



# KOKROKOO



The Official Magazine of Rotary International District 9102

Issue No. 12. JUNE 2023

**IMAGINED!**



**FEARLESSLY IMAGINED ROTARY  
TO CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD**

**Rotary**  
District 9102





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The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair – Ian H.S. Riseley

## DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

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Vice Governor – PDG Yvonne Kumoji-Darko  
Secretary – PP Roma Puni  
Treasurer – PAG Galina Okartei-Akko

## DISTRICT BANK ACCOUNT

Name: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL D9102  
CURRENT ACCOUNT  
Bank: Ecobank Ghana Ltd.

### Ghana Clubs

GHS – 1441002264081  
USD – 3442002199921

### Mobile Money Numbers

MTN – Mobile Number: 0597435700  
Merchant Id: 910222  
Vodafone Cash Number: 0201029102

### Alternatively, transfer can be made as follows:

Name: ROTARY 22/23 DISTRICT CURRENT ACCOUNT  
Bank: ECOBANK BANK GHANA Ltd.  
SWIFT Code/BIC: ECOCGHAC  
Account No.: 1441002492653 (GHS) / 3441002210104 (USD)

### Clubs Outside Ghana

USD – 2441002199921  
Swift: ECOCGHAC  
Address: 19 Seventh Avenue, Ridge West  
Private Mail Bag, GPO Accra, Ghana  
Tel: 0302 681146/8 0302-213999

Rotary  
District 9102



# EDITORIAL NOTE

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I want to end my year as Editor-in-Chief with a quote from the late Sam Owori, (Rotary International President Elect 2017/18) which said ***“Optimism is what brings us to Rotary. But Rotary is not for those who are only dreamers. It is for those with the ability, the capacity and the compassion for fruitful service”.***

Indeed, the past year for me has really been an eye opener even after a Rotary membership of ten years. I have had the privilege of putting together twelve District Governor’s Monthly Magazines and engaged with a host of Rotarians from various clubs in the District and with varying experiences of membership.

In the process, I have experienced the deep sense of duty and commitment to fruitful service from members, in ensuring that we had the appropriate and relevant content for each edition. In procuring information, I have had the additional privilege of learning what various clubs do and are committed to. The diligence, commitment and compassion with which members pursued their clubs’ goals and objectives was not only amazing but also revitalising for me indeed. The past year’s theme immediately reverberates where I “imagine a Rotary” where members act to make their dreams become reality and make the most of their club and individual experience.

At the beginning of the year, I encouraged all Rotarians to keep open hearts and minds and be willing to take risks in readiness to do the unconventional, to promote new ideas, test new theories, and engage in new conversations towards the manifestation of this year’s Rotary theme. I must say that I have seen it all manifest in the past year’s activities; ***from the founding of new clubs to this year’s training conference in Accra, the tree planting exercises, only to name but a few.***

During the past year, I visited Cabo da Roca, the westernmost part of Europe. Cabo da Roca is a cape which forms the westernmost point of the Sintra Mountain Range in mainland Portugal and is about 42 kilometers west of its capital, Lisbon. There, I found a stone plaque which was mounted as far back as 1980, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Rotary. That was beyond my wildest imagination and there and then I imagined a Rotary that knew no bounds and reached the remotest and unlikeliest parts of planet earth with a very high degree of commitment to fruitful service to mankind as envisaged by the late Sam Owori.



*Monument in honor of the 75th anniversary of Rotary, by the Sintra Rotary Club in Portugal.*

This was erected by the Club in 1980, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club by Paul Harris.

Fellow Rotarians, I implore you and entreat you all to keep this flame of commitment burning in the coming year and beyond.

To Dave Amankwah, the incoming Governor of District 9104, my new District, I pledge my support to your governorship to the best of my ability. Congratulations and best wishes on this new Rotary journey.



***Let us fearlessly 'Imagine Rotary' to 'Create Hope in the World'.***

Thank you. Merci.....

Sincerely,

**Rtn Linda Antwi-Donkor**

*RC Accra*



“Paul Harris was looking for friendship when he conceived the idea of Rotary. He wanted to develop friendships that went beyond the cordial relationships of business connections.” – Dennis Shore – District Governor, District 9800 2012-13

June, which is the last month of the Rotary year is designated as Rotary Fellowship month. Friendship/Fellowship is very important in Rotary as it is the basis on which Rotary was formed by Paul Harris. Fellowship together with Service, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership are the five core values of Rotary.

We exhibit fellowship as Rotarians when we come together as a group to pursue service projects and fund-raising activities to make our communities a better place to live. Focusing on the positives of our members and using supportive, positive language when talking about and to them whilst enjoying fun activities together all exhibit fellowship. It is for this reason that we have Rotary clubs, so we can do our good in the world alongside fellow Rotarians and not just by ourselves.

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, join a global community built around a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Members of Rotary Fellowships enjoy expanded friendships and increased opportunities to enjoy their favorite recreational activities, sports and professions.

Fellowships provide us with valuable opportunities to establish connections with Rotarians beyond our Club and District. These fellowships enable us to interact with individuals within the Rotary network who share common interests, thereby facilitating the process of forging new friendships across the globe.

Examples of Rotary Fellowships we can consider joining include 4x4 Vehicles, Beard and Moustache, Beer (BREW), Coffee Lovers, Corporate Social Responsibility, Cycling, Empowering Women, Entrepreneurs, Golf, Graphic Designers, Healthcare Professionals & Jazz.

A few activities that we can indulge in Rotary Fellowship month include;

- Joint Meetings with other Clubs
- Using Rotary Fellowship literature as Rotary Information during club meetings
- Invite Speakers to speak on Rotary Fellowships
- Join a Rotary Fellowship

“Fellowship is wonderful; it illuminates life’s pathway, spreads good cheer, and is worth high price.” - Rotary Founder Paul Harris



**-Yaw Arhin Mensah**  
President, 2022-23



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

### GRATITUDE



No, I am not going to say the year went by very fast. It did not. It has been an incredibly busy year but it has also been a very fulfilling one. It is true that I make a living by the work I do as a banker. However, what is equally true is that I have enjoyed the life of giving much more and the platform of Rotary, has given me an incredible platform to do more. The year was always going to be a historic one because after all, Rotary was going to have the very first female Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones.

As the CEO of a bank based in Ghana and caught right in the middle of the country's economic and financial difficulty, taking off on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 as the District Governor

could not have been timed for a more difficult time.

Indeed, the Special Guest of the handover evening, the Minister of Information for Ghana was making his first public appearance after informing the nation of the government's decision to go on an IMF program. Thankfully, apart from Ghana, all the three other countries of the district, namely Togo, Benin and Niger were not at the same level of distress. As it manifested over the year, the world economic downturn was affecting every country adversely. Even settling club dues and obligations became a major issue throughout this Rotary year.

Enough of the talk on tough economic conditions. We had a fantastic year of great impact. We were blessed in many ways, particularly due to the esteemed presence of RI President Jennifer Jones, who assumed the role of a development chief in Kokrobite during her visit. Furthermore, District 9102 received authorization to undergo redistricting, resulting in the creation of District 9103 and District 9104. Naturally, this pivotal development necessitated additional efforts to effectively prepare for the division into two distinct districts.

We also hosted the Rotaract Africa Summit in November which again meant we all had to put in some extra work to ensure we gave visiting Rotaractors from across the continent a befitting time of friendship, service project execution and fellowship the Ghanaian way. The event also attracted very senior Rotary leaders like PRIVP Yinka Babalola and current RI Director Patrick Chisanga.



In the midst of all the fun, we had some bad news as well as we bid farewell very unexpectedly to PDG Adotei Brown and PDG Maurice Eдорh. May their souls rest in peace.

Then came April and the Rotaract and Rotary District Training Assembly and Conferences for which we had made the promise to have a parting party reflective of our districts imminent split.

After 10 years together as District 9102 we split into District 9103 & District 9104; we split into Anglophone and Francophone; and we split into Ghana on one side and Togo and Benin and Niger on the other side. We can only look into the future with hope and continue to imagine two strong districts emerging out of one.

It was a great privilege to also host the RIVP, Nicki Scott for the DTAC in what completed our place as history makers, hosting both the RI President and the RI Vice President in the same Rotary year.

This has been a truly remarkable year of great Rotary work to give us all a grand finale to District 9102.

There are so many people to thank starting with the council of District Governors, the District Leadership Team, the Assistant Governors, the Rotary Presidents and of course every Rotarian for all the hard work that contributed to a fantastic year.

I owe many of you '**gratitude**' and may I use my final message in the District magazine to say "**Thank You**".

May we now all look forward to the coming years with a sense of pride in what we have managed to imagine and achieve and a sense of hope that we will continue to create service opportunities that give solutions to our communities as people of action.

Thank you. Merci.

**Victor Yaw Asante**

*District Governor, 2022-2023*

Rotary International District 9102





Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon... must inevitably come to pass!

*Paul J. Meyer*



# A LETTER FROM JENNIFER E. JONES



Dear Victor,

**J**ust a short note to congratulate you on an outstanding year! It was a pleasure to visit you and share time together during this Rotary year.

Be well my friend and I hope to cross paths in the future.

I see bright things for you in Rotary.

Keep being amazing!

Warmest,

*Jen*

# DG Victor Yaw Asante: Reflecting on the Journey as District 9102 Governor, Rotary International.



## How has your Rotary experience led to your appointment as District Governor?

I joined the Rotary Club of Accra-Ring Road Central in 2006 and have been on an incredible journey ever since. Starting as a Club Director, I was responsible for leading service projects which deepened my love for the organization. Our club carried out some fantastic initiatives, especially in schools, including a well-received project at Asempanye. I served in various

roles, eventually becoming Club President in 2011. I successfully established a new club that year. The District Leadership then entrusted me with positions beyond my club. I served as the District Public Relations Chair and eventually as a member of the country extension committee before becoming an Assistant Governor.

At the beginning of 2020, I was nominated to become the District Governor after more than two years of dedicated preparation, despite

the role's year-long duration, I became District Governor in 2022.

### **Looking back on your term as District Governor, what accomplishments are you most proud of?**

Reflecting back on my tenure as District Governor, I am proud of my team's accomplishments in several areas. However, notable ones include enhancing the public image of Rotary District 9102 by building relationships with the media, using innovative methods such as giant billboards the District Magazine and newsletters, active social media engagements to promote events, improving the appeal of the District magazine, and increasing interaction with Corporate Ghana.

Hosting the first-ever female Rotary International President, Jennifer E. Jones, was a big moment for District 9102 in 2022/2023. Despite the challenges of bringing her to Ghana, we had a packed itinerary for her, including media engagements, meetings with district leadership, attending the end polio billboard unveiling at Ridge Roundabout, and paying a courtesy call on the President of the Republic. Her visit also included interaction with diverse partner organizations like USAID, Canadian High Commission, and others. She attended the intercity meeting, where she interacted with members of the organization, participated in several service projects, including inaugurating and adapting the renovated children's ward of the 37 Military Hospital, the district tree-planting green project at Weija dam, and commissioning the 3-in-1 project at Krokrobite where she was enstooled as the development queen Naa Osa to end her visit.

During my tenure, I oversaw the final stage of the redistricting of Rotary District 9102 to 9103 and 9104. The team and I tried to make sure a solid foundation was laid, and for a smooth transition to take place.

It was an enormous responsibility in the area of managing Rotary clubs and members in Ghana through challenging times. We faced various obstacles, including bouncing back after COVID-19 and navigating the economy's difficulties. I ensured the clubs were energized, brought back the excitement of service, and created a platform for fellowship through membership drives.

To interact with members in District 9102 and encourage bonding, we took advantage of technology. We carried out various activities through virtual platforms to create connections and ensure members remained actively involved with Rotary. The periodic district public image virtual seminars became very popular.

### **What was your biggest challenge during your time as District Governor, and how did you overcome it?**

Before becoming the District Governor, I was aware of the tasks and challenges that come with the role, particularly with the additional task of navigating the redistricting of District 9102 into districts 9103 and 9104, including the processes, structures, and formalities involved. Fortunately, I had the support of a team of experienced people who helped me during the transition. I am confident that the work we did has made a smooth transition for the new districts and will enable them start smoothly.

During my term, I encountered some surprises when some of the people I believed could deliver had challenges and could not deliver. However, I was fortunate that other people stepped forward and went the extra mile to fill the gap.

I was eager to interact with every club in every country in the district, but unfortunately, our tight schedules made it difficult to do so. To overcome this challenge, I used technology and hosted Zoom meetings to interact with

boards of clubs outside of Ghana before traveling to meet them. This approach made the engagements very fruitful.

Navigating the economic crisis that members in the clubs were experiencing was also a challenge. It had the potential to demotivate members. However, my team and I ensured that we interacted well with the clubs and encouraged interesting ways of service and fellowship.

Managing a large group of people from different backgrounds and countries while maintaining equity, unity, and focus within the group was one of the significant challenges of the role. To overcome this challenge, we employed effective communication strategies, such as having an open channel of communication and employing an open-door policy, along with effective leadership strategies. This helped ensure that clubs in the district connected with the vision and supported it in their unique ways.

### **How has Rotary’s theme “Imagine Rotary fearlessly” impacted your personal values and beliefs during your time as District Governor?**

The theme “Imagine Rotary” which we turned into “Imagine Rotary Fearlessly” resonated with my personal values and vision for the District, revitalizing us with renewed energy and a can-do attitude! With a space where members can turn their dreams into reality, we envisioned the possibilities of harnessing our global community to build stronger relationships and create a sense of inclusion, where everyone is welcomed. And it feels great to announce that District 9102 embraced this theme with fearless imagination!

As a District Governor, I felt emboldened by “Imagine Rotary Fearlessly” to push the boundaries and seek creative solutions. This

theme has instilled in us a spirit of innovation and resilience to overcome obstacles, having the courage to try new things and taking calculated risks to bring real impact to our projects.

In essence, the “Imagine Rotary Fearlessly” theme guides us towards a purpose-driven approach to service, as we align our values with Rotary’s values of integrity, fellowship, diversity, and leadership. It inspires us to work passionately and collaboratively, blazing a trail towards a brighter tomorrow for all.

Ultimately, I am thrilled that this theme has brought a new lease of life to Rotary District 9102, enabling us to achieve our goals fearlessly, one project at a time.

### **What were some key lessons you learned during your term as District Governor?**

As the District Governor of District 9102, I cannot express enough how incredible an experience leading the District has been for me! It has fostered in me a wealth of valuable lessons that have enhanced my leadership abilities while encompassing the various aspects of Rotary on local and international scale.

One significant lesson that I have learned is how tremendously vital effective communication and connections are in Rotary. We live in complex societies with diverse cultures, beliefs, and values that must be respectfully considered to bridge these gaps and learn. Being able to build rapport across these differences is paramount to achieving our goals.

The importance of people management has also stood out as a critical skill for effective leadership, enabling me to bond with people from different backgrounds in a way I never imagined. It is this effective management that positively impacts teamwork and brings results in our united endeavors for service to others.



Motivating and inspiring others are crucial 'soft' skills for leaders, especially when it comes to making things happen voluntarily. Leaders must inspire team members to do more and work toward achieving common goals. I have realized that the more we do together, the more we can achieve and serve more people.

There is immense value in teamwork and collaboration in Rotary. Working together effectively towards common goals is a crucial feature of Rotary's DNA, and I have seen the immense rewards of that from our united efforts. I am convinced that as we continue to work together, we will achieve greater accomplishments in the future.

While my experience as a Rotaractor and Rotarian before I became District Governor set the stage for learning, my role as an District Governor demonstrated to me the overall importance of these concepts. Leading by example and serving others is an immense reward that I am humbled to have experienced. With enthusiasm, I embrace future possibilities!

### **How did you engage and support Rotaractors and young Rotary members during your tenure as District Governor?**

During my tenure as District Governor, I made it a priority to engage and support Rotaractors and young Rotary members. Having been a Rotaractor myself, I understood the importance of giving them a platform to showcase their skills and grow.

I empowered Rotaractors by giving them different roles on my leadership team, allowing them to take on more responsibilities and contribute to decision-making processes. I challenged them to connect more with Rotarians and encouraged them to share their ideas and experiences with the older members.

I supported their activities closely, attending as many of their events as possible and providing financial support where needed. Through partnerships with Rotaractors, we were able to establish six new Rotaract clubs in 2022/2023 year, and look forward to more while also encouraging more Rotaractors to transition into Rotary.

I made sure that Rotaractors and young Rotary members had a voice and role in our district's activities, making them feel relevant to Rotary and ensuring their continued growth within the organization.

### **Balancing work and Rotary activities can be challenging. What strategies did you use during your term as District Governor to manage your time effectively?**

A year to becoming the District Governor of District 9102 I had wanted to focus fully on the role, take some time off corporate work as the Chief executive officer of FBN bank Ghana but my bosses at First Bank Nigeria (The Head Office) offered me their full support. I was surprised, felt blessed and humbled at the same time.

Their support was evident when the CEO of FirstBank Group, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan was in attendance to support me during the handover as a special guest.

I clearly understood the task ahead of me combining both roles. And it looked herculean.

I put together a team that could handle both my commitments at FBN Bank and Rotary in order to make sure none suffered. I had to work strictly with my schedules cutting anything that will affect my work including my me time and even happy hours. My teams at FBN and Rotary were also very instrumental in make sure I delivered on targets.

My plans were if I ever become a District Governor it would be after my retirement, however they say when it is time it is.

**Can you share an example of how you leveraged your professional network to support Rotary's initiatives and projects during your term as District Governor?**

As the District Governor of District 9102 and CEO of FBN Bank Ghana, I was able to leverage my professional network to support Rotary's initiatives and projects while also providing opportunities for FBN Bank to excel.

I approached every corporate interaction with the mindset of a "twin father," working to maximize the strengths of both organizations to create mutual benefits. Because I was handling two significant brands, conversations with business leaders of other entities were exciting, and I ensured that the principles of fair play were always upheld.

One of the strategies I employed was making sure that FBN Bank's CSR initiatives positively impacted Rotary's projects while also taking advantage of Rotary's platform to benefit FBN Bank. Additionally, I explored potential partnerships and sponsorships by connecting with companies, CEOs, and business leaders from various industries who shared Rotary's vision and values. These collaborations led to innovative approaches to address societal challenges.

By connecting with Rotarians from different countries and backgrounds, I created a diverse network that allowed for a broader exchange of ideas. Throughout my dealings, I applied the 4-way test, which helped ensure that decisions, actions, and words were fair to all concerned.

**What is the funniest or weirdest moment that happened during one of your Rotary club visits or events?**

During my visit to Rotary in Niger we had a meeting at the house of the Pakistan ambassador and I included a quote from Gandhi in my speech without realizing that it may not have been entirely appropriate since Gandhi was from India. To ease the awkwardness, I made a humorous comment that brought some laughter to the room.

One of the Rotarians present then added a comment, stating that this was a comfortable environment for me to make such a mistake since the members of Rotary have a deep regard and affection for each other.

I wholeheartedly agreed with this statement as I have found Rotarians to be some of the most accepting and generous people in the world. Nevertheless, this experience taught me a valuable lesson about cultural sensitivity.

**What is your fondest District interaction (memory) during your time as District Governor?**

My time as District Governor holds many fond memories for me. From hosting Rotary International President Jennifer E. Jones in Ghana, to overseeing amazing projects and interacting with Rotarians and Rotaractors within the district, was an unforgettable experience.

However, my visit to Niger was particularly noteworthy, I was absolutely blown away by the warmth and hospitality extended to me from the moment I arrived until the moment I left. I will never forget their incredible kindness. I am also deeply grateful to all Rotarians for their warmth and hospitality towards me throughout my tenure as District Governor.





**On a lighter note, we have heard that you respond to text messages within 5-7 minutes, which makes communication with you seamless. What is your secret?**

Hahaha, there is no secret. I prefer texting over calling because it helps me engage with people more easily. I am able to check on people faster and respond to them more efficiently. I find that it makes my work easier and more manageable. I am always in meetings and texting helps me to double hat.

**“Balancing responsibilities as a District Governor of District 9102 must have been tough! I’m curious, what “small sacrifices” did you have to make during that time and was there anything that you missed out on?”**

“As a District Governor, I understood the task and my role, but I was shocked when I had to sacrifice my small pleasures, such as hanging out with my friends regularly and my daily walking routine. I think I have gained a little weight. Ha ha!

However, I would not trade my calling to serve the district and the experience I gained for anything. Hopefully, after my term, I will still support Rotary with all my strength and be able to spend more time hanging out with my friends and logging more miles on my walks.”

**What advice would you give to the incoming District Governor?**

“I am glad that DGE Dave played a key role on my district team, and I am positive that he understands the dynamics of the role and the district. He will bring his experience and personality to bear. I have no doubt that Dave will move the district to even greater heights.”

DGE Germain and I have also been very close and he was my host on my visit to Togo. He is very experienced Rotarian who will excel.

**Your final remarks**

*Dear members of District 9103 and 9104,*

As the last District Governor of 9102, I am delighted to share heartfelt congratulations on the formation of two new districts. I must admit the split has been immensely emotional, yet I am proud of the outstanding achievements we have accomplished throughout the decade.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the council of District Governors, the District Leadership Team, the Assistant Governors, the Rotary Presidents, and every Rotarian for their unwavering efforts towards the success of District 9102. You all have been the backbone of this organization, and I am proud to have served alongside you during my tenure.

As we embark on new journeys, I urge you all to embrace the change, cherish the opportunities, and celebrate the milestones ahead. Remember that together we are stronger. So let’s continue creating service opportunities that impact our communities positively.

I am proud of our past accomplishments, and I am confident that under your leadership, both District 9103 and 9104 will achieve significant milestones.

It has been an honor to serve as your District Governor, and I wish you all the best.

**Interview by : Rotarian Togbuiga Delasie Dogbey.**

*District Governor’s Editorial Team*





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*At September's Global Citizen Festival in New York City, RI President Jennifer Jones announces that Rotary will commit an additional \$150 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. - David Alexander*

### Not Goodbye, But Good Work

Speaking to you through the pages of *Rotary* magazine this past year has brought me so much joy. I have especially enjoyed sharing the incredible stories of the wonderful people Nick and I have met on the Imagine Impact Tour.

From Patzún in the mountainous western highlands of Guatemala to a small village outside of Lusaka, Zambia, we have been greeted by countless people who imagine and work toward a better world.

We were inspired by teachers who imagine a better education for girls and boys facing gender-based violence, by Rotaractors in a refugee settlement who created a flour mill to provide for their families in a critical food shortage, and by brave polio workers who push tirelessly to reach every last child.

All of us have imagined Rotary this year. This means looking past what we are today and reaching for what we could be tomorrow. We imagine a Rotary that will continue to tell our stories in impactful ways, work to reduce our carbon footprint, and focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts that lift every voice in our organization and beyond.

Nick and I want to thank all of you for the moments we have shared and for your efforts to Imagine Rotary. And now, we look forward to continuing these efforts as we Create Hope in the World. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with each of you.

**Jennifer E. Jones**  
**President, 2022-2023**  
*Rotary International*



You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one.....

*John Lennon*



## TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

### IT IS IN YOUR HANDS

June marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another in Rotary, a bittersweet time to reflect as we look ahead.

Looking back on this year, The Rotary Foundation accomplished a great deal. We renewed our determination to fight polio to the end. Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are implementing a strategy to stop the transmission of all wild poliovirus in the endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the circulation of vaccine-derived poliovirus in outbreak countries. Last October, Rotary, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the global community collectively pledged \$2.6 billion toward this plan.

We know what it takes to eradicate polio, and we have the strategies to do it. I urge all clubs to continue to take action in this historic effort by raising awareness and funds, especially around World Polio Day in October. Also, consider joining or starting a Polio Plus Society in your club or district to collectively give a set amount each year until polio is eradicated.

Our Foundation also responded to the devastating earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey through disaster response grants that helped clubs and districts provide aid.

The Foundation continued to grow. Rotaract clubs began volunteering on and applying for Foundation grants on their own. And our next Rotary Peace Center, made possible by a gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, will be located at Bahçesehir University in Istanbul.

To all who supported The Rotary Foundation by volunteering on grant projects or through giving, I thank you. If you haven't yet made your gift to the Foundation, please do so online

by 30 June so we can end this remarkable year on a high note and reach our goal of raising \$430 million.

We can be proud of what we have done this year, but let us never rest on our laurels; rather, let us remain persistent.

One of those who best personified persistence was Nelson Mandela. Speaking to a crowd of global dignitaries before his 90th birthday in 2008, he said, "It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all, especially the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized."

Changing the world is indeed in no one else's hands but our own, and helping those in need is what defines and will continue to define Rotary and its Foundation in the years ahead.

I wish incoming Trustee Chair Barry Rassin, the Trustees, and our staff continued success in making a difference through The Rotary Foundation.



**Ian H.S. Riseley**  
*Foundation Trustee Chair, 2022-2023*  
*Rotary International*

# NEW LEADERSHIP



## Pass the baton

DESIGNED BY  
**RJ**  
@RCDFSW

Rotary 

As we end our year, we welcome a new year.  
Imagine Creating Hope in the World.

#AWorldOfHope  
#RotaryIsGood

## 18 habits of disciplined people for achieving success

**D**o you know the true secret to success? It is not just about external achievements like wealth and career advancement – it is also about consistency and discipline. These 18 habits of disciplined individuals can help you *unlock your full potential* and reach your goals.

### 1. They set clear goals

Disciplined individuals know that setting goals is a vital part of reaching success. Some people never even think about their goals for the day, let alone identify specific actions that would help them reach them. However, disciplined individuals work towards the achievement of their goals daily.

While it takes much discipline to get through each day, making progress toward achieving their goals can be satisfying. They do not regret the sacrifices they have made to reach their goal. They know where they want to go and they have a plan to get there. They also know how far they have already come and adjust their plan accordingly.

When you are disciplined, you know where you are going, how long it will take to get there, what sacrifices will be necessary along the way and how much progress has already been made.

You look at all that information, evaluate it and make adjustments.

### 2. Their time management is efficient

Time is one of the most important components of success. Disciplined individuals do not waste their time by procrastinating and wasting time on unproductive activities. They plan their days carefully to ensure that every minute is used well.

They know how to maximize the amount of productive work they get done in a day and when it is necessary to stop working for other things. To add on, they know what each hour, minute or second means and how each portion of time should be spent to achieve the best results.

Impressive, right? When you have a plan for the day, it is easier to make efficient use of your time. Instead of wasting it through surfing the Internet or mindlessly watching television, you can get more done.

### 3. They like to be organized

This is another habit of disciplined people that helps them to achieve success. Discipline helps to organize your life and keep things organized. When you are organized, it is easier to make decisions and you will always have the right resources to accomplish your goals.

Disciplined individuals are very thorough in their planning and organization. They do not like chaos. It affects them negatively, mentally, and physically.

That is why they often establish a system that works for them, and they know how to use it effectively. This also includes having a routine. Besides that, they take pride in the way their rooms look, and they want their homes, offices, and other places to look well put together.

Being organized helps them stay focused on the task at hand while knowing where everything is located.

### 4. They have a routine that works for them

Having a routine helps them to set goals and work towards achieving them. They know the importance of having a routine, which means working on the same tasks at the same time each day, and they make sure that they stick with it.



It also helps them to get into a productive mindset each day and create structure in their lives. Just like having a plan, knowing how your day will start and end helps you to use your time more effectively. They know what time they want to wake up and what time they want to go to bed, and they stick to their schedule as much as possible.

They are very rigid in their schedule and do not hesitate to stop when it is necessary or skip things when there is something more important that needs to be done.

Disciplined people also take pride in their routine and do not let anyone, or anything, mess up the flow. It means saying 'no' to some situations that are not really worth it in the first place.

### **5. They are not afraid of hard work**

Why?, because they know it will pay off in the end. They know that additional hard work is necessary in order to achieve success, but their attitude towards it is positive.

People who are disciplined and determined to succeed will put in the hard work needed to get what they want. They do not give up easily when the going gets tough.

When they try something and it does not work out, they know how to handle it and move on. They accept failure as a part of success but know how to bounce back from it quickly and move on.

### **6. They practice self-control**

Disciplined people develop this practice of having self-control because they know that it is an integral part of success.

How? They do not give in to temptations or other outside pressures because they can handle themselves well. They are able to control their

emotions and impulses, which makes it easier for them to deal with situations rationally. They work towards reaching the goals they have set, rather than run away from them.

### **7. They stay focused on the present moment**

This means that disciplined people do not dwell on the past or worry about the future. They know that their future is out of their control and only in the present moment can they make a difference.

They have a positive attitude towards today and do not automatically assume that something negative will happen. When they are working on something, they do not get distracted easily.

Thinking of other things? They push those thoughts aside and keep working hard until the task is complete. They know that distraction can lead to procrastination, so they control themselves and stay focused.

### **8. They do not procrastinate**

Procrastination can be one of the worst feelings in the world. Unfortunately, a lot of people see it as a habit and do not even realize it when they do it because it becomes a part of their lives, whether or not they realize it.

Disciplined people do not procrastinate because they know that it can cause more damage in the long run. When you keep delaying tasks, they pile up and become overwhelming but when you finish tasks early, you have more time to focus on other things.

How do they keep themselves focused on their goals, though? Well, it is simple. They just know how to separate their work from those things that are not important, which lets them get down to business.

## 9. They ask for help when they need it

How does this habit of disciplined people help with their success? They know that it is okay to ask for help when they are overwhelmed. They do not believe in being perfect and know that they need assistance sometimes. They do not have to figure everything out by themselves and do not think that asking for help means that they are not capable enough.

Besides, they know how to use the resources around them (and ask for help) so they can stay focused on their goals. This is a big step towards achieving their goals because it gives them more options to work with and potential solutions to the problems they face.

## 10. They cope well with failure and criticism

If you want to achieve success, you will have to deal with failure. What happens when you fail? Do you give up immediately and think that it is over? Or do you get back up and try again?

It is the second option, of course.

Disciplined people know how to deal with failure. They do not see it as the end of the world because they know that there is always a solution if they look hard enough for it. They look at the situation objectively and see where they went wrong.

## 11. They surround themselves with positive influences

Positivity is power. Disciplined people know how important it is to surround themselves with positive influences who can push them further. Who can give them helpful advice, who will help them stay motivated and who will encourage them when they are feeling down.

They value their goals and see the importance of other people's input. The more people they have around them, the

more support they have. So, they do not let anyone or anything stop them from reaching their goals.

## 12. They know when to take a break

One of the most effective ways to keep yourself focused is to take a break. You may think that successful people are all about work and work but that is simply not true! If you are working relentlessly, you might get tired and start feeling like giving up on your goal.

Disciplined people know that it is okay to take a break when they need one, and they do not hesitate to do so. When they feel like taking a break from their work (and it happens from time to time), they do not worry that their goal is lost or that they have wasted all of their time. When they do, they usually spend their time on things that rejuvenate them and re-energize them. They know how important it is for them to get back up and continue working.

## 13. They constantly seek to improve themselves

Disciplined individuals understand that they can always improve, and they actively seek out ways to do so.

They are open to feedback and willing to learn from their mistakes. They read books, attend workshops and take courses to expand their knowledge and skills.

They are never satisfied with the status quo and are always striving to be better.

## 14. They prioritize their health and well-being

Disciplined people know that their physical and mental health is critical to their success. They prioritize getting enough sleep, exercise and eating a healthy diet to keep their bodies and minds in top condition.



They also take time to engage in stress-relieving activities, such as meditation or yoga, to maintain their emotional well-being.

### **15. They take calculated risks**

Success often requires taking risks, but disciplined individuals do not jump into situations blindly. They weigh the pros and cons carefully, and make calculated decisions based on the information available to them. They are not afraid to step out of their comfort zone, but they do so in a thoughtful and intentional way.

### **16. They maintain a positive attitude**

Disciplined people know that a positive attitude is crucial to their success. They choose to focus on solutions rather than problems, and they do not let setbacks discourage them. They believe in themselves and their ability to achieve their goals, even when the going gets tough.

### **17. They have a strong work ethic**

Disciplined individuals have a strong work ethic, which means they are committed to putting in the time and effort needed to achieve their goals. They do not cut corners or take shortcuts, and they do not shy away from hard work. They understand that success is earned through consistent, focused effort.

### **18. They take ownership of their actions and outcomes**

Disciplined people take responsibility for their actions and outcomes. They do not blame others for their mistakes or make excuses for their failures.

Instead, they learn from their experiences and use them as opportunities for growth and improvement. They are accountable for their own success, and they know that it 'i up to them to make it happen.

### **Discipline is KEY to success**

It is the foundation that you will work off of and build upon as you move forward.

These habits can be challenging to implement at first, but they will become easier with time and practice. The more you do them, the easier it will be for you to live as a disciplined person. It helps if you dedicate yourself to achieving your goals.

But it is even more important to be disciplined about it! There are no shortcuts, but you can start now by making actions on the things you think will help you succeed.

Credit: <https://ideapod.com/habits-of-disciplined-people-for-achieving-success/>



## SHARING ROTARY FORWARD

Poem by Amarkine Amarteifio

We bear in our hands  
the touch of history's dreams of great becomings,  
And in our hearts, we hold the flames of faith in small beginnings.

From the miseries of the past to the miracles of our lives today,  
The triumph of compassion over apathy and disconnection has brought us our trophies

Yet we still have a world to shape and show our children,  
And lessons to know as blessings only if we could share our lives with kith and kin far and near.

We have come this far from the dark past,  
Yet ours is not a world that ends in final victories.  
We still forge ahead  
And with each kind act,  
We make life's meaning clearer and plainer for the next.

We owe our world a dream to make life a lighter load,  
By showing that love is the soul's only code.  
And by sharing our heart's gift  
We can give this world the needed lift,  
So each generation can have better dreams for the next.

If we lend a hand,  
Become the inspiration  
Sow the seeds of love,  
Lead the way,  
Create awareness and take action,  
Share Rotary,  
And make humanity our business  
Then happiness shall be our profit  
And peace shall be our times as says every prophet.

If we act on the truth,  
And make matters fair to all,  
So that we build goodwill and better friendships,  
Then our world will be beneficial to all.



When the year is over,  
And our projects are done  
And our communities made better,  
And the smiles on the faces of people we have yet to know  
Open our souls  
To discover they are us,  
And we are them,  
Then we know that Rotary truly connects.

If we fill our fellowships with mirth,  
And our friendships with love, then there will be no challenge we cannot rise above.  
And though time's end shall claim our lives,  
Our souls shall live in the future's day  
And make Rotary's presence in the world, an abiding light for all.

Amarkine Amarteifio. Copyright.

February 2021. Poem for Rotary's 116 Birthday— Intercity Meeting, Accra.



**PP Amarkine Amarteifio**  
*RC Accra-South*

# Rotary International District 9103 Succession



Rotary 

# Rotary International District 9104 Succession



# Caption these Photos









# Rotarians in the news.....

## FBN Bank CEO receives top prize at Ghana-West Africa Business Excellence Awards

Congratulations, DG Victor Yaw Asante!



Ghana West African Business Excellence awards - CEO of the year ( Banking and Finance)



The Managing Director of FBNBank Ghana, Mr. Victor Yaw Asante has been awarded the “CEO of the Year”, Banking and Finance category at the Ghana-West Africa Business Excellence Awards.

The purpose of the awards is to bring together business players and recognize the achievements of local and international companies involved in various sectors. All individuals and organizations that were awarded have contributed immensely to moving businesses forward and have demonstrated achievement across a wide variety of domains including customer service, safety, performance, leadership, prudence, operational and product excellence, innovation and others.

Mr. Asante who received his award from Okatakyie Asafo Boakye III, ruler of the Sanzule Kingdom in the Eastern Nzema District of the Western Region, commented on the award that “It is truly a humbling experience for me. However, I am grateful to the organizers and the panel for honoring me with this award. I believe such awards are meant to encourage people to work harder. Contrary to expectations that awards call for celebrations, I see them more as the milestone for yet another effort to ensure that you continue delivering greater value. I personally feel the real owners of this award are the staff of FBNBank who have worked side by side with me, tackling all issues, overcoming challenges, and making things happen. I dedicate this to them, and this is to say thank you to them for the passion, the support and the camaraderie.”

## Our Year of Imagining Fearlessly.....

Recalling the word “fearlessly” from the theme **Imagine Rotary** evokes excitement and inspiration. **#WuGusuTifie**



**AG Festus William Amoyaw**  
*RC Accra-Ridge*

The theme for the Rotary year 2022/2023 was appropriately chosen by the RI President Jennifer Jones, **Imagine Rotary**. Imagination can be anything from not making a difference, leaving a mark or changing the status quo. As the first Rotary International Female President, it was an opportunity that she felt must make a difference. For the first time in the organization’s history, she appointed a Rotaractor as Rotary Public Image Coordinator, included others on several committees, and assigned some President’s Representatives.

In our world of District 9102, we owned the theme and included the word “fearlessly”, meaning “we would imagine and act boldly towards every goal”. Do not allow your fear to stop you from imagining the contributions to the Rotary Foundation, the growth in

membership and fellowship as the wheel must always be in motion.

District Governor Victor Yaw Asante, the last and 10<sup>th</sup> District Governor for District 9102, opened the year at the handover ceremony on July 01, 2022. The grandfather’s clock of 525,600 minutes started ticking at that moment. It was a night of excitement and celebration as Rotarians and the guests cherished the event and pledged to support the new District Governor fearlessly.

The **Imagine Rotary Fearless** journey began right after the handover with club visits and attending other events. The District Rotaract National and Club Handover happened on July 9, 2020, another night of glitz and the imagination of the future of Rotary. The International Youth Day fell on August 12, 2022, and was observed in many clubs in the district.

The membership month of August saw the District hold its Membership Seminars. In Ghana, the event was a hybrid (physical and online), while Togo, Benin, and Togo held theirs virtually. The beauty of technology meant the District Governor could participate in these events back-to-back on August 20 and 27.

The road to Abidjan was fun. Some went by air whilst others by road. I bet the travellers via road had more fun than those in the air. The stops and comradeship/fellowship made it more exciting, and you can imagine the fearless Rotarians making the best of it. Rotarians from other African districts joined the Rotarians from Ghana to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> All Africa Zone

Institute by road. Acheke et le poisson were in short supply as Rotarians descended on the capital city of Cote d'Ivoire. Many Rotarians learnt a lot from the Institute, and thus we are encouraged to make it to Lusaka in September 2023.

The breaking news was the three-day working visit of Jennifer Jones, the first female RI President, to Ghana. She landed in Ghana with the entourage of her husband, Nick Krayacich, RI Director Brad Howard and her spouse. The many activities fearlessly planned in the three days allowed her to enjoy the warm hospitality of Ghana. The visiting party had the opportunity to meet with the press, call on the Presidency and other corporate institutions, join Rotarians in an intercity meeting and undertake project commissions and visits. At Bortianor, she engaged in a tree planting exercise around the Weiija Dam and commissioned the renovated children's ward of the 37 Military Hospital. She even got to be installed as a queen mother of the Kokrobite Area. It is worth knowing that the District has hosted two Rotary International Presidents in the last two Rotary years.

The DG monthly magazine "Kokrokoo" was in full swing, and thanks to the creative and freestyle of the editor-in-chief and team, Rotarians were served with juicy news, images, articles, poems and others from clubs and Rotarians in Ghana through Togo, Benin and Niger. The farthest club from anywhere in the District is the Rotary Club of Agadez (from Accra is 2,000km by road) in the central part of Niger was not left out.

As Rotarians in District were settling down after the 4<sup>th</sup> Africa Zone Institute, the RI Board gave us a gift in approving the redistricting into Districts 9103 and 9104. That decision changed the course of the District Leadership. Nominations had to be submitted for the new Districts for District Governor-Elects, District Governor-Nominees and District Governor-

Nominees Designate. The District Governor led in completing the nominations in December 2022, and during the DTAC, the District Nominating Committee presented the new leaders to members.

In October, Rotary Clubs in Ghana won the EMY Africa Group award at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast Accra city. The Rotary Clubs of Sekondi Takoradi and Takoradi Anaji hosted World Polio Day with a walk and unveiling of the End Polio Now billboard. A flag hoisting event was subsequently held in Accra.

The 6th Rotaract Africa Summit took place in Ho, Ghana, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, attracting 170 participants from 16 countries. Rotary International Director Patrick Chisanga and Past Rotary International Vice President Yinka Babalola were Special Guests of the Rotaractors. The host, District Governor Victor Asante, made it memorable for all participants and guests; such was the call for a repeat.

The Rotary Foundation Seminar in November 2023 could not be forgotten. Rotarians in Ghana gathered in Kumasi to learn new things about The Rotary Foundation, whilst our counterparts from Niger, Togo, and Benin held a virtual seminar.

The District Governor continued the club's visits across the countries and ensured he interacted with Rotarians wherever he found himself.

As Rotarians fearlessly set new milestones and deliver on Service Projects, we cannot escape the HASHTAG #WuGusuTifie initiated by PP John Michael for Rotary Fellowship, attending club meetings and other events. Do not stay at home as the fun train will be long gone.

Rotarians were ushered into 2023 with the Public Image Seminar online for the entire District on 21<sup>st</sup> January (Anglophone) and 28<sup>th</sup> January (Francophone).



The first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion seminar was held virtually in March 2023 with participants from the countries in the District, Burkina Faso, the United States, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Nigeria, among others.

The District Rotary Youth Leadership Award Committee held the first RYLA in Accra from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2 2023. About 30 participants from the countries in the District attended. Another club-oriented one was held in Ho from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

We moved into the District Training Assembly and Conferences (DTAC) season in April 2023. The Rotaractors held their DTAC in Kumasi from 6 to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with different programs to celebrate the event, including a training session, cultural night, football match, service project, and visiting tourist sites.

The 10<sup>th</sup> and the last DTAC for Rotary District 9102 occurred in Accra International Conference Center (AICC) and grand arena from 11-15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This last conference, which had Rotary International Vice President Nicki Scott as RI President's Representative, was a huge success, with lots of fun and excitement at each event and activity. In his promotional video, DG Victor promised a big party, and did we not party?

The Rotary Club of Accra - North Kaneshie, the first Rotary club to be chartered in Ghana this Rotary year, held its charter ceremony. The first in the district was the Rotary Club of Godomey in Benin. Rotaract District 9102 sponsored its sixth club in April, and six (6) Interact clubs were sponsored together in this Rotary year.

All too soon, it is time for RI Convention in Melbourne. The Rotary District 9102 Ghana group touched down on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. We are looking forward to tales and pictures from Melbourne.

A new district initiative by the District Interact Chair saw interact clubs in Rotary District 9102 pitch their service projects under the seven areas of focus to win the first three prizes. The first-ever Service-Learning Challenge empowered young people to enact real change in their communities by combining community service and learning objectives. After a gruelling six-hour online session, the following clubs emerged winners – Interact clubs of Accra Academy (1<sup>st</sup>), Lomé Zenith (2<sup>nd</sup>) and St Thomas Aquinas (3<sup>rd</sup>).

As we sign off the Rotary Year and usher in Create Hope in the World, all Rotarians are urged to continue doing good to the world by imagining Fearlessly with these words.

*Imagine a world that deserves our best, where we get up each day knowing we can make a difference. You didn't imagine yesterday. You imagine tomorrow.*

*Imagine a world without polio.*

*Imagine a world with clean water for everyone.*

*Imagine a world free of disease—where every child learns to read. Imagine kindness and hope and love and peace.*

*And that, my dear friends, is why our theme is **Imagine Rotary**.*





**PP Sika Tettey**  
*RC Accra Spintex*

“ ..Never blame any day in your life.  
Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience.  
Worst days give you a lesson.  
There’s no day without a night, there’s no victory without a fight.  
There’s no happiness without some pain!  
We can’t change the past, but we can influence the future.  
Remember, happiness is a journey not a destination!  
Be happy and thankful for today... ”

**W**e have been Fearlessly IMAGINING what we can and have done for our respective communities.

As we draw closer to Creating hope in the world, I humbly want to share these words a friend sent to me .....

People of action, I send Rotarians in District 9102, a very happy and fruitful year ahead, as we split into District 9103 and 9104.

What did I know about Rotary before agreeing to be part of the Rotary family, an organization that started with the vision of one man – Paul Harris, a Chicago Attorney, when he formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23rd February 1905.

I joined Rotary in 2012, knowing what I know now, will I still stay in Rotary and encourage friends, colleagues or family members who genuinely believe in the ideals of Rotary to join this organization?

Yes, I would.



Rotary year 2022/2023 began with clubs discussing their programs and projects with DG Victor Yaw Asante. The Rotary Club of Accra Spintex, the club I am a member of was no exception.

One of the projects we aimed at completing in line with DG Victor's goals was to charter at least one Interact Club for the District. Regrettably and it was not for lack of trying but partly due to the "image" the establishments we approached had of Rotary.

Is it a case of "Bad things happening to good people and or good establishments?"

While the Rotary year comes to an end for a new one to begin on 1 July 2023, I was confronted with divergent views of some people towards their "image" of Rotary. Ghana becomes a District on its own, i.e. D9104, and no matter the challenges, let us continue to positively sell the Rotary story so Rotary in Ghana can gain more members and continue to create hope in our various communities through meaningful and sustainable projects.

Having all the good intentions of getting the younger generation involved in volunteering and contributing to the good of the community, a number of establishments indicated and I guess rightly so that, they would need the permission of the parents of the kids before making a decision on the request to have a Rotary Interact Club at their schools. Others said they would get back to us and a host of other excuses but funnily enough they were prepared to welcome donations or projects from Rotarians or Rotaractors to 'bridge the gap' of some items they need.

To me that was a good sign that they know Rotary is largely made up of 'people of action' who deliver on the needs of the community at their own expense in some cases. A friend indicated that "we Rotarians get too involved in Rotary at the expense of family life" and so will not join Rotary for fear of losing immediate family members. Is this a case of us not selling our Rotary image positively?

How can we better sell what Rotary through its Rotarians and Rotaractors do to improve the public image or perception?

Speaking for myself, and looking at my rotary journey from 2012/2013 where the RI Presidential theme was "Peace through Service" and considering the various themes throughout my ten-year journey, I must admit I have learnt a lot more about Rotary, Rotarians, and Rotaractors and I am convinced that I made the right decision to join

Rotary, where I was part of a team that made "Peace through Service"; tried to "Engage Rotary"; "Light up Rotary"; "Be a gift to the World through projects; Contributed to "Rotary serving Humanity"; Rotary making a difference; Be the inspiration; Rotary connect the world; Rotary opens opportunity; Serves to change lives; as well as the team that had to 'Imagine Rotary'.

Now I am looking forward to being part of the team that will "Create hope in the world".



## Reflecting on a year fearlessly imagined; #WoGusuTiFie



**G**rowing up, I loved reading. Reading was a nice way to escape into a world of endless possibilities. That magical world where one could be anyone they wanted to be, the hero today and the villain tomorrow: that world where nothing was too big to make happen. So you can imagine the craziness that went through my mind when we entered this Rotary year with a theme that said “Imagine Rotary”, like it wasn’t enough, we were tasked to fearlessly imagine Rotary.

A lot had changed in the traditional way of meeting, post- covid, some for good, others, not. Sanctions had been relaxed, clubs were trying to get back to normal and work was steadily ongoing. We lost some members and also gained some. It was interesting seeing the innovations clubs had come up with to measure up to the changing times and how efficient we had become with virtual engagements. For those who were NIIT (Not Interested In Technology), the hustle was real, but through it all we prevailed.

I had in the month preceding the inception of the 2022-23 Rotary year, returned from our convention in Houston with a renewed energy

and so was bent on making an impact, even if in a small way. I had imagined a time when all Rotary clubs would unite in executing major projects. I believe Rotary club of Ho initiated that with their massive collaboration of Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, Lions and Rotary Alumni. My hope is that the seed sown that day in the Volta Region would grow into a practice where in every year we can identify a major project and jointly fund raise to execute.

**I imagine a Rotary where instead of competing we collaborate more to create bigger impact.**

Collaboration however required going back to our basics, the very foundation of Rotary which is fellowship rooted in family and friendship. This dream led to the introduction of my mantra “#WoGusuTiFie” into Rotary fellowship.

“*Wo gusu te fie*” translated is “**Are you still sitting home**”, it isn’t about literally sitting home, but a call to action for Rotarians, Rotaractors and interactors. It seeks to ask the question “Why are you not involved when Rotary requires you to be a person of action”?

Ideas die when we do not act, so in summary, get involved, let's create lasting and impactful change today through our actions today. Why do tomorrow what can be done today?

I was however very humbled when I received a plaque for it; it was the highlight of my Rotary year.

Alas! District 9102 is coming to an end, and as we enter our new district, my prayer is that our

motto of service above self leads us especially at a time like our nation is going through to Create hope in Ghana and by extension the world.

#WoGusuTiFie

**PP John Michael**  
*RC Accra-Legon*





## INVESTITURE OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT 9104

David Osei Amankwah

Grand Arena, AICC  
8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023  
6.30pm

Regular  
Ticket  
GH¢500

SCAN TO PAY



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VISA



## Investiture Night of the 1<sup>st</sup> District Governor

Germain TOMEHAH



Saturday 1st July, 2023  
@ 6:30 PM GMT



Hotel 2 Fevrier,  
Salle Fazao

Pass  
40.000  
FCFA



(+228) 90 05 24 29



**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



# Rotary Information

## You asked. Gordon McNally answered.

Rotary's president-elect says he'll lead with caring as his core value.



If you ask Gordon McNally anything about his upcoming year as Rotary International President, he'll immediately stop you. "It's not about my year. It's about one of Rotary's years," he corrects. "I'm a great believer in continuity, and I don't see the years in isolation."

On a blustery October day, McNally (that's pronounced MAK'-ihn-al-ee) sat down with six members of Rotary's communications team to take questions gathered via social media from Rotary members around the world. He has a quick sense of humour and an easy banter that filled the room with laughter as a film crew set up boom mikes, cameras, and lights. In introducing himself as a member of the

Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Scotland, he quipped about his distinctive speech: "Despite the lack of an accent, I am Scottish, and very proud of that fact."

McNally's Scottish heritage is apparent in his office, where a brightly colored landscape painting by the Scottish artist John Lowrie Morrison adorns a wall. Scotland isn't always as dreary as it is typically depicted, he notes. "Sometimes it's a very bright place." In fact, there are a lot of stereotypes about Scotland that McNally is looking to move past. "The tartan, the plaid, it's very traditional, very stereotypical," he says. His presidential tie, instead, was inspired by the bright colors used by Morrison, his favorite artist, along with the colors in a seashell from Thailand that helped inspire his presidential theme. Among other colorful curiosities in McNally's office is a giant cardboard rendition of his head, which he received after a Rotary institute in Minneapolis. Visitors are keen to hold it up for social media selfies. "I think they get more sense out of the head than they do out of me," he says with a laugh.

McNally joined the South Queensferry club when he was 26 years old. He and his wife, Heather, had recently gotten married and wanted to put down roots in the community outside of Edinburgh. A farmer they had met invited them to a Rotary social event and then to a couple of Rotary meetings, and before

McInally knew it, he was on the road to Rotary membership. (Heather McInally is also a Rotarian, belonging to the Borderlands satellite club of the Rotary Club of Selkirk.) “I couldn’t see how a dentist working in isolation in Edinburgh could make a huge difference in the world,” he recalls. “But I very quickly realized that by being part of Rotary, I could, and I did.”

He would like to use his year — scratch that, the 2023-24 Rotary year — to spotlight mental health, an issue that has touched his family directly and that is all too often kept under wraps. McInally is an ambassador for Bipolar UK, an organization that supports people with the illness as well as their families and caregivers. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland recently launched a partnership with the organization to bring members’ skills to help build a more robust network of support groups around the country. «I’m a big believer in using Rotary members’ skills, rather than just their checkbooks,» he says.

The following is a condensed version of the town hall.

### **What are your core values, and how do they shape how you lead?**

*Natarajan Sundaresan, Rotary Club of Koothapakkam, India*

My core value can be expressed in one word, and that is “caring.” I like to think that I care for people. Professionally as a dentist, I cared for people for many, many years. It’s something that was instilled in me by my parents. It’s something that we have instilled in our own children. And the great thing is I now see it being instilled in our grandchildren. I think if the world was a more caring place, a kinder place, then it would be a much happier place and a much more peaceful place. Peace is one of the issues that I particularly want to see us move forward.

### **How can we reignite members of Rotary who appear to have “lost their spark”?**

*Jannine and Paul Birtwistle, Rotary Club of Guernsey, in the Channel Islands*

I know Jannine and Paul very well, and it’s nice to receive a question from them. I think the way to reignite the lost spark in certain members of Rotary is to make sure that the Rotary club experience is as good as it can be and suits everybody. It’s not a case of one-size-fits-all. Some clubs will want to meet in a country club and spend 2.5 hours over lunch. Other clubs will want to meet for 45 minutes on a Saturday morning over coffee and a bagel, and then get out and do service.

It all comes down to the service. We are a membership organization and a service organization. It’s not either/or. We need to be out there doing service, because not only will we enjoy that more, we will also see more people want to come and join us because they can see us.

### **What concrete plans does Rotary have to address climate change in 2023-24?**

*Abdur Rahman, Rotary Club of Secunderabad, India*

One of the big projects that we’re working on at the moment is planting mangroves in various places around the world, and there are many others. But we have to remember that Rotary, on its own, will not be able to solve the problem of climate change. We need to work at the level we are capable of working at and encourage and advocate governments around the world to ensure that we address the issue of climate change going forward.

### **How can we motivate more Rotaractors to join Rotary clubs?**

*Dale Kerns, Rotary Club of North East, Maryland*

We need to bring them into Rotary clubs as Rotaractors and allow them to help shape the

club going forward. We talk about mentoring. But there's reverse mentoring, as well. We can learn so much from Rotaractors. One of the most successful places in the world at integrating Rotaractors into Rotary is in Hong Kong. They move seamlessly from Rotaract into Rotary. As a result, there's hardly a division. They have a wonderful way of integrating Rotaract and Rotary together. Both sides gain so much from that. People say that Rotaract is the future of Rotary, but it's actually the present.

### **What youth programs are important to you?**

*Lindy Beatie, Rotary Club of Penn Valley, California*

I'm a great fan of [RYLA](#) [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards]. We have seen very successful RYLAs in our part of the world. If you take a high school student with potential to a RYLA experience, the change that can take place is amazing. Sometimes the quiet, introverted young students who go to a RYLA experience have, by the end of it, found themselves and are blossoming. It's important we send people with potential to the RYLA experience — not the highfliers, because they're going to fly high anyway. It's the people we have the potential to develop.

I'm also a great believer in Rotary Youth Exchange. I'm delighted that we are now in a position to reignite the Youth Exchange program. Just over the past few weeks, I've seen young people flying all around the world for what will be a life-changing experience. That comes back to the whole issue of creating a more peaceful world. Because if we can take young people and let them meet other young people and live in other cultures for a year, then we realize that basically we're all the same people. There is no need for conflict because we're all trying to pull in the same direction, and we all desire the same thing.

### **Rotary keeps creating new partnerships and launching new projects. How can we ensure continuity as one president takes over from another?**

*Marissa De Luna, Rotary Club of Sweetwater San Diego, California*

When I talk about continuity, I don't just mean doing the same old things year after year after year. What I mean is a process of continually moving forward, continually improving. To do that, we need to be looking at different projects and at different initiatives, because at any given time, there are different needs and different demands being placed on us. So I don't think the two are mutually exclusive. I think we can be part of new projects, and we can look at doing new things. But we can still be practicing continuity, in that we're taking it forward in the long term and not rushing to conclude things in the space of any one presidential term.

### **What is the biggest potential you see in Rotary as an organization that has not been fully realized?**

*Claudia Arizmendi, Rotary Club of Hermosillo Milenio, Mexico*

We saw a great increase in volunteerism during the pandemic. I think we have a great opportunity to connect with those people and encourage them to carry on volunteering through Rotary. I believe it's in everybody's nature to care for other people. If we can bring that out of people, and if we can build on the spirit of care that we saw during the pandemic, what a wonderful legacy. About 6.5 million people died as a result of COVID around the world, and so they must not die in vain. If we can connect with the people who reignited their spirit of volunteering during that period, then we will have achieved something.





*You can't gather a group of journalists and not allow them to ask a few questions of their own. Here's what Rotary magazine's editors wanted to know:*

**Tell us about your presidential theme.**

The theme is going to be Create Hope in the World. I'm a great believer that everything starts with hope. While I was in Thailand inaugurating a village that Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland had built after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, I met a lady. She looked to be about 70 or 80 years of age, and it turned out she was only about 50. She had lost everything in the tsunami. Her house had been destroyed. And as I looked around her house, there was nothing else there. This was a new home, but she had lost everything. But she insisted I take a seashell that she had saved for over 30 years. She said, "I had lost everything, including hope. But Rotary has given me hope to continue." And I have this shell to this day. If people don't have hope, then they will never be able to make their way forward. It's a call to action: Create hope in the world.

**What are your priorities?**

In terms of continuity, we want to carry on empowering girls and women. Also, we're going to be encouraging people to do virtual exchanges. That will speak to peacebuilding from the ground up. It's not about stopping wars; it's about stopping wars from starting. Prevention is better than cure. Almost every one of our areas of focus has the potential to do that.

The third thing is a mental health initiative. Coming out of the pandemic, there are a lot of people who are struggling with poor mental health. I think it's the next pandemic. I've got experience with friends who have suffered poor mental health. I guess we've all suffered through poor mental health on occasions. Rotary has to be big enough and brave enough to enter that space and to start talking about where we can make a difference. At the most basic level, it's just opening up the conversation about mental health and helping people get access to any professional help that they might need, and then supporting them through that journey.



I lost my brother to suicide. It's still very painful. I share this not to get people's sympathy, but to make people realize that everybody is affected by this sort of thing. We can't sweep it under the carpet. As a global network of 1.4 million people, we do have an opportunity to make a difference in making it less of a taboo and less of a stigma.

**You have also served as president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. What did you learn from that experience that you'll bring to this role?**

I learned how to sleep in different beds every two or three days — I travelled a great deal during that year around Britain and Ireland. I learned that Rotary clubs are all different, and that everybody has a different interest. Not everybody is as passionate as I am — I'd sometimes feel I'm a bit of a zealot. But everybody has something. And the secret is to

tap into people's interests and to make sure that they're allowed to do things that they want to do. That speaks to bringing members in as well. We don't bring members in and then tell them what they need to do. We bring members in and ask them what Rotary can do for them.

**You're a dentist. If you were a tooth, which would you be?**

I'd probably be an incisor, because that's the first tooth that does the work. You don't shove anything straight to the very back. You lead with your incisors, and I like to think I lead from the front. That said, an incisor is no more important than any other tooth; all are equally important in the eating process.

**This story originally appeared in the March 2023 issue of *Rotary* magazine.**



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CONCLUDES WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE



By **Etelka Lehoczky** Photos by **Monika Lozinska**

**A**fter imagining the future of Rotary in Melbourne, Australia, members and speakers at the 2023 Rotary International Convention looked ahead to next year's gathering in Singapore and being able to share hope with the world by focusing on mental health and well-being.

"Singapore is a city that embodies the spirit of service and giving back to the community," said Jennifer Scott, chair of the 2024 International Convention Committee. "This city-state is a hub of culture, cuisine, and innovation, and is renowned for its architecture, natural beauty, and bustling nightlife. There is something for everyone in Singapore."



*Jennifer Scott, chair of the 2024 International Convention Committee, talks about next year's event in Singapore during the closing session of the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia.*

**D**uring the convention's closing session, 2023-24 Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally explained why he's asking members to make mental health a priority. When his only brother took his own life, McNally said, he became determined to fight the stigma around mental health issues and expand access to care.

"I might venture to suggest that one of the main reasons that my brother and so, so many others like him reach the point they do is that mental health remains such a taboo subject, and that mental health services remain in such short supply," he said. "I know that Rotary can do something about that. I am confident we can illuminate mental health needs near and far."

"We can help one another feel more supported as fellow Rotary members and as neighbors," McNally continued. "We can advocate for mental health services. And we can build bridges with experts in the mental health space to help expand access to treatment."

McNally urged Rotary members to Create Hope in the World by getting involved and taking action at a critical moment in history.

"To create hope, we must continue doing our important work, and do it better than ever before," he said. "We must refocus our efforts to build peace across the globe. And we must help each other find peace within — and share that ethic of care to the people we serve."

Earlier in the day, Kunle Adeyanju, president of the Rotary Club of Ikoyi Metro A.M., Nigeria, reflected on how to fulfill the promise of a polio-free world. In 2022, Adeyanju rode a motorcycle from London, England, to Lagos, Nigeria, to raise money and draw attention to the cause.

"We're in the last mile of the push toward polio eradication. That's quite encouraging," Adeyanju said. "But when you're so close

to the tipping point, the whole gain you've achieved in the last 30 years could go away in one day."

He compared the commitment to end polio to his marathon ride.

"There were several instances where I was in the Sahara and I kept asking myself, 'Why am I doing this? Why did I get myself here?' But the resilient spirit in us says, 'Yes, it's difficult, but it's doable.' That's the same mindset we need to put into eradicating polio around the world."

During another session that focused on the difficult but doable, past Rotary Peace Fellow Ryan Rowe introduced Haitian Rotarians who have been working to bring clean water to 770,000 people in seven counties throughout the country as part of HANWASH, or the Haiti National Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative.

Over the last three years, the organization has raised US\$1.8 million to dig wells, build latrines, and modernize water systems around the country. Organizers also plan to invest US\$400,000 in a mentoring and training program for local engineers.

This "is an incredible story of Rotary impact that the entire world needs to hear," Rowe said.

In her closing remarks, Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, who made history as the organization's first female president, made the connection between imagining Rotary — the idea of her presidential theme — and hope, an element of McNally's.

"We don't imagine yesterday — and we also don't look for hope in past actions," Jones said. "'Hope' and 'imagine' are words for tomorrow — words that propel us forward. They build upon each other and offer a path forward. A path of continuity."





## Let your Imagination Lead You to Create Hope



**By: Baptista Sarah Gebu**  
*Author - Prepare for the Future of Work  
District Chair, Vocational Training Teams*

Imagine our world is free with equal opportunities for all, where the grass is greener for everyone everywhere in the world, where peace prevails and poverty is a non-existing word. Worlds where everyone can dream, hope, and aspire to become someone and actual be that reality. A world where no political party exit for which elections would be conducted; a world where the rule of law exists and is respected by all; a world where truly the four way-test becomes a standard of measure where we really are true to ourselves and the world as the "duty of care" purports.

"Of all the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" Can you imagine this?

The call this Rotary year has been for us all to imagine rotary. The call to imagine is a call to endless possibilities including the call to create hope in the world. Our imagination can create that ideal reality. A situation where sickness and diseases are far off, starvation, conflict of war, pandemics like covid-19, climate change and is related challenges becomes all non-existent. But how about letting your imagination lead you to create hope?

Hope is about having something to look forward to. Believing good things can still happen. It is about seeing all your best qualities and looking forward in all things. As Rotarians by default we are world leaders. True leaders consider life of impact. To others, hope can be a desire for something to happen, a wish for things to change for the better or a particular dream or aspiration. A wonderful result of hope is delivered by the Holy Spirit of God. He gives us the power to hope and that is a demonstration of God's love for us. Hope as given by Him works together to give us confidence, joy, peace, power and love. That is a true gift! What is your hope gift to the world?

**According to research there are different types of hope.**

Realistic Hope, Utopian, Chosen, Transcendent Hope among others. Realistic hope is hope for an outcome that is reasonable or probable (Wiles, Cott, & Gibson, 2008). Hope has both cognitive and affective elements. There are three components associated with hope: having goal-oriented thoughts; developing strategies to achieve goals; and being motivated to expend effort to achieve goals. This, the Knowledge Bank Project offers you in its coaching, mentoring and training endeavours, participate in it.

To create hope, consider these strategies; do something – starting with goals knowing that hopeful people do not only wish – they imagine and act, so act now. Harness the power of uncertainty; manage your attention and expectations the right way. Seek community and I mean the very positive ones as we work towards evidence. You must know what time it is in history as knowledge of the past, can help you prepare better for the future. Do these to keep hope alive in hard and uncertain times. Discover to know who you are. Look for hope in positive unexpected places. Cultivate optimism all the time. Practice gratitude even for the most little things. Look at the possibilities in your life, not the limitations. Occasionally, go outside to look at nature, it brings healing. Do a random act of kindness. Engage in service projects initiates as this is what makes you a Rotarian and remember Rotary means serious business. Take some time for self-care. In case, you forget all, remember you can only give what you have so take time for self-care.

Hope or hopefulness enhances coping and improves quality of life in persons with chronic or incurable illnesses. Lack of hope is associated with depression and anxiety, which impact

negatively on our quality of life. Prioritize your mental health fellow Rotarian. Consider these to regain hope. Focus on the positive. This can be difficult when you feel there is nothing positive to focus on when all situations seem so bleak that the silver lining is a deep dark gray that no sunlight can break through. Believe in yourself and surround yourself with positivity and people on the same mission with you.

Here are some things that people say brings them hope: The dawning of a new day. Nature and gardening -planting a seed and watching it grow so plant a tree and develop a backward garden at minimum. The pursuit of passionate purpose, as well as its achievement, that provides a sense of meaning and reward. Experiencing the best the world has to offer: music, art, beauty, dancing, singing, learning, creativity, innovation, and knowledge – so explore this new Rotary year. Making choices, having freedom, and free-will. Hearing of choices must remind you also of consequences. Beware of your choices, karma is real!!!

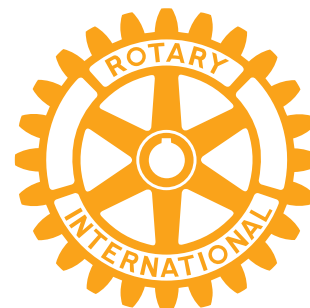
Developing connections with positive people or a higher power. Re-generation in all its forms. Witnessing or experiencing acts of love, goodness, and kindness. Receiving positive feedback, as you progress toward a goal. Let us end this Rotary year on a high and begin the new district 9104 also on a high. Let us offer our members meaningful responsibilities creating space for all to show up as their authentic selves. This is my invitation to you to let your imagination lead you to create hope.

**Rotary is good!**

***Let us Create Hope in the World!***



# MONTHLY FEATURE



## The new Rotary Districts 9103 and 9104, the two decades in the making

The Rotary year 2022/23 was one that Rotarians in District 9102 had a cause to celebrate as the RI Board decided to deliver to us two new Districts (9103 and 9104) from July 2023 onwards.

For many Rotarians in District 9102, the 10<sup>th</sup> District Training Assembly and Conference (DTAC) was held in Accra from the 11<sup>th</sup> – the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 differed slightly from the past. This year we had a different feel if we take out the COVID era, which was primarily virtual and physical. As a District, in the past, all the programs were done in French and English from day one. However, at the 10<sup>th</sup> DTAC, all Rotarians came together only during the Conference on Friday and Saturday.

Our history as a district can only be written with the essence of the journey, the striving and how we got here. Let me take you through memory lane and provide some insights into the roles played by some Rotarians.

District 9102 was part of District 9100 until 2013. There were 14 countries in District 9100, stretching from Cape Verde to Benin. Then in 2011, everything changed when the RI Board decided that District 9100 be redistricted into two new districts, 9101 (10 countries) and 9102 (4 countries). According to sources, Burkina Faso was the decider between having 9/5 or 10/4; finally, they chose to be part of the ten countries. Growing Rotary in Africa has been on the drawing board for years as the

economic fortunes in the region improved, and a new working class of professionals evolved.

The journey of Rotary District 9102 commenced under the governorship of PDG Winfred Ayi Mensah (PDG WAM aka Numero Uno). The leadership of the new district permanently preserved the dream of having two new districts out of District 9102. In line with the vision for new clubs and Rotarians, before District 9102 came into being, the decision was that countries in the new District 9102 must form an Extension Committee. The Country Extension Committees were tasked to increase the number of clubs in the new districts. The geographical area of Ghana, Togo, Benin and Niger had to increase from 47 to 68 by 2019.

The leadership in Ghana chose Past District Governor (PDG) Robert Franklin Atta as the Chair of the Ghana Extension Committee (GEC) with the primary objective of creating 21 new clubs within two years and continuing the trajectory to meet the conditions for redistricting by 2019. In the other countries, PDG Salifou Bouraima led the committee in Benin, PDG Raphael Fiati (late) and later PDG Maurice Erdoh (late) chaired Togo Extension Committee and PDG Ari Toubou was responsible for Niger. It was a collective plan to increase clubs and Rotarians.

The creation of District 9101 and District 9102 increased the number of Districts in West Africa from one to six due to Rotary's growth, fuelled



by the national population increases and rising living standards. The vision from the formation of the Extension Committees was to ultimately redistrict 9102 to create two new districts, one for Ghana and the other for Benin, Niger and Togo.

PDG Robert had served as a District Governor for District 9100 a decade earlier. The Rotary Theme for 2002/2003 was *"Sow the seed of love"*. He was admitted into the Rotary Club of Accra in December 1973. He served in various roles such as District Governors' Special Representative, Assistant Governor, and Chair, Ghana National Polio Plus, during which he organised the first ever RI Polio Plus Partners visit of D5170 to Ghana in 1998. Other roles he held include Chairing District Committees (Finance, Governor Nominating and Byelaws), pioneering the establishment of the Annual Rotary West Africa Project fair and serving for five years as the Chairperson for the committee. He also chaired numerous District Training Assembly and Conferences in Districts 9100 and 9102. His Assistant Governors in Ghana were PDG Willie Keteku of Accra East, PAG Ernest Odame of RC of Tema and PAG Ato

Wright of Accra. In the past, we had Assistant Governors.

His governorship era coincided with the evolution of the email boom when many people began the use emails for communication—that period had yahoo.com, yahoo.co.uk, excite.com, and hotmail.com. PDG Robert was ahead of his time. He is the DG who introduced the District Governor Newsletter (currently "Kokokroko") in District 9100 and distributed it by email to all Rotarians in the district in English and French.

The past involvement of PDG Robert in creating new clubs over the year meant he was ready for the task ahead. The initial Ghana Extension Committee had these other members PDG Adotei Brown (late), PDG Willie Keteku, PDG Sam Worentutu (then an AG) and PAG Seth Puni Asiamah (then an AG) as the Secretary. These Rotarians and others who joined the GEC between 2011 and 2019 played an essential role in growing the clubs and Rotarians in District 9102.





As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011, Ghana had 21 clubs with 719 Rotarians. Through the effort of the GEC and clubs, by 30 June 2019, Ghana had 50 clubs and 1,468 Rotarians—Rotary Club of Accra Ring Road Central Chartered about eight clubs within the period. The GEC’s approach to creating new clubs was using existing ones. The strategy had challenges, such as inadequate knowledge of the procedures and guidelines for organising a new club and the high cost associated with sponsoring. Despite the best efforts of the GEC, the inability to attract indigenous persons into Peri-Urban and Rural clubs still needs to be solved. The perennial issue of losing membership of newly chartered clubs within two years is another Achilles heels the district must seek to fix.

The GEC envisage that without proper training and coordinated effort, the existing clubs may suffer some consequences financially. Recently, the GEC has been directly responsible for creating new clubs, and the District Bylaws mandate District

Governor to provide for the activities of the Country’s Extension Committee. Indeed, the growth in clubs and Rotarians in Ghana also happened in the other three countries in District 9102.

As the GEC and other countries pursued the objective of growth towards 2019, other ideas were formulated. The plan was for District 9102 to translate the gains into applying for redistricting as envisaged in 2011. The move commenced in 2019 when the leadership felt the RI requirement was achieved. The Council of Past District Governors initiated the process per District bylaws. Initially, it was a difficult conversation that, just after a decade, the four countries were about to break up into 1 and 3.

The final decision required strong will and commitment. Even in Ghana, some Rotarians did not support the redistricting because travelling to other countries for DTAC would be no more. However the



benefit of redistricting was not entirely on the decisions of clubs but also a grand vision to improve the presence of Rotary on the African continent so we can have the regular presence of a Director on the RI Board.

At last, the decision was made at the Council of Governors meeting on 21 November 2020. The motion was moved by PDG Robert Atta for ratification by clubs before the application was submitted to RI. The motion was seconded by PDG Maurice Erdoh (late) of Togo and strongly supported by PDG Salifou Bourima of Benin and PDG Ari Toubou of Niger. This is a statement from PDG Robert *"I am truly delighted that through our joint effort, we have advanced from one to two districts in a decade. We agreed right from the start that we would all work together supporting one another such that when Ghana becomes a district, Niger, Benin and Togo would not be abandoned to be attached to an existing district. These countries are tied to Ghana like Siamese twins and must qualify for a district status. Happily, the goal has been achieved"*.

Many Rotarians will miss friends, journeys to different countries, conviviality, knowledge exchange, the complaints about poor translations for English and French during DTAC and other meetings. As Paul Harris said, *"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."* The Rotary District 9102 has evolved

and has been ready for change over the past two decades and will continue to write more history in the future. We all progress through change and will undoubtedly adapt to the new developments by cooperating between D9103 and D9104 through youth exchange, club twinning and attendance at each other's gatherings.

In a citation presented to PDG Robert by the District Governor during the 10<sup>th</sup> DTAC Gala night, portions of it read *"You showed a lot of innovation and creativity to ensure existing clubs were empowered to contribute resources and leadership in nurturing new clubs. Your expertise was handy for other countries in the District in the Club Extension activities. Your moral courage, vision, ability to go the extra mile, and the tough choices you had to make are evident in the decision of the Rotary International Board to redistrict District 9102 into Districts 9103 and 9104."*

As we prepare for the next phase, we must all Create Hope in the World by saluting the men and women of Rotary District 9102, especially PDGs Robert Atta, Salifou Bouriamama, Ari Toubou and Maurice Erdoh (late). The dedication and commitment to lead us through the euphoria of redistricting from 9100 through 9102, now 9103 and 9104.

## What does the next decade hold for the new districts?

## TIMELINES to District 9104

- 1921** The first club in Africa was chartered in Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.
- 1939** Rotary first introduced to West Africa in Dakar, Senegal.
- 1956** Rotary reached Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon.
- 1958** Rotary introduced in Ghana through effort of Mr. Michael Quist. The Rotary Club of Accra is chartered.
- 1961** Rotary Club of Accra charters Rotary clubs in Nigeria.
- 1968** The first West African convention was held in Accra, attended by eleven (11) clubs from Ghana, Dahomey (now Benin) Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone Accra, Bamako, Cotonou, Freetown, Ibadan, Kano, Kumasi, Lagos, Monrovia, Takoradi, Tema.
- 1972** The fifth convention took place again in Accra in March 1972 with the participation of the Rotary Clubs of Freetown, Monrovia, Enugu, Ibadan, Ikeja, Kaduna, Accra, Accra-West, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale, Tema, and Lome.
- 1973** Rotary District 210 created for West Africa (covering all countries in present ECOWAS) PDG Francois Amarin elected the first District Governor of **District 210**.
- 1974** The first **District 210** Conference was held in Ghana for clubs to the west of Nigeria. Simultaneous one was held for clubs in Nigeria and to its east.
- 1977** Rotary **District 910** created by redesignation of **District 210**. PRID Sam Okudzeto elected as District Governor.
- 1991** Rotary **District 9100** created by RI Board by adding '0' to the 910 in global renumbering of districts.
- 2013** Rotary **District 9102** was created by reorganization of clubs in **District 9100** into two new Districts effective July 1st, 2013, as follows:
- **District 9101:** Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire
  - **District 9102:** Benin, Ghana, Niger and Togo with PDG WA Mensah as District Governor
- 2023** Rotary **District 9102** has been split into two districts:
- **District 9103**, Francophone countries of Togo, Benin and Niger, with **DGE Germain Tomegah**, as the District Governor.
  - **District 9104** becomes a new district for Ghana on its own with **DGE Dave Amankwah** as the District Governor.



**PAG Fredi Asiedu**  
*RC Accra-West*

## District Governors in Rotary District 210, 9100 & 9102 (Benin, Ghana, Niger, Togo)

	NAME	COUNTRY	DISTRICT	YEAR	LANGUAGE
1	Francois Amarin	Benin	210	1973-1974	French
2	Sam Okudzeto	Ghana	910	1977-1978	English
3	Bawa Sandanyi Mankoubi	Togo	910	1983-1984	French
4	Michael Asafo-Boakye	Ghana	910	1985-1986	English
5	German Ligan	Benin	910	1986-1987	French
6	George A. Takyi	Ghana	910	1990-1991	English
7	Augustin De Campos	Benin	9100	1992-1993	French
8	Eric A. Kwei	Ghana	9100	1995-1996	English
9	Hilaire M. Locoh-Donou	Togo	9100	1998-1999	French
10	Adotei Brown	Ghana	9100	1999-2000	English
11	Robert F. Atta	Ghana	9100	2002-2003	English
12	Yves Oswald Hans Moevi-Akue	Benin	9100	2004-2005	French
13	Willie Obuobisa Keteku	Ghana	9100	2007-2008	English
14	Raphael Fiaty	Togo	9100	2008-2009	French
15	Salifou Bouraima	Benin	9100	2011-2012	French
16	Winfred A. Mensah	Ghana	9102	2013 2014	English
17	Maurice Eдорh	Togo	9102	2014-2015	French
18	Dorothe Gounon	Benin	9102	2015-2016	French
19	Sam K. Worentetu	Ghana	9102	2016-2017	English
20	Ari Toubou	Niger	9102	2017-2018	French
21	Jeffrey Aful	Ghana	9102	2018-2019	English
22	Richard Akpoto Kougblenou	Togo	9102	2019-2020	French
23	Yvonne Kumoji Darko	Ghana	9102	2020-2021	English
24	Rufine Lima Quenum	Benin	9102	2021-2022	French
25	Victor Yaw Asante	Ghana	9102	2022-2023	English

### BENIN

	NAME	COUNTRY	DISTRICT	YEAR	LANGUAGE
1	Francois Amarin	Benin	210	1973-1974	French
2	German Ligan	Benin	910	1986-1987	French
3	Augustin De Campos	Benin	9100	1992-1993	French
4	Yes Oswald Hans Moevi-Akue	Benin	9100	2004-2005	French
5	Salifou Bouraima	Benin	9100	2011-2012	French
6	Dorothe Gounon	Benin	9102	2015-2016	French
7	Rufine Lima Quaenum	Benin	9102	2021-2022	French

## GHANA

	NAME	COUNTRY	DISTRICT	YEAR	LANGUAGE
1	Sam Okudzeto	Ghana	910	1977-1978	English
2	Michael Asafo-Boakye	Ghana	910	1985-1986	English
3	George A. Takyi	Ghana	910	1990-1991	English
4	Eric A. Kwei	Ghana	9100	1995-1996	English
5	Adotei Brown	Ghana	9100	1999-2000	English
6	Robert F. Atta	Ghana	9100	2002-2003	English
7	Willie Obuobisa Keteku	Ghana	9100	2007-2008	English
8	Winfred A. Mensah	Ghana	9102	2013-2014	English
9	Sam K. Worentetu	Ghana	9102	2016-2017	English
10	Jeffrey Afful	Ghana	9102	2018-2019	English
11	Yvonne Kumoji Darko	Ghana	9102	2020-2021	English
12	Victor Yaw Asante	Ghana	9102	2022-2023	English

## NIGER

	NAME	COUNTRY	DISTRICT	YEAR	LANGUAGE
1	Ari Toubo	Niger	9102	2017-2018	French

## TOGO

	NAME	COUNTRY	DISTRICT	YEAR	LANGUAGE
1	Bawa Sandanyi Mankoubi	Togo	910	1983-1984	French
2	Hilaire M. Locoh-Donou	Togo	9100	1998-1999	French
3	Raphael Fiaty	Togo	9100	2008-2009	French
4	Maurice Edoth	Togo	9102	2014-2015	French
5	Richard Akpoto Kougblenou	Togo	9102	2019-2020	French



# Imagine Fearlessly To Create Hope In The World



**PAG Emmanuel Quarshie**  
*RC Accra-West*

## Rotary is a worthwhile job and a half!

In this short piece for the last District 9102 Magazine, I intend to share some random thoughts as we transition from District 9102 to District 9103 and District 9104.



## My service

I have been asked a million times about the motivation for my unwavering quest to perform assigned tasks without complaining but yet execute them to 'perfection'. My personal reckoning is that the energy and passion every man has been profoundly and freely endowed with will extinguish if they are not utilised. This makes me an ardent believer that Rotary is about 'service above self' with its secondary motto holding true when it says, 'He profits most who serves best'. Indeed, true Rotarians

look forward to deriving satisfaction by first and foremost serving, before other so-called benefits kick in, hence my investment into it.

I have always maintained that to be offered any leadership role - from chairing a club committee or event through being the President of a club to serving at the district level or higher - is a huge privilege that must not be discounted. Without equivocation, my personal belief is that the prime consideration to any elected or appointed position must be to serve!

The honour of serving at the district level at an early stage of my Rotary journey entrenched my commitment to the cause. This is especially the case considering that I had been pursued and persuaded by another Rotarian for nearly two years prior to my accepting to join Rotary, but to no avail. Considering that I barely knew anything about Rotary and its nuances and to have been appointed as the first District Treasurer of D9102, ignited the need to put my best foot forward by assisting the new District Governor to deliver on his mandate.

## D9102 District Governors...

On July 01, 2013, the new born District 9102 came out alive from District 9100. As he then was, Past Assistant Governor Winfred Ayi Mensah (now PDG WAM) took up the challenge of becoming the first District Governor of District 9102 which earned him the famous accolade as 'Numero Uno'. He made it possible for us to ENGAGE ROTARY and CHANGE LIVES. His dream and vision for the district has been phenomenal! Posterity will remain deeply grateful for his sterling leadership and direction culminating in, amongst others, significant membership growth, continual fight against polio, raising prominent leaders beyond the club level and importantly, laying a firm and fortified foundation by the end of his governorship on June 30, 2014.

Since then, we have had nine more District Governors of D9102 in the persons of:



- 2nd - PDG Maurice Edorh - LIGHT UP ROTARY**  
**3rd - PDG Dorothe Gounon - BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD**  
**4th - PDG Sam Worentetu - ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY**  
**5th - PDG Ari Toubu Ibrahim - ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
**6th - PDG Jeffrey Afful - BE THE INSPIRATION**  
**7th - PDG Richard Akpoto-Kougblenou - ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD**  
**8th - PDG Yvonne Kumoji-Darko - ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES**  
**9th - PDG Rufine Lima Quenum - SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

Proudly, the 10th and last District Governor of District 9102, Victor Yaw Asante will leave office having chalked significant and enormous milestones. He has led us to IMAGINE fearlessly. The inbuilt anchoring system of the timber and calibre of DG Victor (as I described him at an event) ensured a successful steering of the district to a covetable safety. We could not have gambled for a better person to close the page! Kudos to him for combining the heavy load of running one of the most remarkable banks in Ghana especially in such a competitive terrain and executing his Rotary task to perfection. Indeed, he has raised the bar several notches higher and simply solidified the district. No wonder he has bagged several awards during his year as District Governor.

The first female President of Rotary International, Jennifer Jones sent the following note to him in attestation of his incredible delivery during his year.

*"Dear Victor,*

*Just a short note to congratulate you on an outstanding year! It was a pleasure to visit you and share time together during this Rotary year.*

*Be well my friend and I hope to cross paths in the future. I see bright things for you in Rotary. Keep being amazing!*

*Warmest, Jen"*

## **New District 9104**

On the back of those important and symbolic achievements, a new era beckons as Ghana becomes a stand-alone Anglophone district at the crack of dawn on July 01, 2023 to be known as District 9104. In the same breath, our Francophone brothers and sisters (made up of Togo, Benin and Niger) will also belong to a new District 9103. What is more amazing is that we will have the same crop of fantastic Rotarians across both districts and therefore, fellowship and the existing bond between the two are expected to be entrenched. I believe it is no coincidence that the Rotary International theme for the upcoming Rotary year 2023/24 is CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD.

The anticipated hope is necessary since a solid foundation stone has been laid to herald a new direction for Ghana, after nearly 65yrs of the arrival of Rotary on its shores. Refreshingly, District Governor-Elect David Osei Amankwah, who will be the first District Governor of District 9104, has amply demonstrated a strong commitment to this vision and objective by his early kick-off and fantastic line up of impactful legacy projects that have been well thought through.

As per his presentation at the last DTAC of District 9102, some of the projects include the following:

### **Production of a Documentary on Charting a new Course: Rotary in Ghana**

- This 20-mins documentary will seek to trace the genesis of how the organisation called Rotary landed on the shores of Ghana, its spread across the country and the prominent faces behind it. It will also serve as a useful educational resource for both Rotarians and the general public in getting themselves acquainted with the noble and oldest humanitarian service organization.

### **Solar Vaccine Shelter or Cold Chain Equipment (CCE)**

- The quest to have consistent and reliable power supply to store vaccines in health facilities has been a challenge with some of them losing their potency. Some of the health facilities are completely cut off from the national grid. The vision of providing solar vaccine shelters across Ghana has been conceptualised and work has commenced in earnest with funding being sought as well.

There are presently about 3,102 facilities across the country without Cold Chain Equipment (CCE). This includes 479 requiring Solar Direct Devices (Panels, Invertors and Fridges).

#### Rotary Greens Ghana

- D9102 embraced Rotary's new area of focus of supporting the environment by setting out to plant trees in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. On June 07, 2023, DG Victor led Rotarians to plant about 2,000 trees. This project, since its inception, has yielded tremendous fruits and it is commendable that the new District 9104 has embraced the idea and continuing with it. The expectation is to plant about 100,000 trees across the country in addition to maintaining the existing ones.

### **Development of a District app**

- The district app is at the final stages of development and expected to be launched at

the upcoming Investiture. It aims at becoming a first point of call for obtaining relevant and key information on Rotarians within the district. It will also provide functionalities such as the seamless registration and cashless payments for events such as DTAC, membership seminars, foundation seminars, sale of district cloth, etc. In addition to the personal feature for Rotarians, provision has been made for clubs to use the platform to fundraise for projects and showcase same.

### **Future of D9104**

Without a doubt, these series of actions and projects will positively showcase and elevate Rotary in the minds of all and sundry. My admonishing is for Rotarians to continue to use the revered platform of Rotary to champion causes that are relevant to humanity in the right direction and garner the required impact.

Rotary's vision statement clearly states that:

*'Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.'*

The implication of this profound statement is that our actions must be targeted at three points starting from ourselves through our community and then unto the global arena. This is clearly in tandem with the popular adage of charity beginning at home.

My personal hope for the new District 9104 is that Rotarians will gear up and deepen their understanding of what the organisation stands for. This should engender tailor-made prescriptions that are consistent with its customs and traditions and hasten cautiously with the importation or adoption of other 'foreign practices or evolving trends'. If this is not done, we risk weakening the moral fibre of our immediate environs. We may flounder for relevance in the eyes of right-thinking entities and become a pale shadow of our once glorious self.

The benefits of adhering to Rotary International's principles or vision must be primarily felt within the immediate surroundings before blossoming externally. Without exception, all external programmes and policies from the top echelons which may strikingly look appealing must be carefully unpacked and repackaged for local adaptation and consumption. The optics may be deceptive!

As we roll up our sleeves to create hope in the world in the ensuing year and beyond, we cannot afford to let our guards down such that instead of creating hope we rather create confusion for unborn generations. Our upcoming young ones must be clear in their minds regarding the truth about issues that have broader implications for our continual existence rather than risking extinction from this planet.

In preparing to enter into the new district, we shall be confronted with myriads of agenda but we must be resolute in choosing to stay on the positive side of history when it is eventually written. Certainly, the green snake will always be more dangerous than the green grass!

Finally, as Rotarians, we would need to prioritize our knowledge base of Rotary and related activities firmly so we can positively project the

organization. There is the urgent need to be good ambassadors of the Rotary brand and each individual must rise up to be counted. The outside world should be attracted to our huge service orientation and speak well of us. Rotarians sell Rotary better by their burning desire to undertake important projects in their community.

This piece cannot be concluded without paying glowing tributes to all Rotarians in District 9102 whose immense support and drive have propelled the creation of the two new districts. Kudos!

The awaiting allure to create hope in the world in 2023/24 Rotary year leaves one to imagine it in this present year. It has been such a great joy to be part of the history of D9102 and I look forward with bated breath, to positively contribute to the making of D9104. Warmest compliments to DGE Germaine Tomegah of D9103 and DGE David Amankwah of D9104 as we brace ourselves to attend their Investitures on July 01, 2023 at Hotel 2 Fevrier, Lome and July 08, 2023 at Grand Arena, Accra respectively.

See you on the flip side as we wind down on the soon-to-be the old District 9102.

Until then...



## Summary Of Some Rotary Moments Over The Years



**PP Amarkine Amarteifio**  
RC Accra-South

**D**ifferent people join groups for different reasons. But what makes some to never look back and stay all their lives? Curiously, for six Rotarians whose membership span a period between 40 to 55 years and more, a common thread runs as major points of attraction for their lifelong commitment to Rotary. The chronicle of their storylines offer insights that not only immortalize these exemplary leaders (most of whom have passed on), but serve as testimonials to the force of good Rotary has become in the world.

For PDG Nana Mike of blessed memory, the decision to be a Rotarian was made while a student. The warm reception and care extended to him to stay with a Rotarian and his spouse during his studies in the USA was his rotary moment. The impression formed was more than enough to make him resolve to be a Rotarian one day. Nana Mike experienced the same phenomenon later in his tenure as District

Governor when a cab driver who had heard about Rotary connected him to a Rotarian in Abidjan while stranded on official duty there.

The beauty of having in Rotary, an international community of family and friends was also a huge factor that made nonagenarian PDG Augustin de Campos, (also of blessed memory) become and stay a Rotarian till his passing. In his own words, "**My life with Rotary began in 1966 when the late PDG Ligand Germain, who was a PDG in 86/87 invited me to the meeting of the Rotary Club of Cotonou. I was amazed at the fellowship, the light and easy atmosphere and the dedication of members to help society. I have never looked back to date**".

A chance meeting with Kishin Khubdanchani then Director of Glamour Stores in Accra, by PDG Sam Worentatu made him curious about the values Rotary stood for as a result of the social graces shown by the former. Today, that gravitational pull into Rotary has lasted several decades and climaxed with Sam becoming a District Governor and now a PDG.

Armed with the knowledge of how social interactions offer avenues for great relationships, Sam became particularly concerned about showing respect to people by honoring the time they made available for him. His version of being fair to all concerned was to demonstrate punctuality to meetings and in deed, to all social occasions. His time management project, a notable feature of his tenure as District Governor, received national and international attention.

The buzz that kept PDG Babah Alargi, also of blessed memory was the general warm feeling at Rotary meetings. His Rotary moment was when this warm energy was translated

into humanitarian service that saw his club's project of establishing the orthopedic center at Nsawam in collaboration with Rotarians from India. This subsequently led to the training of Ghanaian ophthalmology nurses in India.

In his own words ***"In those days, our Club always had a 100 percent attendance. No one missed our meetings. In any case, the only Club any Rotarian could ever attend for a make-up was many light years away in Tema. Today, there are Clubs almost everywhere to make up and even the distance between Accra and Tema has become less than a 10 minute hundred-meter dash!"***

Having experienced Rotary over the years, what stood out for him as major among many of his rotary moments was the admission of women into membership.

Many thanks to the end of the organization's patriarchal heydays, PAG Theresa, although a Rotarian at heart all her life, only realized this when she got to know more about Rotary stood for. In her words, ***"I began to realize I had been one at heart long before Past President Kwabena Mensah Nkrumah asked me to join. This was way back in 1999. I was one of a few ladies being recruited in the formation of a new club by the Rotary of Club of Accra-Airport"***.

The warm welcome and kindness that got his colleagues into Rotary and made their moments meaningful did not work for

PDG François Amarin. The many ladies and gentlemen alongside the well laid tables and cakes set up to give he and his student colleagues a good welcome appeared more like a colonial entrapment than the good it was intended. This was PDG Amarin's first treat to Rotary by the Rotary Club of London.

PDG Amarin's suspicions of Rotary only dissolved when he met a Catholic Priest and a Reverend Sister at a Rotary meeting who had come to appeal for funds for the construction of a health center for a village. That was his rotary moment. He convinced himself "well, it's not a bad thing after all". That's how I became a Rotary Member.

When Rotarians go beyond the trite recitals of the organization's motto, internalize and demonstrate its values in their social interactions, wonders happen and hearts are touched with memories that outlive lives. These narratives abound in our districts. Across the world, several people can share stories that became a turning point for their lives in Rotary. There are many others too who have not yet become club members but have heard or been touched by Rotary's goodness in the world.



# My Rotary Moment

Interview of Rtn Sam Worentetu, RC Accra, by PP Amarkine Amartefio, RC Accra-South, July, 2016



**PDG Sam Worentetu**  
*RC Accra*

**N**o one knows how far reaching their social graces and attitude of mutual respect and kindness can have on another. For young Sam Worentetu, these qualities, were what defined his resolve to become and stay a Rotarian. His desire to Serve Humanity would conspire with fate in a dramatic confluence to bring about a rare opportunity to meet Kishin Khubchandani, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Accra-West and Director of Glamour Stores. This was when, together with two other colleagues of the then Provisional Rotary Club of Accra-Achimota, they went gift-hunting for their spouses at the club's first Christmas party in December 1988.

Twenty-seven years have come since that initial meeting. Similar encounters with like-minded

people such as PDG Eric Kwei and PAG Seth Adjei both of the Rotary Club of Tema, PDG Robert Atta of the Rotary Club of Accra, and other eminent people whose friendship he enjoyed, served to deepen Sam's love and perception of Rotary as a group whose warmth and membership united everyone, big or small, around a common humanity.

Today, all that warmth and respect as well as his personal commitment crystallized him into becoming a District Governor. His affable self and respect for other people's time is one of the qualities anyone who gets close to him takes away. To him, time consciousness is one of the ways he shows fairness, which is one of Rotary's Core Values, (The 4 Way Test) to others.

Many years of being around the same people and doing the same things does not constitute Rotary monotony for Sam Worentetu. Each day, people have new things to offer as they grow and evolve. Life itself is like a song which is not sung in monotones. For him there hardly can be anything monotonous about having more than fifty different friends as Members in his Club, a thousand and more in his country and more than two thousand in the District.

He believes in looking beyond the apparent monotony in order to see a mosaic of personalities, attitudes, cultures etc. to sustain his interest in both life and in Rotary.

# My Rotary Moment

PDG François Amorin, the first District Governor of District 210. In his own words...August, 2016



PDG François Amorin  
RC Cotonou



PDG François with PDG Jeff Afful

*“Be ready for when your time comes, you will have that window of opportunity, so seize the moment and capitalize on it.” - Anthony Anderson*

**Rtn. Franck: PDG, tell us when and how did you know Rotary?**

**P**DG François: My first contact with Rotary was when I was a student at the London School of Economics. All Economics students received an invitation from the Rotary Club of London for an outing. So, on the D-day, we assembled near the Trafalgar Square. From there we were picked in buses and taken to the country-side to a place where there were many ladies and gentlemen who were waiting for us with well laid tables with cakes.

Some of us were a bit surprised at some of the questions we were asked. Questions like where we were from, what we were doing, what we intended doing after school. We were wondering if this was not a survey by the colonial masters.

So, I kept that feeling for a while when one day back in Cotonou, one Mr. Thomas, MD of CFAO told me that Rotary has co-opted me at his request. I was not ready for Rotary because as a young Catholic then, I had

doubts about Rotary's beliefs. However, Mr. Thomas did not give up. He came back and told me he was the sitting President, and he would love to induct me himself. Since CFAO was our biggest client, and because of survival needs I could not say no, and so I agreed. At the first meeting he invited me to, I was surprised to meet a Priest and a Reverend Sister who had come to request for funds for the construction of a Health Center in a village that was always flooded during raining season, SAGON. So, I said, 'well, it is not a bad thing after all'. That is how I became a Rotary Member.

### **Rtn. Franck: What can we learn from your Rotary career?**

PDG François: Two years after joining, a team of Rotarians including the President of the Rotary Club of Cotonou paid me a visit.. They had come to ask me to be the Club President, because the President Elect did not want to be President, a certain Mr. Germain, with an amazing sense of modesty. He preferred to be a floor member.

That is how I became Club President two years after I joined.

Then one day, a letter arrives from Evanston. We were being informed that a new District had been created for Rotary Clubs in countries from Mauritania to Chad; quite a wide area. They were looking for candidates for the position of Governor.

My uncle, Mr. Alexandre Palegeo said to me 'why don't you go for the position?'. I did not even have time to think about it when he gave out my name. He said: 'I propose François Amorin' and that was adopted. It was a unanimous vote, no campaign.

One day, I received a letter that I had been designated as Governor for District 210, the theme for that year was 'A Time For Action'. The previous year's theme was 'Let's Take A New Look And Act'.

That is how I became District Governor.

### **Rtn. Franck : Where did your motivation come from?**

PDG François: Since my childhood, I was involved in charity activities – caritas, if you want, but the word did not exist then. I was a Catholic, like I said and for children there was a movement called Holy Childhood. Every first Friday of the month, we of the Holy Childhood would receive a special blessing and will donate whatever amount of money we might have saved during the period to be sent out to missions around the world.

Second, I was a Scout. So, I was ready to serve. This is where my motivation comes from so that I have never thought of leaving Rotary for any reason, on the contrary.

My year as Governor gave me the opportunity to travel a lot. You know to be Governor, you have to attend a class at the General Assembly. *Here I was, François Amorin, student Governor; 1973 I think.*

Then the first gala night of the new District 210 came on. *And I must tell you that at the training school, when it was time for raising the countries flags, I wept. When I saw the passing of the 17 flags that I had under me, I was moved.* Funnily enough, the first person that greeted me when I arrived at the training school, told me: 'I am from South Africa' and at that time, we had no contact whatsoever with South Africa.

I had the opportunity to meet many chiefs. I also met with Houphouët Boigny. I met dignitaries like Otumfuo; it was very difficult to meet him at that time in Ghana. I also met Kenneth Kaunda. I did a bit of politics then and there was a gathering of African people in Accra. I translated Nkrumah's speech because we had earlier met in London. So, I had the opportunity to meet with Kenneth Kaunda during that gathering.

I had been designated to be the RI President's representative, so I attended many District Conferences. One of them was District 220's Conference. The Conference was held in Zambia





and Kenneth Kaunda was to chair the opening ceremony. So, I suggested to the Governor and the organising committee that it would be nice if the RI President's representative speech took place in the presence of the President of the Republic. I was told that it is not in their tradition to allow that.

The program outline was to have the opening ceremony, let the President leave and then the Conference continues. I disagreed, so I left the Conference.

Past midnight, there was a knock on my hotel door. They had come to ask me to make a speech because the outgoing Governor was a political opponent to Kenneth Kaunda and so they did not think he should be the one to give the main speech on behalf of Rotary. I accepted.

During my speech, I could see my man (Kenneth) getting agitated on his seat. He could recall we had met somewhere. As soon as I was done, he gave me a hug, to everyone's surprise. That was a plus for Rotary because he had come with a speech against Rotary, but he had to change it.

### **Rtn. Franck: How different is Rotary today from what you knew of it years ago?**

PDG François: It depends on the members. In my time, we can say there was a unique culture. We all came out from almost the same schools. Now, there is an inflow of members with a different culture. Concerns are no longer the same. So, it can not be the same, issues have worsened.

When the District was created, during the first Conference, I gave it the theme: 'Is Rotary relevant to Africa?'. People found the theme very interesting because at that time we were faced with famine in Sahel. I received immense and unexpected support from colleague Governors from Europe, Asia and other parts of Africa.

The Anglophones were quite tolerant with us because they were many and we were only

few Francophones but they had agreed to naturally share the yearly rotation with us with no elections.

So, once every four years, we had a Governor. Anglophones showed that maturity then. These days, there is some kind of hunger for that position that amazes me. It is about service.

There is some kind of rejuvenation. Like I said, the culture is no longer the same, but concerns persist. The need to serve is more relevant. I think that now, we are going back to the reason why Rotary was founded; fighting poverty, work for peace and this is where I condemn myself, I condemn you and all Rotarians because we are not doing enough.

Whereas Rotary history tells us that Rotarians participated actively in conflicts resolution in South America, we are quiet on conflicts in Africa. No Rotarian has taken active part to resolve the conflicts that we face in Africa, not one. Am I mistaken?

AG Marcellina: No. But we tackle poverty.

PDG François: Poverty. Yes, I know we do something about poverty, but it is not enough. In one of the Rotary laws, it is stated that poverty in one country causes war in other countries.

### **Rtn. Franck: Have there been times when you ever considered leaving Rotary?**

PDG François: No, no, no. It is deep rooted. I attended all District Conferences, up until the point when I fell ill. I went to all. I attended Presidential conferences. The first Presidential conference was in Mauritius. It was an opportunity for Rotary to bring together South Africans and other Africans. It was my class mate Marcel Largesse who organised the Conference. It was a very emotional conference. You could see that South Africans were people with hearts, but it is like they had hidden their hearts.

One of the members of the Organising Committee insisted that I spoke. I noticed that



when I was speaking, many South Africans had their heads down. The following year, the Conference was in Zimbabwe and I was member of the Organising Committee. There, they brought more blacks than the previous year in Mauritius.

One of my Rotary moments I can say is witnessing Mother Theresa speak at the International Convention in Sao Paulo. What amazed me is that the hall was packed before the start of the program. There were Muslims in attendance. And this smallish woman, had the courage to confess being a Catholic. She said she will start by saying a prayer to her Lord and so she started with the Lord's prayer. The hall was dead silent. I was really touched. There is a biography on her titled 'Love until you feel the pain'. You have to do good until you feel the pain within yourself, until you empty yourself.

Rotary moments, they are many. Rotary is more relevant today than ever.

You now see the Pope talk about poverty, peace, and meeting a Muslim religious leader. That is what Rotary wanted. Now, we have to do more, improve on our service. That is my understanding based on where I started from. The important thing for me is that we need a re-orientation of the Rotarian, because in my opinion, Rotary is proposing a particular kind of people, a particular kind of society to serve

others. Forget about one's self; thus service above self ; that is our culture. You can see that this is more relevant today.

Rotary was an example here. There were some difficult moments here, but no company managed by a Rotarian had an issue with Labour Union, because these companies were going according to the law. The future invites us to go back to our roots, because when Paul Harris was setting up his organisation, children were still working in the mines or ships and some were carried away by the storm. Today, a similar picture is seen, children are sold. We have work to do. Under the pretence to return to our traditions, we are going back to barbaric practice. People are killed and blood is used for wealth. So, we have a moral standard to give to the society, an ideal. That is the future of Rotary.

**Rtn. Franck: PDG, so what would you like to say to conclude this conversation?**

A message for Rotarians in the District.

PDG François: I will leave you with this quote: *'Before and above all, the heart should come first. First the heart, then the hands'*. By President James Lacy.

Acquire through love, the desire to give. It is not just about going out to share baby bottles. You need love.



**PDG Salifou Bourima, PDG Augustin de Campos, PDG François Amorin, PDG Jeff Afful, PDG Dorothé Gounon**

# My Rotary Moment

## Reflections of Past Assistant Governor Theresa Osei-Tutu, September, 2016



**PAG Theresa Osei-Tutu**  
*RC Accra-Airport*

When I got to know more about Rotary and what it stood for, I began to realize I had been one at heart long before Past President Kwabena Mensah Nkrumah asked me to join. This was way back in 1999. I was one of a few ladies being recruited in the formation of a new club by the Rotary of Club of Accra-Airport.

Every moment of my 17 year long membership in the Rotary Club of Accra-Airport has been worthwhile. I have not looked back since. My heart has been tickled with great laughter and joy through fellowship with Rotarians in and outside my Club and District. I have formed

great friendships and my mind challenged to expand and accommodate diverse cultures and personalities. My attitudes and perceptions have been altered as Rotary's principles become internalized both in my personal and corporate life.

The 4 Way Test has been a great ethical measure which resonates deeply with my core beliefs. The smiles on the faces of village and community folks, brought on as we commission humanitarian projects are some of the things that make Rotary so meaningful to me. Take the story of 8 year old Little Lord who lives in a suburb in Accra. His childhood was under threat as he could not run around and play as all kids do without passing out! Our club's Pacemaker Project ended this threat and brought Rotary and joy to his family and community.

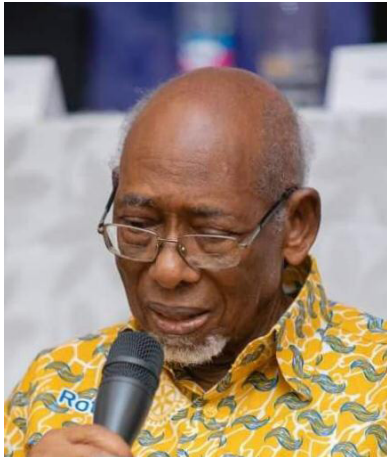
I have had a few challenges, but they have not been that significant to make me look back. Rotary continues to take so much of my time but I reckon it has given me much more than time and money could buy. All the joy and fulfilment that surge in my heart as I watch how my modest contributions go to transform the lives of people in our communities are joys whose reverberation will forever stay with me.

I have had the occasion to reflect on my life without Rotary, and I know even without a club, I would still be living and doing things that Rotary stands for, so I might as well stay. I find no organization so structured and dedicated to offering such great opportunities for leadership through service like this.

# My Rotary Moment

## Reminiscences of PP Hajj Adam Babah-Alargi: The Last Man Standing.

Interview of Past President Babah Alargi, RC Accra-West by PP Amarkine Amartefio, RC Accra-South, October, 2016



**PP Hajj Adam Babah-Alargi**

RC Accra-West

Last week I caught up with the only surviving Charter Member of a core that began the Rotary Club of Accra-West.

***“In those days, our Club always had a 100 percent attendance. No one missed our meetings. In any case, the only Club any Rotarian could ever attend for a make-up was many light years away in Tema. Today, there are Clubs almost everywhere to make up and even the distance between Accra and Tema has become less than a 10 minute hundred-meter dash! There was a lot of passion and human love among us. We were like family members, and everyone so dedicated to serving humanity”.***

These were some of the fond reminiscences of PP Baba Alargi, the Club’s third President (1971-72) and the last man standing, out of the original stock of ten who left the premier Club of Accra to found the Rotary Club of

Accra-West in 1968. It was during his tenure that RI President Ernst G. Breitholtz, a Swedish national, visited Ghana. He recalls the military atmosphere in the country when they paid a courtesy call on the then Head of State, General Kutu Acheampong at the Army Headquarters in Burma Camp, Accra.

Looking back at his more than fifty years of Rotary service, he is filled with pride as having lived to touch his generation with love and compassion. He is glad to have heeded the invitation of Prof. Quarshie Quartey, the Club’s Charter President, to join Rotary. He recounts the constant Saturday afternoon site visits by Club Members to inspect progress on the Club’s projects notable among them, the Orthopedic Centre at Nsawam. Others are the bi-annual collaboration of his Club with Indian eye-doctors to undertake medical outreach programs in Ghana, a project which led to the training of many Ghanaian nurses and doctors

to pursue eye-specialist training in India. Then there was also the annual Christmas party for disabled children at the Korle Bu, Teaching Hospital, a club project which later relocated to the Children's Park in Accra and still runs till date.

Unlike other Rotary Clubs, Accra-West has not rotated away from its original birth place, the Bukom Nite Club, which was located in the then Continental Hotel, now morphed into Golden Tulip Hotel. The Club still meets there every Wednesday afternoon.

"Today, many things have changed about Rotary. Anyone could become a member. In our days, only those in high positions could have the time to become Rotarians". PP Baba Alargi emphasized that membership into Rotary was stricter in those days. It was more like a job interview and even extended to include a chat with a prospective Rotarian's wife! This was usual practice because the world of the 1960's still had women not fully appreciated and Rotary Membership reflected this attitude as well. African cultural attitudes as well as Islamic sentiments regarding women's role still held sway in Rotary member countries such as Nigeria.

**And even for Accra-West, it would be a good 47 years before it would have its First Lady President! Rotary President Yvonne Asiedu.**



**PP Yvonne Asiedu**  
*RC Accra-West*

Today, all over the world, women have rolled over their Inner Wheel and have become active Rotarians. All these changes come with living long enough to witness old barriers crumble for new liberties!

In two years, his Club will be celebrating its golden jubilee, an epoch that Babah Alargi anxiously looks forward to.



# My Rotary Moment

Interview of PDG Hilaire Locoh-Donou, RC Lomé, in his own words, November, 2016



**PDG Hilaire Locoh-Donou**

*RC Lomé*

**Q: When did you join Rotary?**

A: I was admitted to the Rotary Club of Lomé on December 26, 1974.

**Q: What motivates you? Why are you still a member considering that so many others have already left Rotary?**

A: My motivation has been from childhood from 12 to 24 years between 1951 and 1964 (my primary and secondary school years). I was a scout when I was 16, a Christian student youth activist at 20 years and was in football, basketball and volleyball teams. I am still a member of the Rotary Club of Lomé because Rotary perfectly suits my ideals of life: to serve those who need us the most in our community, especially those who have not had the chance

to be educated to a level which allows them to live a decent life.

**Q: What do you like most about Rotary?**

A: I like the exposure to the world that Rotary gives; the friendship available which is found across Rotary Clubs worldwide. I have a special affinity for the programs offered by Rotary and its Foundation as they provide a distinct international dimension and facilitate the ease of our activities across the various avenues of service.

**Q: In your view, what does Rotary need to do differently?**

A: Rotary in response to the call by the WHO and UNICEF for the eradication of polio in the world, has chosen a universal scope of



humanitarian action and has also positioned itself to be a leader through its Foundation which allows it to be recognized as an official consultant of the UN, the WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, etc. Rotary needs to at this level, loudly proclaim its leadership role in the field in obtaining the results we have in the eradication of polio.

**Q: In your opinion, what are the future prospects of Rotary?**

A: Just as Rotary did for polio eradication worldwide, it must in future consider the eradication of malaria in the world.

It can also create a Think-Tank in the same manner as our schools of peace to influence the generation and proliferation of ideas that can reduce both political and religious dictatorial tendencies that often threaten humanity and world peace.

**Q: Have you encountered difficulties within Rotary? If yes, how did you overcome them?**

A: Like many Rotarians in the world of business and liberal professions, it has often been difficult to find the time to accomplish all that I wished to do in Rotary. I have overcome this difficulty by putting in place, small committees to assist me in the realization of my actions.

**Q: In what measure has your membership in Rotary improved the standards of living of people in your locality?**

A: With the creation of a committee of development in my village, we were able, without Rotary, to construct a school, a clinic, water supply system, electricity for 10 years, which has improved the standards of living of the people in the village of Vopedakondji located in the south-east of Togo.

**Q: What has been your greatest moment in Rotary?**

A: Some of the greatest moments of my Rotarian life have been:

- The year of my Presidency of the Club
- The year of Governance, 1998-1999 of the 9100 District
- Implementation for the first time in our District (9100) a leadership plan with the nomination of Assistant Governors.
- Constituted and carried out for the first time, exchange programs between District 9100 and District 5020 (Washington, USA and the Island of Vancouver, Canada)
- Created several clubs of which 3 received their charter prior to the meeting and conference of the District in April, 1999.
- Ensured the creation of many clubs out of 9100 District in many countries which earned me the special congratulatory award from the President of Rotary International, James Lacy (1998-1999) for my contribution in augmenting the effectiveness of the District.
- Under the high patronage of the International President, Jonathan Majiyagbe, we created the ICC (Inter-Country Committee France-Togo) on October 25, 2003 at Antibes Juan-les-Pins. Under the sponsorship of the Vice President Administrator elected (2004-2006) Serge Gouteyron, the ICC France-Benin was established in Lomé during the fair of projects in Togo.

**Q: In what way have you benefited from Rotary?**

A: Rotary has not only exposed me to the world of men and women committed to service to the disadvantaged but also in meeting many personalities and Heads of State during our mandate to govern and to represent the RI President at District conferences in France.

**Q: Do you have other information to share with us?**

A: At the DAC in April 1998, during my tenure as Governor-Elect on the program of my Rotary year 1998-1999 with the theme, "follow your Rotary dream" an Ivorian Rotarian asked me why all the Governors are largely bourgeois?



I responded to him by saying that he is mistaken and there have been among past Governors of District 9100, many which were from a

modest background and seen poverty. I was raised together with 9 siblings by a father who was a fisherman and a mother who sold fish for a living. My mother carried us on her back to the market which was more than 10km away on foot, and return late in the night with foodstuff. She always told us that she prays a lot that none her children live the life she has lived and that we all have to go to school, work and become successful. Education led me to become an Architect and a member of Rotary, and that is why I am among you today.

After a standing ovation, the conference decided to offer my mother, Eda Locoh Donou the distinction of Paul Harris Fellow. The invited guest of the Past Governing Board, Mr. Jacques Berthet personally returned from Evanston some months later and entrusted to the Past Governor Alain Bambara who came specially to Lomé to make a presentation to my mother.

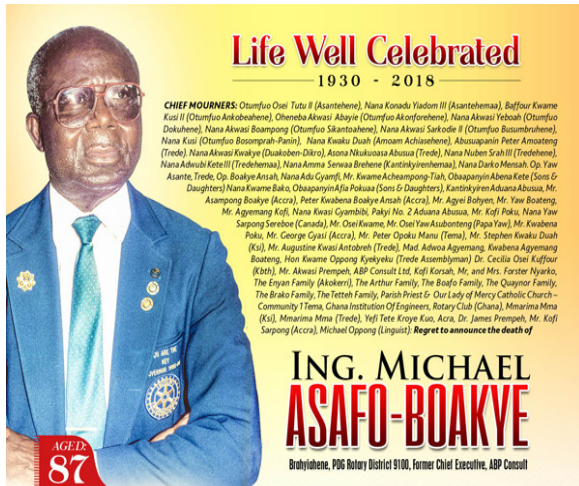
I am grateful to Rotary International, and many thanks to all Rotarian friends in District 9100 who were present in the conference room of Hotel Ivoire on that momentous day.





# My Rotary Moment

## Interview of PDG Nana Asafo-Boakye, RC Accra by PP Amarkine Amartefio, RC Accra-South, December, 2016



**PDG Nana Asafo-Boakye**  
RC Accra

“We the foreign students were welcomed by Rotarians and their spouses with such amazing hospitality. We stayed with them at their homes and they took very good care of us. They showed and introduced us to America. ***This was my first experience of Rotary’s goodness which made me decide to become one of them one day when I completed my studies***”.

With these introductory words, PDG Nana began recalling his Rotary moments - a veritable odyssey of a lifetime. Sitting comfortably in his wheelchair before his meeting with the Rotary Club of Accra South, it was obvious from his tenor and demeanour that this is a man whose dedication, commitment and passion about Rotary knows no bounds.

At 32, PDG Nana had become the Assistant to the Chief Structural Engineer at the now defunct

Ghana National Construction Company. One afternoon, Jimmy Ireland, his boss, out of the blue, threw him an invitation to attend a Rotary meeting! This invitation felt more like a treat as it brought back the nostalgic memories of his Rotary experiences during his student days in America.

PDG Nana indicated that Rotary’s presence in the country was unknown and only a few members, about 50 or 60, then constituted the Rotary Club of Accra. Later it grew to 105 members and subsequently was split into two to help manage it better. The Rotary Club of Accra-West became the other half and members whose offices or homes fell on the western side of the line between Accra Post Office and the Kwame Nkrumah Circle towards the Nsawam road joined the newly formed Club of Accra-West.

Some of the ***early projects PDG Nana and his Club Members executed included the establishment of the limb fitting centre at Nsawam, popularly called the Orthopaedic Centre, the building of a canteen for a school near Achimota and several bore holes for communities without water.***

These were achieved with assistance from Clubs in the USA. One of the fundraising prizes of the club included the offer of a car for which the Club sold tickets at the then Kingsway Department store in Accra.

PDG Nana soon became his Club’s President and later a District Governor. He has had no issues to make him regret any of his experiences in Rotary except for a near death experience over which he laughs about today. “I had

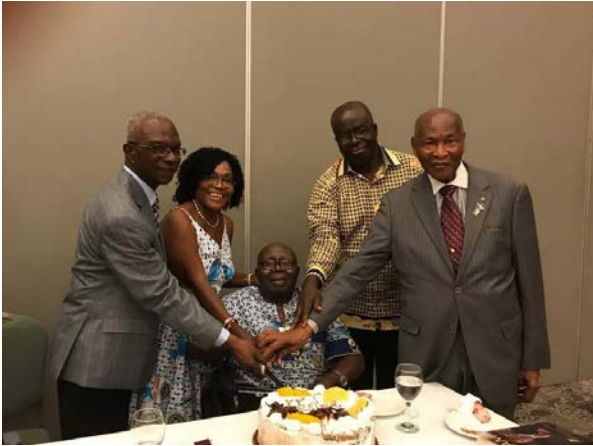
spent the night at the railway station among thieves, cutthroats and assassins and I didn't even know. When the Rotary President took me back to take my luggage, I noticed he was trembling as we got to the railway station. I asked why? He then told me how dangerous the place I had spent the night was. I froze in retrospect".

PDG Nana's duty tours as District Governor had taken him to Abidjan and this time, his travel agent's mistake coupled with the visit of then Algerian President, Ben Bella had nearly cost him his life. He had arrived on a weekend instead, and no Rotarian was aware of his arrival. All the hotels were booked. Through the

generosity of a taxi driver who knew a Rotarian in the market, he was connected to the Rotary President he was scheduled to meet.

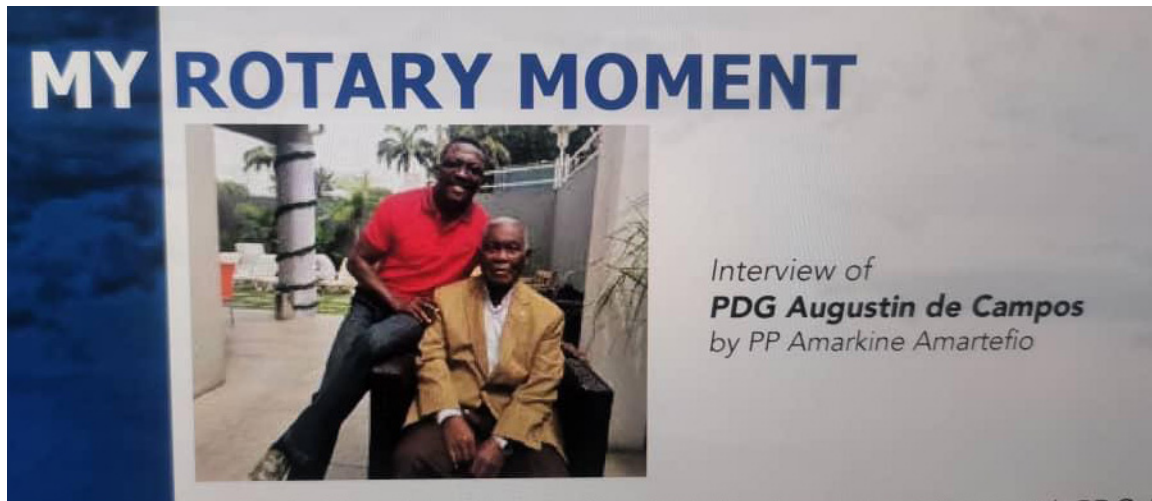
PDG Nana's exposure to Rotary in the USA during his student days at the University had formed in him an optimism and a heart to serve humanity for which he is thankful to date.

Rotary's ethical principles has shaped his life and work. He cannot begin to recount his joys and blessings as a result of the wide network of friendships built across Africa and the world through Rotary.



# My Rotary Moment

Interview of PDG Augustin de Campos, RC Cotonu Lagune, by PP Amarkine Amartefio, RC Accra-South, January, 2017



**A**t the lobby of the Airport View Hotel in Accra, I caught up with PDG Augustin de Campos, a venerable old man with more than nine decades of life to be proud of. His calm disposition, coupled with veritable youthful looks, makes him appear like a walking miracle!

“My life with Rotary began in 1966 when the late PDG Ligand Germain, who was a PDG in 86/87 invited me to the meeting of the Rotary Club of Cotonou. I was amazed at the fellowship, the light and easy atmosphere and the dedication of members to help society. I have never looked back to date”.

The nonagenarian, a Chartered Accountant by profession, is blessed with a wife and five children.

He spoke softly and happily about his Rotary Moments. “What I have really enjoyed from Rotary is the opportunity to touch the lives of people. Through our Club’s community projects in vocational and educational outreaches, I have contributed to shaping many lives”, PDG Augustin intimated.

Citing how Rotary made his world bigger not only in his own country but even across Africa and beyond, de Campos considers

these opportunities that come with Rotary membership as benefits that surpass anything money can buy or bring.

When I asked if he has had any serious challenges as a Rotarian, he was quick to assert that “I have never had any problems worth a memory since I joined Rotary. This is because Rotary is well organized and its ethical principles as well as the 4-way test speaks to almost all situations one could find themselves. Besides, the friendships I have in Rotary is so refreshing. When I became the District Governor in 1992/3, I had the opportunity to travel the District and encounter many more cultures other than mine. I made many more friends and this really means a lot to me.”

He admonishes younger Rotarians to engage the older ones and share useful ideas regarding the future of Rotary. **“We the older ones especially have a lot of history, culture and expertise that can benefit young Rotarians. There is also a lot we can learn from the young ones”.**

PDG Augustin believes Rotary has strong structures that can ensure and guarantee its evolution in a fast-changing world.

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# Rotary And Training

Rotary believes in and thrives on **KNOWLEDGE, EFFICIENCY, PROFESSIONALISM and PASSION.**



**PAG Theo Akofio-Sowah**

*RC Accra*

For these attributes, Rotary ensures that any Rotarian who is nominated or elected to a position is trained appropriately. It is through training that Rotarians are handed the tools to demonstrate the four attributes, as they provide service to the community.

Training is so important to Rotary, to the extent that a club President Elect who fails to present himself for the training session, may be prevented from taking office by the District Governor.

The Historical Rotary District 9100, had Rotary Clubs from 14 West African Countries, including the Cape Verde Islands. Two languages were used in administering that vast District; English and French. Training was therefore done in these two languages.

Without the technology in use these days, training was delivered either as a lecture, or a discussion in a classroom. Hard copy handouts were given out at the end of

the session by the resource persons. Long after training sessions, resource persons were sought after for copies of the training materials. Year in, Year out resource persons jumped from one country to the other delivering training to Rotarians, who had been nominated or elected to positions. The travels were exciting, and up to today, they are very much missed.

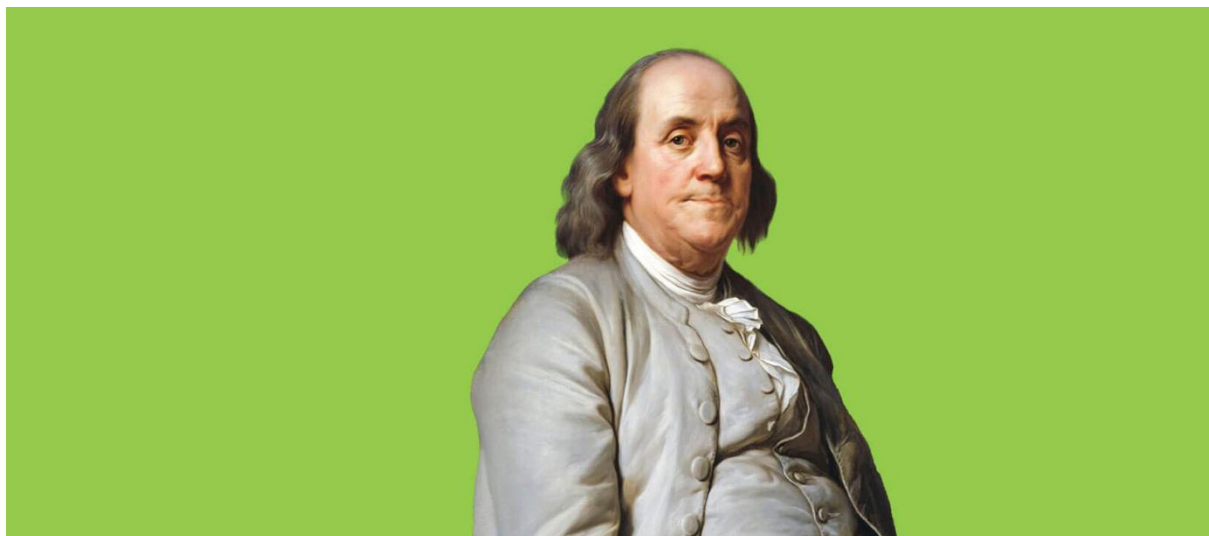
Then rolled in District 9102 in July 1, 2013, as the world is taken over by technology. The training tools changed. There are now better and faster means of making training available; by physical presence, or by virtual means. Through research, through means of good Public image interventions, there are great improvements in course content, availability and clarity of information.

Training courses are available by virtual means, for the reach of all Rotarians irrespective of locations. District 9102 has made use of technology in quite ingenious ways to deliver training to Rotarians throughout the District. The Covid also brought innovations not only in the way of imparting Rotary knowledge but also the way of reaching Rotary international resources.

The sky seems the limit!



## 20 Enduring Proverbs written by Ben Franklin



1. Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.
2. Diligence is the mother of good luck.
3. Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.
4. He that would live in peace and at ease, must not speak all he knows or judge all he sees.
5. Great beauty, great strength, and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all.
6. He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.
7. The sting of a reproach is the truth of it.
8. Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.
9. Beware of little expenses: A small leak will sink a great ship.
10. Hide not your talents, they for use were made: What's a sundial in the shade?
11. Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.
12. Well done is better than well said.
13. Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked, and never well mended.
14. He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas.
15. Genius without education is like silver in the mine.
16. If man could have half his wishes, he would double his troubles.
17. The poor have little, beggars none, the rich too much, enough not one.
18. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass.
19. A true friend is the best possession.
20. Wish not so much to live long as to live well.

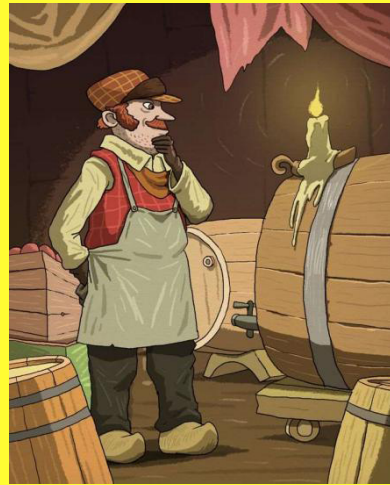


# Brain Teaser Puzzles

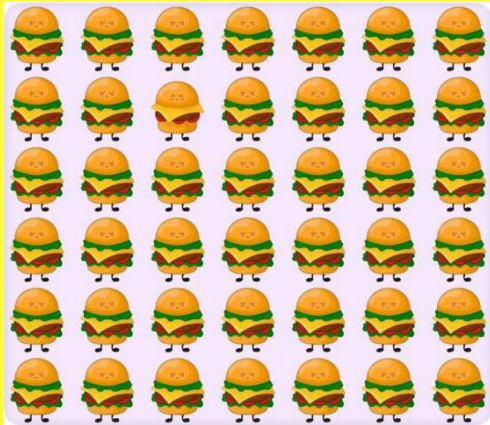
What should be there  
in the place of the question mark?

1	3	5
2	4	?

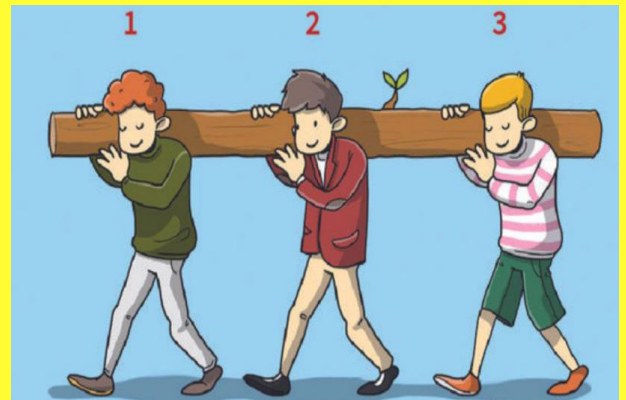
Spot the Bottle hidden inside Wine Cellar  
Picture.



Can you spot the Odd Cheeseburger in picture?



Find which man is carrying the most weight in  
7 seconds!



## Imagining Rotary.....Fearlessly in Rotary Year 2022 / 2023



**Rtn Togbuiga Delasie Dogbey**

*RC Accra-Legon*

**W**hat 'Imagine Rotary', means to me as a Rotarian: Rotary as a positive force that transcends borders and limitations.

A few months ago, I visited the Aplaku M/A 2 Basic School to check on the Library and Computer Lab that my Rotary Club (Rotary Club of Accra- Legon) had provided for the students. As the new incoming Service Project Director, I wanted to make sure that our projects had continuity and that we were doing everything possible to support the school.

As I walked to the Headmaster's office, a young girl in JHS 2 shouted "Rotary!" Her friends cheered, clearly remembering the career mentorship program we had organized back in 2019. I had told them

that they could be anything they wanted to be, and it was clear that they had taken that message to heart.

In that moment, I felt an immense sense of pride and purpose. Being a Rotarian means having the power to make a real difference in the world, and that is exactly what we were doing. It was humbling to see how our small contributions were already making a big impact on the lives of these children.

*As Rotarians, we are part of a global network of millions of people who share a common vision of a better world. We see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change not just in our communities, but across the globe. We know that solving real problems takes real commitment and vision, and we are willing to invest our time, energy, and resources to make a difference.*

We know that the challenges facing our world today are complex and diverse, and that is why we work across borders and with partners from all walks of life to find solutions. We do not discriminate based on race, religion, or personal preference - we believe that everyone deserves a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation.

Our commitment to continuity ensures that we are not just solving problems for today but also preparing for the challenges of the future. By investing in education, health, and economic development, we are building a better world for generations to come.

So, let us imagine Rotary as a force for good that transcends borders, unites people from diverse backgrounds, and lifts up communities around the world. Together, we can create a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



## THE FEARLESS IMAGINATION UNLEASHED: EMBRACING BOLD POSSIBILITIES TO CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD



**PP Yaa Ohenewaa Nkrumah**  
*RC Accra-Ridge*

### **“Imagination is the compass that leads hope through uncharted realms. PP OH”**

**O**ur world is filled with uncertainties and challenges. Rotarians epitomize hope and resilience; and understand that despite doubt, imagination has the power to guide us toward a brighter future. With our unwavering commitment to service, we become a source of inspiration, tapping into the boundless potential to inspire others.

Our journey of embracing bold possibilities begins with breaking free from societal norms. We need to recognize that conformity often restricts our thoughts and ideas. However, as we dare to think differently, surpassing these limitations and nurturing our imagination by challenging the status quo, we unlock the doors to creativity and innovation to infuse our actions with hope.

Bold possibilities often involve risks and uncertainties. Fear can immobilize individuals thus preventing them from venturing into unexplored territories. Nevertheless, Rotarians

acknowledge and embrace their fears and use them as stepping stones to overcome challenges. As we cultivate a fearless mindset, we take calculated risks, embrace failure as a path to success, and imagine innovative solutions to longstanding problems. Through this approach, we create an atmosphere of perseverance, inspiring others to follow our lead.

**Rotarians must always connect and collaborate with like-minded individuals to combine diverse perspectives and skill sets, generate innovative solutions that have the potential to bring about significant positive change. Together we form a network, working hand in hand to address global challenges to shape a better world.**

We are driven by our concern for the well-being of others and dedicated to serving others. With our ability to understand and share the feelings of others, we have a genuine desire to make a positive impact in our communities.

As Rotarians cultivate these qualities, we become attuned to the needs and aspirations of those around us. Our fearless imagination, fuelled by empathy, takes on a purposeful form seeking to address social injustices, alleviate suffering, and uplift communities. By employing bold ideas to create a more equitable and inclusive world, Rotarians foster hope that transcends boundaries and unites humanity.

In a world often overshadowed by despair and uncertainty, let us stand as beacons of hope. Let us nurture empathy and compassion, infusing our bold ideas with purpose and meaning to inspire positive change.

As Rotarians, let us continue to embrace our fearless imagination, dare to dream and unleash bold possibilities, thereby creating a future brimming with hope for all.

## IMAGINE ROTARY FEARLESSLY



**RP Nana Hema**

*RC Accra-Legon East*

**T**he herculean task of forming a mental image of a vision or better put grasping the concept of a vision, just imagine...pun intended. Covid 19 gripped us all with fear and dread. What could any of us imagine then?

My life has been one of imaginations. I have always had vivid imaginations of how and what I wanted in life. These have helped shape my journey thus far in terms of family and work.

The theme of the Rotary year 22-23 'Imagine Rotary' was in a league of its own. I was of the view that I lived, breathed and walked Rotary. I was also Rotary before I discovered Rotary. I had lived by many but realistic principles which were captured in some of my daily mantras. If one loves me it did not mean I could be bought, and by the same token if I was hated or disliked by a group it was not to say I could be sold. This meant I was to live my truth and in doing so my community will reap the benefits of my actions.

I have led and carried out all my duties with love always and this has paid huge dividends to my immediate family and my community. This in a nutshell is what the four way test of Rotary encapsulates.

I felt I had a full circle moment when the theme was "Imagine Rotary". The only way I could look at it was a reimagined format. The world as we know it had gone through changes. This was a critical and poignant for the 21st century set to stir the imaginations of both established and newer audiences.

We were all challenged to reimagine our lives as individuals and as an entity.

March 2020 was the start of our imagine journey. Little did we know as a people how much of a paradigm shift we were to imagine. George Floyd's death also evoked our sense of imagination. With his death came the challenge of imagining, how we attempt to have uncomfortable conversations about race and issues surrounding it. I could imagine leaving a place I had called home for over thirty years and rebuilding a life in the country of my birth. Never did I imagine I will be part of an organization that aligns with my believes of service to mankind.

I have kept my youthful exuberance and that has helped in my imaginations. No matter how big my imaginations might be, if not backed by action, they are nothing.

Imagine Rotary is exactly that until we all put our shoulder to the wheels and keep it turning to achieve results such as almost eradicating Polio from the world and my club Accra-Legon East nearly in completion of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Legon Hospital.

**“WHEN WE DARE TO IMAGINE ROTARY, THE MAGIC OF POSSIBILITIES BEGINS TO UNFOLD IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES”.**



**PP Francis Sam**  
*RC Accra-Industrial*

**W**ith another rotary year coming to an end, most of us can reflect on the past year, and take stock of things we ought to be grateful for knowing that so many people still lack what we deem as the basics needed to live a sustainable life.

As Rotarians, we share a common purpose and vision to see a more equal world, and we are energized by the mission to do more in our societies. “Imagine Rotary” to me is a chance to re-ignite what it means to give back and to build on the success of the Rotary “transformative” agenda. It is a call on all Rotarians to be innovative as we review the year but also as we look to the future and imagine what is possible.

In an era of uncertainty and unprecedented hardship, the position of “privilege” carries with it even more responsibility. It is now more than ever important that the mindset of “Serve Above Self” must be fully evidenced through our output in all aspects of our life. And it can

simply be achieved by immersing ourselves in the act of service into our daily routines. Artless ways that I have tried to impact others as I “Imagine Rotary” and its many possibilities are;

- By looking at a request for support, sponsorship, or donation as being a continuous collaborative partnership to make a lasting impact than a one-off.
- By sharing my ideas or know-how and/or possible solutions to problems with individuals I meet daily: dialogue with inner cities and suburbs dwellers, peasant farmers, and people I meet in villages, etc. on the harmful effects of burning bushes, garbage, plastics, as a means to clearing the bushes and the side effects on the ecology and human life, to the need for maintaining Green Areas in society.
- From taking from work to mentoring entry-level employees, young Rotractors, and mid-level workers looking for guidance to grow their careers. Sharing the basic experiences that I adapted to survive in the ever-changing fast workforce, and the choices I made to grow in my career and not pigeonhole myself in the ways we see life actualizing.
- To converse on how I try to live the habit of being a lifelong learner, to remain informed and relevant with shifting trends. To approach rotary projects within communities with an eye to striving to embrace obstacles, and think of inventive ways to resolve them.
- To grapple with rotary issues, and bring them into the forefront of Rotary leadership discussions, in order to get lasting solutions.

It is not enough to be just a Rotarian in the name - working to serve but to be Rotarians in action, “ALL LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS BETTER”, looking for ways of impact and challenging the idea of what being a Rotarian means with improvements across all areas of life as a pillar that guides our path.

## Effective Collaboration and Teamwork are the game changers



**Rtn Togbuiga Delasie Dogbey**

*RC Accra-Legon*

**A**s a Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Accra-Legon, I was excited to join the Rotary Club of Accra-East to handover a 12-Seater Toilet Facility to the Atiavi Agbodekor R/C School in the Volta Region of Ghana.

It was an awe-inspiring sight to witness the collaboration and teamwork between the Rotary Clubs of Accra-East, Pleasanton (USA) and Woodbridge (Canada). The dedication and overwhelming effort put into the project was evident in the completion of such a great feat.

During my interaction with the club members, I learned that the project had faced its fair share of challenges. However, with the exceptional teamwork and unflinching collaboration, they had pulled off the completion of the project, despite the unexpected challenges that arose a day before the handover ceremony. Seeing the Teachers, Rotarians, Rotaractors and members

of the community working together tirelessly in heavy rains was an emotional experience that will remain etched in my memory.

It was clear to me that to achieve more, Rotarians needed to work together beyond boundaries and engage in partnerships to deliver bigger and sustainable projects.

I was also excited to learn that the Rotary Club of Ho won the club of the year 2022/2023 for their massive projects which involved several Rotary clubs and even other social clubs. This reinforced my belief that effective collaboration and teamwork are key to creating positive change and sustainable development.

As the world continues to evolve, the need for collaboration and teamwork to achieve more significant and lasting change becomes even more vital. I wholeheartedly believe that by working together and sharing resources across boundaries, Rotarians can become unstoppable, and their efforts towards making the world a better place would leave a positive impact that will last for generations to come.

Effective collaboration and teamwork can create a far-reaching impact beyond what we can accomplish alone. By uniting and working together, we can utilize our varied expertise and resources to achieve more and positively impact more lives. Collaboration enables us to create a platform for sharing knowledge, ideas, and resources to address major global challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and environmental problems. It also promotes the spread of innovative ideas, leading to creative solutions and new ways of approaching complex issues. Together, we can amplify our strengths, problem-solving abilities, and resources to scale-up projects and initiatives that can touch and change the lives of people around the world.

IT PAYS TO BE ON THE SAME TEAM!

# GET GHS10 CASH BACK

EVERYTIME YOU USE ZEEPAY TO RECEIVE REMITTANCES

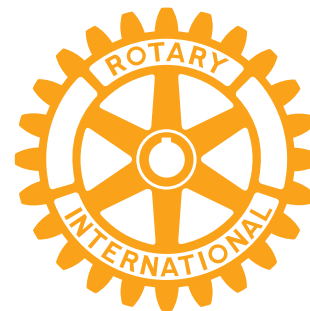


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- CashMinute
- FGC



# NEW GENERATIONS



## TALES FROM ROTARACT DTAC

DTAC is a special period for Rotaractors and Interactors everywhere. It is a moment during which we all come together from far and near to fellowship, undergo training and have fun. This year's DTAC felt different, as it was the last time we met as Rotaractors across District 9102. Additionally, the event gave us the chance to witness the birth of two new Districts: District 9103 and District 9104, as District 9102 fades away and to celebrate ten (10) years of community service as a District.

DTAC was the only time Rotaractors felt the dire need to learn either English or French. Some resorted to the frequent usage of "Google translator" while others used sign language, just to be able to communicate. Regardless of the means we used, we all know we had to find a way to bridge the language barrier to make friends.

### Below are a few highlights of the event:

#### Opening Ceremony/District Conference:

This served as the main curtain raiser for the District Assembly and Conference. It was graced by the presence of renowned personalities such as DG Victor Yaw Asante,

DGN Dave, PP Kwame, and a representative of Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. Several past DRRs were also present including PDRR Samuel Darko, the first DRR of Rotaract District 9102 who joined the event virtually.

#### Cultural Night

Rotaractors and Interactors were allowed to showcase their rich culture at the Cultural Night. Participants from Niger, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire came together to exhibit their cultures through dance, attire and language. During the event, an opportunity was given to interested attendees to participate in a pageant. In the end, CP Julian from Ghana was crowned Mr. Rotaract and Rtr. Fleure from Benin was crowned Rotaract Most Beautiful.

#### Training and District Assembly

As the title suggests, a series of training sessions were provided to newly elected District and Club Officers to prepare them for their new positions. Afterwards, there was a District Assembly, during which new District Bylaws were formulated and the District Plan of Action was discussed.



## Football Gala

As a way of showing off their football skills, all countries played against each other in a football gala for both males and females. The Togo Team won the trophy with four (4) wins against Ghana.

## Old-School and Date Night

We had a throwback session, where Rotaractors and Interactors had to cast their gazes back to the '90s and re-live the good old days. There was a display of Afros, Car washes, boots and other costumes.

For the first time in Rotaract DTAC history, a Date Night Session was held, during which participants competed for suitors through entertaining activities.

## District Project

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2023, a 10-Unit Block Bi-digester Toilet Facility was commissioned and presented to the Anwomaso M/A Primary School by Rotaract District 9102. The facility was received by the community and the school with so much gratitude.

## Trip

The team visited the Manhyia Palace. It was an insightful experience for most Rotaractors and Interactors as they learned a lot about the history of the Asante Kingdom. Afterwards, participants joined PP Nana Poku for his birthday party.

## Dinner and Awards Night

This was the last event for this year's DTAC. Attendees dressed looking glamorous. It was fun, and Rotaractors were awarded for their hard work and support throughout the Rotary Year. The winners/awardees were as follows:

- Rotaractor of the Year - Rtr. Laetitia of Rotaract Club of Lome Raccine (Togo)
- Outstanding Female Personality - IPDRRD Huda of Rotaract Club of Adenta Central (Ghana)

- Best DRRD - DRRD Adoko of Niger
- Best Interact Club - Interact Club of Abomey Calavi, Benin
- Best Club President - RP Claret
- Best Service Project - Vocational Project of Rotaract Club of Adabraka, Ghana
- Best Club in the District - Rotaract Club of Accra East

PP Kwame Baah Acheamfuor was also presented with a portrait of himself as a gesture of appreciation for his unwavering support of the Rotaract District Office.

Even though we had our last DTAC as a district, we anticipate an exciting Rotaract journey with District 9104 and District 9103. Most of us will miss our francophone partners in service, and we all would not mind joining them for their DTACs.

Written by:



## Rtr. Vanessa Addai

*District Secretary and Member of Rotaract Club of Tema Meridian*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 RYLA

Through Rotarians' constant belief in the potential of youth, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is organized every year to provide an opportunity for the next generation of leaders to define themselves and expand their skills.

This year's RYLA took place from the 30th of March to the 1st of April 2023 at the Hillview Guest Center located at Abokobi. The RYLA Committee hosted 30 participants from various Rotaract and Interact clubs within the District and other organisations for a two-day impactful experience.

The RYLA program included workshops, interactive sessions and formal presentations from resource persons. At the opening ceremony, participants were honoured with the presence of the District Governor, Victor Yaw Asante who expressed his excitement at having high-spirited young people at the 2023 RYLA. In his address, DG Victor urged everyone to be focused, comply with guidance and make deliberate choices towards meaningful growth and take advantage of new opportunities.

PAG Leni took participants through time management and punctuality where she emphasized on the need to be mindful of time and introduced Rylarians to the Rotary campaign "BE ON TIME ALL THE TIME". This was also to charge all participants to show up on time for all sessions.

A talk on Creating Hope in the World was delivered by DGE David Amankwah Junior, where he shared his highlights on the next Rotary year and why all should be inspired with next year's theme. DGE also encouraged participants to step out of their comfort zones as an important factor in achieving their dreams. Furthermore, he charged young Rylarians to do away with the habit of staying on social media for long hours to prevent unrealistic comparisons that can get them anxious.

Other sessions included a presentation by PAG William Ofori on Imagining Leadership

Through Service, which helped Interactors and Rotaractors understand why leadership and service are the bloodlines in our Rotary fraternity. Rotarian Dr. Dolores took participants through Communication Upgrade and an interactive Personal Branding session. The Need for Service Projects and Volunteers was handled by AG Festus who threw new challenges to the participants and made them understand service projects from different perspectives.

The Rylarians also engaged in a fun group activity where participants were required to combine all the lessons they had learned to make outfits from polythene bags. The team organized a bonding activity at the Legon Botanical Gardens for all to have a feel of nature and its many recreational benefits.

The event ended with an awards ceremony on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 before all participants departed to their various locations.



**Sedinam Edzia Lawra**  
*RYLA Committee Secretary*  
*Rotaract Club of Tema Meridian*



# Imagine Rotary !

## What imagine Rotary means to me



**DRR Fred Asante**

*Rotaract District 9102*

**H**ello dear reader, all too soon we are at the end of another Rotary year, one that introduced us to the concept of “IMAGINE ROTARY.” It has been a year of striving for the best, for ourselves, the community, and the world we live in. For me, “IMAGINE ROTARY” meant envisioning a world that improved every day: a world where the sick recovered, trees thrived, children were educated, and communities prospered. The belief that we could join hands together and create magic was what “Imagine Rotary” signified.

Right from the start of this Rotary year, I imagined what it would be like to see all Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and people worldwide uniting to serve a greater purpose. I must say we have done exceedingly well, particularly as members of Rotary. Our service

and community projects, executed both as individual clubs and as a district, will go a long way in aiding those we might never meet - brothers, sisters, children, and communities. What do we gain from this? I believe it's the opportunity to create hope and to let ourselves, and the world, “Imagine Rotary” more freely.

Even for us as partners in service, it took “Imagining Rotary” for RI President Jennifer Jones to become the head of such a vast institution. It took imagining Rotary for me to become a DRR, and I know it took “Imagining Rotary” for you to become that club president, and most importantly, the Rotaractor or Rotarian that the world needed. My trips to clubs across the various regions and countries in District 9102 will forever be a significant part of my Rotary journey. They demonstrated how people with different beliefs and cultures could unite towards achieving a goal. The efforts and sacrifices of all Rotaractors, and those who served alongside me, give me hope that we have done, and will continue to do, better and greater things as we create hope in the coming Rotary Year.

Finally, “Imagine Rotary” should always remind us of the power we have to change lives, communities, and even the world. Let's get involved, attend meetings, contribute what we can, plant that tree, assist that community by doing something beneficial in your own small way. Let our commitment be visible. Let's fellowship through service and put service above ourselves. Becoming a person of service is a great responsibility, and you should be proud of it. Let's embrace this journey, live the Rotary life, and be the change we wish to see, as always said by Rotaractor President Elect Korkor of the Rotaract Club of UPSA-Ghana.

# Imagine Rotary !

## What Imagine Rotary means to me



**RP Fareeda Amankwa-Gabbey**

*Rotaract Club of SDD-UBIDS (formerly UDS Wa).*

I saw the name Rotaract on a friend's status and I was curious to know what it was all about because most of the activities I saw was in line with my interest and my area of study.

I was offering Diploma in Integrated Community Development by then and was curious to know more about what it was and how I can be a member of the group.

I was directed to the RP and that was when I attended their first meeting. I was shy when I got there so I had to sit at the back and observe them.

I was given the platform to introduce myself but guess what? The welcome from the team was amazing and I felt at home. I kept wondering if they knew me already because of the love I received. I decided to stay as a member and kept attending their meetings and programs.

The amazing thing that kept me in it was the club mentored me to become a public speaker when we go on outreaches. Members were always encouraged to speak. I got inducted and finally became the Club Administrator and kept serving fearlessly.

Imagine how many leaders and members we will get out of Rotaract when we treat new attendees in a lovely manner.

Imagine the number of new members we will welcome every Trimester through recommendations because of the good we do.

A friend joined Rotaract because when she became sick and was admitted at our school clinic, she saw a Rotary logo on one of the hospital beds and she decided to join us.

Imagine more people joining us because they hear about Rotary's humanitarian services to society and are eager to become members.

Imagine the impact my club can make through our community service projects with the gift of a Thousand Ghana cedis received from the District Governor for doing a great job during his visit.

Imagine the lives the Rotaract Club of SDD-UBIDS can change within the Upper West Region by providing literacy and digital skills to schools in need.

Imagine a world where Rotaract Clubs are in every corner, imagine Upper West with many more Rotaract Clubs.

Let us Imagine fearlessly for the future generation!!

# Imagine Rotary!

## Imagining Into Action



**RP Kingdom Avisseh**

Secretary, Rotaract Ghana  
Rotaract Club of Adentan

**R**otary as we have today was imagined into reality. An individual had a dream to bring together millions of people who are ready to imagine into existence a world of service and change.

This imagination was not just a feeling, but an action that created possibilities, an action that strives to make the world better than we met it.

As a Rotaractor, I continue to;

***Imagine a world that fosters peace.***

***Imagine a world where every single child will be free from polio.***

***Imagine a world where school kids do not need to stay home because they have no access to education.***

***Imagine a world where quality health care is accessible to everyone.***

***Imagine a world where our environment is not destroyed.***

***Imagine a world where clean water is in abundance and accessible.***

***Imagine a world where early education is available to all.***

***Imagining Rotary inspires me to serve better, to do more for humanity in order to see my imaginations become a reality.***

As we continue to grow through many years of service, it is necessary to imagine greater achievements and to strive fearlessly to make these imaginations materialize.

Let us imagine together.

# Imagine Rotary !

## Imagine Rotary – What It Means To Me



**IPP James Asamoah**

*Rotaract Club of Kumasi*

When Jennifer Jones, RI President for the 2022/23 Rotary year launched this year's theme "Imagine Rotary", I remembered a piece I read on imagining how much better our world would have been if there had been no or minimal practice of some

human actions, specifically activities related to two of Rotary's areas of focus - Protecting the Environment and Promoting Peace.

Imagine a world where our action takes nothing, waste nothing and do no harm to the environment. Imagine a world where we avoid unnecessary expenditure either of money or of anything which is to be used or consumed such as energy, water, land, and minerals.

Imagine a world secure, free from fear of attacks: where conflicts are avoided peacefully or resolved through strong local and international laws, norms, and institutions, where threatened aggressors are reliably dissuaded by non-provocative defense that makes others feel and be more secure, not less.

A world where all people can be nourished, access good medical care and have adequate education. A world where reason, tolerance and democracy are more proclivity, a world where tyrannical leadership style is averted and embrace democratic leadership to give hope. Here we are, let us all Imagine Jennifer Jones's Rotary to Create Hope in the world in Gordon R. McNally's Rotary.



# Imagine Rotary!

## Imagine Rotary



**Charles Afotey Odai**

*Interact Club of St. Thomas Aquinas*

**R**otary International is a service organization that reaches out to communities across the globe with humanitarian aid and various forms of volunteerism. For 2021-2022, Rotary's theme is "Imagine Rotary," which invites members and supporters across the world to envision what Rotary can do to make a positive impact on society.

Interactors, the youth arm of Rotary International, play a significant role in bringing the theme of "Imagine Rotary" to life. Interactors are young leaders between the ages of 12 and 18 who come together to serve their communities, develop leadership skills, and form lifelong friendships. Their focus on "service above self" aligns perfectly with the values of Rotary, making their involvement essential to promoting and fulfilling Rotary's theme this year.

The theme "Imagine Rotary" encourages members of Rotary to imagine what they

can achieve if they come together as a team. Similarly, Interactors are encouraged to come up with new and innovative ways in which they can serve their communities, echoing the message of the bigger group.

Working with Rotary clubs and alongside adult Rotarians, Interactors provide valuable access to insights about how to effectively engage with younger members of the community.

During the 2023-24 Rotary year, Interactors will be closely involved in Rotary's community outreach programs and activities, such as supporting local food banks, planting public gardens, and organizing clothing drives. Through these efforts, Interactors will be demonstrating Rotary's commitment to making the world a better place. They will also be inspiring others to join them in their cause, reaching out to the younger generation at large and helping instill the values of community service in all those who participate.

Apart from community service, Interactors are also encouraged to participate in Rotary's annual youth exchange programs that provide cultural exchange opportunities to young people. By allowing youths to exchange ideas with friends abroad, participate in local projects, and learn more about different cultures, these programs contribute to building understanding and respect among the youth of the world.

In conclusion, Interactors play a significant role in helping Rotary bring its theme of "Imagine Rotary" to life. With their energy, creativity, and passion for service, they inspire other individuals to change the world for the better.

Alongside Rotarians, Interactors provide hope and service to their communities, demonstrating how much emphasis Rotary places on the development and growth of young people and the vital role they have to play in their global mission to do good in the world.



Dear Rotarians,

As this Rotary year ends, we want to thank you for supporting The Rotary Foundation.

Because of you, more Rotary members in your community and around the world have been able to take action and make an impact. Your support meant that more projects were possible, more people were served, and more problems were solved.

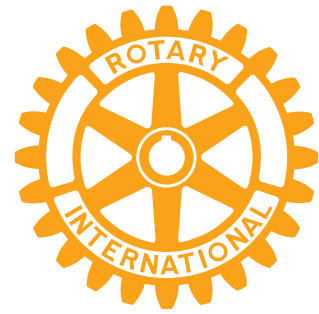
Because of dedicated donors like you, we have funded more than 450 district grants, 850 global grants, and 300 disaster response grants so far this Rotary year. These grants have helped Rotary members accomplish some amazing things, such as:

- Protecting communities from polio and malaria
- Delivering clean water to less accessible communities
- Providing aid to communities recovering from earthquakes in Turkey
- Helping provide free healthcare to underserved communities
- Empowering teachers and students to keep learning

Your generosity makes it possible for us to respond to some of the world's most challenging needs. Thank you for your continued support, Linda.

Sincerely,

***The Rotary Foundation***



## Obituary: Rotarians mourn as Majiyagbe, first African RI president dies, aged 88

**A**BUJA – The Rotary world has been thrown into mourning with the passage of Jonathan Majiyagbe in the early hours of today, Saturday, 27 May 2023.

Dr. Goddy Nnadi, District Governor, Rotary International District 9125, broke the news of the death of Majiyagbe, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and first and so far only African to be elected president of Rotary International (RI).

In a WhatsApp message shared on Rotary platforms on Saturday, the District Governor said: "I have just been informed by the IPDG (Immediate Past District Governor, RI District 9125, Rotarian Ayo Oyedokun) of the passing on to eternal glory of our own PRIP (Past Rotary International President), Jonathan Babatunde Majiyagbe.

He was said have passed on today, Saturday, 27th May 2023 @ 0730 hrs.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Amen!

Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with the entire Rotary family, especially the wife, Mama Ayo, a great friend and companion to the PRIP.

"On behalf of all Rotarians, I offer our deepest condolences to all of us. We await further

information from the immediate family, please. May we please continue to uphold the family in prayers at this difficult and mournful times. Thanks and God bless."

**Goddy Nnadi, PhD**

*District Governor, D9125*

*2022-23*







## Flashback: Jonathan Majiyagbe – Why I am a Rotarian



**Late Jonathan Babatunde Majiyagbe**

I had an occasion years ago to make some statements as to why I am a Rotarian. One statement was that Rotary provides a vehicle for fulfilling that natural instinct in people of goodwill everywhere to care and to volunteer time for the needs of their neighbours. Another was our worldwide fellowship.

As the years have gone by, I find that my conclusions are being reinforced in my Club, in the District and in our Rotary world.

The fellowship that abounds at club meetings generates true friendship. The friendship has a way of spreading to the local community. Civic responsibilities are enhanced and community needs are met.

The same fellowship is present in all the clubs in the District, at District conferences, Rotary Institutes and Conventions. Some of the best friends are made not only in the local clubs but also in the district, zones and indeed around the world.

Rotary makes me feel as much at home in Nigeria as it does elsewhere. In all the places,

I am surrounded by Rotarian friends. I am in company of a global community united by common values; delightful members old and young of the Family of Rotary.

As Rotarians we define those values and reflect upon them in a number of ways: the object of Rotary, the Rotary International Mission Statement, the Annual President's theme, the Declaration of Rotarians of Businesses and Professions and the Four Way Test.

But for most of us or indeed all of us, it comes back to the three simple words "service above self", otherwise translated as "Lend a Hand".

For me, Rotary is one great gateway that leads to many doors – the chance to meet great people you would otherwise never meet, to learn about cultures you never knew existed, to break bread with otherwise total strangers and so break down the barriers of ignorance and intolerance, to support a strong Rotary Foundation and its programs and participate in a crusade for building world understanding and peace.

An organization with a track record of 100 years of humanitarian service, a catalyst and supporter of global effort to eradicate polio and architect of the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution commends itself for membership.

Whereas nations and governments carry out programs for their citizens in fulfilment of obligations to do so, Rotarians execute projects that meet the needs of people no matter where, not because of their gain or a duty to carry out the project. Their joy is the ability to volunteer and their benefit is opportunity to serve.

Rotarian Jonathan Majiyagbe, first and so far on African President of Rotary International (2003/2004), died today, 27 May 2023.

*This article was first published on 18 July 2006 by <https://www.athensohiorotary.org>*

## Article By Rotaract Club Of Karen, In 2018



In 2003, Jonathan Babatunde Majiyagbe made history by becoming the first African to be appointed the Worldwide President of Rotary International, a one-hundred years old humanitarian service organization with over 1.2 million members and in 2008 made history again by being appointed the Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

J.B Majiyagbe is the principal partner of JB Majiyagbe & Co, a law firm with offices in Kano and Abuja. He has practised law for 30 years. He boasts of other titles such as being a member of the Bar of England and Wales (Honourable Society of the Middle Temple) and a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. He has been elevated to silk and conferred with the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

He is a former member of the Body of Benchers (the body responsible for the screening and admission of lawyers to the Nigerian Bar); Past Vice-President of the Nigerian Bar Association;

member of the International Bar Association and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

He is also a former member of the Interim Judicial Service Committee, Kano State and the Editorial board of the Journal of Nigeria Law. He is a former Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Kano, the Chairman of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Kano Branch, a Notary Public and Coroner for Kano State.

In 2008, Jonathan was awarded national honors – Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Jonathan is a very experienced and highly regarded lawyer.

#FamousRotarians

#ItCouldBeYouNext

#WaitingForYouToConquerTheWorld

## 18-year-old who overcame obstacles gifted new car by Rotary Club of Weston



**D**AVIE, FLA. (WSVN) - A South Florida teen received a generous gift and is being recognized for the obstacles he's overcome.

Jackie Knight was given a brand new car from Rick Case Honda in Davie, Friday.

The 18-year-old had a rough upbringing after he was abandoned by his family when he was 1 year old.

He also suffered from the death of his foster mother, which resulted in Knight being taken in by an agency that provides safe harbor for youths.

Despite it all, Knight just graduated high school and was awarded a scholarship to attend Broward College.

He now also has some brand-new wheels.

"Cause you don't always expect good things to come out. I'm a lucky person as is, so I always kinda give myself that benefit of the doubt," Knight said. "Yeah, today might be a good

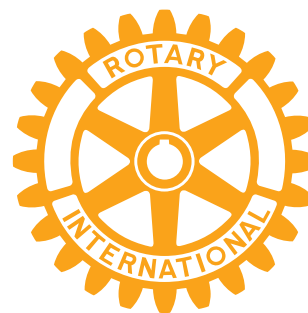
day, it's a lucky day. I'm trying to see if I can find any jobs that will require the car, which most of the time they usually hire. So as is, it's to work, school, home, just making a life for myself now."

The donation was made possible by the Rotary Club of Weston.

Knight said he plans to pursue a doctorate degree.

<https://wsvn.com/news/local/broward/18-year-old-who-overcame-obstacles-gifted-new-car-by-rotary-club-of-weston/>

# DISTRICT NEWS



## Rotary Learning and Development

**Who Wins the Champions of the District Leaderboard (CDL)?  
Visit the Learning Center today!**

As a District goal, "Every Rotarian Every Week Recognition" will go to the **Champions of the District Leaderboard (CDL)** in the Rotary Learning Centre at the end of the Rotary year 2022-2023.

It's a great time to continue learning. We would like to encourage you to visit the Rotary Learning Center this month to start your relevant courses. Visit [rotary.org/learn](https://rotary.org/learn) to browse the **Course Catalogs** and to enroll in one today.  
**#ImagineRotary**



The following Rotarians and Rotaractors stood out for the month of May 2023  
Congratulations!!! District 9102 Leader board  
You are also encouraged to visit the Rotary Learning Center today to be part of the winning team.

**Rotary**  
District 9102

**WHO WINS THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE DISTRICT LEADERBOARD THIS ROTARY YEAR? MAY 2023**

1. Richard Osei-Agyeman	Rotaract club of Accra Osu-RE
2. Emelia Aggrey	Rotaract club of Accra-Adentan
3. Theresa Agbodo	Rotary club of Accra-Labone
4. Richard Adjalle	Rotary club of Lomé-Horizon
5. Yann SOPOH	Rotaract club of Abomey-Calavi Plateau
6. Kossigan Agamakou	Rotary club of Lomé-Acacia
7. Prince Ackuaku	Rotary club of Accra-West
8. Mary Addo	Rotary club of Accra-East
9. Oswald Dohinnon	Rotaract club of Cotonou Rive Gauche Cica
10. Divine Matey	Rotary club of Accra-Osu Oxford Street

@rotary9102

THE OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**  
2022 - 2023

10<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear fellow Rotary Leaders and fellow Rotarians,

It is my pleasure to inform you of the admission of the **Rotary Club of Dunkwa, Ghana** to Rotary International on **Wednesday 07<sup>th</sup> June 2023**, under District 9102.

The sponsor for the new club is the **Ghana Extension Committee** with **Rotarian Nana Esi Adade Amankwah** as the New Club Advisor. It will be most appreciated if you will send congratulatory and welcome messages to the new club through its President **Getrude Yartel - Kubin** and **Ghana Extension Committee** through its New Club Advisor, **Rotarian Nana Esi Adade Amankwah**.

Charter President

**Rotarian President Getrude Yartel - Kubin (rotaryclubdunkwa@gmail.com)**

New Club Advisor

**Rotarian Nana Esi Adade Amankwah (flossybeatt@yahoo.com)**

Rotary International District 9102 welcomes wholeheartedly the membership of **Rotary Club of Dunkwa, Ghana** to the Rotary family.

Yours in the Service of Humanity,

*V. Y. Asante*

**VICTOR YAW ASANTE**

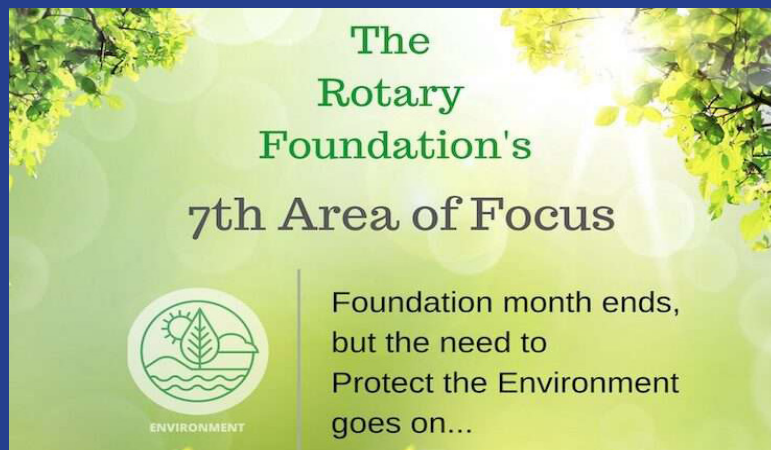
**DISTRICT GOVERNOR (2022 - 2023)**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9102**



## The Rotary Foundation's 7th Area of Focus

In 2020 The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors unanimously approved adding a new Area of Focus: supporting the environment.



### Dear District Team,

As you are aware, the two key areas of focus for RI President Jennifer Jones this Rotary year is \*Female Empowerment\* and \*Environment\*

While she was here in Ghana September, 2023 to visit D9102, we launched an environment project with the Forestry Commission and planted a few trees around the Weija Dam to prevent erosion around the dam. This project was anchored by the Rotary Club of Weija. It was at this program that the RIP met Climate Venerable Forum Youth Ambassador, Nakeeyat Dramani Sam and invited her to the RI convention in Australia where she presented,

We also launched a tree planting program same day at Kokrobite.

One of the key projects we focused on this year is the \*One Rotarian One Tree\* project which encourages every Rotarian to \*plant and grow\* at least one tree.

We are also collaborating with the Forestry Department and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Forestry Department to Green Ghana, using the \*World Environment Day\* as the catalyst.

Tomorrow 7th June is World Environment Day and Rotary District 9102 will launch the service project formally at Pantang near Accra, Ghana with the planting of some Trees.

On Friday 9th June ( and for the month of June ) Rotarians throughout the district are expected to embark on their own tree planting projects.

In Ghana, Rotarians will join the Forestry Commission in the \*10m Trees\* planting initiative. Each club will select a venue close to its community and work with the Forestry staff to execute the Tree Planting Project

The idea is to make sure we do not just plant trees, but also ensure they are nurtured to grow because it has been observed that most trees that are planted do not get the necessary after care, leading to a number of them perishing . That is why it is also important to work with the Forestry Commission on this project,

The Commission has already identified the areas for planting and will also provide the appropriate trees for the locations, considering the survival factors like soil type, climate etc.

You are encouraged to join either event on Wednesday 7th June or on Friday 9th June to give support to this final project of the Rotary year 2022-2023, not to mention the final project of District 9102 as we transition into District 9103 and District 9104

Thank You

*DG Victor Yaw Asante*

# INVISIBLE GALAMSEYERS

The world is full of natural sights,  
NO! it Was full of mountains reaching dizzying heights,  
To oceans stretching far and wide,  
With waves that dance and rise and glide.

You see, The sky above is vast and blue,  
With fluffy clouds that drift on till the sun smiles on our faces  
Bringing warmth and light to quell our fears.

Beneath our feet, the earth was green,  
Like a mother with blanket of life feeding hopes every morning  
Birds sung and their melodies carried us along, putting our restless heart to sleep  
animals roamed the land so free,  
Living in harmony with you and me.

Rivers flow and waterfalls cascade,  
A minute drizzling blooms flowers  
It stretches to an hour and it's food is in abundance  
Concluding our day with dazzling rainbow colors.

The air is fresh, clean and sweet,  
NO, NO, NO, The air was fresh  
An inhale of nature's heartbeat was comfort  
YES. Our Mother Earth was pure until you and I became greedy.

GREEDY! greediness of wanting more, wanting everything everywhere everyday.  
cutting, littering, digging. digging, excavating everything under.

We are all invisible galamseyers, wasting every beauty of our mother

Forgetting that we don't just owe the future generation a bank account of cedis but a serene air to breathe.

Not just morals and bell- ringing surnames but a green land to walk their children

Good name they say is better than riches but definitely not more than good health cos in it wholeness  
comes wealth

And I know You think it's not your business but when it becomes a buzz, you will be a shareholder.

Our Mother Earth provides us with air, water,  
and Food to eat  
Even a place to take our last rest  
Creating and sharing memories for beautiful dreams

But we take too much, give too little,  
upset the balance, and create a riddle.  
We destroy our mother's make up and call her ugly. HM!  
our actions have a cost, and it's not free.

But there is time, so there's hope  
To turn the tide and heal the wounds we have inflicted on our mother

We must stand up, each and every one of us,  
With our actions, with our thoughts, let's protect what we have been gifted. together, ensuring a  
green world for generations to come

So, plant, plant, PLANT and PLANT and PLANT in your mind!! In your 5th generation, in their hearts,  
love for the environment and a fist desire to protect it. Just like Mother Earth does for you.

Recycle, conserve energy, reduce waste,  
Plant trees, protect wildlife, CLEAN your oceans, your seas and BACKYARDS

Protect your mother's beauty, just like you protect your soul  
Cos this is your home, where your soul lives

ONE ROTARIAN, ONE TREE



**Anastasia Kwamena Oseni**

*Club President for the Rotaract Club of  
Ghana Institute of Journalism*



## Rotary District 9102 marks World Environment Day with tree planting

The Rotary District 9102 Green Project Committee has commemorated this year's World Environment Day with a tree planting exercise at the Pantang Hospital. The exercise dubbed: "1 Rotarian, 1 Tree: Supporting the District 9102 Green Project", was in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Pantang Hospital and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

It aimed at planting 2000 tree seedlings at the Pantang Hospital to complement Government's nationwide planting exercise.

Mr Benito Owusu Bio, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, said the Government was committed to addressing the issues of deforestation and that the green Ghana initiative was one of the many interventions to achieve that. He commended Rotary Ghana for supporting to green the environment, contribute to changing the global pattern and for demonstrating leadership and providing many opportunities for communities in Ghana.

"As you celebrate the World Environment Day today, I entreat you to also join us on Friday to embark the nationwide tree planting exercise where we expect to plant 10 million trees. Other seedlings of various species will be made available in all forestry offices across the country."

Mr. Victor Yaw Asante, the Rotary District Governor, said Rotary had seven areas of focus, with the last focusing on the environment, which had received a lot of attention.

He said the District led initiative, which is the final project on the Rotarian year calendar, aimed at planting a minimum of 100,000 trees.

"We started in September last year with the launch of the programme, and today we are here to plant 2000 tree seedlings. We are sure that with the support of the Forestry Commission, we will get all our 62 clubs in the

country involved in the exercise."

Mr. Asante noted that often, follow-ups were not done on trees planted, and that, the project was not just to plant trees, but to monitor their progress and protect them to grow.

Dr. Frank Baning, Medical Director, Pantang Hospital, said the initiative would beautify the Hospital's environment and contribute to the global effort of mitigating climate change. He said the Hospital was aware of the enormous benefits that trees brought to the environment and the positive relationship between mental health and the presence of trees and commended Rotary for the foresight.

The Medical Director appealed to the Government to expedite action on the walling of the Hospital.

Mr Francis Xavier Sosu, Member of Parliament for Madina, said the environment had become a critical issue because of climate change and that little acts like tree planting could help change the narrative. He said the exercise was an investment into the future generations and commended Rotary Ghana for the efforts. The MP charged the management of the Hospital to have a dedicated plan that would ensure that the trees survived.

Mr. Joseph Bempah, Regional Director, Forestry Commission, commended Rotary for the partnership, saying "some of the seedlings we are planting today are for medicinal purposes while others are for shade, so we will collaborate with the Hospital to monitor their progress.

"We will be back in a month or two to do survival survey of the seedlings."

*Source: Ghana News Agency*

# Protecting the environment and the planet.

**GHANAIAN Times**  
Most Authoritative Newspaper  
Thursday, June 8, 2023

## Rotarians plant 2,000 trees at Pantang Hospital

BY LAWRENCE VOMAF-AKPALU

**R**OTARY District 9102, as part of its Green Project campaign, yesterday planted over 2,000 tree seedlings at the Pantang Hospital in the La Nkwantanang Madina Municipality in the Greater Accra Region.

The event dubbed "One Rotarian One Tree" also formed part of the group's activities to commemorate this year's World Environment Day celebrations.

The Rotary International District 9102 Governor, Victor Yaw Asante, speaking at the ceremony said the exercise was aimed at complementing government's afforestation and reforestation programme towards improving Ghana's green vegetation cover.

District 9102, he stated was supporting efforts to preserve the environment across Ghana's 16 regions through the "Green District 9102 Project" to mitigate climate change and its negative effects.

Mr Asante who is also the Managing Director of FBN Bank said over 100,000 trees would be planted in partnership with the Ministries of Lands and Natural Resources and Environment, Science & Technology as well as the Forestry Commission.

"Rotary District 9102 is not just planting 100,000 trees but we plan to ensure that all these trees grow that is why we have made available wooden guards and would constantly be monitored by our designated Rotarians and Rotractors in collaboration with our partners over the critical period of growth," he added.

Protecting our environment Mr Asante explained was the foundation for a sustainable future for this and the next generation and the economy, warning "if we fail to protect our environment, we will put the lives of humans, animals, plants, and more at risk, this situation must not be allowed to continue adding "this is the reason for Rotary District 9102's "Green District 9102 Project" to support the charge to tackle the environment and arrest the decline".

Mr Asante on behalf of the FBN Bank presented a dummy cheque with a face value of GH¢20,000 to the government towards Friday's Green Ghana Day programme.

The Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Benito Owusu-Bio, who joined the Rotarians to plant the trees and also received the cheque commended the group for demonstrating leadership in supporting government's effort in the Green Ghana campaign.

He lauded the enthusiasm of Ghanaians who are joining the cause to get involved in Friday's "Let Go Tree Planting" initiative which would see the planting of over 10 million trees nationwide.

The La Nkwantanang Madina Municipal Chief Executive, Mrs Jennifer Dede Adjabeng, who expressed gratitude to the group for choosing the hospital assured of effectively collaborating with the management of the facility to ensure that the trees are properly nurtured to maturity.

The Member of Parliament for Madina, Francis Xavier Sosu, said tree planting was one of the biggest legacies a country could bequeath to its next generation.

He also assured of partnering the hospital and other stakeholders to protect the trees to maturity.

The Medical Director of the Hospital, Dr Frank Benn, appealed to the Rotarians to use their influence to prevent further encroachment on their lands, adding that the group had for so many years been very helpful to the facility and urged for more support to enable the hospital provide first class service to the people.



Mr Benito Owusu-Bio (right) being assisted by Mr Victor Yaw Asante to plant a seedling  
Photo: Godwin Ofosu-Acheampong

## Stop menstruation stigmatisation —Lady Julia

BY ABIGAIL ANNOH

sanitation and hygiene (WASH) | stigmatised in any way because it is | the foundation, encouraged countries | "The st...

- #WeArePeopleofAction
- #district9102 #ImagineRotary
- #rotaryinternational #1rotarian1tree
- #TreePlanting #Environment
- #ClimateChange #GreenGhana
- #Green#Sustainability







# Message from Hajia Samira Bawumia, the Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana



***DTAC 2023! What a sight to behold!!!! Rotary is good...***

“I joined fellow Rotarians at the opening of the two-day 10th Rotary District 9102 Training and Assembly Conference (DTAC), under the theme, ‘Beyond Imagination’ at the Accra International Conference Centre.

The DTAC is an annual event that brings together Rotarians from various clubs in the district (Ghana, Togo, Benin, Niger) to network and learn about Rotary’s core values, programs, and initiatives, and to exchange ideas and best practices.

I wish all Rotarians who participated in the DTAC a fruitful conference.”

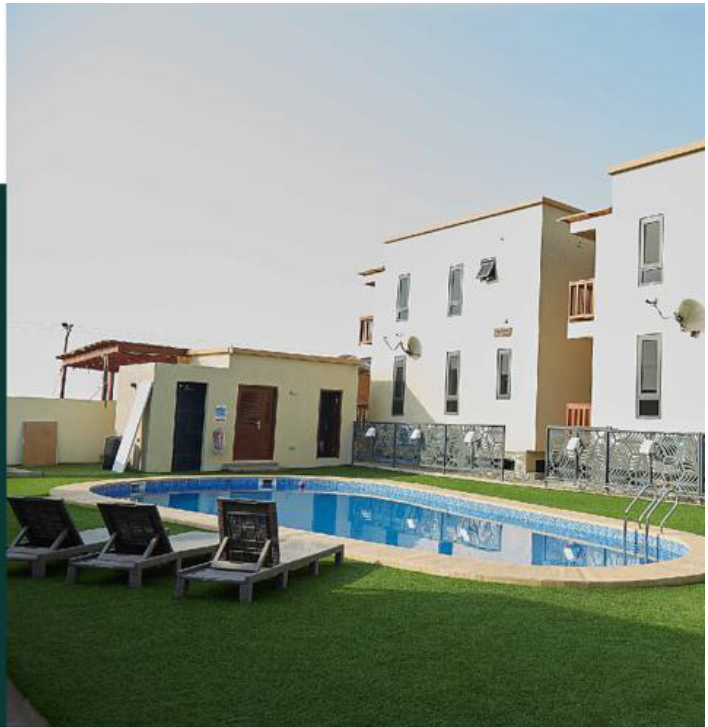
#RotaryIsGood

**Rtn Hajia Samira Bawumia**  
*RC Accra-Legon East*





YOUR  
PERFECT  
**VACATION  
PARADISE**  
AWAITS YOU!



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# CLUB NEWS

## Benin

The Rotary Club of Cotonou Fidjrossè and the National University of Sciences, Industrial, Technical, and Trades of Abomey work for the empowerment of girls in Benin



As part of the implementation of their initiative to “orient girls at school towards promising technical and industrial science careers in three (3) towns in Benin”, the Rotary Club of Cotonou Fidjrossè, in partnership with the UNSTIM Gender Observatory, organized inter-generational dialogue sessions between women

professionals in promising technical and industrial careers and girls from 3 secondary schools in the towns of Savè, Abomey, and Lokossa. This was followed by a donation of books in key subjects for the third and final year classes of the General Education College (CEG 1) Savè, whose library is currently being refurbished.

A total of 1,085 girls took part in the inter-generational dialogue session, which

1. facilitated access to information on STI training opportunities in Benin, both at technical high schools and universities, including UNSTIM in Abomey
2. showed girls the advantages of these professions
3. motivated girls to build their professional vision around these technical and industrial fields, which are sources of promising careers, and
4. demystified the notion that “girls are less good at science than boys”.

It should be noted that, for this activity, which was carried out jointly with UNSTIM and the RC Cotonou Fidjrossè, UNSTIM mobilized a panel of high-level professional women from the targeted trades to lead the inter-generational dialogue and serve as role models for our young girls. Specifically, this dialogue was masterfully coordinated by Dr. Peace Hounkpè, a teacher-researcher at UNSTIM.

In addition to this inter-generational discourse, the Rotary Club of Cotonou Fidjrossè has bestowed joy upon the girls at GEG1 Savè by graciously contributing essential educational resources to the college library. These materials encompass mathematics, physics, chemistry, and French, aiming to enhance their learning experience.

This will help to improve girls’ performance at school and facilitate their access to schools offering training in the six (6) targeted careers. These are Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Water and Sanitation, Carpentry, and Digital Engineering.

Through their representative, Solange Otobo, the girls thanked the donors for

this generous gesture and undertook to work harder in these subjects, which will enable them to access these promising careers in the future. **“We sincerely thank you for your generosity. We undertake to make good use of it to follow in your footsteps. From now on, we’ll always be at the library to recharge our batteries...”** she reassured the audience.

**“Having a library in a secondary school is already a guarantee of success. This library comes just at the right time to bring out the hidden values and talents of the girls at CEG 1 Savè,”** said Maximilienne Adana, representing the female teachers.

The director of CEG 1 Savè, Nicaise Edea, began by thanking all those who had contributed to the refurbishment of the college’s library, which houses the jewels. He then welcomed the initiative and thanked the Rotary Club of Cotonou Fidjrossè and its partner for this humanitarian action. “According to him, the college has signed a memorandum with the RC Cotonou Fidjrossè that will give young girls easy access to the library through positive discrimination in favor of girls.

Taking the floor, the president of the RC Cotonou Fidjrossè, Esther Ogouniyi Adimi, expressed her appreciation of the interest shown by the girls from the targeted schools in the inter-generational dialogue activity, which was intended to bring about a change in mentality with regard to the targeted professions, which were initially considered “men’s professions”.

She went on to encourage girls to take a greater interest in promising careers and to develop the skills they need to get there. *“In the final year science class, there is only one girl. We have to work to ensure that the girls in the third year start by going to the second*



year of secondary school or have the necessary average to enroll in technical colleges. To do this, they have to work in mathematics and physics. That's why we've come up with these books to prepare them to do well in i) the BEPC (Junior high school exams), so that we can steer them towards the science class if they don't go straight to the technical colleges, and ii) the baccalaureate, so that they can go to the vocational schools that offer training in the targeted subjects," she said.

She also thanked all the donors whose contributions had made it possible to carry out

this project. And also urged the girls to storm the library and urged parents and teachers to give more support to the girls and to monitor their school results.

Imagine Rotary at Rotary Club of Cotonou Fidjrossè! UNSTIM Gender Observatory!

**Esther OGOUNIYI ADIMI**

*Club President, 22-23*



# Ghana

## Rotary Club of Accra-Airport City's donation of Teachers Desks and Chairs to the Akotoklo Gua RC Primary School in Upper Manya Krobo District.

The Rotary Club of Accra-Airport City donated six units of Teachers Desks and Chairs to the Akotoklo Gua RC Primary School in the Upper Manya Krobo District on 23rd May, 2023.

This charitable initiative aimed at enhancing the learning environment and providing some comfort for the dedicated educators in the school. The donation of teachers' desks and chairs will significantly contribute to improving the infrastructure of the school.

By providing comfortable and functional furniture, the Club hopes to create a conducive atmosphere for effective teaching and learning. The new desks and

chairs will not only offer physical comfort but also enable teachers to organize their materials and conduct lessons more efficiently.

The donation showcases the Club's commitment to education and community development, empowering young learners with the necessary tools for a quality education and contributing to the overall academic performance of the students.

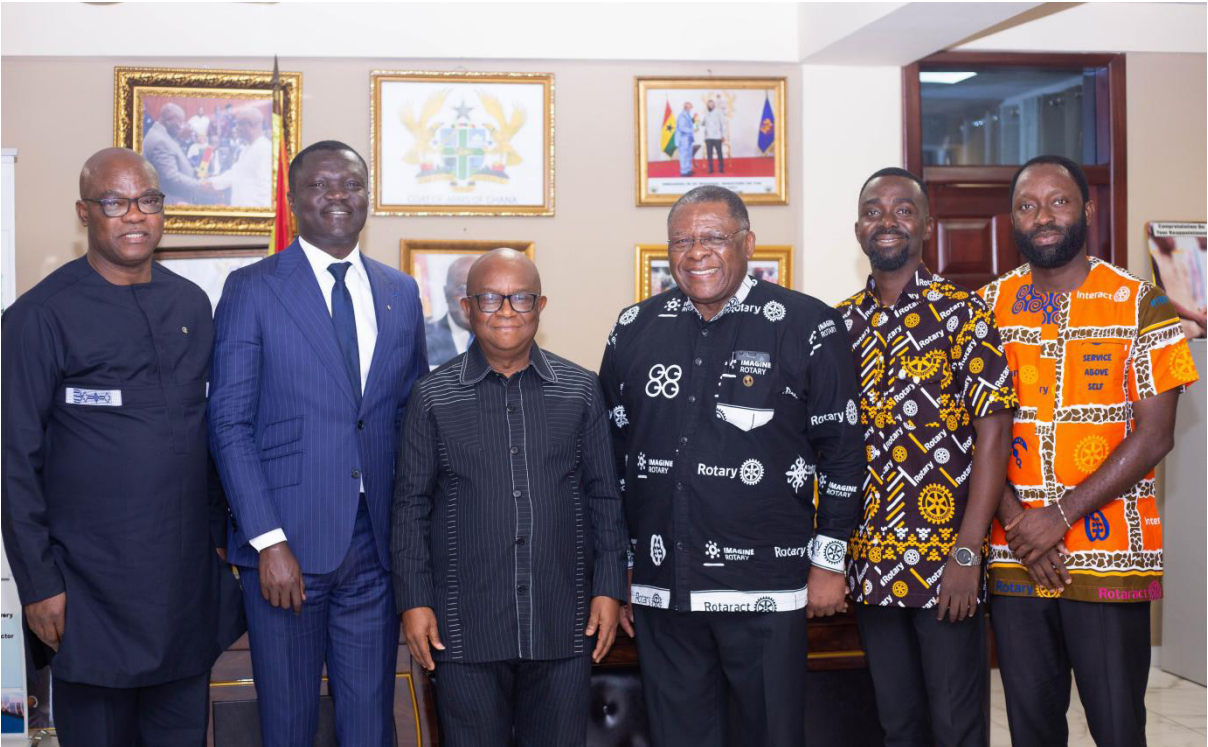
This act of generosity will not only benefit the teachers and students of Akotoklo Gua RC Primary School but will also inspire other organizations and individuals to contribute to the betterment of education in the community.



Rotary Club of Ho under review



Rotary Club of Ho



A courtesy call on the Volta Regional Minister, Hon. Archibald Yao Letsa

## THE BEGINNING

I was quite eager to pick up the mantle as the President of the Rotary Club of Ho (RoCH) for the 2022/2023 Rotary year because of the enviable successes chocked by RoCH in the areas of fellowship and impactful service projects over the 37 years of its existence. That notwithstanding, I wholeheartedly accepted the big task ahead of me and commenced the Rotary Year to lead the club in the best way to Imagine Rotary Fearlessly.

Planning for my tenure began halfway into the previous year because I envisaged the task ahead and knew that those targets would require immediate measures in place sooner

rather than later.

My first task was to mobilize clubs across District 9102 for our project which is what is now known as the Amedzofe Medical Outreach Project. This project saw the unprecedented collaboration of 31 Rotary Clubs, 15 Rotaract Clubs, and 3 Lions Clubs from Ghana, Togo, and Benin to ever be hosted by a single Rotary Club in District 9102. The project, thus, set the tone for my tenure and the subsequent impactful projects that were embarked upon by the Rotary Club of Ho for the rest of the Rotary Year.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

I would like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and commitment of President Nominee Frederick Ackuayi, the Service Project Director, for his role in spearheading the planning and execution of all 26 impactful projects that we executed in the 2022/2023 Rotary year.

Some of the projects were funded by Global and District Grants, others were funded by the Club, and a few of which were collaborations with various Clubs and Organisations. Notable among these projects are:

Tree Planting and Clean up exercise (Joint project with our Rotaract and Interact clubs), Donation towards National Immunization Day, Back to School Project (Joint project with Rotaract Club of Ho and five (5) other Rotaract Clubs from Togo and Benin), Project Gladys (Rotary Club of Ho together with contributions from other Rotarians in Ghana paid for Gladys' surgery and treatment to correct an Imperforated Anus. The surgery was carried out at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital), Rotary Billboard Project (Public Image

Project), Provision of a Mobile Clinic Van to the Ho Teaching Hospital (\$198,00 Global Grant project), Christmas Hamper Gifts donation to the children on admission during Christmas at some hospitals in Ho, Donation of Eye Equipment to the Ho Teaching Hospital Eye Clinic (In partnership with Rotary Club of Florence Ville, Canada), Donation of a laptop computer to Lys Foundation, Accra (To facilitate teaching and learning for homeless children), a 3-Day Eye Screening in 3 communities in the Ho Municipality in collaboration with the Ho Teaching Hospital, Mechanized Borehole for Torkanu Community. (District Grant Project by Rotary Club of Grand Manan, Michigan – USA and Rotary Club of Ho, valued at \$7500), just to name a few.

We also partnered with some other organizations and Rotary Clubs to execute projects such as the Vocational Skills Training Project with the Rotary Club of Accra-Achimota and Rotaract Club of Adabraka), Feeding the Homeless, collaboration with Rotary Clubs of Accra East and Accra Legon, Dental Screening Outreach and donation to Kumasi Prisons (Joint

project with Rotary Clubs of Kumasi East, Kumasi Nhyaesu, Accra Sakumono and Rotaract Club of Kumasi), Economic and Community Development Project (5-Day intensive Training in CCTV installation, Electric Fencing, TV Satellite installation in partnership with GIZ, Prostate and Breast Cancer Education and Screening with Mays Foundation amongst others.

Our flagship project, a 25-unit ICT laboratory project at Dodome Avexa was commissioned by District Governor Victor Asante, IPRVP

## NEW GENERATION

RoCH is the only Rotary club in the District that sponsors 4 Interact Clubs and 4 Rotaract clubs. However, upon my assumption of office, all these clubs were inactive except one Interact Club (Sonrise SHS) and two Rotaract Clubs (Ho and Aflao). It took the dedication and commitment of the New Generation Committee led by Rtn David Adzoe and Rtn Patrice Dzontoh to revive all our Interact Clubs. These Clubs actively participated in the District Interact Service Learning Challenge, which saw Mawuli SHS and Ola SHS come out 4th and 6th places, respectively.

## STRONG TEAM BUILDUP AND CLUB GAINS

I leveraged my background in Building and Construction to tap into, harness, and consolidate the unique strengths of my team members. It enabled me to identify the appropriate committees for team members to hold key positions in. This ensured an effective way to achieve our set goals as a Club and hence the success we have achieved. This team did not exclude our very involved Rotary Anns, who were present and participated in almost all our events and activities.

Rotary Club of Ho effectively did the groundwork for the Chartering of the Rotary Club of Akosombo Dam-City, led by PP Joseph

Yinka Babalola, and IRD Patrick Chisanga. This project was funded from proceeds from our Presidential Ball and Fundraising Dinner which saw a fantastic participation of Rotarians and specials guest across District 9102 donating to this worthy course of Rotary. Special recognition goes to DG Victor Asante, DGE David Amankwah, PP Rockson Dogbegah, J.K Horgle, Hon. Dr. Archibald Letsa (Volta Regional Minister), AGs, PAGs, Rotarians, Rotaractors and Lions Club members for donating to this impactful project.

Due to the number of Interact and Rotaract Clubs under our sponsorship, the District sponsored RYLA (Ho edition), which was massively attended by members of each of the Interact Clubs and a few Rotaractors. Special acknowledgment to DG Victor Asante, RYLA Chair PAG Leninsor Kakrabah-Quarshie, and the Interact Chair Rtn Linda Maku Tetteh for their support throughout this Rotary Year. RoCH also had the opportunity to host the Rotaract Africa Summit in Ghana, Ho which saw Rotarians and Rotaractors from across Africa in attendance.

Dzamesi. Also, as part of the 38th Charter Anniversary, the Club organized a Homecoming event which saw many of the Old and Past members of the Club attending.

RoCH had a net gain of 7 new members and was able to give a total of \$4430 to Rotary Foundation with 3 PHFs, 1 PHF+1, and a Major donor level 2.

The Club through its Public Image and Communication Committee, led by Rtn Bright Aheto ensured RoCH was very visible and used all the Rotary Brands requirements to report our projects and activities.

## CHALLENGES

No success is achieved without challenges, and my tenure has been faced with quite a few of them. The main challenge was the planning of major projects and activities being left to a few dedicated members to handle and in some cases just the President.

I was reminded of what a Past President had advised me going into my year, he said, "As the President, if you move, your club members will move with you, if you run they will equally run with you, but if you dare sleep, they will snore with you". I had this always ringing in my mind and therefore I was a President that took the lead and was involved in every aspect of

the Club activities to ensure goals are achieved.

Another challenge the club faced was the termination of some members who, for one reason or the other, were unable to fulfill their membership obligations for the Rotary year.

Additionally, on a personal level, I have had to sacrifice and put on hold most times, my family, my business, and my education, throughout the Rotary Year.

Today, when I look back, I cannot help but be proud that my tenure as the President of the Rotary Club of Ho has impacted lives.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Worthy of note is the fact that the RoCH was adjudged the Most Outstanding Club during the final District 9102's 2022/2023 District Training, Assembly and Conference (DTAC) which was held on 14th April 2023 at the Accra International Conference Centre.

It would interest you to know that a similar success was also achieved under my leadership as the President of the Rotaract Club of Ho for

the 2015/2016 Rotary year. At that time, the Rotaract Club of Ho was not only awarded the Best Project for that year but also the Best Rotaract Club in District 9102. When it comes to Rotary, I dedicate myself fully to the course. With the commitment of the members, we have formed a perfect cocktail used to Imagine Rotary Fearlessly, thereby making a difference in our communities.

## THE FUTURE

As the 2022/2023 Rotary year draws to a close, I want to wish the Incoming President for 2023/2024, Rtn Alphonse Makafui Dzakpasu, a very successful Rotary year and assure him that RoCH is strong and united like never

before. I want to assure him of my unflinching support, in ensuring that the RoCH continues on its path of putting smiles on the faces of the underprivileged and fostering goodwill and friendship amongst fellow Rotarians.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the District Governor, Rtn Victor Yaw Asante, and his team especially our Assistant Governor John Totoe, PAG Roma Puni, PAG Emmaunuel Quarshie and PAG Galina Okartei-Akko for their support and for acknowledging our hard work this Rotary Year.

To all the Past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Ho, especially PAG Nii Akwei Addo, PP Douglas Kirk Wagba, PP George Afeti, PP Kartey Kumoji, PP Rockson Dogbegah, PP Susana Cudjoe, PP Joseph Dzamesi, PP Vivian Adoboe-Tefe and, IPP Eric Botey for their mentorship and support throughout my tenure.



I would also like to thank the entire membership and the Board who, through their leadership at the various committees, collectively made RoCH what it is today.

To all the IMAGINE PRESIDENTS, we had a great year, thanks to your collaboration and commitment to Rotary.

I cannot end my year as President without dedicating the successes we have achieved to

my Secretary, my Rotary Ann, and my counsel, Rtn Matilda Emefa Ocloo-Awumey, thank you.

To my fellow Rotarians, thank you for Imagining Rotary Fearlessly, and I urge us all to continue to do our best "to brighten someone's day through Rotary" as we "CREATE HOPE in the WORLD."

**Simon Fafali Awumey  
President, 2022-2023**



**Charter Presentation Dinner of Akosombo Dam-City**



**Presidential Ball and Fund Raising Dinner**



Rotary Club of Ho at DTAC 2023



IPRIVP Yinka Babalola Interacting with Students





25 - Unit ICT Laboratory for Dodome Axeva Primary and JHS



Christmas Hamper Project



**Donation of dustbins to Ola Girls SHS**



**DG Meeting with Rotary Club of Ho Board**



# Hurray! A Club is Born in District 9102

The Rotary Club of Accra-North Kaneshie had its Charter Night and Fundraising on Saturday 20th May 2023.

Oh, how amazing it is to see a Club which was mooted as an idea on September 11, 2021 after a training session for new Club Advisors birthed into reality.

### Brief History

An initial extension team of seven members and twenty-one prospective Rotarians set sail with regular Tuesday meetings, attracting more potentials and getting referrals from other Rotarians.

Membership shot up to 42 with the Club achieving Provisional status in January 31st, 2023 following the adoption of standard Rotary Constitution which led to the election of Club Officers on Tuesday 14, 2023.

### Charter Night

The Charter Night of the new Rotary Club of Accra North Kaneshie saw 17 females and 23 males being chartered and 2 more being inducted.

42 in total, this makes RC Accra - North Kaneshie the 3rd highest number in Ghana at Charter.

### The Charter Project

RC Accra - North Kaneshie has challenged itself to equip the Children’s Block of the Kaneshie Polyclinic as its maiden project thus the Fundraising during the Charter night.

Indeed, the Rotary Club of Accra - North Kaneshie is here to stay and to create hope in the world.



# Rotary Club of Accra-Dansoman's 10TH Anniversary Cake Cutting Event



As part of year long activities to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the club, an anniversary cake cutting event and fundraiser was held at the Plants Ville residences, Dansoman.

The event was attended by the District Governor Victor Yaw Asante, District Governor Nominee, Maame Hagan and the club advisor at formation of the club, Past Assistant-Governor Jack Dotsey. Also present were Presidents and club members of various clubs. A very memorable celebration of which the Rotary Club of AccraDansoman is very grateful for the support received.



# National Tree Planting Day - Rotary Club of Accra-Dansoman



The National Tree Planting Day dubbed 'Green Ghana' is a day set aside to create awareness on replenishing the environment through planting of trees.

The Rotary Club of Accra-Dansoman participated in the celebrations by distributing seedlings and helping some inhabitants plant them.



# ROTARY CLUB OF ACCRA - LA EAST DONATES KNITTING MACHINE TO ACCRA PSYCHAITRIC HOSPITAL



As part of the Rotary Club of Accra-La East’s 2022/23 action plan, Mental Health awareness and rehabilitation of discharged patients with employable skills was a major focal point. The Club raised funds to procure and donate an industrial knitting machine to complement the needs of the Rehabilitation Centre of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital in Adabraka, Accra on 9th June 2023. The donation was also part of raising awareness about Mental Health Conditions in the country.

In Ghana, for too long, Mental Health is an area within the sector that has been neglected by and/or doesn’t get much support from many people because of the stigma associated with it.

According to the WHO, “more than 264 million people worldwide are affected by depression and although there are effective treatments for mental disorders, between 76% and 85% of people in low- and middle-income countries receive no treatment for their condition”.

We hope to help destigmatize Mental Health conditions as we support the Psychiatric Hospital in various ways. Rotarians in Ghana can become a moral force against all forms of stigmatization if we battle at the forefront of this problem in our nation. We can help to make more people comfortable around the issue so treatment can be sought early.

We also presented the management of the Hospital with a framed 4 -Way Test.





# What Do You Know About Rotary?

## View of Rotary by non-Rotarians



**Kojo Addo-Kufuor**

Accra, Ghana

### What do you know about Rotary:

Rotary Club is an amazing group of accomplished people who sacrifice their time and resources to help change society, serve the needy, and work in diverse ways to make the world a better place. What is even more remarkable (and enviable) is how much fun members appear to have while doing good for humanity.

Rotarians demonstrate that we can all make time to accomplish any objective that we genuinely consider important.

### Would you like to join:

Definitely. I would like to join Rotary and contribute my quota to such a worthy cause. I have signed up a couple of times but somehow repeatedly lost track of meeting days and quietly withdrew out of sheer embarrassment. I will certainly try again!

*Kojo Addo-Kufuor is the Executive Head of Home Loans Business at First National Bank, Ghana.*

*He sits on the board of Accra City Hotel and chairs the Real Agency Council, a government body established to regulate the real estate agency sector. He serves on the Corporate Advisory Board of University of Ghana Business School and previously chaired the Tullow Ghana Staff Occupational Pension Scheme and Provident Fund.*

*Kojo co-founded, and was Chief Operating Officer of, Ghana Home Loans, a mortgage specialist which went on to become the leading provider of residential mortgages in Ghana.*

*When Ghana Home Loans converted to GHL Bank, Kojo was appointed Executive Director responsible for Business until GHL's subsequent merger with First National Bank.*

*Prior to Ghana Home Loans, Kojo was Executive Director of SDC Brokerage Services, the corporate finance and brokerage subsidiary of SDC Group, Ghana.*

*Earlier in his career, Kojo was an investment banker with Citigroup's FIG team in London and then moved to Lagos to join Citibank Nigeria's corporate finance team.*

*Before Citigroup, Kojo was a management consultant with KPMG Barents. He was based in Melbourne and Jakarta with a team that specialised in emerging markets financial services strategy and banking restructuring.*

*Kojo has previously worked with Merrill Lynch and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson both in New York and the Statistics Directorate, Department of Transport, London.*

*He holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from KNUST, an M.Sc. in Computing Science from University of London, and an MBA from Columbia Business School, New York.*

*Kojo is an avid radio listener and keenly follows current affairs.*



**Nana Akua Agyei**

Accra, Ghana

### What do you know about Rotary?

My appreciation of Rotary is that it is an 'organization that is committed to giving back to society through a systematic community to community approach. Rotary seeks to touch the fabric of society by reaching out and addressing the needs of individuals.

Simply put, Rotary is a global service organization that consists of individuals from various backgrounds who come together to serve their communities by undertaking a wide range of projects to address the needs of communities and contribute to global causes. Rotary Club of Accra's area of focus include: promoting peace and conflict resolution; supporting maternal and child health to expand access to quality medical care for mothers and their children to live longer and grow stronger; strengthening the capacity of communities

to support basic education and literacy, and reducing gender inequality in education. Rotary Club of Accra resolves to rid the world of polio forever and educate and equip communities to stop other diseases and expand access to health care; fostering economic development by conducting service projects that enhance economic and community development and creating job opportunities for people of all ages; and protecting the environment; help bring sustainable clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to more people every day.

### Would you like to join?

Yes, I would love to join the Rotary club.

### If so, why?

I would like the Rotary Club of Accra for several reasons.

Firstly, I see the impact Rotary has made in several communities. Rotary provides an existing structured opportunity/avenue to enable me reach out and give back to society. The extent of society that need support in areas of basic necessities of existence is vast. I believe as a member of Rotary I will have the opportunity to reach out to communities in a meaningful way.

Secondly, the rate and threat of conflict in the sub-region is high. As a member of Rotary, exposure to the learnings and training in conflict prevention techniques will prepare me with the needed skills and opportunities to get involved in initiatives that help refugees who have fled conflict-prone countries.

Additionally, I will be able to participate in personal development activities, attend insightful workshops and seminars that will broaden my knowledge, and attend social gatherings to help me make lifelong friendships with like-minded people from my community and around the world.

*Nana Akua Agyei is a Lawyer by profession. She is one of few professionals in Ghana with considerable exposure in various fields. Her expertise include Government Contracts and Agreements, Bilateral Agreements (in particular Double Taxation Agreements), Petroleum Law & Policy, Mining, Land Law and Matters, Boundary Delimitation, Water Law, Water Resources, Natural Resource Taxation, International Project Finance, Negotiations, International Commercial Arbitration, Petroleum Agreements.*

*She is currently the Acting General Counsel at the Petroleum Commission having worked with the Commission for over 10 years. She has worked at the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, and other institutions.*

*Ms. Agyei is very out-going. She is a good communicator and a team player.*





**Franklin Baawone**

*Accra, Ghana*

## WHAT I KNOW ABOUT ROTARY CLUB

The first time I heard about Rotary Club was in 2000, a little over two decades ago. I do know Rotary Club is a non-denominational and international organization that brings together members for a common goal; primarily aimed at making an impact on society and providing a platform for its members to leverage on their rich network for personal advancement.

My perception of the Club has always been that it appears to be a reserve for the elite in society. I could be wrong though! I do know Rotarians engage in a lot of charity works in society, especially in deprived communities. I am all out for charity works. What I do not know is if they actively engage in policy advocacy and if yes, to what extent? (Eg: climate change, sanitation, economic issues, environmental sustainability, urban greenery, socio-cultural issues inter alia). Will I like to be a Rotarian? If I am convinced Rotarians are actively involved in policy advocacy, I believe I will be more than willing to be a member.

*Franklin works in the oil and gas industry. He obtained his bachelor's degree in French & Economics at University of Ghana and his MPhil at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) in Architectural Studies. He has worked in different capacities and in different countries such as United States, United Kingdom, Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso. He currently lives in Accra, Ghana, and is very passionate about greenery.*





**Sylvia Minyila**

Accra, Ghana

In 1984, I was introduced to Rotary International while in Achimota School in Ghana. I found the Four-Way Test Rotarians abide by, very insightful and inspiring.

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 and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

With over 1.2 million members worldwide, it is indeed the largest non religious and non political service organization. I recently learned that one of the biggest programs operating in Ghana has been the US. A million invested each by rotary and USAID to help build capacities in accessing clean drinking water and solving hygiene and sanitation challenges.

10 percent of Ghana's population doesn't have access to proper sanitation, two-thirds of the populations in rural areas spend 30 minutes to have access to clean drinking water, Madam Jennifer Jones, the President of Rotary International revealed during a media engagement as part of her working visit to Ghana recently.

As a nurse I have also been impressed by the efforts of Rotary to eradicate Polio. I have not been engaged with Rotary as much as I would like to because I have 3 children ages 20, 18 and 13. Two of them have Sickle Cell Disease and one has recently undergone a successful Bone Marrow Transplant to cure the disease.

My lovely children have for now taken up all my time but I hope to find time to engage in the laudable projects of Rotary in the future.

I pray and hope for many success stories in Rotary's quest to address such concerns as healthcare, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and the environment.

Rotary is indeed living one of its highest objectives: to build goodwill and peace throughout the world.

*Sylvia has held several positions in healthcare for the past 25yrs, including as a supervisor at the Wrentham developmental center in Wrentham Massachusetts where individuals with developmental delays receive care. She most recently held a position as a geriatric nurse at the Heritage Hall Nursing Home and Rehabilitation in Leesburg, Virginia. Currently, her efforts have been focused on caring for her son who recently underwent a Bone Marrow Transplant to cure Sickle Cell Disease.*



**Sedzi Asamoia**

*Accra, Ghana*

**F**or me Rotary Club is an organisation that provides the platform for networking, especially business, and contributing to society by undertaking projects and making donations to communities and/or charitable institutions. It is probably the largest service organisation in Ghana. It has undertaken several projects throughout the country to help improve the lives of people in the various communities.

**Why I haven't joined;**

I have not joined Rotary mainly because I believe it is time consuming just like any other serious fraternity or fellowship and unfortunately, I do not have the time to contribute as a member.

Though I am not a member of Rotary, I do not mind supporting Rotary in other ways, to undertake the projects that improve lives in our communities.

*Sedzi Asamoia is an IT Consultant and Businessman with over 14 years of experience. He is currently the Managing Director of Dakcom Cloud Solutions, an IT Consultancy firm which serves all sectors especially Mining, Oil and Gas. He is also an Executive Director for Green Africa Mining Services.*

*He was also the past Vice President of the Cedar Chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI). Sedzi holds, amongst other certifications, a Masters Degree in Computer and Information Security from the University of Liverpool.*



**Augustus Arhin**

*Accra, Ghana*

**T**he Rotary Club was a club I knew some 35 years ago when I was in High School as a young student.

I had knowledge of the Organization through Magazines and other periodic Journals when I visited the Library.

Knowing that the organization stood for humanitarian well-being and happiness stimulated my passion for more Inquisition into the Rotary Club's activities. During our High School days there were no internet and other social media so global news was limited. We thank the good Lord that the world has now become a global village thus making all issues of Rotary known worldwide.

The Organization has stood for peace and conflict resolution, maternal and child health, philanthropic works education and sanitation, the environment, building of schools in rural communities as well as the provision of portable drinking water in deprived places. Indeed, it has not seen a need and passed by.

Our main focus should be on the environment the habitation of humanity. We should form collaboration with civil society in the fight against illegal mining. Thousands of acres of farmlands are being destroyed through these devilish acts posing threat to humans, animals and plants survival which in effect will pose health problems to mankind. There is still more work to be done to make the world a better place for human existence.

*The Writer 54 is a product of the University of Ghana, Legon He holds BA(Hons) in Political Studies and History. He also holds a Certificate in Marketing CIM(UK)*

*He is into Education and Agriculture. He has great passion in Judo of which he holds a black belt and also Tennis of which he is an Instructor and a player.*

# Lifestyle

## Wise Sayings

1. Do not let arrogance go to your head and despair to your heart; do not let compliments go to your head and criticisms to your heart; do not let success go to your head and failure to your heart. - Roy T. Bennett
2. People don't realize how a man's whole life can be changed by one book. - Malcolm X
3. Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves - J.M. Barrie
4. To believe all men honest would be folly. To believe none so, is something worse. - John Quincy Adams
5. Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop. - Ovid
6. Who you are inside is what helps you make and do everything in life. - Fred Rogers
7. Don't be afraid to be ambitious about your goals. Hard work never stops. Neither should your dreams. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson
8. Those who are crazy enough to think they can change the world usually do. - Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder
9. Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great. - Mark Twain, novelist
10. The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless. ~Jean-Jacques Rousseau
11. Everything you can imagine is real. ~Pablo Picasso
12. To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything. ~Anatole France
13. Nothing can disturb your peace of mind unless you allow it to. - Roy T. Bennett

**PP John Quayson**  
*RC Accra*



## Personality test: what do you see first in this image? Do you know that it gives us information about your character? Find out!



### A hand: need of security

People who **saw a hand first** are often looking for **security** in their lives. They are usually quite **traditional in their outlook**, and value **stability, security** and **predictability**. They look for a **solid foundation** and strong boundaries in order to feel comfortable and secure. They are reliable, consistent, and predictable, but may lack the courage to take risks or try something new.

People who saw a hand first tend to be organized and methodical, staying within the bounds of what is known and safe. They often feel the need to plan ahead to anticipate potential risks, ensuring that nothing can catch them off-guard.

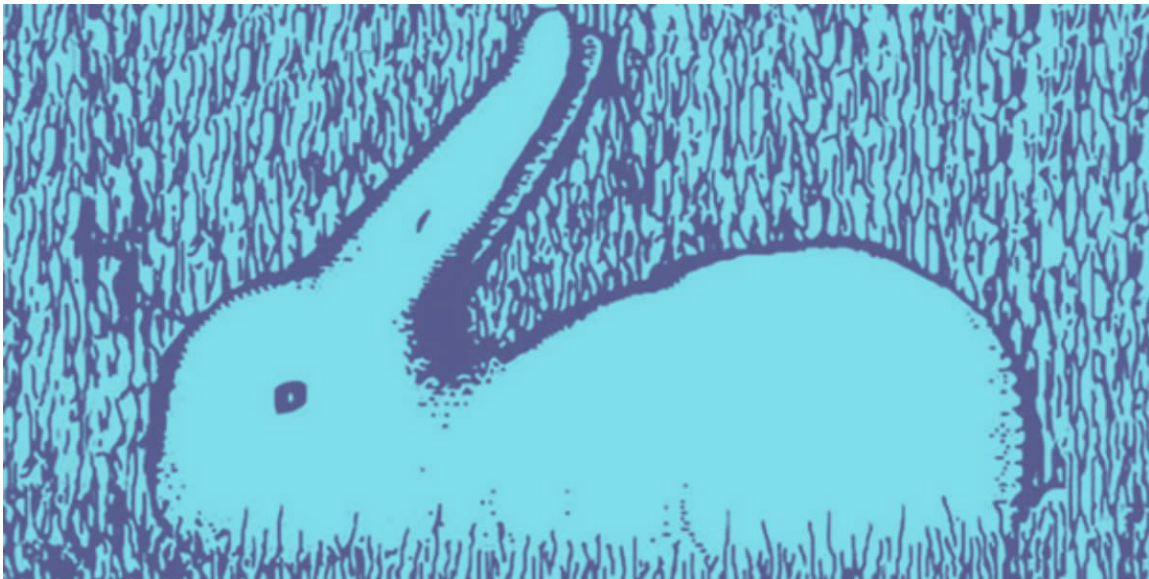
### A bird: need of freedom

People who saw a bird first are often looking for freedom in their lives. They value independence and autonomy, preferring to take risks rather than stay within the confines of safety. These individuals are often **open-minded** and **creative, finding new ways to express themselves** and **explore the world** around them. They can be quite **unpredictable** as they enjoy **spontaneity** and like to **have the freedom to change as they wish**.

People who **saw a bird first** are usually **quite adventurous**, seeking out new experiences and opportunities wherever they can find them.



## The animal you see first tells us if you are utopian or realistic



### Utopian dreamers

Those who saw a duck as the first animal are typically utopian dreamers. They tend to be very creative and imaginative, having an optimistic outlook on life and the world. They are often seen as idealistic, believing that anything is possible when they put their minds to it. Utopians are often drawn to the arts and creative pursuits, making them great problem solvers and innovators. Their drive to make the world a better place fuels their ambition, making them great leaders and mentors.

### Realistic achievers

Those who saw a rabbit as the first animal are more likely to be realistic achievers. These people have a more grounded view of life, with an understanding of what can realistically be achieved. They are often practical, analytical thinkers who take calculated risks in order to get ahead. Realistic achievers are efficient problem solvers and great strategists, knowing how to navigate difficult situations in order to reach their goals. They are disciplined, organized and tenacious in pursuing their ambitions.

### Neutrality seekers

Those who saw neither a duck nor a rabbit as the first animal may find themselves somewhere in between utopian dreamers and realistic achievers. These individuals value balance in all aspects of life, seeking harmony between the two extremes. They prefer not to take sides but rather find a middle ground that works for everyone involved. Neutrality seekers strive for peace and understanding, working hard to create bridges between opposing views.

## What you see first will tell you a lot about your character. Do you really know yourself?

The **What You See First** test is designed to measure your personality traits by asking you to look at images and select the first thing that appears in each one. This type of test is based on the idea that our initial reactions can reveal a lot about our innermost thoughts and feelings. By analyzing what we see first in each image, we can gain insight into our personality traits and how we relate to the world around us.



### A man

People who saw a man in first likely have an **analytical mind** and are good problem solvers. They may be quite independent and prefer to work alone. They might be quite methodical and think logically. They are usually quite practical and may be more comfortable dealing with facts than emotions. People who see a man first often focus on the end result rather than the process, and they are likely to be good at making decisions.

### A girl reading

People who saw a girl reading in first are likely to have a creative mind and appreciate beauty. They tend to be quite thoughtful, introspective, and intuitive. **They may enjoy learning new things**, exploring different cultures, and trying new experiences. They may be able to look at the bigger picture and understand different perspectives. People who saw a girl reading first are likely to have an open mind and enjoy discussing issues from different angles.

### A vase

People who saw a vase in first tend to be quite detail-oriented and appreciate aesthetics. They may have a keen eye for design and be able to pick out small details that others miss. They tend to be quite organized and methodical in their approach to tasks. People who saw a vase in first often **view the world through the lens of beauty and harmony**, looking for the underlying patterns that connect things together.

### A chair

People who saw a chair in first are typically quite practical thinkers with strong problem-solving skills. They tend to prefer tangible results over intangible ones, focusing on facts rather than feelings or emotions. They may be independent-minded, preferring to work alone rather than in teams or groups. People who saw a chair in first are often highly organized and efficient in their approaches to tasks, focusing on getting the job done quickly rather than taking their time with it.

# Last Bite

## Ghanaian chichinga (Suya chicken kabob)



**Rtn Stephen Adjokatcher**  
RC Accra-Osu RE



Chichinga is a common street food made with skewered and grilled meat rubbed with a spice mix known as suya. Suya is a spicy marinade that goes well with any type of meat. If you desire to learn how to prepare Ghanaian dishes, try this chicken chichinga recipe. You can also use your preferred meat.

### Ingredients

- 1.5 pounds chicken breast fillet, cut into cubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoons grated ginger
- 1 medium onion
- 1 large red onion, diced
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 1 Maggi cube (optional)
- 1 large red bell pepper, cubed
- 1 large green pepper, cubed
- 2 tablespoons chilli powder
- ½ cup ground roasted peanuts
- 1 tablespoon roasted paprika powder
- 1 tablespoon of garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- Salt to taste

### Instructions

- Use your blender to blend the ginger, garlic, onion, chicken stock cube, and olive oil into a smooth paste.
- In a bowl, add the cubed chicken. Pour the blended mixture, mix to coat, and allow to marinate for at least one hour.
- Skewer the seasoned chicken pieces alternating with the peppers and onions and set aside.
- Combine all the ingredients for the suya seasoning and mix well.
- Sprinkle half the seasoning on the skewered chicken and grill the skewers till cooked and browned on both sides.
- Remove from the heat, sprinkle the remaining suya powder, and serve.

## Food Is Healing ... A Caramel Cake For Maya Angelou



**F**ood is healing ... These words of Maya Angelou, my all-time favorite author, resonates so well with my soul. How did I meet Maya Angelou? I once read her poem “Still I Rise” and got attracted to her writing since then. What I did not know until recently is that she wrote two cookbooks – *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Life time of Memories with Recipes & Great Food*, *All Day Long: Cook Splendidly, Eat Smart: A Cookbook* and her love for cooking. Who would have thought to write a lifetime of memories with recipes? Interesting!

According to the narrative, “for Maya, food was not just food but another form of storytelling, a way to bring people together”. I totally agree. Many cherished memories have been created over meals, at dining tables where a variety of dishes are served.

The phrase “food is healing” had come out of an incident that happened in her school. As a young girl, Maya stopped speaking and went mute, having been traumatized by the violent rape by her mother’s boyfriend. In school, one teacher slapped her across the cheek because Maya had refused to introduce herself on the first day of school. Running home in tears, she wrote down what had happened when her grandmother (Momma) asked. Her grandmother then took off to the school and slapped the teacher across the face, came back home and baked a special delicious caramel cake. Momma said the caramel cake was a “*form of nourishment to heal a troubled soul*”.

If this tickles your fancy, try your hands at this recipe. It serves eight people.

## Ingredients

8 tbsp. (1 stick) butter  
1 1/4 cups sugar  
1/4 cup Caramel Syrup (recipe follows)  
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup milk  
2 large eggs  
Caramel Frosting (recipe follows)

## Directions

Preheat oven to 375°. Line two 8-inch layer cake pans with greased wax paper. In large mixing bowl, beat butter and add 1 cup sugar gradually until light and fluffy. Beat in syrup. In medium mixing bowl, sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Add sifted ingredients to creamed mixture, alternating with milk. In separate medium mixing bowl, beat eggs about 3 minutes, until foamy. Add remaining sugar, and beat until there is a fine spongy foam. Stir into cake batter until blended. Divide batter between cake pans. Bake for about 25 minutes. Remove pans from oven. Gently press center of cake with forefinger. Cake should spring back when finger is removed. If it doesn't, return to oven for 10 minutes. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Turn out onto rack and remove wax paper. Let cakes cool to room temperature before frosting.

To assemble: Center one cooled cake layer on cake plate. Cover top and sides with generous helping of frosting. Place second layer evenly

on frosted layer. Repeat frosting procedure. Make certain that sides are completely frosted. Cool in refrigerator until ready to serve.

## Caramel Syrup

### Ingredients

1 cup white sugar  
1 cup boiling water

### Directions

Heat sugar in heavy skillet over low heat. Stir constantly until melted to a brown liquid. When it bubbles over entire surface, remove from heat. Slowly add boiling water, stirring constantly. Pour into container and cool.

## Caramel Frosting

### Ingredients

6 tbsp. (3/4 stick) butter  
One 8-ounce package confectioner's sugar  
4 Tbsp. heavy cream  
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract  
Pinch of salt

### Directions

Brown butter in heavy pot over medium heat—be vigilant or it will burn. Allow butter to cool. In large mixing bowl, add confectioner's sugar, cream, vanilla extract and salt to butter, and beat until smooth. If frosting is too stiff, add a tablespoon of half-and-half or full cream to thin.

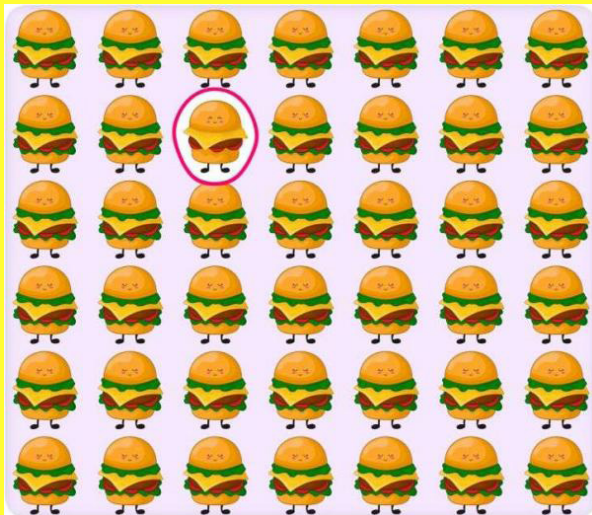
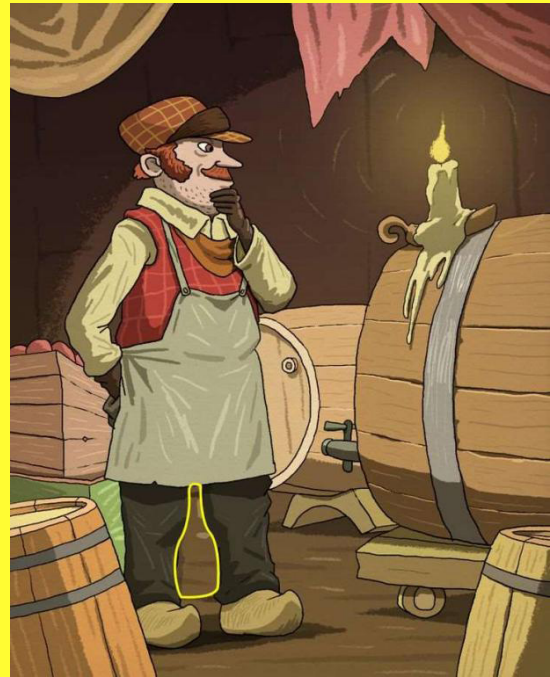
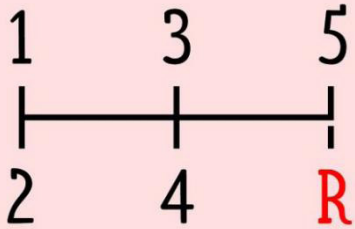
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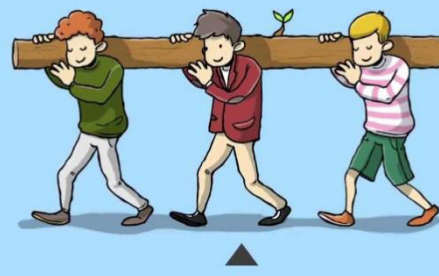
*Culled from Oprah.com*

# Answers To Brain Teaser Puzzles

It should be the letter R  
because this is the pattern  
of a shifting gear.



The man in the middle has to carry 25% more weight.



Rotary



Imagine Rotary Fearlessly!

**LET'S TURN OUR BACK TO POLIO**

**Rotary**  
District 9102



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**