled with music, dancing, and delectable culinary delights. Rotarians and guests alike reveled in the joyous atmosphere, celebrating the accomplishments of RC Bwebajja while eagerly looking forward to the opportunities that lay ahead under President Annie Ninyesiga's capable leadership.

President Ninyesiga expressed her gratitude and outlined her vision for the club in the

coming year. "As we embark on this journey together, let us remember that every action we take has the power to create hope in the lives of others. Let us strive to be beacons of light, bringing positive change to our communities and the world," she passionately declared.

The installation ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the RC Bwebajja's commitment to service above self. It was a night where past accomplishments were honored, future endeavors were eagerly anticipated, and the spirit of unity and friendship flourished.

With the announcement of the groundbreaking trip fundraiser, excitement filled the air. Rotarians and guests alike eagerly pledged their support, recognizing that their contributions would play a vital role in advancing the humanitarian

projects spearheaded by the Rotary Foundation.

As the night drew to a close, the resounding sentiment among all in attendance was one of inspiration and determination. RC Bwebajja's 9th Installation Ceremony had set the stage for a year of impactful service, fostered new connections, and kindled a flame of hope that would burn brightly within the hearts of all those touched by Rotary's enduring mission.

Undoubtedly, this remarkable evening would be etched into the memories of all who were fortunate enough to witness it. The Rotary Club of Bwebajja had once again proven that when individuals come together with a shared vision, there is no limit to the positive change they can create in the world.



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Effective Conflict Management in Rotary Clubs



Rtn. Idah Kigonya
Conflict Resolution Officer

Conflict is a natural occurrence that arises from differences in interests, values, actions, views, or directions. In a Rotary Club, conflicts can arise due to disagreements among members. However, conflict management is crucial to ensure a positive outcome and foster peace and reconciliation within the club.

The causes of conflicts within a Rotary Club can be diverse, stemming from differences in understanding, viewpoints, styles, principles, values, beliefs, and ideologies. Conflicts can also emerge from status differences, varying thinking styles, and situations that require disagreement, such as in sports. Identifying the underlying causes is vital for effective conflict management.

Unresolved conflicts within a

Rotary Club can have detrimental effects, including stress, damaged relationships, broken trust, reduced morale, and decreased productivity. However, conflicts can also present an opportunity for positive change and growth within the organization.

To manage conflicts in a Rotary Club, several tips can be followed. Club members should be guided by the principles of the "Four-Way Test": Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOOD-WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? These principles foster fairness, integrity, and positive outcomes in conflict resolution.

Accepting conflict as a natural part of ongoing relationships is crucial. Serving as a calming agent and providing an objective viewpoint can help reduce conflict intensity. Active listening, assertive speaking, and thorough conflict analysis are essential steps in effective conflict management.

Using neutral language and separating the person from the problem are vital to prevent conflicts from escalating. Working together, agreeing to disagree, and focusing on the future contribute to conflict resolution.

Finding creative solutions that satisfy everyone's needs and sharing interests are also important strategies.

Maintaining confidentiality and encouraging direct communication between conflicting individuals is crucial. The Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee in a Rotary Club plays a pivotal role in managing conflicts and should have a well-defined plan to foster peace and reconciliation among club members.

Developing conflict management skills through continuous improvement is essential. Training, coaching, and having leaders who prioritize conflict management contribute to increased conflict competence.

In conclusion, conflict is inevitable, but with a positive outlook and effective conflict management skills, Rotary clubs can address and resolve conflicts in a way that promotes peace, reconciliation, and the Rotary motto of "Service above Self." By following the tips and strategies outlined above, Rotary clubs can create a harmonious environment where members work together towards their shared goals of community service and making the world a better place.



Rtr. Hope Tushemererwe Takes the Helm as the **First Lady President of Rotaract Club Bwebajja**



Hope's elevation to the presidency symbolized the club's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and the empowerment of young women. Her inauguration inspired not only the members of the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja but also the wider community, as they witnessed the breaking of barriers and the emergence of a new era of possibility."

A wave of youthful energy and optimism swept through the Voice Mall in Bwebajja as the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja celebrated the installation of its 5th President, Rtr. Hope Tushemererwe. Making history as the club's first-ever lady president, Hope assumed leadership under the dynamic theme "Create Hope in the World."

The installation ceremony, held jointly with the Rotaract Clubs of Nkumba Stewards and Namasuba, showcased the vibrant spirit

of collaboration and friendship that defines Rotaract. The event marked a passing of the torch from Ronald Mutebi, who had led the club with the inspiring theme "Imagine Rotary" during the 2022-2023 Rotary year. Ronald delivered an outgoing report, proudly highlighting the club's remarkable achievements, including winning five prestigious awards at the 98th District Conference in Mbarara.

In her inaugural address, President Hope enthusiastically



shared her vision for the coming year. With a fervent commitment to service, she pledged the club's unwavering support to the district's flagship project, "End Polio," by contributing on a monthly basis. Hope's determination to make a lasting impact resonated with the audience, igniting a renewed sense of purpose and determination within the club.

The atmosphere was electric, as vibrant music filled the air, setting the stage for an unforgettable night. The Rotaractors' youthful spirit was palpable as they danced and celebrated, creating an ambiance of joy and excitement that was contagious to all in attendance.

The installation ceremony served as a powerful testament to the spirit of youth leadership within Rotaract. Hope's elevation to the presidency symbolized the club's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and the empowerment of young women. Her inauguration inspired not only the members of the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja but also the wider community, as they witnessed the breaking of barriers and the emergence of a new era of possibility.

The event showcased the essence of Rotaract, a platform that allows young leaders to develop their skills, foster connections, and make a tangible difference in their communi-



ties. It embodied the vibrant energy and enthusiasm that drives young people to take action and create positive change.

As the night drew to a close, the youthful spirit and passion of the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja remained aflame. Hope's installation had not only marked a significant milestone in the club's history but had also ignited a sense of purpose and hope that would propel the club forward in its quest to make a meaningful impact in the world.

This memorable evening, filled with laughter, dance, and heartfelt speeches,

would forever be etched in the memories of those present. It signified the beginning of a transformative journey under the leadership of President Hope Tushemererwe, a journey that promised to bring forth an even brighter future for Rotaract Club Bwebajja and the communities it served.

In the realm of youth-driven service, the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja stood as a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating that age is not a barrier to making a difference. With President Hope at the helm, armed with the theme "Create Hope in the World," the club was poised to embark on a thrilling adventure of service, camaraderie, and boundless optimism.





Why must we educate the girl child

Not everyone can get an education, and in many parts of the world, girls are the first to be turned away.

As individuals who take action, we believe that every kid has the right to a great education in a secure environment and an autonomous existence as an adult. With education, women may create climate-smart enterprises, become health care professionals, manage schools, and lead governments, thus making the world a better place for everyone.

Poverty is the biggest obstacle to education access. 32.6 million females of primary and lower secondary school age are out of school in sub-Saharan Africa. This figure grows to 52 million when females in upper secondary school are included, and millions more are at danger because of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Girls are the first to drop out of



Rtr. Atim Mercy
RAC Bwebajja

school when their families cannot afford food, transportation, school fees, uniforms, and necessities such as sanitary pads. They are the first to be let down by the system, as they face the dangers of child marriage, pregnancy, and abuse. Without the option to choose their own destinies, their limitless potential goes to waste. Investing in the education and leadership of young women has

been proven to improve the health and prosperity of whole countries.

Girls' education is the cornerstone of gender equality and social justice. It contributes to healthier communities and countries by decreasing maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, stunting, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other illnesses, as well as child marriage and gender-based violence.

promoting economic growth, resulting in increased productivity and wealth. Youth unemployment and instability is one of the best ways to fight climate change. Investing in girls' education is the foundation for female leadership for climate action, including in climate-smart agriculture, which leads to better nutrition, more resilience to climate shocks, less pollution, and a more sustainable future for everyone.



Unlocking the Power of Authenticity: Embrace Your True Self for Success and Fulfillment

In our journey through life, we often find ourselves in situations where we feel like misfits, battling against the current. It seems that despite our meticulous planning, talented team members, brilliant ideas, or abundant resources, something crucial is missing. More often than not, this missing piece is the absence of authenticity, which poses a significant risk of disappointment and failure. It is imperative, therefore, to embrace your true self and reap the numerous advantages that come with it. In this article, we will explore some key insights to guide you towards a fulfilling life and a flourishing career.

First and foremost, when you are genuine, those around you readily understand your capabilities and limitations. Your team members quickly discern your strengths and weaknesses, as well as what brings you joy or frustration. The disconcerting feeling of being asked to accomplish something beyond your capabilities is alleviated when you openly acknowledge your limits. By doing so, you create space to maneuver and can judiciously outsource projects or tasks that do not align with your skill set or personal inclinations.

It is crucial to recognize that humility is not synonymous with self-degradation in the realm of business. When you possess



Joseph B. Ssengooba
District Rotaract Representative Elect

confidence in your abilities, there is an underlying sense of respect. After all, each of us only has one hundred percent to give. By wholeheartedly dedicating yourself to the task at hand, you significantly increase your chances of achieving success.

Moreover, by knowing and embracing your authentic self, you become more attuned to your areas of limited understanding. In this state, you are unafraid to seek clarification and ask questions, supported by the understanding and appreciation of your colleagues and collaborators. Your authentic approach to knowledge gathering becomes a valued asset in your professional interactions.

Those who lead genuine, joyful, and prosperous lives possess well-defined goals and aspirations. They possess a clear understanding of their motivations and do not stretch themselves thin to chase arbitrary or superfluous outcomes. Instead, they maintain laser-like focus on the essentials, prioritizing what truly matters.

While sharing intimate details of your personal life may not be appropriate for building professional relationships, there is a growing trend of revealing our more human sides among colleagues, employees, and employers. By embracing your authenticity and remaining true to your core values, you can establish trust in your relationships and foster a work environment that nurtures genuine happiness and deep satisfaction.

In conclusion, unlocking the power of authenticity is the key to unleashing your true potential and achieving lasting success and fulfillment. By embracing your genuine self, you empower yourself to navigate challenges with clarity and integrity. Remember, success is not solely measured by external markers but by the alignment of your inner self with your actions and choices. So, dare to be yourself and watch as your life and career flourish beyond your wildest dreams.

A portrait of Gordians Ahaisibwe, a Black man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a blue pinstriped suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a black bow tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A red vertical bar is on the left side of the image, containing the text 'OUR LEADERS'.

**OUR
LEADERS**

Meet Our Charter President

Gordians Ahaisibwe (PHF)



From Formation to Vibrancy: Celebrating Milestones at RC Bwebajja

I am a member of the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, having been invited to join the club in its formation by Rtn. Moses Quinion Galabuzi, one of its promoters in 2012. Our journey as a club began when a group of individuals organized themselves into a Rotary club. Initially, we would gather for fellowship at Rico Caribbean, located at the Akright stage junction, every Wednesday. However, as time went on, we found the place to be less conducive, and we subsequently shifted our meetings to J & M Hotel and later to Cabana Restaurant in Kawuku.

Personally, having been a patron of the Interact club at St. Mary's College Kisubi, I had a hazy idea about Rotary more than many members, but still, there was a lot to learn. This club started without the guidance of an established Rotary club as a mother club. It wasn't until Rtn. Munira Ali of the Rotary Club of Kololo learned about our club in formation and attended one of our meetings that we were connected to RC Kololo. From that point on, our mother club began teaching us the basics and mentoring us on how to organize and function as a Rotary club.

The formation and provisional status of RC Bwebajja took a considerable amount of time because we began as a social club with little guidance until a

mother club discovered us. The initial phase had its challenges, as the lack of guidance from a Rotary club resulted in members coming and going, given the absence of a clear timeline for the charter.

Amidst this situation, I would like to commend several Rotarians for their wise counsel and guidance, which set us on the correct path. These individuals include PAG Muhumuza Herbert of RC Kampala North, who frequently fellowshipped with us and offered guidance, PDG Mugisha Kenneth, our first Assistant Governor, Past President Abeinenaama Yorokamu (RIP), who served as our District Governor's Special Representative, Past President Paul Bogere (RIP) of RC Kololo, Rtn. Munira Ali, Past President RC

Kololo, and PAG Joel Ssekabembe of RC Kampala East, who played a crucial role in teaching us the fundamentals of Rotary and its norms. We appreciate the invaluable roles these individuals played in helping us become a club to be reckoned with.

Due to the fluctuating membership caused by the absence of a mother club's guidance, there were vacant leadership positions. At the beginning of 2014, members agreed to choose new leaders and fill the existing gaps. It was during this time that I was asked to assume the role of Charter President-designate and lead the organization alongside a team I had selected for chartering.





We embarked on collecting dues for Rotary International, the district, and the country while also actively seeking committed individuals who were willing to become charter members and be part of our club's history. 33 members registered, paid their dues, and with the assistance of the District Governor's Special Representative, their names were submitted to the District Governor in 2014 and later to Rotary International.

Throughout this period, we undertook service projects such as a Water and Sanitation project involving the construction of a latrine at St. Padre Pio Kabulamuliro Primary School. We also provided books and other scholastic materials to the school and adopted Malaika Orphanage in Mpererwe on Gayaza Road. Additionally, we made donations to the Rotary Foundation and participated in various projects alongside neighboring Rotary clubs and our mother club as part of our learning process.

On 9th February 2015, we were officially admitted to Rotary International, and we received our charter certificate, which filled us with excitement and enthusiasm. We then proceeded to celebrate our charter. One of our charter members, Rtn. Nyombi Thembo George William, generously offered to host the charter ceremony at his ranch in Bwerenga. It was a spectacular event, graced by District Governor PDG Harish Bhatt, who handed us our charter certificate. He was assisted by other governors, district and country officers.

Since the rotary year was almost coming to an end, I took on another year as president to complete a full cycle. In our first year, RC Bwebajja received the District award at the District Conference and Assembly(DCA) in Entebbe as the highest first givers to the Rotary Foundation. We actively participated in various projects, supporting

children at Corsu Rehabilitation Hospital and Malaika Orphanage. We also organized the Keep Kawuku Clean initiative, coupled with the Annes and Andies dinner, which became our annual fundraiser.

However, the journey was not without its challenges. We faced difficulties in retaining members, and by the second year, we had only 22 members. It was then necessary to focus on recruiting new members. I am delighted to share that RC Bwebajja has now grown to 73 members. Currently, membership recruitment, engagement, and retention seem simpler but must be purposefully done to ensure the club's sustainability.

I would like to express my appreciation to all past leaders and members of RC Bwebajja for their dedication and for achieving significant milestones. I can assure everyone that despite our diversity, no one is bigger than our club. Even in times when we may disagree on certain matters, we remain a united and vibrant Rotary Club of Bwebajja.

At present, we have two global grants being implemented, and we are running an exemplary buddy group system in the district. Our club's vibrancy is at its zenith, and my prayer is that we continue to consolidate the gains of the previous years. Each achievement in one Rotary year should serve as a stepping stone for future years.

As I stand at the shoreline and envision the future of our club, I see enhanced collaboration with other districts in terms of projects. I foresee membership growth, greater impact in our communities, and stronger interpersonal relationships among our members. Additionally, I anticipate the implementation of more global projects that will contribute to positive change.

To the Hope Creators, I wish you the best for the year ahead. Together, let us continue making a difference and creating hope in the lives of those we serve.



DG Francisco Launches the District Flagship Project to Enhance Basic Education and Literacy

On Monday, July 3rd, 2023, District Governor Francisco Ssemwanga spearheaded the official launch of the 2023-2024 district flagship project, aimed at doubling basic education and literacy. The momentous event took place at Kitala Secondary School on Entebbe Road, where the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Garuga and Bwebajja joined forces to implement a project that seeks to uplift the face of this esteemed institution. The clubs are actively engaged in constructing additional classroom blocks, fostering a conducive learning environment for the students.

The launch of the project marked a significant milestone for the district, signaling its unwavering commitment to the advancement of education and literacy. District Governor Ssemwanga, along with members

from various Rotary clubs, government officials, educators, and community leaders, gathered at Kitala Secondary School to celebrate this inspiring initiative.

The primary objective of the project is to enhance the quality of education provided in Uganda and Tanzania and create a nurturing environment for learners to thrive. The construction of additional classroom blocks at Kitala secondary school represents a tangible step towards achieving these goals. By expanding the school's infrastructure, more students can access quality education, reducing overcrowding and improving the overall learning experience.

The Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Garuga and Bwebajja have demonstrated their unwaver-

ing commitment to community service and social development through this project. By investing their time, resources, and expertise, they are making a lasting impact on the lives of countless students who will benefit from the improved facilities. This initiative serves as a testament to the power of collective action and the transformative potential of service organizations like Rotary.

Following the successful launch of the project, the clubs extended their hospitality to the entire district by hosting the 1st fellowship of the "Creating Hope year." District Governor Francisco Ssemwanga took the opportunity to address the district, outlining the ambitious plans for the Rotary year and rallying members to work diligently towards achieving the set goals. The event served as a platform for



networking, exchanging ideas, and fostering a sense of unity and purpose within the district.

In his address, District Governor Ssemwanga emphasized the importance of education and literacy in driving societal progress. He highlighted the transformative power of education in empowering individuals and communities, breaking the cycle of poverty, and fostering sustainable development. By doubling the focus on basic education and literacy, the district aims to uplift the educational landscape and equip

future generations with the tools they need to succeed.

The launch of the district flagship project and the subsequent fellowship event showcased the indomitable spirit and dedication of the Rotarians in the district. Through their collaborative efforts, they are laying the foundation for a brighter future, where education and literacy are prioritized and accessible to all. It is through such initiatives that Rotary continues to make a meaningful impact, inspiring positive change and transforming lives.

As the district embarks on this new Rotary year, the call to action is clear. The district members are urged to redouble their efforts, channel their passion, and work collectively towards the achievement of the set goals. By harnessing the power of service and embracing the spirit of Rotary, the district can make a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the community.





Rotary: Where Service Meets Fun

When you think of service organizations, the image that often comes to mind is one of serious-minded individuals engaging in selfless acts of kindness. While this is certainly true for Rotary, there is another side to this renowned international organization that often goes unnoticed – Rotary is a fun place to be.

Founded in 1905, Rotary International has grown into a global network of like-minded individuals committed to making a positive impact in their communities and beyond. With over 1.4 million members in more than 35,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary has become a vibrant and dynamic force for good. But it's not all work and no play in Rotary. In fact, the organization embraces a spirit of camaraderie and enjoyment that sets it apart.

One of the reasons why Rotary is so much fun is the diverse range of activities and events that members get to participate in. From local community projects to international service initiatives, there is always something exciting happening in Rotary. Whether it's organizing a charity



Rtn. Becky Kubumba
Buddy Group Bwerenga

run, hosting a fundraising gala, or volunteering at a local school, Rotary members are constantly engaged in activities that bring joy and fulfillment.

Moreover, Rotary meetings themselves are anything but dull. These gatherings offer an opportunity for members to connect, share ideas, and engage in lively discussions. Rotary clubs often invite guest speakers from various fields, providing members with valuable insights and thought-pro-

voking conversations. The meetings are also an occasion to celebrate accomplishments, recognize outstanding individuals, and foster a sense of belonging within the Rotary family.

Rotary also recognizes the importance of fellowship and social interaction. Many clubs organize social events and outings, such as picnics, barbecues, and outings to cultural or sporting events. These gatherings allow members to relax, have fun, and build lasting friendships with like-minded individuals who share their passion for service.

Another aspect that makes Rotary enjoyable is the opportunity for personal and professional growth. Rotary offers numerous leadership development programs, workshops, and training opportunities. Whether it's learning how to effectively lead a team, enhance public speaking skills, or develop project management expertise, Rotary provides a platform for members to grow and expand their horizons. These opportunities not only contribute to personal

development but also add a touch of excitement to the Rotary experience.

Rotary's commitment to youth and education further adds to the fun. Rotary sponsors various programs aimed at empowering young people, such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Exchange, and Interact clubs for high school students. These initiatives provide young individuals with a chance to develop leadership skills, engage in cultural exchange, and make lifelong friendships. The energy and enthusiasm of young people inject an extra dose of vibrancy into the Rotary community.

Lastly, Rotary's international reach and involvement in global initiatives make it an exciting place to be. Through initiatives like PolioPlus, Rotary has played a pivotal role in eradicating polio from all but a few countries worldwide. Rotary's involvement in disaster relief efforts, clean

water projects, and literacy programs demonstrates its commitment to making a difference on a global scale. The opportunity to contribute to these meaningful endeavors and collaborate with like-minded individuals from around the world adds a sense of adventure and fulfillment to the Rotary experience.

In conclusion, Rotary is not just a serious organization dedicated to service; it is also a fun and engaging place to be. With its diverse range of activities, lively

meetings, social events, and opportunities for personal and professional growth, Rotary offers its members an enriching and enjoyable experience. By combining service with fellowship and fun, Rotary has created a unique environment that fosters a deep sense of fulfillment and camaraderie. So, if you're looking for a place where you can make a difference, build friendships, and have a great time while doing it, Rotary is the perfect place to be.



RC BWEBAJJA'S WALL OF FAME

CELEBRATING REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS



Rtn. Gordians Ahaisibwe
Charter President



Rtn. Daniel Ssetuba
First Major Donor



Miriam Kyeyune
First Lady President



Rtn. Annie Ninyesiga
First Global Grant Writer



Rtn. Moses Q. Galabuzi
First District Official

THE ROTARY 4-WAY TEST





RLI Graduate Class: A Unique Learning Experience

Saturday 6th May 2023 was Graduation Day for the RLI 15th Graduate Class and what a memorable day! Cheers, ululation, singing and some dancing; our joy was palpable. The cherry on top of the cake was having District 9213's brand-new DGND Geoffrey Kitakule preside over the event in his very calm and unassuming way. The RLI 15th Graduate Class was very demanding, thus our graduation excitement, but so much more rewarding.

Before we go into that, what is RLI? The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a grassroots leadership development program. "Grassroots" means that the sessions are facilitated by Rotarians from our local Clubs; no one is ferried or flown in from outside countries. RLI aims to develop the leadership potential we all have as Rotarians, for our own benefit, and for our Clubs. The RLI Undergraduate Class covers the nuts and bolts of Rotary, while the Graduate Class, from my experience, is about things that make you go



Rtn. Rhona Baingana
RLI Graduate

"Hmmm?!" – things that make you reflect and re-think your outlook. Perhaps this is the whole point of the Graduate Class? Because, as leaders (with or without titles) we need to break out of our normal thinking patterns; we need to acknowledge that we don't have all the answers. Being open-minded allows us to see things from different perspectives. This can help us find innovative ideas, see how things can be applied in new and novel ways or uncover new opportunities.

The RLI 15th Graduate Class

was welcomed on 7th February with this (excerpt of a longer message): "The course is intensive: to make steel, it is necessary to smelt the ore in a high- temperature furnace to eliminate the impurities to get the pure iron; and again, at high temperature, we add other elements that change the brittle iron to stainless steel." Hmmm... Had I bitten off more than I could chew?

We had two, sometimes three discussion topics per week, to which we all had to make well-researched contributions; "just for just" opinions were not well-received. At the physical sessions we had heated discussions: about the implications of some aspects of diversity in the context of Uganda (Hmmm!); about membership; about volunteerism – if a volunteer's efforts are recognized and/or rewarded, if there are intangible benefits like fulfilment, is that still volunteering? Hmmm! So much to reflect on.

Effective Public Speaking is a major part of the RLI Graduate Class. Each of us had to research, write and practice speeches with speaker roles such as Guild President, Char-

ter President, Commissioner of Police, President of the Law Society.... I was a PDG for one and Minister of Education for another. The trickiest feedback I got is that I speak in a monotone so here I am now watching YouTube videos on how to change. And that wasn't all; in a way the experience is like having a bright light shone on you, and at the same time having a mirror placed in front of you with the result that you see yourself very clearly, warts and all. Hmmm! I hope I am not the only one going through some serious self-examination.

There were unexpected lessons: the facilitators did not ever fail to give feedback on our online submissions. Sometimes the feedback came through in the wee hours. The facilitators role-modelled commitment – an important leadership trait. Again, as the facilitators mentored the smaller groups through the speeches, they

modelled commitment and sacrifice. Our group once spent almost 6 hours straight on a Friday evening presenting our speeches – Friday evenings are for unwinding, but here were our mentors, giving us feedback and sharing their expertise. This is a challenge to all of us to be intentional about paying it forward in every way we can.

The RLI 15th Graduate Class has a very strong sense of community and solidarity. This is very heartwarming to see and experience and is such an amazing outcome. Since February there have been "tsunamis" to different Clubs represented in the Class – Kulambiro, Naalya States, Nateete, Kasangati, Bunga, Muyenga Sunday Sunset, Bwebajja, Kiwatule....The tsunamis continue even after graduation. Almost

all of us know by heart the Community Song introduced to us by Rtn Julio (RC Nateete). Wherever you hear the song being sung, just know that there are RLI 15th Graduate Class Rotarians there!

I recently heard the title, "Future President" used at a fellowship, and I assume the premise is that if you don't already have the PP title, you are potentially a Future President. And not only a President: a Service Projects Director, a Treasurer, a Buddy Group Leader, the morale-booster, the prayer warrior. RLI is a really great way to learn about Rotary and to enhance your leadership skills because you learn in a safe space with a like-minded community. Whether or not we become leaders with titles, when we learn about Rotary and enhance our leadership skills, our Clubs win and Rotary wins.



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Congratulations!

AMPSON & MERCY
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THE JULY 2023 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

RC Bwebajja's Weekly Fellowships

Date	Topic	Speaker
Thursday 6th July 2023	Inaugural Presidential Address	President Annie Ninyesiga
Thursday 13th July 2023	Finding your voice & Inspiring others to find theirs	Rtn. Pepe Minambo
Thursday 20th July 2023	Maternal Child Health	DGN Christine Kawooya
Thursday 27th July 2023	Movie Night Fellowship	Noman's Entebbe

RAC Bwebajja's Weekly Fellowships

Date	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday 4th July 2023	Effective Goal Setting and Planning	Rtn. Annie Ninyesiga
Tuesday 11th July 2023	Developing Leadership Skills	PDRR Noah Nyabwana.
Tuesday 17th July 2023	District Flagship Project	Rtr. Mawanda Derick
Tuesday 25th July 2023	Personal and Professional Growth	Rtn. Samuel Ngambwaki

Community Service

Date	Project	Location
Monday 3rd July 2023	Kitala Basic Education and Literacy	Kitala Secondary School
Friday 7th July 2023	Public speaking Workshop	Elite High School Entebbe
Saturday 22nd July 2023	Five Aside Match	MTN Omondi Stadium
Saturday 28th July 2023	Monthly Polio Vaccination	Kajjansi Call A

Other Club Activities

Date	Activity	Committee
Thursday 6th July, 2023	I am a Rotaractor Campaign Launch	Public Relation
Friday 7th July, 2023	Rotaract Board Meeting	Club Administration
Saturday 8th July 2023	Inhouse training on reporting for committee.	Club Administration
Saturday 22nd July 2023	Fun Walks/Runs	Family of Rotary

July Birthday Babies

- 3rd July: Rtn. Onyango Lawrence
- 8th July: Rtn. Ninyesiga Annie
- 9th July: Rtn. Kironde Gorret
- 12th July: Rtn. Turyamureba Justus
- 21st July: Rtn. Ssennabulya Andrew
- 22nd July: Rtn. Arinaitwe Brenda Pearl
- 22nd July: Rtr. Atumanya Sharon
- 25th July: Rtr. Mutebi Ronald
- 26th July: Rtr. Kwagala Patricia
- 27th July: Rtn. Ssettuba Daniel
- 28th July: Rtn. Kiirya Derrick
- 31st July: Rtn. Martha Ann Luyirika



2023/2024 Presidential Initiatives

Prioritizing Mental Health

Talking about mental illness and emotional health may feel uncomfortable, but it's vital to the well-being of our global community. Creating a space where it's safe to address these issues will help provide a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive environment for everyone who interacts with us. In 2023-24, Gordon will encourage clubs and districts to undertake activities that:

- *Erase any stigma associated with discussions of emotional well-being*
- *Raise awareness of mental health needs*
- *Improve access to mental health services*

Empowering Girls

Gordon will continue the initiative launched by 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta and maintained by 2022-23 RI President Jennifer Jones that focused on empowering girls and women around the world. We encourage members to keep finding ways to improve the health, well-being, education, and economic security of girls.

Building Peace Through Virtual Exchanges

Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to do that face-to-face. Inspired by what we've learned during this time, Gordon will encourage districts to incorporate virtual components into more of their programs, events, and activities. By using innovative technologies to make connections, we give more people the opportunity to experience our global community.

Adding or maintaining these components in Rotary Youth Exchanges, New Generations Service Exchanges, Rotary Friendship Exchanges, and other programs in 2023-24 will:

- *Give members and participants new ways to experience other cultures, make new friends, and broaden their global awareness*
- *Make membership more accessible to people with time, health, or financial considerations*
- *Build stronger intercultural communication and understanding, and ultimately foster more stable and peaceful communities*



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