

Rotary

JULY 2026

MAGAZINE

**SPECIAL
ISSUE**
Your guide to RI's
2026-27 leadership

YINKA'S VISION

Rotary President Olayinka Babalola prepares to *Create Lasting Impact* page 10



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Better than your best

Rotary has a way of surprising you. It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to *Create Lasting Impact*.

Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project. How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own? How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: "How does this create the conditions for peace?" Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here.

Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace, and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set a goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million Rotarians and more than 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, just in time for Rotary's 125th anniversary.

Sit down with your club and look back over your accomplishments in the last few years. Find your best year. Maybe it was a record year for new members. Maybe you reached a fundraising milestone. Maybe you completed a project that the whole community is still talking about. Once you find that year, I challenge you to do better than your best.

In these ways and more, we will *Create Lasting Impact* across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Thank you, my dear friends. Now let's get to work.

YINKA

President, Rotary International



WELCOME



PHOTOGRAPH: ROLOUR GARCIA
VIA GETTY IMAGES

YOU ARE HERE: Chicago

CIVIC PRIDE: With its rich history of philanthropic and community leadership, Chicago is the birthplace of some of the world's largest international civic organizations, including Rotary, Lions, and Heartland Alliance. Many of these institutions still maintain their global headquarters in the area.

URBS IN HORTO: When incorporated in 1837, Chicago adopted the Latin motto *Urbs in Horto*, or City in a Garden. Today, the city boasts more than 600 parks, including 26 miles of public lakefront.

BIRD SANCTUARY: In the 1970s, the city transformed a former U.S. Army barracks along Lake Michigan into the Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary (pictured here). The 15-acre birding paradise features native, bird-friendly shrubs such as nannyberry, serviceberry, and sumac. More than 300 bird species have been recorded there. Against the backdrop of the Chicago skyline, the site attracts tens of thousands of migratory birds each spring and fall.

ROTARY: The Rotary movement began in Chicago in 1905 when the first meeting was held in Room 711 of the Unity Building on Dearborn Street.

Rotary

MAGAZINE

July 2026

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On the cover: Like so many members, President Olayinka Babalola has felt Rotary's influence on his work and personal life. He wants to amplify members' stories about the benefits that make people stay with Rotary.
Photograph by Andrew Esiebo

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Shaped by his native land, President Yinka carries the dynamic spirit of Nigeria with him to Rotary leadership

By Diana Schoberg

Photography by Monika Lozinska

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"I was born into Rotary," says Aminat Babalola, daughter of RI President Olayinka Babalola. "I knew The Four-Way Test before I was 10."



STAFF CORNER

Sarah Crawford

Chief Programs and Engagement Officer

International cultural exchange shaped my upbringing in Park Ridge, a suburb of Chicago. My maternal grandfather was an embedded Associated Press reporter in Europe during World War II. His global perspective influenced my mother. My family regularly hosted international students, and my siblings and I were encouraged to study abroad. At 15, I traveled to Santiago, Chile, as an exchange student, arriving at a moment when the country was transitioning back to civilian rule after a 17-year military dictatorship. Living with a host family and attending a local high school immersed me in the culture. I became fluent in Spanish.

Joining a constitutional debate team in high school molded my interest in public policy. As a senior, I took part in a competitive program called We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, which combines debate and civic scholarship. We presented our arguments before panels of judges. After winning the state competition, my team advanced to nationals in Washington, D.C., where we got to meet with U.S. State Department officials and congressional representatives from Illinois.

These experiences led me to major in political science and Spanish in college. In my junior year, I spent a semester in Argentina and another in Spain. A few years later, my sister and I flew to Lima, Peru, and hiked to Machu Picchu. There were no cell phones and no online hotel bookings. We landed at the airport and had to figure things out as we went. The trips certainly strengthened my confidence and independence.

After college, I got a job at an integrated marketing communications agency in Chicago where I focused on business-to-business marketing. A church friend, who was a Rotary member, knew



my background and encouraged me to apply for a Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship. After getting selected, I moved to Rio de Janeiro for six months. In Rio, my dynamic and dedicated Rotary hosts pushed to provide a full Brazilian and Rotary experience. I spoke at club meetings nearly every week, participated in service projects, and volunteered to teach English at a nearby school.

From an internet café in Rio, I applied to graduate school and was accepted to American University in Washington, D.C., where I studied international communications with the goal of pursuing a career in the Foreign Service. I later returned to Brazil as an intern at the U.S. Consulate. However, I soon realized that the structure and culture of the State Department did not fit my professional aspirations.

I pivoted and eventually joined the Millennium Challenge Corporation, then a newly established U.S. government agency focused on international economic development. Over the course of a decade, I worked first as a public program design

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The editors welcome comments on items published in the magazine but reserve the right to edit for style and length. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or Rotary International leadership, nor do the editors take responsibility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.



From left: Sarah Crawford and her children visit her alma mater, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; they go horseback riding at Lake Louise in Alberta, Canada.
Below: Crawford, her husband, Randall Blair, and their children vacation in Key West, Florida.



and implementation lead and later as a country lead. The work often required immediate travel; if anyone asked me to go to a country with a moment's notice, I would go. I spent a lot of time going to and from the African country of Cabo Verde, which I didn't even know was a country before I went. The work was very stimulating. I eventually moved to El Salvador and operated from the U.S. Embassy there.

I met my husband, Randall Blair, when he was assigned as an independent evaluator for one of my projects. Given the nature of our work, we disclosed our relationship to the ethics department, which, at times, seemed to know more about our relationship than our own families. In 2016, while we were living in El Salvador, the Zika virus epidemic began spreading, posing risks for women during pregnancy. Since we were planning to have children, we evacuated and returned to Washington, D.C. Nine months later, our son Ryan was born.

We later moved to Park Ridge so that our children, Ryan and his younger

brother, Elliott, could grow up close to extended family.

I joined Rotary in 2020 and was promoted to chief Programs and Engagement officer three years later. I often describe my role as supporting the “soul” of the organization. My teams shape Rotary's approaches to the areas of focus and translate those ideas into effective projects. We support leadership development and lifelong learning, enabling members to make global connections through events and meetings.

Rotary has become a family affair.

When I was invited to speak at a District 6440 conference years ago, I brought my father with me. Inspired by the experience, he joined the Rotary Club of Park Ridge. My mother soon followed, and eventually my husband did as well — he is the incoming club president. These days, I pitch Rotary membership to anyone I encounter: If you want to feel connected to your community and join a giant international family, Rotary is the best place for you. ■

PROGRAMS AND ENGAGEMENT

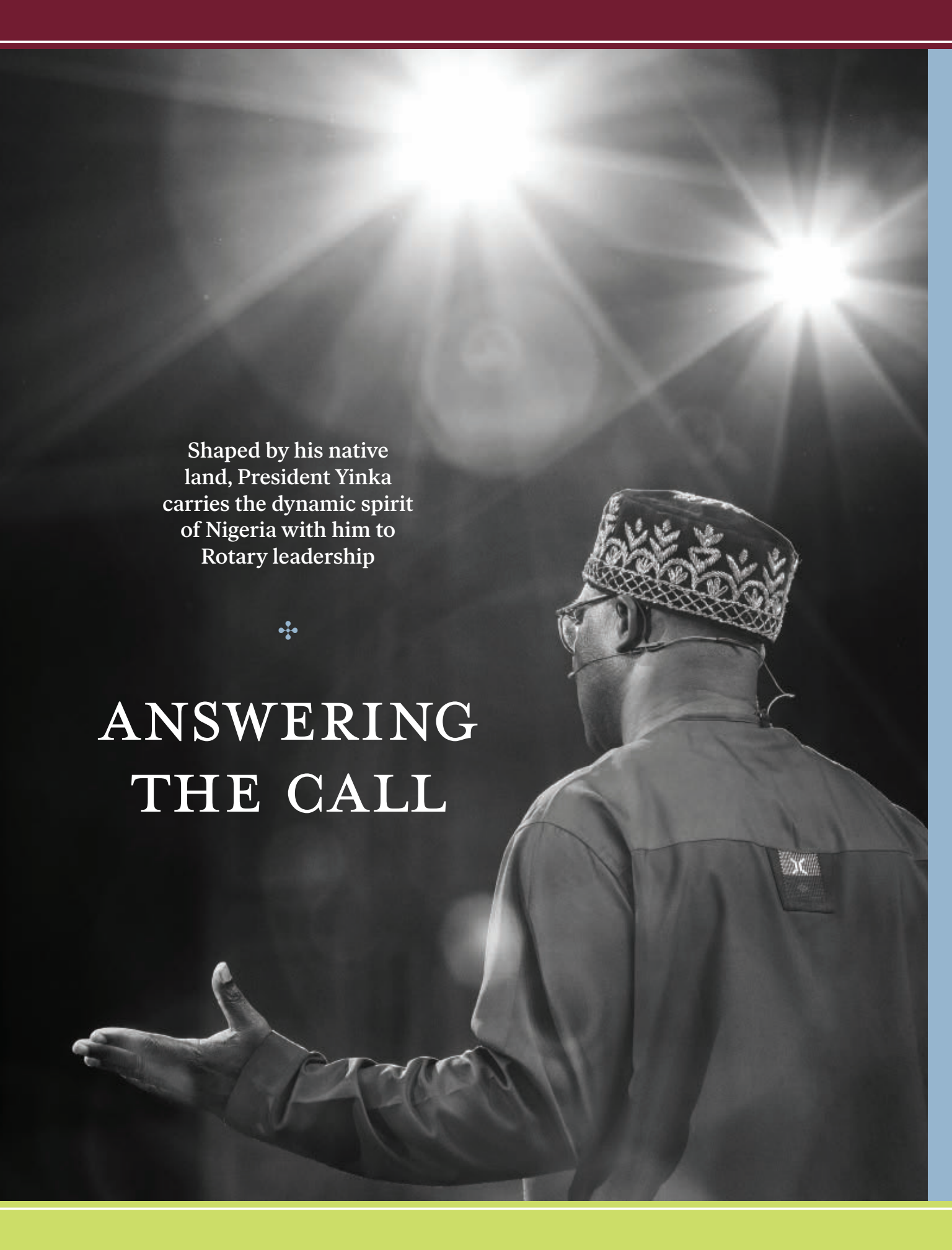
Areas of responsibility:

- Areas of Focus
- Grants
- Learning and Development
- Meetings and Events
- Partnership Management
- Programs of Scale
- Rotary Peace Centers
- Service and Engagement
- Youth Programs



By DIANA SCHOBERG

Photography by MONIKA LOZINSKA



Shaped by his native
land, President Yinka
carries the dynamic spirit
of Nigeria with him to
Rotary leadership



ANSWERING THE CALL



Olayinka H. Babalola makes his way to the front row.

This is it. It's showtime, the moment that Yinka, as he's called — the 2026-27 Rotary International president, the second from Nigeria, the second from all of Africa for that matter — will make his debut to the Rotary world.

It's the first morning of Rotary's International Assembly, a training event for incoming district governors held every winter in Orlando, Florida. Babalola's already miked up for the speech he'll give, the session's main event. But first, he prepares to participate in the opening flag ceremony, a tradition at Rotary events.

He joins 2025-26 RI President Francesco Arezzo of Italy and Larry Lunsford of the United States, who will serve after Babalola. The three walk onstage, hoisting their countries' flags. A singer belts out the U.S. national anthem. Then, the Italian district governors-elect join Arezzo onstage to sing "Il Canto degli Italiani."

Finally, it's Babalola's turn. He steps forward and stands taller, his glittery green-and-white striped hat matching his country's flag. Peace Udoka Anyira, a Nigerian Canadian Rotarian, steps onstage and sings:

*Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribes and tongues may differ,
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.*

Babalola sings along too, and as he does, a tear rolls down his cheek.

"You hear a lot of bad stories about Nigeria, but today, the story is not a bad story," he says afterward, choking up with emotion. He takes off his glasses and wipes his eyes. "The flag of this country is being raised amongst people of goodwill — good people from more than 100 countries, for a good cause."

As of 1 July, Babalola will lead them.



BABALOLA'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY began early. The eldest of six children, he was born in Ibadan, one of the large-

est cities in Nigeria. His mother was a teacher and his father an accountant. "From my part of the world, when you're the first child, that has some leadership responsibilities," he says.

He went to college at what was then called the Federal University of Technology in Bauchi, an ethnically diverse city in the north where Nigeria's savanna woodlands begin to give way to the semiarid Sahel on the edge of the Sahara. The school's public image director, a member of the Rotary Club of Bauchi, asked him during his second year if he'd help organize a Rotaract club. Babalola became the club's charter president.

After earning his degree in electronics engineering, Babalola completed a year in the National Youth Service Corps. Aiming to bridge ethnic and religious divides, members of the corps serve in states other than their own. Babalola was posted to Port Harcourt in Rivers state, where the French tire manufacturer Michelin had requested electronics engineering graduates to help retool its equipment.

Before arriving in Port Harcourt, Babalola joined other newly mobilized corps members at an orientation camp. He figured since they were all fresh out of university, there must be Rotaractors among them. He posted a notice and gathered everybody together. "We started a mini Rotaract fellowship while in camp," he recalls.

Then in Port Harcourt, Babalola joined the Rotaract Club of Trans Amadi, an industrial area of the city where Michelin was located. With other Rotaract corps members, he volunteered at a facility for children with disabilities that was supported by the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt.

When his mandatory service was over, Babalola landed a job with the Nigerian branch of the Shell oil company. Only in his mid-20s, he was beginning to outgrow his Rotaract club; his job gave him the privilege of a better income than others his age. The next logical step, he thought, was to join Rotary, where he could find inspiration from successful older members. "I wanted to be in a place where I could aspire to other things," he says.

But when he went to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi and said he wanted to join, club members were stunned. One Rotarian erupted: "What's wrong with this young man? You think this is how you join Rotary?" But another Rotarian volunteered to be his sponsor, later becoming a mentor. "If that man hadn't spoken up for me, maybe I wouldn't be here," Babalola reflects. "I may have left the place and never considered joining Rotary, and that would have been the end of it."

In Rotary, Babalola found career mentors, including the chief operating officer of Shell



Clockwise from top left: Rotary President Olayinka H. Babalola sings along to the Nigerian national anthem at Rotary's International Assembly; with his wife, Precy Babalola (center), at the assembly's culture night; with Nigerian Rotaractors (Babalola is the first RI president to start his Rotary journey through Rotaract); and dancing with governors-elect.



“

THE FLAG OF THIS COUNTRY
IS BEING RAISED AMONGST
PEOPLE OF GOODWILL — GOOD
PEOPLE FROM MORE THAN 100
COUNTRIES, FOR A GOOD CAUSE.





“

HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY,
‘BETTER YOUR BEST.’
I DON’T WANT YOU TO COMPETE
WITH OTHER CLUBS.
I WANT YOU TO COMPETE
WITH YOURSELF.

— NDUKWE CHUKWU,
ROTARY CLUB OF OWERRI CENTRAL, NIGERIA



Clockwise from top left: Babalola with members of his Rotary club, Trans Amadi; speaking at a club meeting; watching as Precy, a lawyer and Rotarian, rehearses a speech; visiting a polio project in Nigeria; and rallying district governors-elect to end polio. “Rotarians will be energized to take on the challenge of polio more than ever,” says Eyone Andy Uwejeyan, a past governor of District 9141.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (STREET, CLUB MEETING, DRUMS) ANDREW ESIEBO



IT'S MIDDAY AND A DOZEN OR SO

district governors-elect ring a conference table. The Florida sunshine streams in as they exchange business cards and wait for Babalola. These governors-elect are from the last remaining districts battling polio, places like Pakistan, where, along with neighboring Afghanistan, wild poliovirus is still endemic, along with some districts in Africa, including Babalola's Nigeria, that are still suppressing outbreaks.

Babalola enters and walks around the table, shaking hands with everybody. This is his hype meeting, where he wants to rally these governors-elect and show them just how serious he is about polio eradication.

As the meeting starts, he speaks in such hushed tones that one must lean in to hear him. Once he has everyone's full attention, his voice grows stronger, more animated. He taps his fingers on the table, asking for a demonstration of their commitment.

“Imagine,” Babalola tells them, “being at the Rotary Convention and they're announcing that we've reached zero cases of polio — that this district governor class was the one to get us there.”

The room bubbles with enthusiasm afterward. “We're excited for him being our president,” says Shahzad Sabir, governor-elect of District 3271 (Pakistan). “He knows what's a

problem on the ground. He knows what commitment means. He knows what we need.”

International PolioPlus Committee Chair Michael K. McGovern, who sat in on the meeting, echoes Sabir's sentiments. “We have never had a president who has come into the role who has more background on the day-to-day work of eradicating polio in a country, working closely with Rotarians, working with the governments, and working with others,” he says. “We couldn't have a better leader.”

In 2012, wild poliovirus was still endemic in Nigeria. Cases were surging, particularly in the northeast of the country, home to the militant group Boko Haram. Babalola, a 2011-12 district governor, was summoned to a meeting to discuss the country's polio eradication efforts. Rotary leaders wanted the past and current district governors gathered to each adopt one of Nigeria's 36 states and work with local governments and partners there to ensure immunization ran smoothly. “People's hands started going up,” Babalola recalls, “and nobody agreed to go to the northeast.”

But Babalola had gone to college in the region. It's where he had gotten his start in Rotary. It was a place he knew. He raised his hand. “People turned and looked at me, thinking this guy must be crazy,” he remembers.

Salma Ibrahim Anas, the commissioner of health in the northeastern state of Borno from 2011 to 2015, recalls one time when Babalola met her in her office in the state capital, Maiduguri. She told him she'd be traveling to a remote community several hundred kilometers away to launch an immunization campaign. There was a security lockdown; civil society partners were not traveling because of the risks. But, says Anas, now the special adviser on health to the Nigerian president, she couldn't believe it when the next day she saw Babalola in that same remote community delivering vaccines. “I was speechless,” she recalls. “This was the highest level of dedication, commitment, and trust. He sacrificed whatever he had for these children in remote communities despite the security challenges of Boko Haram.”

Within the decade, in 2020, the World Health Organization certified Nigeria — and with it the entire African region — free of wild poliovirus, largely thanks to the efforts of Rotary members.

From his time as a district governor, Babalola quickly rose through the Rotary ranks. “I could see then that he was an up-and-comer — he had that talent,” says Bryn Styles, who met Babalola when he was a governor and Styles was an RI director-elect. He is now serving as Babalola's presidential aide. “I was so impressed with him that I wrote a note to the sitting RI president and president-elect saying this is someone that we have to move along.”

In 2017, Babalola was preparing to serve as an RI director himself. His term was to coincide with the year that Sam F. Owori of Uganda was to serve as Rotary president. But the unthinkable happened: Owori died of complications from surgery before he could take office.

Refusing to believe it, Babalola tried to call Owori, whose wife answered and confirmed the news. He called Past RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe and Past Director Sam Okudzeto, among the only living senior leaders from Africa at the time, to ask them what to do. Both deferred to Babalola as the leader now. As he pondered that, he got a call from Ugandan Rotarians asking him what's next. "Suddenly it dawned on me," he says. "I said to myself, 'Yinka, your role has changed. This whole continent is looking in your direction, and you need to step up.'"

Babalola and Owori had already discussed plans for their time together on the RI Board. Now, it fell to Babalola to execute them. "It was not an easy time," he says, "but it was a serious moment of growth."

One of those plans involved membership growth on the continent, an area that Babalola had excelled at during his time as club president and district governor. When Owori died, Africa was home to 29,000 Rotarians. Today, there are 48,000.

"There's something about Yinka and membership," says Virginia Major, a past district governor from Port Harcourt and one of many whom Babalola has mentored. "Oh, my good-

ness. He almost drives you crazy because of membership. He gives you figures. 'This is where we need to be.' 'We need to do this, and we can.' I call him the father of membership in Africa."



AFTER THE FLAG CEREMONY, BABALOLA

hustles backstage to wait while Styles, his aide, introduces him. Babalola swaps his green-and-white hat for one in the same fabric as the presidential ties and scarves the district governors-elect will receive after the morning session. Someone fortuitously tracks down a pocket square in the same fabric and Babalola tucks it in just as Styles is announcing his name. With that, he strides onstage.

The audience applauds as Babalola tells the story of how he was finally able to join Rotary. He talks about the impact of Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a massive maternal and child health program funded by The Rotary Foundation. And he dramatically announces this year's presidential message, *Create Lasting Impact*, while spreading his arms wide and soaking in the enthusiasm of the crowd, which is standing and taking photos.

Babalola may be only the second president from Nigeria, the second from Africa. But true to Rotary's values, he will build peace as he travels, promoting understanding of the people of a country, beyond the headlines. He himself will be creating lasting impact, on Rotary, on the world. ■

LOCATION
NO

Babalola announces the 2026-27 presidential message. "He has Rotary at heart," says incoming Rotary Foundation Trustee Francis Tusubira of Uganda. "You can feel his passion for Rotary well beyond Africa."



THE *YINKA* EFFECT



Rotary's new president is galvanizing members across Africa.
We visited to see their enthusiasm in action.

Photography by ANDREW ESIEBO

ON A TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY,

the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi is holding its regular weekly meeting in the bustling commercial hub of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The audience is listening politely to their guest speaker as a late-arriving member suddenly enters. It's Olayinka Babalola. Heads turn. And in a sudden, joyful swell, some 70 members rise to their feet, breaking into song and applause.

It's what friends and admirers call the “Yinka effect,” and it's propelling membership, Rotary Foundation contributions, and more.

“When Yinka walks into a room, he's like a magnet,” says Ibim Semenitari, who has known him since 1999. “I've seen Rotary clubs in Africa and beyond gravitate toward him. He is a leader whose charisma cuts across boundaries.”

Previous page: Babalola visits a clinic where children receive polio vaccines. **Below:** Joshua Hassan (right), chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, shows Babalola around the facility. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** Babalola with his sisters (from left) Muibat, Salimot, and Ganiyat, and daughter Aminat; with son Malik; and with his mother, Rianat Babalola.





Clockwise from top left: Babalola on a bird-watching tour with his sisters (from left) Ganiyat and Muibat in his hometown of Ibadan; visiting with his mentor Past District Governor Gabriel Toby; and returning to his former high school, which he and other alums generously support.



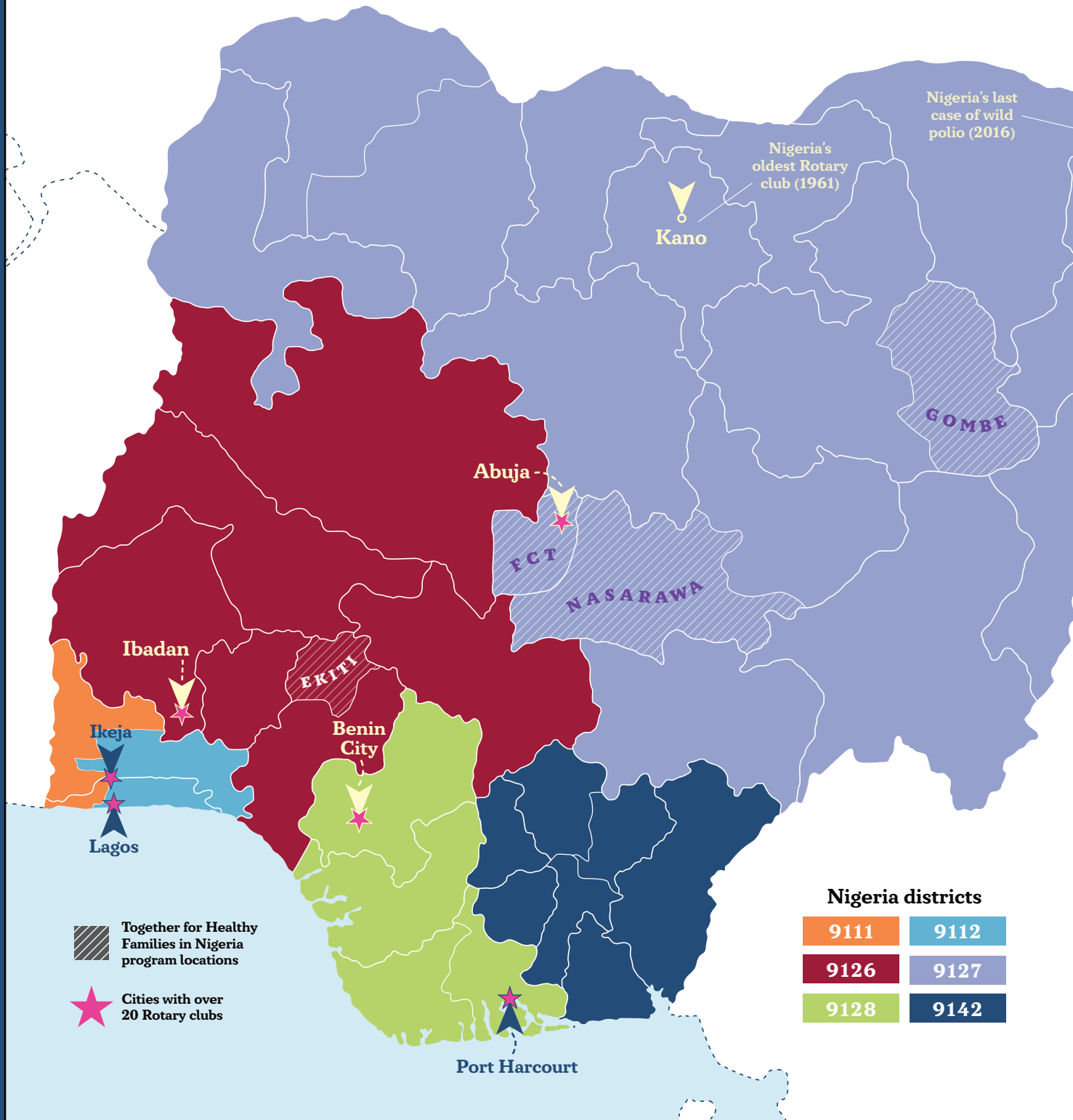
“

I've seen Yinka literally change the game
as district governor. Every position
Yinka has held, he moves one notch higher.

— GABRIEL TOBY,
PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR FROM PORT HARCOURT



ROTARY in NIGERIA



By the numbers

(As of 1 May)

20,156
MEMBERS



15,576
ROTARIANS IN
605
ROTARY CLUBS

4,580
ROTARACTORS IN
434
ROTARACT CLUBS



RANKS **13th**
IN THE WORLD



MAKES UP **29%**
OF ALL ROTARY
MEMBERS IN AFRICA



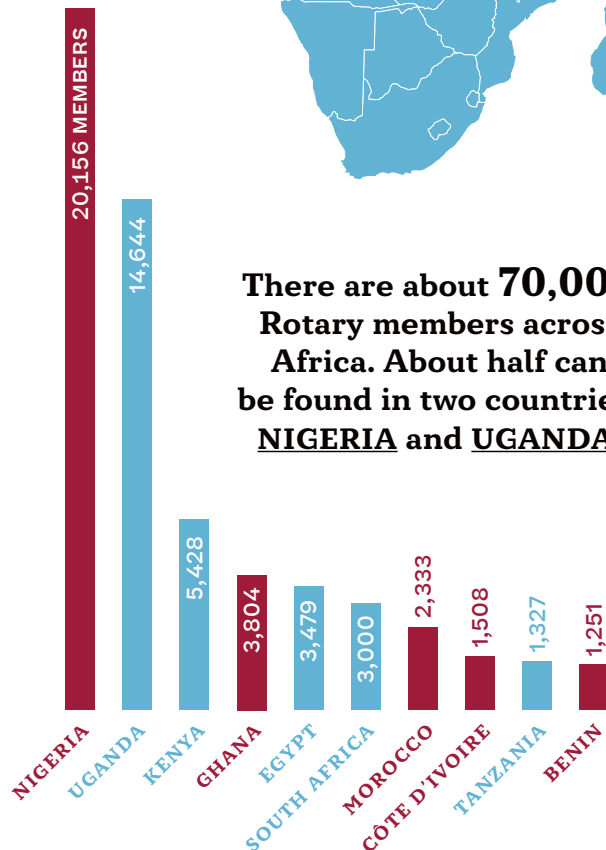
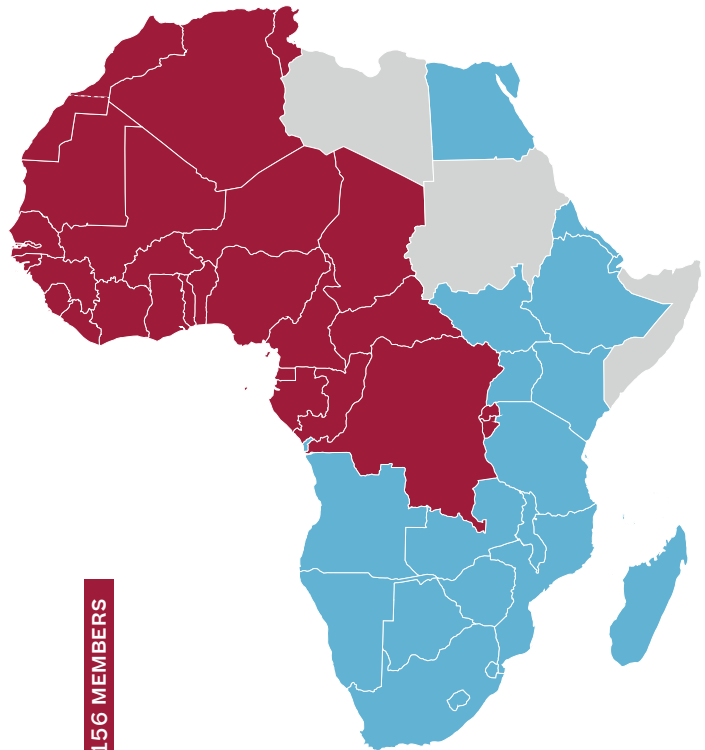
35% OF ROTARIANS
ARE WOMEN
(WORLDWIDE: 28%)



AVERAGE ROTARIAN
AGE IS **48**
(YOUNGEST AMONG
ALL COUNTRIES WITH
10,000+ ROTARIANS)

Until this year, all Rotary countries in Africa except for Sudan were in a single Rotary International zone.

Due to recent membership growth, the RI Board split it into two: **ZONE 22 (northern and western Africa)** and **ZONE 23 (eastern and southern Africa)**.



There are about **70,000**
Rotary members across
Africa. About half can
be found in two countries:
NIGERIA and **UGANDA**.



1970
10 Rotary clubs
342 members

1980
18 clubs
851 members

1990
244 clubs
5,348 members

Timeline of events

- ◆ Political
- ◆ Cultural
- ◆ Rotary

1960

Nigeria gains independence from the United Kingdom.

1961

The first Rotary club in Nigeria, the Rotary Club of Kano, is chartered in April. It is followed later that year by the Rotary clubs of Lagos and Ibadan.

1964

Chinua Achebe, celebrated as the father of modern African literature, publishes *Arrow of God*, completing a trilogy that began with *Things Fall Apart* (1958).

1966

Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is killed in a coup, and a military government takes over. Apart from a brief period in 1979-83, the military will remain in power until 1999.

1967

A three-year civil war breaks out when three southeastern states secede as the Republic of Biafra.

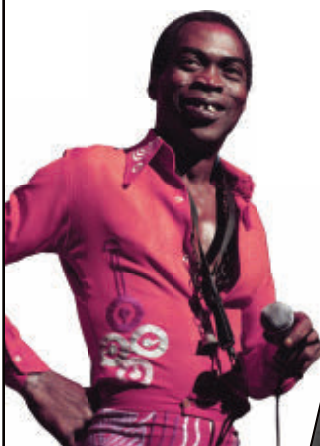


1971

Amid a surge in petroleum production, Nigeria joins OPEC. The industry had begun with the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta in 1956.

1973

Rotary clubs in Nigeria, along with others in West Africa, become part of District 210. The following year, Anofi S. Guobadia becomes Nigeria's first district governor.



1976

Fela Kuti, the Nigerian musician and activist who pioneered the Afrobeat genre, releases the politically charged album *Zombie*.



1982

As membership grows, Rotary clubs in Nigeria get their own district, District 911. Only four years later, the country will have four districts.

1986

Novelist Wole Soyinka wins the Nobel Prize in Literature.



2000
174 clubs
2,736 members



1990
Rotary members in Nigeria launch the PolioPlus Volunteer Corps to support the government's immunization program.

1991
Abuja replaces Lagos as Nigeria's capital.

1992
The VHS release of the thriller *Living in Bondage* galvanizes the Nigerian film industry, which acquires the nickname Nollywood.



1996
In an upset, the Nigeria men's soccer team beats Argentina to win an Olympic gold medal.

1996
As part of the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign, Nigeria conducts its first National Immunization Days.

1999
The Sukur Cultural Landscape, an ancient settlement in the northeast known for iron production, is named Nigeria's first UNESCO World Heritage site.

2010
227 clubs
5,247 members



2000
Rotary presents its Polio Eradication Champion Award to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, in recognition of his commitment to ending polio in his country.

2003
Obasanjo is reelected in the country's first civilian-run elections in two decades.

2003
Jonathan Majiyagbe, of the Rotary Club of Kano, becomes the first Rotary International president from Africa.



2005
The West Africa Project Fair, a multidistrict Rotary initiative, launches in Ghana. Starting in 2007, it will be held in Nigeria several times, including in Lagos in November 2026.

2006
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel *Half of a Yellow Sun*, set against the backdrop of the Nigerian Civil War, is published to international acclaim.



2009
The extremist sectarian group Boko Haram begins a yearslong insurgency against the government that results in wide-scale violence, particularly in the northeast.

2020
400 clubs
10,361 members

2020
Nigeria, along with the World Health Organization's entire African region, is certified wild polio-free.



2011
Nigerian industrialist Aliko Dangote tops *Forbes* magazine's inaugural list of Africa's richest people, a position he will maintain 15 years later with an estimated \$28.5 billion.

2012
Kenneth Gbagi, of the Rotary Club of Osubi, becomes the first Nigerian member of The Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society.

2016
Nigeria records its last case of wild poliovirus.



2018
As Nigerian pop music takes the world by storm, the video for Davido's song "Fall" becomes the first by a Nigerian artist to hit 100 million views on YouTube.



2022
Rotary's second Programs of Scale grant is awarded to Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, an initiative to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths.

2023
Bola Tinubu is elected president of Nigeria. (Over 100 Rotarians serve as election observers.)

2024
Ijeoma Pearl Okoro, of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt, becomes the second Rotary Foundation trustee from Nigeria, after Jonathan Majiyagbe.



2025
Sir Emeka Ofor, of the Rotary Club of Oraifite, commits \$5 million to the Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria program.

2026
Olayinka Babalola becomes Rotary's second Nigerian (and African) president.

26- 27

BOARD

OF

DIRECTORS

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



Olayinka H. Babalola
President
Rotary Club of
Trans Amadi,
Nigeria

Born in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria,

Olayinka H. Babalola received his engineering degree in 1988. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions at Shell PLC. He is the founder of two companies: an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company and an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Institute of Directors, the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, and the Association of Change Management Professionals. He is a member of Jericho Businessmen Club, an organization in Ibadan that advocates for economic and social policy with governments.

His first experience with Rotary was through a decade of service in Rotaract. Babalola was the charter president of his university Rotaract club and participated in cultural exchanges and twinning with clubs in Japan and Côte d'Ivoire. During his Rotaract days, he organized extra-mural classes for disabled children at a Cheshire Home supported by local clubs.

Babalola joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in 1994. He went on to serve on committees including the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign Committee and the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee prior to joining the RI Board as a director and later as vice president.

In the early 2000s, Babalola helped launch the Safe Blood Africa project to improve the availability of safe blood in hospitals in Nigeria and across the continent. The initiative has installed blood banks and donated bloodmobiles that are still operating today.

Babalola provided local Rotary leadership for polio eradication in Nigeria's conflict-affected northeast. Through unannounced site visits with local officials that ensured accountability in vaccine distribution, Babalola made his own contribution to help eradicate polio in 2020 in Nigeria and by extension in Africa.

An adult literacy project led by his

club profoundly changed Babalola's perspective. When people his own age appeared for classes, he was shocked to learn that they couldn't read or write. At graduation, a mother shared how she could now read pharmacy labels for her children's medicine. "That grounded me," Babalola says. "It took my feet and properly planted me in my community."

As RI president, Babalola wants to help restore members' emotional connection to the organization and their sense of belonging.

"We do things for others, but Rotary is also our own," he says. "When something is your own, you want to fight for it: 'It is my duty to help it thrive.' When you see how Rotary has made a lasting impact on your life, then you can tell that story."

Babalola enjoys golf, swimming, walking in the forest, and photographing cloud formations. He hopes to someday exhibit his photos or publish them in a book.

He has received the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

Babalola and his wife, Precy, a Rotary member, live in Port Harcourt. They support The Rotary Foundation through a named endowment and as Arch Klumph Society members.



Larry A. Lunsford
President-elect
Rotary Club of
Kansas City-Plaza,
Missouri

Larry A. Lunsford, a certified public accountant,

serves as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Bernstein-Rein Advertising Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri. A recipient of bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Truman State University, he has served his alma mater on its Alumni Association Board and its Foundation Board.

Lunsford is a board member of Global Ties KC, part of Global Ties U.S., a non-profit network that advances international understanding through citizen diplomacy, and of his local church's foundation.

His passion for Rotary service began during his college years. In 1981-82, he

traveled to Australia as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, which he called a "nine-month daily immersion in Rotary."

Lunsford joined Rotary in 1991 and has held numerous global leadership roles, including RI director, aide to RI President Mark Daniel Maloney, and Rotary Foundation trustee and vice chair. He has served on RI and Rotary Foundation committees, including the RI and Foundation finance and executive committees, and chaired the RI Membership Growth Committee and Rotary Peace Centers Committee.

During a morning walk in Evanston in August 2023, while he was serving as a Rotary Foundation trustee, Lunsford developed the idea to mirror the Foundation's successful US\$2.025 billion by 2025 Endowment fundraising campaign with a membership goal: 1,250,000 Rotarians by Rotary's 125th anniversary in 2030. The RI Board adopted the goal in October 2023.

For the past 25 years, Lunsford has served as the "shoes cheerleader" for the signature service project of District 6040 (Missouri), which has donated nearly 500,000 pairs of shoes through the Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls project in partnership with Buckner International. He has gone to the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, and Russia to deliver the shoes.

During a delivery trip to Russia, Lunsford gave a pair of boots to a boy whose name was Victor. About a year later in Guatemala, he met another child through the initiative who shared that name.

"Two years, two trips, two countries, two Victors," Lunsford says. "It was a complete reinforcement that I was on the right track. In Rotary, we just need to be in the right place at the right time."

Lunsford is a former college baseball and basketball player and all-around sports fan.

His honors include The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award, and the RI Service Above Self Award.

He and his wife, Jill, have two children and one grandchild. Larry and Jill support The Rotary Foundation as Major Donors, Benefactors, and members of the Paul Harris Society, PolioPlus Society, and Bequest Society.



M. “MMM” Muruganandam
Vice President
Rotary Club of Bhel
City Tiruchirapalli,
India

M. Muruganandam, widely known as “MMM” or “Triple M,” is an entrepreneur and philanthropist with more than 30 years of expertise in supply chain management. As the founder and chair of Excel Maritime, he has expanded operations across 18 cities in India and in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Today, the Excel Group of Companies spans various markets, including logistics, human resources, renewable energy, health care, and agriculture.

MMM holds degrees from the Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering in Mumbai and is a chartered engineer. He also holds a master’s degree from Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, India; a Master of Business Administration in finance from Indira Gandhi National Open University; and a Master of Foreign Trade from Pondicherry University.

He began his Rotary journey at age 16 with Rotaract. One of his first service projects involved administering drops of polio vaccine in remote villages, including a river community not far from his home. “Whenever I pass by that community, I still get goose bumps thinking of what we did there,” he says.

MMM became a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation while still a Rotaractor. In 2016-17, as one of the youngest governors of District 3000, he led several initiatives to commemorate the Foundation’s centennial. These efforts raised awareness about literacy, road safety, blood and organ donation, and self-defense training for girls. He also played a pivotal role in establishing 99 Rotaract clubs, 250 Interact clubs, and 100 Rotary Community Corps in his district.

Outside of Rotary, MMM leads the Excel Foundation, which champions education, health care, sports programs, and skill development for marginalized communities. Its cornerstone project is opening a 75-bed comprehensive cancer hospital to make basic treatment accessible to rural communities.

He has served in numerous Rotary positions, including as Rotary public image coordinator for Zone 5 and RI president’s representative. He has received RI’s highest honor, the Service Above Self Award, and the RI Vocational Service Leadership Award, as well as The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service. MMM was an early contributor to the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation, marking a historic commitment to preserving the legacy and home of Rotary founder Paul Harris.

MMM and his wife, Sumathi, a member of the same Rotary club, support The Rotary Foundation as members of the Arch Klumph Society.



César Luis Scherer
Treasurer
Rotary Club of
Marechal Cândido
Rondon-Beira
Lago, Brazil

César Luis Scherer is an entrepreneur and accountant with extensive experience in financial management, strategic planning, and administration. He is the founder and director of a thriving accounting firm and served as a professor of accounting for 29 years at the State University of Western Paraná (Unioeste) in Brazil. While at Unioeste, he also served as vice rector of administration and development and on the board of trustees.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the Faculty of Human Sciences of Marechal Cândido Rondon in Paraná, Brazil, and he completed postgraduate and doctoral studies in auditing and financial management at Unioeste and Universidad del Museo Social Argentino in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A Rotarian since 2003, Scherer learned the true meaning of Rotary early in his career when he went to another state to pursue his doctorate. He had arrived in the city and begun trying to rent an apartment when he realized he had misplaced his checkbook. He went to the local bank branch and discovered the manager was a Rotarian. The manager, who was going on vacation, offered his house for Scherer to stay in.

When Scherer asked the manager why he was entrusting his house to someone he had just met, he replied, “You are a Rotarian. That means to me that many people trust in you, and that’s enough for me,” Scherer recalls. “This selflessness deeply moved me and shaped my Rotary journey.”

As governor of District 4640 in 2009-10, Scherer led a membership expansion strategy that resulted in the formation of a number of new clubs. His efforts helped District 4640 become the largest Rotary district in the Southern Hemisphere. Scherer is also dedicated to leadership development, having served as a learning facilitator at the International Assembly and lead instructor at governors-elect and governors-nominee learning seminars. He has also served as Rotary membership coordinator and chair of the Rotary Institute of Brazil.

As an accountant, Scherer brings an analytical and strategic approach to the RI Board. He believes successful clubs thrive on purpose and mission. He says, “Clubs that function well are those that have a clear goal and are actively working toward it. Strategic planning and continuity are of utmost importance.”

Scherer has received the RI Service Above Self Award and the Citation for Meritorious Service from The Rotary Foundation. He is also an honorary citizen of the city of Marechal Cândido Rondon in the state of Paraná, where he resides. His wife, Sônia, is a member of the same Rotary club. They support The Rotary Foundation as Major Donors.



Massimo Ballotta
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Feltre, Italy

Massimo Ballotta earned a degree in medicine and surgery with

specializations in sports medicine and rehabilitative medicine from the University of Padua, which was founded in 1222. As director of a large hospital rehabilitation department in the province of Belluno for more than 20 years, he treated patients with neurological and orthopedic disabilities. Although he retired, he continues to work as a

consulting physician and volunteers with associations for disabled and disadvantaged people.

Ballotta joined Rotary in 2009 when he moved to Feltre, a city in the foothills of the Dolomites mountain range. The club had been experiencing a steady decline in membership, but with a well-defined three-year plan, Ballotta helped the club nearly double its size to around 62 members.

One of the hallmark initiatives of the club is a social inclusion project. Members take people with disabilities on mountain excursions with the use of special wheelchairs. More than 500 people have participated in 10 years. Ballotta says, “We take them to about 1,500 to 2,000 meters above sea level so that they can see the mountains from above, which they were not able to do before. This showed me how we can change people’s lives.”

During a presidents-elect learning seminar, Ballotta organized an event with the organization Rise Against Hunger to have seminar participants package meals for schoolchildren in Zimbabwe. He says, “By myself, I could prepare 100 meals. But we got 150 people, and in two hours we prepared 35,000 meals, which will feed 100 children school lunches for a whole year.” Ballotta says the event demonstrated the importance of the first two words of Rotary’s vision statement, “Together, we,” and inspired similar projects throughout Italy.

As 2019-20 governor of District 2060, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ballotta coordinated a global grant project with other district governors that provided equipment to hospitals. And under his leadership, his district more than doubled the number of Benefactors and quadrupled its Major Donors.

Ballotta served as Rotary membership coordinator for Zone 14 from 2022 to 2025, helping Italy achieve a dramatic 2.8 percent membership growth. He also served as co-chair of a Rotary International presidential conference in Venice, the city where he was born.

An expert sommelier, Ballotta teaches food and wine pairing in national courses.

Ballotta and his wife, Rossella, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.



Christine Buering
Director 2025-27
Rotary Club
of Altenburg,
Germany

Fostering international connections and increasing op-

portunities for women are central to the work Christine Buering has been doing for nearly three decades. She believes that Rotary is the most amazing platform. “In Rotary, you can bring together people who have never spoken before, and a fruitful conversation begins.”

Born in southern Germany, Buering pursued tourism studies at the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland, followed by additional studies in Mexico and Spain. She worked in public relations and marketing in London and Paris before returning to the newly reunified Germany in the early 1990s. Moving to Altenburg, a 1,000-year-old city in former East Germany, she fell in love with both the region and her husband, Alexander, a lawyer.

In 1994, Buering founded Altenburger Tourismus GmbH, helping to build and promote regional tourism in eastern Germany after decades of closed borders. Her company offers immersive tours showcasing Altenburg’s history, culture, and traditions.

Buering joined Rotary in 1995 when she co-founded her club with her husband and others.

“We were a young club, most of us in our early 30s, who wanted to bring the East and West together,” she says. “In East Germany, if you wanted leaders, they were often women, so it felt natural to have women join Rotary. Rotary, for us, was a link to the world.”

Passionate about gender equality, Buering became part of the group that started the Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award in 2017. The award, adopted by Rotary International in 2021, honors one Rotary member each year who has actively worked to advance women in Rotary. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped found the Rotary Action Group for Menstrual Health and Hygiene. She loves to mentor young women because she has been the first woman in many of her endeavors.

Buering has served as a learning facilitator, Council on Legislation

representative, and RI president’s representative, among other roles. She is the first woman from a German-speaking country to be elected to the RI Board and hopes to help shape the perception of Rotary in society. “I am a woman from the East, from a small town, who owns a small business,” she says with pride.

Outside Rotary, Buering serves as vice president of the regional chamber of commerce. She chaired the tourism council of the German chambers of commerce, breaking barriers as its first female chair. Buering supports The Rotary Foundation as a Major Donor.



Marshall Butler
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
West Jacksonville,
Florida

Marshall Butler is the marketing director for Prag-

matic Works, which offers software training, and has more than 30 years of experience in marketing and technology. A graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in advertising, he began his career by writing television commercials before joining the internet revolution at its inception.

Butler joined the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville in 2002 and served as governor of District 6970 in 2016-17. From 2020 to 2023, he was the Rotary public image coordinator for Zone 34, and he developed a structured approach of monthly webinars and strategic action items that helped lay the foundation for a regional membership action plan.

“Every opportunity I’ve had to serve in Rotary, I’ve tried to bring a mindset of doing things just a little differently to leave them better than I found them,” Butler says.

As a marketing professional, Butler is deeply passionate about Rotary’s public image. “We need to add more sizzle to the Rotary story,” he says. “We have an amazing product.”

To help engage younger audiences and inform them about the opportunities available through Rotary, Butler used artificial intelligence and other tools to create several outreach videos, including a popular hip-hop video that was widely

viewed across the Rotary world. Butler is also known for his khaki pants covered with Rotary logos, which spark conversations about Rotary wherever he goes.

An avid endurance athlete, Butler has completed 18 marathons and numerous triathlons, including Ironman. He has nearly finished a project to run all the streets in Jacksonville, covering thousands of streets and thousands of miles. The effort has given him insight into community needs and Rotary's role in serving them.

Butler has received The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his wife, Karen, support the Foundation as Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society, Paul Harris Society, and PolioPlus Society. They have two grown daughters, Emily and Maggie. Emily recently joined her father's club, continuing the family's legacy of service.



Soffía Gísladóttir
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club
of Húsavík
Nordurthing,
Iceland

Soffía Gísladóttir, whose name

means Soffía, daughter of Gísli, is a labor market specialist at Iceland's Directorate of Labour, where she connects entrepreneurs and startups with potential employees across Iceland and Europe. She previously served as a deputy member of Parliament.

Gísladóttir is from Húsavík, a northeastern coastal town and the site of an early Viking settlement. She holds a master's degree in education from the University of Akureyri.

She spent a decade as director of social services in northeastern Iceland, focusing on child welfare and disability services. She established a center in northern Iceland using the Social Return model, a holistic rehabilitation and vocational model that promotes equal opportunities for disadvantaged people. She later held several national government roles, including project management with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, helping establish rehabilitation and vocational centers nationwide for people with disabilities.

"Taking care of vulnerable people has always been my focus because I believe that every individual is important," she says. "If people are given a chance, they can flourish and become strong contributors to society."

In 2011, Gísladóttir was invited by the UK's then-Prime Minister David Cameron to speak about the award-winning Social Return model at the Nordic Baltic Summit in London.

She joined Rotary in 2012 and has served in numerous leadership roles, including district governor, assistant Rotary membership coordinator, RI president's representative, and learning facilitator. Through Rotary, she has volunteered on projects that support immigrant and refugee integration in Iceland and with her club is currently developing the Skúlagata walking trail, which will link historic sites across the country's northeast.

In 2022, Gísladóttir chaired the Rotary institute in Reykjavík, welcoming 500 Rotarians for a summit that included a keynote address by the president of Iceland and paired learning with service projects across Rotary's areas of focus. Beyond Rotary, she has served on multiple boards, including as chair of the Akureyri Theater Company during its merger with a new cultural center, as a member of the Húsavík town council, and as a board member of Vatnajökull National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A runner, Gísladóttir has completed a 160-kilometer (99-mile) ultramarathon across Iceland's rugged terrain of glaciers and volcanoes. She and her husband, Guðmundur Baldvin Guðmundsson, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.



Thomas Anthony Gump
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Edina/Morningside,
Minnesota

Tom Gump says the best part of

Rotary is the friends you make. He has traveled the Rotary world, becoming an honorary member in numerous clubs.

Gump strives to embody the first two words of Rotary's vision statement:

"Together, we." He has brought in many members and has helped form numerous new clubs, including clubs to serve veterans and seek an end to human trafficking. He united five clubs to form a Rotary Community Corps to serve hundreds of refugees, led one of the clubs in his district to achieve 100 percent Paul Harris Fellow Club status, and brought together multiple districts to secure the bid for Minneapolis to host the 2028 Rotary International Convention.

Gump serves as the co-chair of the Host Organization Committee for the 2028 convention. He previously served as aide to the RI president, an International Assembly learning facilitator, and a president's representative. He has chaired RI's Membership Growth Committee and the MDP Alliance, a consortium of multidistrict presidents-elect learning events.

Gump is committed to The Rotary Foundation, his club's foundation, and the service projects they fund. He has worked on or led more than 20 district and club grants totaling more than US\$4 million. He is also committed to Rotary's fight to eradicate polio. After meeting frontline polio workers in Pakistan, he says, "It's not an if; it's when."

Gump and his wife have provided for an endowment gift through their estate that will establish the Thomas and Catherine Gump Family Peace Fund. They support The Rotary Foundation as Major Donors, Bequest Society members, multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, Sustaining Members, and PolioPlus Society members.

The Gump family has hosted seven long-term Rotary Youth Exchange students. Outside Rotary, Gump is active in his church, has served as Edina Community Foundation president, and has carried the Olympic torch in two Olympic Games.

Gump received RI's Service Above Self Award and is a Gold Member of its Membership Society for New Member Sponsors. The Rotary Foundation has awarded Gump its Citation for Meritorious Service and Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

Since 2013, Gump has been the owner and managing broker of A-1 Asset Management, a commercial real estate firm in Minneapolis. He is an attorney licensed in four states.



Brian Hall
Director 2025-27
Rotary Club
of Covington,
Louisiana

Brian Hall is director of development at Attivo

ERP, where he specializes in integrating business systems. After earning his accounting degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, he set out to become a certified public accountant but later transitioned into computer programming and enterprise resource planning, eventually co-founding AIM Technologies in 2000.

After a personal health scare, Hall was driven by a desire to make a greater impact. He traveled to Russia, where he volunteered in orphanages, and returned home with a deepened commitment to service. It was while he was establishing a nonprofit to support humanitarian efforts that he connected with members of the Rotary Club of Covington, which he joined in 2007.

His first leadership role in Rotary was chairing a circus fundraiser. Since then, Hall has participated in and helped lead numerous initiatives. One of the most notable projects of his club is an annual holiday meal program that provides fully cooked turkey dinners for more than 6,000 people each Christmas.

Hall has been an active leader in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for nearly a decade. “Bringing clean water to a village is something that creates generational change,” he says. “If you do the project so that it is sustainable, you affect the trajectory of that village for generations.”

Since serving as governor of District 6840 in 2014-15, Hall has taken on multiple leadership roles, including as an RI president’s representative, a learning facilitator at the International Assembly, and a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. One of his favorite assignments was serving as sergeant-at-arms at five Rotary International Conventions. “That’s one of the hardest, most physically demanding jobs because it is from morning to night,” he says. “But you get to help people have an amazing convention.”

Hall has served on the Joint Technol-

ogy Committee of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, with a focus on strengthening Rotary’s information technology infrastructure and digital strategy.

“The real story of your time as a leader is not told while you’re in that position,” he says. “The story is told afterward, in the results, and it’s told in the people that follow you who say, ‘You inspired me.’”

Hall is a recipient of Rotary’s Service Above Self Award. He has also received The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service, and he and his wife, Lynn, are Major Donors.



Martha Peak Helman
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Boothbay Harbor,
Maine

Marty Helman spent her career as

a writer for business executives and as a magazine editor at McGraw Hill and the American Management Association. Later, she served as president of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, a nonprofit that has helped build schools in developing nations, provided scholarships for young people, and supplied humanitarian aid to Holocaust survivors, among other initiatives. The Walter Foundation partnered with The Rotary Foundation to fund the Rotary Peace Center that opened in 2025 at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Helman and her late spouse, Frank, joined the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor in 2003. She has served as Rotary Foundation trustee and as chair of the Fund Development and Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative committees. She chaired a working group to increase corporate gifts to The Foundation, and she served on a task force with a goal to better align Foundation grant policies with 21st century needs. She was a member of the teams that selected the sites for the Rotary Peace Centers at Bahçeşehir University and at Symbiosis International University in Pune, India.

Helman is a popular speaker on the topics of the Rotary Peace Centers, The Rotary Foundation, and growth.

A keen fundraiser for The Rotary

Foundation, Helman initiated an effort to support the Sakuji Tanaka Rotary Peace Fellowship, which raised US\$1 million for the Rotary Peace Centers.

Helman is a member of the Arch Klumph Society, Paul Harris Society, and PolioPlus Society. She received the Foundation Distinguished Service Award. She and Frank were charter members of the Legacy Society of the Foundation.



Emmanuel Katongole
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Muyenga, Uganda

Emmanuel Katongole, an entrepreneur, is

co-founder and chair of Quality Chemical Industries Ltd., a leading African manufacturer of HIV/AIDS and malaria medicines supporting close to 2 million patients.

Katongole holds a bachelor’s degree in statistics and a master’s degree in economic policy and planning from Makerere University. He has served as the first chair of the Uganda National Oil Company, chair of the advisory board of TLG Capital Ltd., board chair of Uganda’s Presidential CEO Forum, and chancellor of Nkumba University.

Katongole joined Rotary in 1996 but had his first contact with it at age 14 as a direct beneficiary. Born to illiterate parents, he was 4 when his father disappeared under Idi Amin’s rule. Later, he lost two siblings to HIV/AIDS and another sister, who died from blood loss while giving birth at age 15.

While selling corn on the street to help support his mother, a housekeeper, Katongole started a conversation with a Rotarian, who asked why Katongole wasn’t in school. After hearing his story, the man adopted Katongole, and he spent his adolescence under the family’s care.

“Rotary is a means of paying back humanity for what I received,” Katongole says. “What happened to my siblings influenced me a lot.”

In remembrance of his sister who died in childbirth, he spearheaded a Rotary project to establish a blood bank at Mengo Hospital in Kampala. The US\$1.3 million project is reducing a shortage of blood for transfusions, helping decrease deaths.

“Leaders are dealers in hope. As a leader, you must give hope and let people know the possibilities of life,” Katongole says. “I was in a hopeless situation, and someone gave me hope, so today I’m giving hope to others.”

Katongole serves on the advisory board of the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University, and he initiated an annual peace concert that raises funds for The Rotary Foundation. He chaired the Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative Committee. He also served as an endowment/major gifts adviser and as assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator after his tenure as governor of District 9211 in 2013-14.

Active in the Roman Catholic Church, Katongole is a trustee of a martyrs shrine. He chaired the foundation of the Kampala Archdiocese and was conferred papal knighthood by Pope Francis in 2021. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, swimming, and relaxing at his farm.

Katongole is a recipient of the African Centennial Rotary Heroes Award. He and his spouse, Resty, support The Rotary Foundation as Benefactors and as members of the Arch Klumph Society and Bequest Society.



Jung-Hyun Lee
Director 2025-27
Rotary Club of
Hwasung Taeon,
Korea

Jung-Hyun Lee has dedicated his life to edu-

cation, beginning his career as a high school teacher. He went on to become an instructor at prestigious preparatory schools for college entrance exams, playing a pivotal role in shaping Seoul’s renowned Noryangjin school district.

As part of this effort, Lee founded his own institution, the Hwaseong Hanssem Academy, where he continues to serve as chair of the board. His passion for empowering youth and expanding educational access led him to establish California University of Management and Sciences in San Diego. This institution, designed with affordability in mind, offers scholarships and low tuition to students from developing regions, including in Central and South America, the Middle East, and Africa.

Lee has been a Rotary member since 2003. An avid supporter of and fundraiser for The Rotary Foundation, he has served as assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator. During his tenure as governor of District 3750 in 2014-15, he led a fundraising campaign, setting a record with more than US\$1.5 million in contributions, nearly doubling the prior record. That campaign started a powerful philanthropic tradition for the district. Each year since then, its total giving has never fallen below US\$1.2 million.

Lee is also a champion of digital literacy. Recognizing the need to bridge the digital divide, he initiated scholarships and launched free computer education programs for underserved populations. He has also extended digital literacy to his volunteering in Rotary. As chair of Rotary Korea’s committee on information technology, he spearheaded digitalization efforts that significantly increased member registrations on My Rotary, growing participation from 15 percent to 70 percent, to enhance engagement while improving technological integration and strengthen member communication and networking opportunities.

Another interest of Lee’s is Rotary’s area of focus on the environment. Through Rotary, he has organized tree-planting campaigns, river cleanups, and seminars to promote awareness of sustainability and ecological responsibility.

His wife, Young-Ran Won, is a survivor of ovarian cancer, and they lead a support group for cancer patients and their families to provide guidance and hope to others navigating similar challenges.

Lee further expresses his commitment to The Rotary Foundation through his membership in the Arch Klumph Society, which he joined in 2020. “To me, Rotary is a blessing and a mission,” says Lee. “It’s also been the greatest reward of my life.”



K.P. Nagesh
Director 2025-27
Rotary Club
of Bangalore
Highgrounds, India

K.P. Nagesh is an entrepreneur and founder of UNIQ

Security Solutions, a company that

employs more than 10,000 workers and serves over 500 clients across southern India. He has also established Uniq Skill Development Academy in Ramanagara district, which provides vocational training to rural youths, helping them secure employment in the uniformed services and the corporate sector.

After earning a degree in mechanical engineering at PES College of Engineering in Mandya, Nagesh served as a short service commissioned officer in the Indian Air Force, gaining valuable experience in leadership, discipline, and time management.

Nagesh joined Rotary in 1995. While serving as governor of District 3190 in 2015-16, he led initiatives that resulted in the addition of about 2,000 members and 52 new clubs while increasing the representation of women. Under his leadership as governor, the district also achieved the highest total contribution to The Rotary Foundation worldwide that year.

He has served Rotary in various leadership roles, including assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, endowment/major gifts adviser, and member of the executive committee of India Water Mission.

Nagesh is passionate about fundraising for The Rotary Foundation. His goal is for India to become a US\$100 million-giving country, with every district giving at least US\$1 million.

“Rotary made a huge difference to me in my life, and now I want to give back to Rotary and take it to more and more people,” Nagesh says.

Among the numerous national awards and recognitions Nagesh has received are the President’s Medal for Meritorious Service as commandant for Home Guards, the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service as commanding officer and chief warden of civil defense, the Chief Minister’s Medal for Meritorious Service in civil defense, and the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Central Association of Private Security Industry. He was also honored with the Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya Global Leadership Award for excellence in environmental work, social service, and education by the Power Development and Energy Research Institute.

Nagesh is a recipient of RI’s Service Above Self Award. He and his wife, Uma, a computer science engineer, are active

supporters of The Rotary Foundation as members of the Arch Klumph Society Chair's Circle.



Kenichi Nakaya
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Ashikaga East,
Japan

Kenichi Nakaya is a physician focused on internal

and cardiovascular health in Ashikaga, Japan. He attended Showa University in Tokyo, earning a degree with a specialization in ischemic heart disease.

Nakaya worked in the medical department at Showa University before his father's death prompted him to return home to take over the family clinic. He also chaired and is currently serving as a secretary of the city medical association, and he's a director for the prefecture's medical association.

A second-generation Rotarian, Nakaya joined the Rotary Club of Ashikaga East in 1988. He was encouraged by his father, a past club president, and his mentor, Past RI Director Toshio Itabashi. "It was a traditional club, and we wanted to expand our activities so that younger people would be attracted to our club," Nakaya says. Today, the 42-member club has a strong tradition of youth programs and international service.

Nakaya has served as assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, endowment/major gifts adviser, and learning facilitator at the International Assembly in 2023 and 2024. As governor of District 2550 in 2015-16, he coordinated service projects and expanded the district's international work.

Nakaya began volunteering in the Philippines the year after the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo. While visiting the country for the first time, he saw many children begging for food and money.

"I was able to see social problems up close," he says. "I really wanted to help those children so that they could build their own future and become someone who would support their country. That activity really opened my eyes."

What started as an annual district service activity has since evolved into ongoing work in the Philippines. Nakaya

has traveled to the country a few times a year for more than 30 years. There, he established the Mirai-Ni-Kibou Foundation (Hope for the Future Foundation) to ensure continuity of free medical services. The organization also supports Haven, a rehabilitation facility for victims of sexual abuse, and implements literacy programs, among other initiatives. In addition, the organization has operated programs for hypertension and diabetes treatment with support from local Rotary clubs.

Nakaya is a recipient of the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his wife, Masako, support the Foundation as members of the Arch Klumph Society. They have established named endowments to support the Foundation's work in five areas of focus.



Jennifer A. Scott
Director 2025-27
Rotary Club of
Greater Blue
Mountains,
Australia

Jennifer A. Scott is a lawyer, media-

tor, and conflict resolution specialist with experience in environmental law. She holds a law degree and a Master of Laws in environmental law from Macquarie University, as well as a Master of Dispute Resolution from Western Sydney University, where she is honored as a Community Fellow.

A Rotarian since 1996, Scott has held numerous leadership roles since her term as governor of District 9690 in 2007-08. She served as a learning facilitator, seminar trainer, and moderator at the 2022 International Assembly, a challenging event held both in person and virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also been a member of Rotary's Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Election Review Committee, and 2019 Hamburg Convention Committee. Scott chaired the 2024 Singapore Convention Committee and currently serves as regional vice chair of the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign Committee. She is also a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers.

Scott became more deeply connected to Rotary's humanitarian efforts dur-

ing a National Immunization Day in Chandigarh, India, where she witnessed firsthand the impact of polio eradication efforts. "There were thousands of us out there, immunizing millions of children under the age of 5 within those couple of weeks, and I was part of it."

She and her husband, Ian, have also been active in Sustainable Cambodia, both in Cambodia and through Sustainable Cambodia Australia. This Rotary-led initiative empowers communities in rural Cambodia through an integrated approach of education, access to clean water, and sustainable agriculture. "We support the teachers, support the students and their families, and work with the villagers, and the project just keeps expanding," Scott says.

Scott has also played a key role in advancing legal frameworks in Mongolia, leading a vocational training team to train judges and social workers in family mediation. Her collaboration with Mongolian members of Rotary contributed to the development of a national Family Law Act.

Scott advocates for fostering open dialogue and addressing conflicts before they escalate. "Imagine a world without conflict — there'd be no change," Scott says. "You need to be able to disagree in a healthy way, listen to other ideas, and have difficult conversations when they matter."

In 2023, Scott was recognized as a Member of the Order of Australia, an honor her husband, Ian, a retired air commodore of the Royal Australian Air Force, also received, in 1996.

Jennifer and Ian, who is also a Rotarian and past district governor (2014-15), are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Bequest Society. She has been recognized with The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service.



Takao Shinomiya
Director 2026-28
Rotary Club of
Osaka-Southwest,
Japan

Takao Shinomiya is the CEO of Tatsumi Industry

Co. Ltd., an Osaka-based real estate company that his grandfather founded

in 1921. The company, which has approximately 400 employees, evolved from sea transportation to real estate development. It has also expanded internationally, developing commercial real estate in Southern California.

A third-generation Rotarian, Shinomiya joined the Rotary Club of Osaka-Southwest in 1993 at age 38, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. “Before I joined Rotary, my circle of friends was small,” Shinomiya says. “Joining Rotary, I was able to meet people from different backgrounds with different vocations and become friends with them, close friends.”

Since serving as governor of District 2660 in 2019-20, Shinomiya held the roles of assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator (2020-23) and regional Rotary Foundation coordinator (2024-25). As an Rotary learning facilitator (2020-22), he successfully trained 34 district governors-elect virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, creating lasting connections among the group despite the challenges.

During his term as club president in 2011-12, Shinomiya mobilized 13 Osaka clubs to support communities after the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan’s Tōhoku region. “We bought a lot of necessary things, like vehicles, and helped rebuild some of the damaged houses,” Shinomiya says. “We also provided a small library with books so the children could go there to read.”

Shinomiya has also participated in international service. In 1999, his club built a two-story, eight-classroom school with electricity and toilet blocks on the outskirts of Hanoi, Vietnam. Shinomiya returned 20 years later and discovered that a small town had developed around the school, bringing prosperity to the area.

An avid skier who captained his university ski club, Shinomiya also plays the board game Go and studies the music of Noh, a traditional form of Japanese drama.

Shinomiya supports The Rotary Foundation as a Major Donor, Arch Klumph Society member, Benefactor, and Paul Harris Society member. He and his wife, Yoko, have established named endowments for SHARE and the Rotary Peace Centers.

Shinomiya has also been recognized as a Yoneyama Meritorious Person by

a project of Rotary districts in Japan that provides scholarships for foreign students. The Shinomiya Scholarship Foundation, established by his grandfather, has supported the education of approximately 2,400 high school students to date.



Wyn Spiller

Director 2025-27
Rotary Club of
Grass Valley,
California

A Louisiana native and daughter of a Rotarian, Wyn

Spiller earned a psychology degree from Louisiana State University before beginning her career as a teacher. After moving to California with her husband, Steve, she co-owned a children’s clothing business before transitioning into the wine industry, leading a small winery whose founders included her family.

As CEO and board chair of Nevada City Winery, she oversaw its consolidation and incorporation as well as a historic restoration and expansion of its processing facility. The project earned the Best New Construction Award in the historic downtown of Nevada City. She retired in 2014.

A dedicated Rotarian since 1994, Spiller has held numerous leadership roles, including endowment/major gifts adviser, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, RI president’s representative, International Assembly facilitator, and 2022 RI Council on Legislation learning leader.

Passionate about international service, she has participated in National Immunization Days in India, as well as a Rotary Foundation-supported medical training project outside Tijuana, Mexico, where the dedication and appreciation of the doctors and nurses had a profound effect on her.

Working on another Foundation-funded grant project at Bwindi Community Hospital in Uganda, she sat beside a severely malnourished child and his mother. He was watching Rotarians outside installing solar panels, and he managed to smile, which was taken as an indication that he would survive. “I witnessed the exact moment when

someone’s life changed for the better,” Spiller says.

An advocate for Rotary Youth Exchange, she served as district chair, country contact, and host mom. As endowment/major gifts adviser, she encouraged giving to the Zones 26 and 27 Endowed Fund for Peace that resulted in the fund reaching the threshold for sponsoring its first Rotary Peace Fellow. “I believe we as Rotarians have the ability to help create a kinder, more respectful, more compassionate, more peaceful world,” she says. “Peace begins with each of us, and it takes all of us.”

Spiller is active in her community outside of Rotary as treasurer of the North Star Historic Conservancy, which manages and restores the historic North Star House — one of the earliest designs by Julia Morgan, California’s first licensed female architect.

Spiller is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service. She and Steve are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society, Paul Harris Society, and PolioPlus Society.



Harriette Florence Verwey

Director 2025-27
Rotary Club
of Leiden-AM,
Netherlands

Harriette Florence Verwey, born in

Suriname as a Dutch citizen, immigrated to the Netherlands at age 18 to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She graduated from Leiden University with a medical degree, later earning a PhD, and began a 34-year career in cardiology at Leiden University Medical Center.

Verwey pioneered the use of the left ventricular assist device as an alternative treatment for chronic heart failure when transplant is not feasible. The protocol she wrote for the treatment has been incorporated internationally, and her work in cardiology was recognized by the king of the Netherlands when she was appointed Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau in 2017.

Verwey joined Rotary in 2002. Early on, she organized a national music concert for deaf children.

“They experienced music for the first

time in their life by gently pressing an air-filled balloon close to their belly” to feel the vibrations of the music, Verwey says. “The joy and excitement was something I could never forget — I became a Rotarian for life.”

Verwey was the first Black district governor in the Netherlands and is the first female director from her zone. As governor of District 1600, she prioritized youth engagement and Rotaract. She also served as regional Rotary Foundation coordinator from 2019 to 2022, and she has volunteered to support the Rotary-IHE Delft Institute for Water Education international student scholarship program.

She says nonmembers can find a sense of belonging in Rotary, too, as she has done while volunteering for organizations such as the advisory board of the Dutch Association of Black Female Entrepreneurs and Professionals in Rotterdam.

“Some think because of their background and skin color that they don’t belong in Rotary, but they do,” Verwey says. “They have a lot of abilities to bring to the table and make Rotary much more than they can ever imagine. I urge people of color to join Rotary because everyone is of value in Rotary.”

Outside of Rotary, Verwey led a campaign for better diagnosis and treatment of women with suspected heart disease. She also serves on several boards, including the board of the Leiden University Fund and the advisory board of the Buzz Foundation, which mentors immigrants in Leiden.

Verwey is a member of De Rots Ministries, a Christian church. She supports The Rotary Foundation as a member of the PolioPlus Society, a Major Donor, and a Bequest Society member.



John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary Club of Kyiv,
Ukraine

John Hewko is the general secretary and chief executive officer of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

From 2004 to 2009, Hewko was vice president for operations and compact

development for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government agency established in 2004 to deliver foreign assistance to the world’s poorest countries. At MCC, he was the principal negotiator for foreign assistance agreements to 26 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union. During his tenure, he completed the negotiation of assistance agreements totaling US\$6.3 billion to 18 countries for infrastructure, agriculture, water and sanitation, health, and education projects.

Prior to joining MCC, Hewko was an international partner with the law firm Baker & McKenzie, specializing in international corporate transactions in emerging markets. He helped establish the firm’s Moscow office and was the managing partner of its offices in Kyiv and Prague.

While working in Ukraine in the early 1990s, Hewko assisted the working group that prepared the initial draft of the new Ukrainian post-Soviet constitution and was a charter member of the first Rotary club in Kyiv.

Hewko has been a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University, and a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He has published papers and articles in leading U.S. and international publications, and he has spoken extensively on political and business issues dealing with the former Soviet Union, Central Europe, Africa, and Latin America. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is a trustee emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

Hewko holds a law degree from Harvard University, a master’s in modern history from Oxford University (where he studied as a Marshall Scholar), and a bachelor’s in government and Soviet studies from Hamilton College in New York.

As general secretary, Hewko leads a diverse staff of 800 at Rotary International’s World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, and six international offices. He and his partner, Marga, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation. They live in Evanston. ■

26-27

THE

ROTARY

FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES

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



Jennifer Jones
Chair 2026-27
Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of
Windsor-Roseland,
Ontario

Jennifer Jones served as president of Rotary International in 2022-23, becoming the first woman selected to hold the office since Rotary's founding 117 years earlier.

A communications executive, Jones is the founder of Media Street Productions Inc., an award-winning media company in Windsor, Ontario, that helps corporations and nonprofit organizations tell their stories with conviction and credibility.

As an ambassador for Rotary, Jones has strengthened its reach and impact. She regularly collaborates with world leaders, celebrities, and well-known thinkers, and she has raised hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate disease, elevate education, support peace, and provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

As president, Jones embarked on the Imagine Impact Tour, bringing top-tier media professionals and social influencers with her to showcase stories of sustainable, large-scale Rotary projects around the world. Messaging from the tour reached more than 1.3 billion people.

Jones is also a leader in cultivating experiential fundraising opportunities, such as a golfing event with Jack Nicklaus in Jupiter, Florida, that raised more than US\$5.25 million for polio eradication in one day. Another example is the virtual COVID-19 #RotaryResponds event that raised critical funds for pandemic relief projects and showcased Rotary's response across the globe.

Jones has served the Windsor-Essex community as chair of the University of Windsor Board of Governors, Maryvale Adolescent and Family Services, and the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce.

Jones has received Rotary's Service Above Self Award, The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service, and the Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award. She has also been recognized for her service with numerous honors, including the YMCA Peace Medallion, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Wayne State University's Peacemaker Award, a first for a Canadian. She holds

a Doctor of Laws from the University of Windsor and one from Queens University.

Jones is married to Nick Krayacich, a family physician. They share a love for Rotary, travel, cycling, golf, and relaxing at their family cottage on Lake Erie.



R. Gordon R. McNally
Chair-elect
2026-27
Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
South Queensferry,
Scotland

R. Gordon R. McNally was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh and at the University of Dundee, where he earned his graduate degree in dental surgery. He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and operated his own dental practice in Edinburgh until 2016. McNally was chair of the East of Scotland branch of the British Paedodontic Society and has held various academic positions. He has also served as a presbytery elder, chair of the Queensferry parish congregational board, and commissioner to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

McNally joined Rotary in 1984 at age 26. He served as Rotary International president in 2023-24 and as president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. He has also served RI as a director and on several committees, including as chair of both the 2018 Toronto Convention Committee and the Operations Review Committee.

McNally takes special pride in the way Rotary members embraced a focus on mental health and well-being that was initiated during his presidency.

McNally is a patron of the UK-based nonprofit Hope and Homes for Children and led a partnership between that organization and Rotary GB&I to support children in Rwanda orphaned by the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. He is a patron of Trade-Aid, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven, England, which provides sustainable humanitarian aid in the developing world. He is an ambassador for Bipolar UK, a national mental health organization. In 2022, he was made the humanitarian laureate of the Sino Phil Asia International Peace Awards Foundation.

In his free time, McNally enjoys rugby and stick dressing, the traditional Scottish craft of making walking sticks.

McNally describes The Rotary Foundation as “the engine that creates the energy to do Rotary service.” He and his partner, Heather, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Borderlands (Passport Group), are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation, and members of the Bequest Society.



Vicki Puliz
Vice chair 2026-27
Trustee 2025-29
Rotary Club of
Sparks, Nevada

Vicki Puliz earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's in business administration from the University of Utah before becoming a partner in a commercial electrical contracting business in Nevada in 1984. She helped lead and expand the business until it merged with a publicly traded entity in 2003, and then she retired.

Puliz joined Rotary in 1992 as the first woman in her club. She has served Rotary as director, learning facilitator, and Rotary public image coordinator. She has helped lead presidents-elect and governors-elect learning seminars. “I see Rotary as a leadership organization that provides service,” she says. “Leadership development is a key benefit.”

Puliz is also interested in leadership development for young people. It was when she witnessed more than 100 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards participants supporting one young woman who was struggling that her vision of the power of Rotary expanded. She has co-chaired RYLA events in her district and facilitated them in Benin. In 2022, she served on the inaugural Youth Advisory Council for Rotary, which was composed of young leaders from all Rotary programs and reported directly to the RI Board of Directors.

Rotary's peace initiatives are another passion for Puliz. She serves on the Rotary Peace Centers Committee and has participated in events at the peace centers in Bradford, England, and in Istanbul. She also completed Positive Peace Activator training.

For Puliz, it is critical for each member to know why they are in Rotary. “If each Rotary member could tap into that purpose and share it with others, it would be so powerful for our organization.”

Puliz and her husband, Tim, who is also a Rotarian, live in Reno, Nevada. Their blended family includes seven children, 12 grandchildren, and three Rotary Youth Exchange daughters. They enjoy outdoor activities in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and general aviation. Both are active members of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.

They support The Rotary Foundation as Arch Klumph Society members and members of the Paul Harris Society, the Bequest Society, and the PolioPlus Society.



Francesco Arezzo
Trustee 2026-30
Rotary Club of
Ragusa, Italy

Francesco Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice and owns an ag-

ricultural enterprise that produces extra virgin olive oil in Sicily.

A graduate of the University of Padua and the University of Cagliari, where he earned a master's in lingual orthodontics, Arezzo is a member of Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations.

The Arezzo family has produced olive oil for more than a century. Arezzo has served as vice president of the administrative council that oversees quality production in the Monti Iblei region and owns two boutique hotels there.

Arezzo was Rotary International president in 2025-26. A Rotary member since 1991, he has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and as RI director, chair of the 2023 Melbourne Convention Committee, learning facilitator, and district conference presidential representative. He also served as president of Fondazione Rotary Italia, making it easier for Italian citizens to support RI's humanitarian projects.

When his fellow members proposed that he become club president, Arezzo was reluctant. He had a stutter and was terrified of addressing his club. But he accepted the challenge. And then he accepted another in becoming district

governor. It all led to profound personal transformation. “When I speak onstage in another language, I understand how much Rotary has changed me in a positive and lasting way,” he says.

During his presidency, Arezzo focused on spreading peace through Rotary and on his vision for RI’s long-term success. “The future of Rotary is one of growth,” he says. “We should have a more agile structure that is able to make decisions to match our rapidly changing world.”

Arezzo’s partner is Anna Maria Criscione, an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughter Raffaella spent a year in Florida through Rotary Youth Exchange. Francesco and Anna Maria are Benefactors and Major Donors.

Arezzo enjoys classical music, particularly that of Sicilian opera composer Vincenzo Bellini.



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

Ann-Britt Åsebol retired as

a member of the Riksdag, Sweden’s parliament, in 2022 after several terms as county councilor for Dalarna County. In parliament, she served on committees including the Committee on the Constitution and the Committee on Education.

Before she entered politics, Åsebol worked as a teacher, a principal, and a trainer at the Teachers Training College in Falun, her alma mater. She later founded a private secondary school and served as its CEO. She holds a master’s degree in Swedish and history from Uppsala University.

Åsebol joined Rotary in 1993 as the first female member of her club. She has served Rotary as learning facilitator, RI president’s representative, and regional Rotary International membership coordinator. Åsebol served as RI director and as vice chair or chair of various RI committees, including the Rotary Peace Centers, 2021 RI Virtual Convention, Constitution and Bylaws, and Joint Young Leaders and Alumni Engagement committees.

One of her favorite roles was regional

Rotary Foundation coordinator for Zone 15, which gave her a chance to work with diverse groups. “Members want to do something in the Foundation but then don’t always know how, so I look forward to talking to them about how to get involved,” Åsebol says.

One of her first international projects was a children’s home that helped young people who had lived in the sewer tunnels of St. Petersburg, Russia. Åsebol also led a global grant project with sponsors from all of the Nordic countries and Taiwan that provides clean water for a rural hospital in Nepal. She has led Rotary projects in the Baltic states and Ukraine.

Åsebol is an active member of her church and volunteers at World Cup skiing events in Sweden. She enjoys skiing, reading about history, gardening, and spending time with her five grandchildren.

Åsebol is a Rotary Foundation Benefactor, a Major Donor, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and a member of the Paul Harris Society. She has received the Citation for Meritorious Service.



Cynthia W. Covington

Trustee 2026-30
Rotary Club of
South Jacksonville,
Florida

Cynde Covington is
CEO of Monument

Leasing Corp., a family-owned commercial real estate company. She brings more than 40 years of business and financial planning experience to her role as trustee.

Covington joined Rotary in 1999, when a friend invited her to a new club. “From the moment I said yes to Rotary, it’s been a nonstop adventure,” she says.

She has held Rotary leadership positions, including chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Rotary representative to the CDC Foundation’s Polio Eradication Heroes Fund, learning facilitator, and End Polio Now coordinator.

Inspired by Mother Teresa’s assertion that “Love has to be put into action and that action is service,” Covington led National Immunization Day teams in India, which showed her the power of collective action through Rotary.

In Nicaragua, Covington worked alongside locals digging trenches for

water pipes, and she continues to advance clean water and sanitation initiatives as a founding board member of the Haiti National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative. Through HANWASH, she worked with community members and local Rotarians who are committed to bringing clean water and sanitation to an entire country, one commune at a time. Covington recently helped establish an aquaponics training center in South Africa. These experiences reflect her conviction that sustainable change starts with solutions led by local communities.

Beyond Rotary, Covington serves as a director for the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum in Jacksonville, is an alumna of Leadership Jacksonville, and has served as chair of the Church of Our Saviour Foundation.

Covington has received The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award, the Citation for Meritorious Service, and RI’s Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

Covington and her husband, Barry, a third-generation Rotarian, enjoy travel and the outdoors. They have hosted several Rotary Youth Exchange students, who remain part of their extended family. They are also Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Paul Harris Society, PolioPlus Society, and Bequest Society.



Frank Ching-Huei Horng

Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of
Panchiao West,
Taiwan

Frank C.H. Horng
heads the Trojan

Orthodontic Clinic, which he founded in 1988. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Taipei Medical University. He holds a master’s degree in craniofacial biology and a certificate in orthodontics from the University of Southern California.

Horng has served in leadership roles in professional associations for orthodontists in Taiwan and has been the school dentist at Pan-Chiao Primary School for more than 30 years. He has been active in local civic affairs as a member of the New Taipei City Election Commission.

Horng joined Rotary in 1993 as a

charter member of his club. Inspired by a quote attributed to Archimedes, “Give me a fulcrum, and I shall move the world,” he worked with his club to establish the Fulcrum Education Scholarship Project for New Taipei City Primary Schools.

Hornig served as Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative adviser, Water and Sanitation Major Gifts Initiative Committee member, endowment/major gifts adviser, and RI president’s representative. He was a learning facilitator and governors-elect learning seminar team leader.

Hornig is a strong advocate of the power of vocational service in Rotary. “I can use Rotary as a channel to expand my service,” he says. “I can use district and global grants to bring the Rotary community and the dental community together.”

As a member of the Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, he connected craniofacial surgeons in Bali and Taiwan and led a vocational training team in Mongolia. That project eventually became a Rotary Foundation global grant initiative to promote oral health that helped train 360 Mongolian health workers. Hornig’s district received a Presidential Citation in 2014-15 in recognition of this project.

Hornig enjoys hiking and golf. His partner, Shu-Yann Chuang, is also a member of the Panchiao West club. Hornig and Chuang are members of the Arch Klumph Society. He has received the Service Above Self Award and the Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service.



Chun-Wook Hyun

Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of
Seoul-Hansoo,
Korea

Chun-Wook Hyun
is senior partner at
Seoul-based Kim

& Chang, one of the largest law firms in Asia, where he has worked since 1981 as a head of the labor and employment practice group. Born and raised in the island province of Jeju, Hyun received his law degree from Seoul National University and was admitted to the Korean Bar in 1978. He earned a master’s degree from Harvard Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar.

Hyun has been published in books and journals, including the *Columbia Journal*

of *Transnational Law*. He advises companies doing business in Korea.

Hyun has worked as commissioner of the Seoul Labor Relations Commission, legal counsel to the Ministry of Employment and Labor of South Korea, and adjunct professor at Korea University Law School. He serves as director of Save the Children Korea, the Amway Korea Foundation, and United Nations Global Compact Korea. He served as chair of the Korean Bar Association’s Legal Aid Foundation and adviser and member of Korea’s Peaceful Unification Advisory Council. Hyun received a commendation from the president of Korea in 1997.

A charter member of the Rotary Club of Seoul-Hansoo since 1991, Hyun volunteers with his club in community service projects such as making kimchi for people who face food insecurity, supporting a primary school in Tanzania, and organizing music events to raise funds for PolioPlus. “Rotary changed my life, and I see how much it can change others’ lives too,” says Hyun.

Hyun has served as training leader, RI president’s representative, and Host Organization Committee member and legal adviser for the Rotary International Convention in Seoul in 2016. He serves as director of Rotary Foundation Korea.

As district governor, he helped increase membership and Foundation giving. He innovated a memorandum of understanding among leaders that fosters continuity of district goals and growth, a practice still in place in District 3640.



Ijeoma Pearl Okoro

Trustee 2024-28
Rotary Club of Port
Harcourt, Nigeria

Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
has over 30 years of
experience leading

transformation, market development, and management in the insurance industry. She holds a bachelor’s in theater arts and a postgraduate degree in management and studied at the Lagos Business School.

In memory of her late father, Okoro founded the Romanus Emeanuru Foundation for Empowerment and Education Development, dedicated to empowering women and local communities.

She volunteers for the Sir Emeka Ofori Foundation. She was charter president of her alumni chapter of the Lagos Business School’s Advanced Management Program and a patron of the Egbu Women’s Organization.

Okoro joined Rotary in 1999. She has served as RI learning facilitator, assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, endowment/major gifts adviser, End Polio Now coordinator, regional vice chair of the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign Committee, and member of the International PolioPlus Committee. She has been on the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee. Passionate about preserving Rotary history, she helped create the Africa zone group of the Rotary Global History Fellowship and has a stone in her honor at the Paul Harris Memorial walkway in Chicago.

Okoro will never forget the day the World Health Organization certified Nigeria as polio-free during her term as End Polio Now coordinator. “This was a defining moment for me,” she says. “We introduced strategies to create awareness and raise funds.”

Okoro received a certificate of appreciation from the Foundation for her leadership efforts in the fight to end polio. She has received Rotary’s Distinguished Service Award and the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

She is a charter member of the Paul Harris Society and a Benefactor. She and her husband, Kingsley, are both Rotary Foundation Major Donors and Bequest Society members. They and their two children are Paul Harris Fellows.



Carlos Sandoval

Trustee 2023-27
Rotary Club of
San Nicolás de los
Garza, Mexico

Carlos Sandoval
is CEO of Orsan
Corp., a lead-

ing company in the energy sector and the main distributor of Exxon Mobil in Mexico, with more than 270 service stations and over 3,000 employees throughout the country. He is also a regional consultant for BANORTE, the multinational financial institution. He graduated from the National Autono-

mous University of Mexico's School of Architecture and earned his MBA from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education.

Sandoval joined Rotary in 1975. He has served as regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, member of the Fund Development and Rotary Peace Centers committees, and adviser to the Endowment and Major Gifts Initiative.

Sandoval has participated in numerous projects, including one supported by Foundation grants that helped provide baking equipment and professional training to people recovering from drug use. In memory of Carlos, his late son, he made a donation to the Foundation to support economic and community development projects for female entrepreneurs in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia. Sandoval is an enthusiastic promoter of Foundation giving and has hosted six million-dollar dinners.

Sandoval's other philanthropic work includes the creation of the Orsan Foundation, an organization that promotes health initiatives among disadvantaged groups and provides assistance after disasters. He participates in a program to award 37 master's program scholarships in conflict resolution and peace in collaboration with the University of Monterrey. He sponsors three addiction rehabilitation centers in the Monterrey area and serves on the boards of the Monterrey branch of the Mexican Red Cross and the Foundation of the Autonomous University of Nuevo León. He enjoys watching car races and running to stay in shape for his three daughters, 15 grandchildren, and great-granddaughter.

Sandoval has received the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his wife, Martha, support the Foundation as members of the Arch Klumph Society's Platinum Trustees Circle.



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

Dennis J. Shore is a chartered chemical engineer with bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of New South Wales. After a

career as a senior executive, culminating in international business development and management for Australian Paper Manufacturers (later Amcor) in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, he established his own consulting business before retiring in 2021 to focus on Rotary.

Shore is a fellow of the Australasian Pulp and Paper Industry Technical Association and a recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. He served in several Australian industrial advocacy groups, including the Australian Standards Association and the Business Council of Australia's Environment Committee. He is a past director of the Australian Shareholders' Association.

Shore served for more than 20 years as a community council member of a regional Monash University campus and also on the council of Monash University, Australia's largest university. He was an inaugural director and continues as a trustee for a foundation of Monash University, which awarded him the Sir John Monash Medal for distinguished service to engineering education.

Shore, who joined Rotary in 1980, has served as endowment/major gifts adviser and is vice chair of Rotary Foundation Australia. He has served twice as Council on Legislation representative. He was a vice chair and promotions director of the Host Organization Committee for the 2023 Rotary Convention in Melbourne.

Shore's greatest passions in Rotary are supporting education and peace initiatives, part of a world of opportunities he found at the 2003 Rotary International Convention in Brisbane as club president. "The convention was like Rotary on steroids and imbued me with enthusiasm," he says. "I realized what you can do when you have a leadership opportunity in Rotary — and that you can have a 'Rotary moment' every day."

With his club, he has supported projects including scholarships and water tank installations in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, a hospital in Cambodia, and mental health initiatives in Australia. He has also contributed to the club's signature Rotary Safe Families program. Shore, who has done grassroots work to grow Rotary Foundation grants in his zone, also convened a million-dollar dinner in 2017 that raised over US\$3.5 million for the Foundation.

Shore and his wife, Lynda, are Major

Donors and Bequest Society members. He is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award and the Citation for Meritorious Service.



Katsuhiko "Kats" Tatsuno

Trustee 2025-29
Rotary Club of
Tokyo-West, Japan

Katsuhiko "Kats" Tatsuno serves as the CEO of

Tatsuno Corp. He joined the company, founded by his father, after earning his law degree from the University of Tokyo in 1964. Under his leadership, Tatsuno Corp. expanded beyond its specialty in textiles into new sectors such as real estate and electrical supplies.

Tatsuno joined the Rotary Club of Tokyo-West in 1982 and has served as Council on Legislation representative and RI learning facilitator. He has been a member of the RI Membership Committee and the Nominating Committee for RI President, among others. He also was a member of the Japanese Rotary committee that supported recovery efforts and survivors after the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. He served as RI director in 2020-22.

Tatsuno says that when he saw how his daughter's life was transformed by the time she spent in Wisconsin through Rotary Youth Exchange, he realized how special Rotary is. Another unforgettable moment for him was at the 2011 district conference, when, as governor of District 2750, he invited all 95 club presidents to take the stage and briefly present their club activities, shifting the focus away from governors to the accomplishments of club presidents. "The club presidents still remember that moment," Tatsuno says. "Even now, when we meet, they talk about it."

He established the Tatsuno Environment Foundation, which provides scholarships to university students pursuing studies related to environmental conservation, with the goal of fostering future global leaders in that field.

Tatsuno is a lifelong golfer and student of *shodō*, the art of Japanese calligraphy. He supports The Rotary Foundation as a member of the Arch Klumph Society.



Francis F. "Tusu" Tusubira

Trustee 2026-30
Rotary Club of
Kampala-North,
Uganda

Francis F. "Tusu" Tusubira is a char-

tered engineer and the senior founding partner of Knowledge Consulting Ltd. He holds a PhD in electronics from the University of Southampton in England. His work focuses on information and communications technology for development. He earned his bachelor's in engineering from Makerere University in Uganda, where he worked as an academic for 32 years.

In Uganda, Tusubira has chaired the National Information Technology Agency and served on boards including the Uganda Communications Commission and the Electricity Regulatory Authority. He was founding CEO of the UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networking, a regional data network that connects universities.

A Rotarian since 1988, Tusubira's defining project came through one of Rotary's early global grant projects: Nkondo Adopt a Village. Over seven years, his club worked on capacity building, improvement of primary education, access to water and electricity, health services, microirrigation, and microcredit. "This was the first time we really engaged the community, got to know the people," he recalls. "Then you know the people, not simply as beneficiaries, but by name."

A pivotal moment in Tusubira's service occurred as an incoming club president when the district governor appointed him district treasurer and recommended him for an advance site visit in Tanzania for a Foundation grant application. He credits this experience with inspiring his commitment to empowering younger generations.

As vice chair of the RI Board's Strategic Planning Committee, Tusubira helped develop Rotary's strategic plan. He has served on the Foundation's Programs and Participant Experience committees and as a member of the Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers.

Tusubira has received The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his spouse, Dorcas, a member of the Rotary Club of Sunrise-Kampala, are Major Donors.



Stephanie A. Urchick

Trustee 2025-29
Rotary Club
of McMurray,
Pennsylvania

Stephanie A. Urchick led Rotary as

its president in 2024-25.

Previously, she served as an RI director and Rotary Foundation trustee and in numerous other roles, including training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and RI president's representative. In addition, Urchick was a representative or a member-at-large at multiple sessions of the Council on Legislation.

Urchick has also served as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and The Rotary Foundation's Centennial Celebration Committee, as well as a member of various Rotary committees, including the Election Review Committee and Operations Review Committee.

A Rotary member since 1991, Urchick has participated in a variety of international service projects, including National Immunization Days in India and Nigeria. In Vietnam, she worked with clubs to help build a primary school, and she went to the Dominican Republic to help install water filters.

Urchick has mentored new Rotary members in Ukraine and coordinated a Rotary Foundation grant for mammography equipment and a biopsy unit for a hospital in Poland.

In its commemorative book, the Rotary Club of Kraków, Poland, noted that Urchick was a key figure in helping with the rebirth of Rotary in post-Communist Poland.

Urchick has also helped to pair clubs and districts in the U.S. with Rotary clubs in Kosovo, Romania, and Ukraine for humanitarian and educational services. In 2025, she hosted a peace conference in Istanbul with the theme "Healing in a Divided World."

Urchick's professional background is in the higher education, consulting, and entertainment industries.

She received her doctorate in leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has been recognized by The Rotary Foundation and numerous community and international organizations.



Ananthanarayan S. "Venky" Venkatesh

Trustee 2026-30
Rotary Club
of Chennai
Mambalam,
India

After earning an engineering degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Ananthanarayanan S. Venkatesh entered civil construction at age 23. He now leads a firm that employs more than 1,400 people.

Venkatesh joined Rotary in 1999, initially for networking and friendship. But during a service project donating benches to a school, a conversation with a girl transformed his perspective. "I asked her why she wouldn't budge, and she told me that this was the first time in her life she was sitting on a bench and not on the ground," he says. "That changed my entire perspective of what I wanted to do in Rotary." He has championed literacy and empowerment of girls and women.

Venkatesh has played a key role in the India Literacy Mission as joint secretary and national executive committee member, supporting teacher training and literacy programs across 2,964 schools.

He served as RI director in 2021-23 and has been a membership coordinator and learning facilitator.

Venkatesh is passionate about the link between RI's public image and membership growth. "One day, people will ask us more often, 'Can I join Rotary?'"

For Venkatesh, part of Rotary's appeal is the streamlined way it helps members to make an impact. "It's a multiplier," he says.

Venkatesh enjoys bridge and traveling to seaside destinations. His wife, Vinita, is a member of the Rotary Club of Chennai Anchorage. They are Major Donors.

John Hewko

General Secretary
Rotary Club of Kyiv, Ukraine

See Board of Directors bio, page 35. ■

DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Leaders selected to represent each district are beginning their year of service to promote Rotary, strengthen clubs, and manage district business.

26-27





Scenes from assembly

The serious and
lighter sides of district
governors-elect
learning at the 2026
International Assembly

*Photography by
Monika Lozinska*

1010: Alistair Robb
Buckhaven and Methil,
Scotland

1030: Susan Campbell
Darlington, England

1040: David Hartley
Louth, England

1060: Jasminder Dhaliwal
Coventry Phoenix, England

1070: Dawn Denton
Towcester, England

1080: Andy Roberts
Kings Lynn Priory, England

1090: Kalpana Isaac Morris
Oxford, England

1100: Lucy Thornton
Pershore, England

1110: Stephen Parsons
Swanage & Purbeck, England

1120: Graham Forster
Bexhill, England

1130: Sreetharan Vallipuram
Westminster West, England

1145: Mike Thorn
Cheam and Sutton, England

1150: Brian Fakir
Barry & District, Wales

1160: George Roche
Cork Bishopstown, Ireland

1175: Darren Hands
Plymouth Roborough, England

1180: Andrew Allen
City of Liverpool, England

1190: Annette Ramsden
Leyland, England

1200: Mike Kew
Blackmore Vale, England

1210: Donald Lovejoy
Church Stretton, England

1220: Robin Morrison
Retford, England

1240: Gloria Nichols
Shenfield and District,
England

1260: Kendal Pitt
Hertford Shires, England

1285: Ian Cochrane
Dukinfield & Stalybridge,
England

1320: Callan Dick
Motherwell & Wishaw, Scotland

1360: Elísabet Ólafsdóttir
Mosfellssveit, Iceland

1385: Suvi Linden
Merikoski (Oulu), Finland

1390: Olli Nummelin
Valkeakoski-Tohka, Finland

1410: Sakari Alaranta
Lieto Vanhalinna, Finland

1420: Heldur Allese
Saaremaa, Estonia

1430: Arja-Irene Tiainen
Kitee, Finland

1440: Annette Kjellerup
Thisted, Denmark

1450: Hans Thygesen
Silkeborg Connect, Denmark

1461: Peter Thode Loft
Haderslev-Hertug Hans,
Denmark

1462: Andrius Barniškis
Klaipėdos Senamiesčio,
Lithuania

1470: Jørgen Rasch
Furesø, Denmark

1480: Boye Jensen
Praestø, Denmark

1510: Alain Foret
Le Mans, France

1520: Karine Descamps
Arras Coeur d'Artois, France

**1550: Debbie Kenyon-
Jackson**
Cuijk, Netherlands

**1560: Patty van Vierzen-van
Hattum**
Ermelo, Netherlands

1570: Ina Smit-Roest
Driebergen-Rijsenburg,
Netherlands

1580: Ben Ewals
Haarlemmermeer van 1852,
Netherlands

1590: Marian Strating
Groningen-Noord,
Netherlands

1600: Frank Speel
's-Gravenhage Oost,
Netherlands

**1610: Christine Barnhard-
Kappetijn**
Walcheren, Netherlands

1640: Jean-Charles Bossard
Granville, France

1650: Christian Le Ponner
Bain de Bretagne Arc
Atlantique, France

1660: Pierre Lacharme
Mantes-la-Jolie, France

1670: Pierre Michel Legrand
Valenciennes, France

1680: Martine Lang
Strasbourg Kléber, France





1690: Jean Paul Populu de la Forge
Cadillac & Garonne, France

1700: Régis Prunet
Caussade Midi Quercy, France

1710: Sylvie Boachon
Lyon-Caluire, France

1720: Jean-Louis Rizzo
Montargis, France

1730: Didier Benoit
Sanary-Bandol-Ollioules, France

1740: Didier Luminet
Moulins Yzeure, France

1750: Martine Marquet-Vinatier
Mâcon, France

1760: Stéphane Gensollen
Marseille-Saint-Jean, France

1770: Isabelle Perrieux
Noisy le Grand, France

1780: Catherine Vittoz
Bourgoin La Tour du Pin, France

1790: Detlev Goetz
Hagondange-Rives de Moselle, France

1800: Michael Koch
Hannover-Eilenriede, Germany

1810: Christoph J. Schiewek
Westerwald, Germany

1820: Jürgen Stihl II
Kassel-Hofgeismar, Germany

1830: Christel Althaus
Esslingen am Neckar, Germany

1841: Thomas Münkler
Ammersee, Germany

1842: Michael Albert-Kopf
Chiemsee, Germany

1850: Wolfgang Voelz
Norden, Germany

1860: Wolfgang Eifler
Mainz-Aurea Moguntia, Germany

1870: Clemens Miller
Mülheim-Ruhr-Uhlenhorst, Germany

1880: Sven Rössel
Leipzig, Germany

1890: Gesa Völkl
Rendsburg-Mittelholstein, Germany

1900: Peter Honsel
Schmallenberg-Winterberg-Lennetal, Germany

1910: Sabine Unterweger
Wien-Nestroy, Austria

1911: Zoltán Szakács
Sopron-Pannonia, Hungary

1912: Boštjan Vrhovšek
Maribor-Grad, Slovenia

1913: Petar Greguric
Zagreb City 1850, Croatia

1920: Eckehard Bauer
Freistadt, Austria

1930: Jörg Hochhausen
Biberach-Weisser Turm, Germany

1940: Torsten Becker
Berlin-Tiergarten, Germany

1950: Dirk Engels
Coburg, Germany

1960: Isabel Rosmaninho
Lisboa-Benfica, Portugal

1970: Luis Bastos
Oliveira de Azeméis, Portugal

1980: Urs Meyer
Solothurn, Switzerland

1990: René Loretan
Brig, Switzerland



2000: Dieter Bambauer
Oberer Zürichsee,
Switzerland

2031: Elena Gianasso
Rivoli, Italy

2032: Fortunato Crovari
Genova-Est, Italy

2041: Donatella Bonfatti
Milano Villoresi, Italy

2042: Giuseppe La Rocca
Parchi Alto Milanese, Italy

2050: Francesco Treccani
Rodengo Abbazia, Italy

2060: Lucia Crapesi
Monfalcone-Grado, Italy

2071: Alberto Papini
Arezzo, Italy

2072: Eugenio Boni
Modena, Italy

2080: Bartolomeo Bove
Roma Appia Antica, Italy

2090: Stefano Gobbi
Tolentino, Italy

2101: Giuseppe Nardini
Isola di Procida, Italy

2102: Giacomo Saccomanno
Nicotera Medma, Italy

2110: Lina Ricciardello
Patti-Terra del Tindari, Italy

2120: Antonio Tarentini
Lecce Sud, Italy

2130: Jan Broodcoorens
Geraardsbergen, Belgium

2140: Peter Vanommelaeghe
Turnhout, Belgium

2150: Christophe Cossyns
Braine l'Alleud 1815, Belgium

2160: Eric Desmidts
Auvélais-Basse Sambre,
Belgium

**2201: Joaquín Felipe
Sanchez Cots**
Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

**2202: Josep Oriol Brutau
Vallet**
Vic-Osona, Spain

2203: JJ Frías
Estepona-Costa del Sol, Spain

2223: Dmitry Konnychev
Saratov-Center, Saratovskaya
oblast, Russia

2231: Michal Sowa
Kraków, Poland

2232: Hanna Kozhyna
Kharkiv Mriya, Ukraine

2240: Ivana Lengová
Košice Classic, Slovakia

2241: Cristian Ilie
Galati-Donaris, Romania

2250: Thomas Thiis
Bergenhus, Norway

2260: Jon Ottar Ellefsen
Borge, Norway

2275: Trond Stenersen
Stjørdal, Norway

2290: Heidi Hammervik
Holmestrand, Norway



2305: Robert Voldnes
Herøy, Norway

2310: Ola Stave
Maridalen, Norway

2325: Karin Ekblom
Rödön, Sweden

2335: Lennart Rönnquist
Västerås Rudbeckius, Sweden

2355: Elisabeth Norrby
Stockholm International,
Sweden

2365: Britt-Marie Bergman
Jönköping, Sweden

2395: Malin Andersson
Ängelholm, Sweden

2405: Yael Tågerud
Kalmar, Sweden

2420: Erden Gökmen
Istanbul-Atasehir, Turkey

2430: Orhan Uludag
Ankara Anittepe, Turkey

2440: Aylin Ötken
Izmir-Gündogdu, Turkey

2451: Hesham Shawky
Giza Metropolitan, Egypt

2452: May Monla-Chmaitilly
Tripoli-Maarad, Lebanon

**2475: Charalampos
Tinginagkas**
Athinai, Greece

2482: Aleksandar Petrov
Harmanli, Bulgaria

2483: Dali Bradic
Beograd-Sava, Serbia

2485: Florentina Dushi
Prishtina, Kosovo

2490: Alon Barnea
Tel-Aviv/Afeka AvivTEK, Israel

2500: Michio Yamamoto
Asahigawa, Japan

2510: Shigeyuki Furuno
Sapporo, Japan

2520: Shigeru Shibata
Morioka East, Japan

2530: Noboru Kaneda
Shirakawa West, Japan

2540: Mamoru Tsuchidate
Odate, Japan

2550: Chijun Takahashi
Nishinasuno, Japan

2560: Hiroshi Toyama
Yukiguni Uonuma, Japan

2570: Seiji Harashima
Chichibu, Japan

2580: Ayako Taniichi
Tokyo Koishikawa, Japan

2590: Akihisa Miyata
Yokohama South, Japan

2600: Nobuhisa Hashigami
Iida South, Japan

2610: Akio Misuta
Toyama-Mirai, Japan

2620: Hidenori Wakabayashi
Fujieda South, Japan

2630: Nobuyasu Kawai
Ogaki Naka, Japan

2640: Masuo Okamoto
Kawachinagano Koyakaido,
Japan

2650: Yoichi Hirano
Fukui, Japan

2660: Takahisa Yokota
Higashi Osaka, Japan

2670: Yuji Mori
Matsuyama South, Japan

2680: Michiko Shirai
Himeji East, Japan

2690: Shinji Kanatani
Tamashima, Japan

2700: Kazuo Tojima
Fukuoka-South, Japan

2710: Kazuya Waki
Ube, Japan

2720: Ken-Ichi Nobeoka
Hitoyoshi, Japan

2730: Shigeki Arimura
Kagoshima East, Japan

2740: Kentaro Nakashima
Nagasaki East, Japan

2750: Hidemasa Muto
Tokyo Crosscity, Japan



2760: Toshimori Konoya
Nagoya-East, Japan

2770: Kazuo Mieda
Omiya-East, Japan

2780: Hitoshi Nakagome
Kamakura, Japan

2790: Hiromichi Morishima
Shin-Chiba, Japan

2800: Shuji Ito
Yamagata, Japan

2820: Tsutomu Kasakura
Shimodate Shisui, Japan

2830: Shunsuke Narita
Hirosaki West, Japan

2840: Takashi Takenaka
Takasaki North, Japan

**2981: Vaithianathan
Krishnasamy**
Pondicherry Pride, India

**2982: Chinniah Senthil
Kumar**
Kallakurichi, India

**3000: Subramani
Ramanujam**
Tiruchirapalli Diamond City,
India

3011: Ajeet Jalan
Delhi South West, India

3012: Amit Gupta
Ghaziabad Central, India

3020: Sree Guttikonda
Vijayawada East, India

3030: Rajesh Patil
Jalgaon West, India

3040: Sanskar Kothari
Ratlam, India

3053: Brij Mohan Agarwal
Bhiwadi, India

3055: Naimish Ravani
Ahmedabad Supreme, India

3056: Arun Bagadia
Jaipur Royal, India

3060: Nilesh Shah
Vapi Riverside, India

3070: Anil Singhal
Amritsar Midtown, India

3080: Rita Kalra
Chandigarh Mid Town, India

3090: Amit Kumar
Samana, India



- 3100: Payal Gaur**
Bulandshahr, India
- 3110: Jasbir Bhatia**
Kanpur South, India
- 3120: Poonam Gulati**
Allahabad Royals, India
- 3131: Nitin Dhamale**
Pimpri, India
- 3132: Jayesh Patel**
Solapur, India
- 3141: Rajan Dua**
Mumbai Island City, India

- 3142: Nilesh Jaywant**
Thane Greenspans, India
- 3150: Uday Pilani**
Lake District Moinabad, India
- 3160: Pullalarevu Keshav Reddy**
Anantapur Central, India
- 3170: Lenny Da Costa**
Margao Midtown, India
- 3181: Sathish Bolar**
Mangalore South, India
- 3182: Bandimut Manjunath Bhat**
Brahmavar, India
- 3191: Anil Gupta**
Bangalore IT Corridor, India
- 3192: Ravishankar Dakoju**
Bangalore, India
- 3203: Boopathi Kumarsamy**
Avanashi, India
- 3204: Mohandas Methile Veettil**
Nileshwar, India
- 3205: Joshy Chacko**
Perumbavoor Central, India
- 3206: Maruti Ramaswamy Shanmukam**
Coimbatore Texcity, India
- 3211: Krishnan Nair**
Quilon, India
- 3212: Gandhi Krishnan**
Ramnad, India
- 3220: Kumar Sundararaj**
Colombo Mid-City, Sri Lanka
- 3231: T.S. Ravikumar**
Arkonam, India
- 3233: Shriram Duvvuri**
Chennai Capital, India
- 3234: Suresh Jain**
Madras Metro, India

- 3240: Asim Adhikary**
Bolpur-Santiniketan, India
- 3250: Anu Narang**
Dhanbad, India
- 3261: Alam Roopra**
Rourkela Royal, India
- 3262: Anil Samal**
Bhubaneswar Royal, India
- 3271: Shahzad Sabir**
Karachi, Pakistan
- 3291: Tapas Bhattacharya**
Dum Dum, India
- 3292: Vishnu Karkee**
Baneshwor, Nepal
- 3300: Raji Melambaran**
Subang, Malaysia
- 3310: Dolly Siew Keat Yeap**
Kulai, Malaysia
- 3330: Chatchawal Wongwiwatwaitaya**
Nakornpathom, Thailand
- 3340: Itthipol Kanjanapimol**
Amnat Charoen, Thailand
- 3350: Srifa Siriudomseth**
Bangkok-Ratchadapisek, Thailand
- 3360: Paya Tharawut**
Wangchan, Thailand
- 3410: Sendarius Lesmana**
Jakarta-Menteng, Indonesia
- 3420: Wayan Tur Adnyana**
Bali-Jimbaran, Indonesia
- 3450: Jimmy Lau**
Star Avenue, Hong Kong
- 3461: Sheng-Huei Liao**
Taichung, Taiwan
- 3462: Ming-Fan Chuang**
Changhwa East, Taiwan
- 3470: Cheng-Chao Lin**
Chiayi Ali-Shan, Taiwan

- 3481: Hsin-lin Chiang**
Taipei Yung Dong, Taiwan
- 3482: Fanny Fang**
Taipei New Century, Taipei, Taiwan
- 3490: Sheng-Teng Jun Chen**
I-Lan South, Taiwan
- 3501: Chuan-Tse Ho**
Chunan Bai Ling, Taiwan
- 3502: Kuo-An Kao**
Taoyuan East, Taiwan
- 3510: Kau-Ming Chen**
Kaohsiung Chung Hsing, Taiwan
- 3521: Boger Lin**
Taipei Chang An, Taipei, Taiwan
- 3522: Ming-Tao Lung**
Taipei Sunrise, Taiwan
- 3523: Lieng-Fu Yang**
Taipei Influence, Taiwan
- 3590: Byong Yun Kim**
Jinju-Chokseok, Korea
- 3600: Kwang Hyung Yu**
Seongnam Central, Korea
- 3610: Nam-Gyu Kim**
Dong Suncheon, Korea
- 3620: Jae Yong Choi**
Cheonan, Korea
- 3630: Jeong Hwa Bae**
Gumi-Jangmi, Korea
- 3640: Hak-Joon Kim**
Seoul Asem, Korea
- 3650: Zin Hwan Kim**
Seoul Hoehyon, Korea
- 3661: Young Tae Park**
Busan-West, Korea
- 3662: Hyeong Kwon Kang**
Han-Lim, Korea
- 3670: Jun-Sub Yun**
Namweon Yongseong, Korea

3680: Hee Jung Park
New Dunsan, Korea

3690: Ryoung Ha
Sae-Goyang, Korea

3700: Joon Cheol Lee
Daegu Dongbuk, Korea

3710: Han Su Oh
Songjeong, Korea

3721: Jin Sup Lee
Ulsan Daeduck, Korea

3722: Sang Uk Lee
Masan Gwangryeo, Korea

3730: So Hee Lee
Chuncheon-Sehwa, Korea

3740: Hong Gab Kim
Cheongju Leaders, Korea

3750: Yong-Joon Kwon
Anyang-Pyeongchon, Korea

3770: Noel Mariano
Pulilan, Philippines

3780: Rhyan Virrey
Cubao West, Philippines

3790: Ronald Dy
San Fernando, Philippines

3800: Celso Montalla
Marikina Hilltop, Philippines

3810: Maria Rosa Bing N. Carrion
Manila Supreme 198,
Philippines

3820: Eric Santos
Atimonan Sunrise,
Philippines

3830: Gloria Jasmin Limon
Makati Edsa, Philippines

3850: Carlo Joseph De La Cruz
Metro Bacolod, Philippines

3860: Arlene Adlawan
Tagum Golden Laces,
Philippines

3870: Maureen Cacabelos
Midsayap, Philippines

4060: Juan Osvaldo Holguín
Santo Domingo, Dominican
Republic

4100: Octavio Sánchez de Lara Jr.
Ensenada, Mexico

4110: Marina González De Moss
Juárez Integra, Mexico

4130: David Eaton
Monterrey Metropolitano,
Mexico

4140: Fernando Ramos Gourcy
Encarnación de Díaz, Mexico

4170: Oscar Rivera Rodríguez
Ciudad de México, Mexico

4185: Ebling Naguibe Sánchez Pinto
Puebla Campestre Real, Mexico

4195: Celin Palacios Hernández
Chiapa de Corzo, Mexico

4240: Antonieta Navarrete Díaz
San Salvador, El Salvador

4250: Ray Hohenkirk
Belize Sunrise, Belize

4271: Harold Bonilla Granadillo
Fonseca, Colombia

4281: Fabio Vejar Montañez
Bogotá-Chico, Colombia

4320: José Miguel Nuñez Alvarado
La Serena, Chile

4340: Fernando Pinto Nercelles
Pehuén de Las Condes, Chile

4355: Nelson Zúñiga Echavarría
Puerto Natales, Chile

4370: Yupnexa Rojas
El Marques Norte, Venezuela

4380: Auristher Pinto de Camacaro
Santiago de los Caballeros,
Venezuela

4391: Waldson Kleber Ernesto Bezerra
Arapiraca-Centenário, Brazil

4400: Marcelo Arteaga Valdivieso
Quito Equinoccio, Ecuador

4420: Ronaldo Yuzo Ogasawara
São Paulo-Brasil Japão, Brazil

4440: Joelcirney Klimaschewsk
Cuiabá-CPA, Brazil

4455: Henryr Valdivia Gamboa
Tacna, Peru

4465: Jorge Castañeda Centurion
Chimbote Centenario, Peru

4470: Eurico Vieira
Nova Andradina, Brazil

4480: Brasilino Garcia Neto
Olímpia-Integração, Brazil

4490: Zilma Neiva Guimarães
Florianópolis-Médio-Parnaíba,
Brazil

4500: Emanuelle Barreto
Natal-Potiguar, Brazil

4510: Monaliza Andrea Marega
Marília-Pioneiro, Brazil

4521: Allex Kleber Maciel
Capelinha, Brazil

4530: André Moura
Taguatinga, Brazil

4540: Josiane Lage
Ribeirão Preto-Leste, Brazil

4560: Luiz Henrique Mendes
Pouso Alegre-Sul, Brazil

4563: Henrique Misawa
São Paulo-Pinheiros, Brazil

4571: Dante Bachi Junior
Caraguatatuba-Poiaraes, Brazil

4590: Alex Pereira
Limeira-Sudeste, Brazil

4621: Ramón Chaves Hernandez
Tietê, Brazil

4630: Ricardo de Oliveira
Cianorte-Furquim de Castro,
Brazil

4640: Ademar Spinello
Pato Branco-Amizade, Brazil

4652: Ramon Cordeiro
Tubarão-Sul, Brazil

4660: José Henrique Weber
Três de Maio, Brazil

4670: Angela Kolberg
São Francisco de Paula,
Brazil

4680: Francisco Valle
Porto Alegre-Independência,
Brazil

4690: Mario Yaffar de la Barra
Chuquibambilla-Marka, Bolivia

4700: Sidnei Olivotto
Garibaldi, Brazil

4710: Líría Cheida Bonancin
Andirá, Brazil

4720: José Xerez
Santana, Brazil

4730: Miguel Ângelo Gasparetto
Curitiba-Cidade Ecológica,
Brazil

4740: Moacir Schaly
Campos Novos, Brazil



4751: Roney Correa Ribeiro
Bom Jesus de Itabapoana,
Brazil

4760: Jaqueline Ferreira
Contagem-Cidade Industrial,
Brazil

4770: Marcelo Góes
Uberlândia-Sul, Brazil

4780: Nelson Azevedo Jr.
Cachoeira do Sul-Princesa do
Jacuí, Brazil

4845: Andrés Stremiz
Trinidad-Asunción, Paraguay

**4851: Martin Echegaray
Arnau**
San Martín, Argentina

4895: Gustavo Tondi
Olivos, Argentina

4905: Daniel Garcia
Banfield Este, Argentina

4921: Martin Rodriguez
Caleta Olivia, Argentina

4945: Lucio Marani
Rosario Plaza de la Bandera,
Argentina

4975: Walter Ojero Costa
Montevideo, Uruguay

5000: Benson Medina
South Hilo, Hawaii

5010: Paul Paslay
Anchorage East, Alaska

5020: Linda Kaye Briggs
Tacoma, Washington

5030: Patricia Chapman
Duvall, Washington

5040: Dean Hsieh
Richmond, British Columbia

5050: Kathleen Olson
Arlington, Washington

5060: Jill Leonard
Wenatchee, Washington

5080: Steven Roberge
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

5100: Renée Fontenot
Tualatin, Oregon

5110: Bruce Allen
Greater Albany, Oregon

5130: Jeff Kolin
Santa Rosa, California

5150: YuHui Chen
Menlo Park, California

5160: Woody Fridae
Winters, California

5170: Geeta Kadambi
Fremont Bridge, California

5180: David Veden
Natomas (Sacramento),
California

5190: Kurt Raffetto
Placerville, California

5220: Pete Herrmann
Modesto, California

5230: Susan Winey
Visalia, California

5240: Margarida Eidson
Ventura East, California

5280: Brady Connell
Playa Venice Sunrise, California

5300: Dennis Franklin
Glendora, California

5320: Monica Peters
Whittier, California

5330: Richard Lemire
Riverside East, California

5340: Jeb Bakke III
Rancho Bernardo Sunrise
(San Diego), California

5360: Darcy Mykytyshyn
Red Deer, Alberta

5370: Jeanette Bancarz
Edmonton-Mayfield, Alberta

5390: Kathy Schulte
Missoula, Montana

5400: Michael Markley
Boise Southwest, Idaho

5420: Peter Cardon
South Valley, Utah

5440: Albon Shaw
Casper-Five Trails, Wyoming

5450: Cindy Chase
Denver Cherry Creek,
Colorado

5470: Donna Hood
Wet Mountain Valley
(Westcliffe), Colorado

5495: Joe Sweeney
Prescott Valley, Arizona

5500: Emma Carrillo
Tucson Kino, Arizona

5520: Jeffrey Weinrach
Albuquerque Del Sol, New
Mexico

5550: Warren Thompson
Winnipeg-Assiniboine,
Manitoba

5580: Peter Nelson
Brainerd, Minnesota

5610: Mike Gibson
Rapid City, South Dakota

5630: Stuart Shepherd
North Platte Sunrise, Nebraska

5650: Gretchen Bren
Omaha Night, Nebraska

5680: Isaac McNary
El Dorado, Kansas

5710: Michelle Sink
Manhattan Konza, Kansas

5730: Jacqueline Mellen
Midland West, Texas

5750: Mukesh Patel
Midwest City, Oklahoma

5770: Pat Fountain
Ada, Oklahoma

5790: Angie Cox
Lewisville, Texas

5810: Michael Callahan
Prestonwood (Dallas), Texas

5830: Diane Kavanaugh
South Tyler, Texas

5840: Robert Martinez
Atascosa County, Texas

5870: Jeff Coleman
Pflugerville, Texas

5890: Camille Hamilton
Tomball, Texas

5910: Philip Shackelford
Aggieland (Bryan/College
Station), Texas

5930: Jack Alspaugh
Corpus Christi Evening, Texas

5950: Leif Hagen
Eagan, Minnesota

5960: C. Michael-Jon Pease
St. Paul, Minnesota

5970: Jeffrey Halverson
Waterloo, Iowa

6000: Bill Bruce Jr.
Denison, Iowa

**6040: Amy Chinnery-
Valmassei**
Lee's Summit, Missouri

6060: Luke Kehoe
St. Peters, Missouri

6080: Brad Martens
Columbia South, Missouri

6110: Laura Garrett
Will Rogers (Tulsa),
Oklahoma

6150: Matt Buie
Little Rock Afterhours,
Arkansas

6170: Shawnee Cooper
Saline County After-Hours,
Arkansas



6190: Charlotta Nordyke
Shreveport, Louisiana

6200: Margaretta Mayes
De Ridder, Louisiana

6220: Randy Winter
Wausau After Hours,
Wisconsin

6250: Scott Ryan
Holmen Area, Wisconsin

6270: Dawn Fiedler
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

6290: Julie Schumaker
Frankfort, Michigan

6310: Jon Catlin
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

**6330: Lorna Gunning
Fratschko**
London-Hyde Park, Ontario

6360: Timothy Lee
Sturgis, Michigan

6380: Lee Halsted
Highway M-36, Michigan

6400: Kimberley Spirou
Tecumseh Lakeshore, Ontario

6420: Tina Curtis
Walnut, Illinois

6440: Richard Reigner
Elgin Breakfast, Illinois

6450: Mary Dankowski
Chicago Heights-Park Forest,
Illinois

6460: Musonda Kapatamoyo
Edwardsville, Illinois

6490: Deborah West
Bloomington, Illinois

6510: Libby Quinlan Jr.
O'Fallon Sunrise, Illinois

6540: Terri Rickel
Elkhart, Indiana

6560: Stephanie Moran
Anderson, Indiana

6580: Matt Millies
New Albany, Indiana



6600: Katherine Eboch
Anthony Wayne Area, Ohio

6630: Terri Speck
Westlake-Bay Village, Ohio

6650: Ryan Boyce
Salem, Ohio

6670: Chuck Shonkwiler
Fairborn, Ohio

6690: Terry Rataiczak
Marietta, Ohio

6710: Sherrill Smith
Frankfort, Kentucky

6740: Terry Pugh
Somerset-Pulaski County,
Kentucky

6760: Jeffrey Brasher
Franklin At Breakfast,
Tennessee

6780: Deborah Birdsall
Fairfield Glade, Tennessee

6800: Stephanie Crisp
Olive Branch, Mississippi

6820: Jimmy Parker
Columbus, Mississippi

6840: Emily Leitzinger
Mid-City New Orleans,
Louisiana

6860: Elizabeth Garcia
Greater Huntsville,
Alabama

6880: Stephen Weaver
Fairhope Sunset, Alabama

6890: Linda Johnson
Auburndale, Florida

6900: Cynthia Edwards
Stone Mountain, Georgia

6910: Paul Matthews
The Classic City of Athens,
Georgia

6920: Beverly Trainor
St. Simons Island, Georgia

6930: Marcia Gaedcke
Titusville, Florida

6940: Clayton Hicks
Destin, Florida

6950: Mark Middleton
Dunedin North, Florida

6960: Dennis Wallace
Harbor Heights/Peace River,
Florida

6970: Bo Norton
Orange Park, Florida

6980: Michael Franklin
Apopka, Florida

6990: Pete Pecci
Weston, Florida

7000: Gerardo Cumpiano
San Juan, Puerto Rico

7010: Drew Markham
Peterborough Kawartha,
Ontario

7020: Lindsey Cancino
East Nassau, Bahamas

7030: Maurice Saad
Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe

7040: Barbara Fisk
D7040 Passport, Ontario

7070: Elizabeth Compton
Toronto Leaside, Ontario

7080: Uche Okugo
Brampton, Ontario

7090: Joanne Serkeyn
Lincoln, Ontario

7120: Lisa Norwood
Rochester Southwest, New York

7180: Pamela Baker Gratton
Auburn, New York

7210: Carrie Hernandez
Brewster, New York

7230: Maksud Chowdhury
E-Club of Heritage New York,
New York

7255: Rose Quaranta
The Ronkonkomas, New York

7280: John Marshall
Cranberry Township,
Pennsylvania

7305: Michelle Petrell
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

7360: Sean Murtagh
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

7390: Rebecca Zalit
Palmyra, Pennsylvania

7410: Andrea Chapman
Honesdale, Pennsylvania

7430: Jeremiah Sensenig
West Reading-Wyomissing,
Pennsylvania

7450: Carol Lerner
NE Philadelphia Cheltenham
Rockledge, Pennsylvania

7475: Joseph Nastus
Greater New Brunswick, New
Jersey

7545: Julie Sawyer
Bordentown, West Virginia

7570: Charlotte Whitted
Fairmont, Virginia

7590: William Mercantini
Abingdon, New Jersey

7600: SuAnne Bryant
Chesapeake, Virginia

7610: Peter Anderson
Crystal City-Pentagon
(Arlington), Virginia

7620: Dawn Wittfelt
Sykesville, Maryland

7630: Ken Montville
Salisbury, Maryland

7670: Paige Scott
Burnsville, North Carolina

7680: Jerald Coughter
Charlotte, North Carolina

7690: Karen Pollard
Crescent (Greensboro),
North Carolina

7710: Patrick Gallagher
Cary-Page, North Carolina

7720: Sophie Szymeczek
Farmville, North Carolina

7730: Shawn Braswell
Southport, North Carolina

7750: Eric Krichbaum
The Reedy River Greenville,
South Carolina

7770: Herman Dixon
Summerville, South Carolina

7780: Michele Bois-Gilbody
Freeport, Maine

7790: Serge Poulin
Alma, Quebec

7815: Christa Hornberger
Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia

7850: Ariel Mondlak
Waterbury, Vermont

7870: Ruth Clough
Killington-Pico, Vermont

7890: E.J. Neafsey
Stafford, Connecticut

7910: Penny Hamel
Westford, Massachusetts

**7930: Theresa Rezendes
Curran**
Parkway (West Roxbury,
Roslindale, and Jamaica
Plain),
Massachusetts

7950: Nicole Brien
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

7980: Donald Wetmore
Milford, Connecticut

9010: Younes Saih
Casablanca-Nord, Morocco

9101: Baidy Dieng
Dakar, Senegal



9103: Stanislas Hacheme
Abomey-Calavi, Benin

9104: Jack Dotsey
Accra, Ghana

9111: Bukola Bakare
Ikeja GRA, Nigeria

9112: Olayioye Abidoye
Gbagada, Nigeria

9126: Olaniyi Okin
Iyaganku-Ibadan, Nigeria

9127: Sikiru Owonikoko
Abuja Garki Neighborhood,
Nigeria

9141: Chibueze Olikagu
Yenagoa, Nigeria

9142: Chibuzo Asogwa
Ekulu, Nigeria

9150: Hyacinthe Defoundoux-Fila
Brazzaville Djoue-Doyen,
Republic of Congo

9210: Samuel Chikowore
Msasa, Zimbabwe

9213: Gerald Obai
Nairobi Upper Hill, Uganda

9214: Daniel Ddamulira
Addis Ababa-Bole, Uganda

9215: Syed Rahman
Gulu, Kenya

9216: Esayas Yeyesuswork
Mengo, Ethiopia

9220: Clément Ah-Line
Saint-Denis Alizes, Réunion

9350: Anton Lubbe
Helderberg Sunrise, South
Africa

9370: Melonie Gobel
East London, South Africa

9400: Grace Van Zyl
Johannesburg, South Africa

9423: Veronica Lawrance
Mill Point, Australia

9510: Timothy Mee
Morialta, Australia

9560: Rita Zappulla
Cairns Sunrise, Australia

9620: Ian Hope
Brisbane Northside,
Australia

9640: Debbie Frugtniet
Broadwater North, Australia

9660: Diane Hall
E-Club of District 9650,
Australia

9675: Shane Burette
Fairfield City, Australia

9685: Michele Ellery
Lower Blue Mountains,
Australia

9705: Judith Ford
Gungahlin, Australia

9780: Tonie Thiel
Casterton, Australia

9790: Paul Miegel
Corowa, Australia

9800: Graeme Hope
Camberwell, Australia

9815: Emma Clark
Emerald & District, Australia

9830: Craig Perkins
Central Launceston, Australia

9910: Mitchell Brown
Kerikeri, New Zealand

9920: Joyti Singh
Auckland Harbourside, New
Zealand

9930: Janine Branson
Rotorua Passport, New
Zealand

9940: Brent Gerrard
Port Nicholson, New Zealand

9999: Sandra Isaacs
Riccanton, New Zealand ■

OUR CLUBS

HANDBOOK

What would-be members want

A survey shows a disconnect between what potential Rotarians want and what they think Rotary has to offer

Are volunteer service organizations on life support? Rotary membership in North America is declining: Membership in both Canada and the United States has fallen by about 30 percent in the past two decades. But a recent survey found that maybe Rotary simply needs to do a better job of showing prospective members that the organization is exactly what they're looking for.

Rotary conducted a survey in 2025 of nearly 2,500 Americans with more than \$100,000 in household income. The results differed from previous surveys targeting a more general audience in striking ways: Respondents

were more interested in work and friendship, more interested in what's happening in their communities, and more trustful of other people. "What this tells me is there is a pretty vibrant market of Rotary members in the United States," says Manuel Viedma, principal research and evaluation partner for Rotary's Research & Evaluation team.

The survey found that people are looking for organizations with opportunities for skill development, professional networking, and meaningful community contributions — groups that match their values and support a cause they're passionate about. Sound familiar?

The survey identified potential obstacles as well. Cost, for one: Respondents said that they were willing to pay no more than \$100 per year for a Rotary club membership, which covers the cost of Rotary International dues but not necessarily club and district fees (the average club cost is \$600 annually once meals are included). Then, there's age. People under 50 were the most interested in joining, but the average age of a Rotary member in the United States is 63. And respondents were looking for personal benefits, something to justify the price tag.

"It's not that we've made a mistake in emphasizing service," Viedma says. "It's just that we need to show more of what makes a Rotary membership worth it." ■

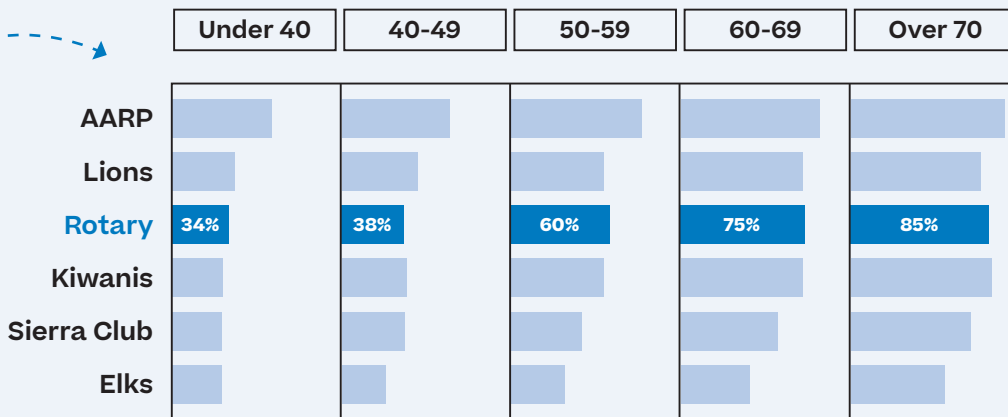
A guide called *Designing Your Rotary Experience* outlines all the ways members can get involved in Rotary. Download it at on.rotary.org/experience.

WHICH MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS HAVE YOU HEARD OF BEFORE TODAY?

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION

Age bracket	Membership in any organization
Under 40	56%
40-49	62%
50-59	54%
60-69	61%
Over 70	73%

More than half of survey respondents were members of an organization such as AARP, Lions, or Kiwanis. Even though studies show that community engagement in the United States is declining, there is a segment of people who still like to join organizations.



Awareness of Rotary was strong, but we need to do a better job of getting the Rotary wheel in front of people who are younger.

WHO WAS MOST INTERESTED IN JOINING A ROTARY CLUB?

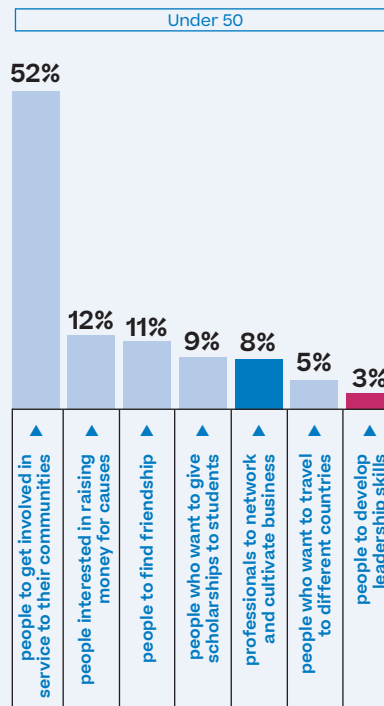
Those interested in joining are more social and more interested in their work, perhaps reflecting the younger demographic of people who want to join.

How important is work to you?				
	Not at all important	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important
Not interested in joining	20%	19%	38%	23%
Interested in joining	6%	6%	29%	60%

How interested are you in your community?				
	Not at all interested	Not very interested	Moderately interested	Very interested
Not interested in joining	1%	5%	50%	45%
Interested in joining	1%	1%	33%	65%

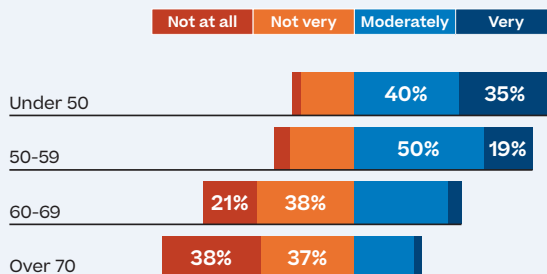
How often do you make friends?				
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Not interested in joining	1%	36%	56%	7%
Interested in joining	1%	22%	55%	21%

A ROTARY CLUB IS A PLACE FOR ...



While people surveyed said that they were looking for a place for skill development and professional networking, few people think that's what Rotary is about — revealing a mismatch between what people are looking for and what they think that Rotary has to offer.

IN THE FUTURE, HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN BECOMING A ROTARY MEMBER?



The survey revealed that people interested in joining Rotary thought it was a good way to give back to their communities. Those who weren't replied that they didn't have the time or, tapping into outdated notions about Rotary, that they weren't the right type of person to join.



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Leading with gratitude

I love the idea of a gratitude journal. The practice is simple: Write down three things each day that you are grateful for, and watch how it shifts your mindset, your energy, and even the way you move through the world.

To me, gratitude is more than a feeling; it is a force.

And in Rotary, gratitude is a reflection of who we are. When we thank our donors, we are acknowledging their contribution and honoring their belief in a better world.

I write in my gratitude journal often — not every day but enough to keep me grounded. I want to share with you an entry from January, written during the International Assembly. The assembly is more than our annual learning event for district governors-elect; it's a gathering filled with inspiration and moments that stay with you long after the lights dim.

My first entry was in gratitude to Debbie and Russell Doby.

In 2022, Debbie, then a district governor-elect, missed out on that inspiring assembly experience because of the pandemic. Then, a year later, just a few days before the district conference she was excited to host, Debbie and her husband were in a head-on collision. The other driver was killed; Debbie and Russell survived, miraculously.

Out of tragedy, they found grace. They

created an endowment fund for their district at the Arch Klumpp Society level, choosing to transform pain into purpose.

My second entry reflected on Ravishankar and Paola Dakoju from the Rotary Club of Bangalore, India. At the assembly, the couple pledged \$50 million to The Rotary Foundation, an extraordinary gift representing 85 percent of their wealth. Ravishankar said, "When you give more than you think you can, life returns to you more than you can ever imagine." That single sentence captures the heart of Rotary.

My final entry was in gratitude to Moh Eid and Chuck and Carol Stocking. After Moh's brother, Ibrahim, a humanitarian aid worker, was killed while helping victims of war, Chuck was moved to create the Ibrahim Eid Fund to support Rotary Peace Fellows. Their leverage gift was \$100,000 toward a million-dollar goal. That is what it looks like when grief becomes hope.

And today, my gratitude entry is for you. For longtime members and brand-new faces, for those who give year after year and those preparing to make their first gift. Thank you.

Let gratitude be our compass this year.

JENNIFER JONES

Foundation trustee chair

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

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

- First** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- Second** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- Third** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- Fourth** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

All members (Rotarians and Rotaractors) are expected to:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in their personal and professional lives
2. Treat others fairly by using respectful language, being supportive, fostering a welcoming environment, and honoring all individual member characteristics
3. Use their professional skills through Rotary to improve people's quality of life in their own communities and elsewhere in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotary members
5. Follow all codes of conduct for any Rotary-related event.

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Apply yourself



As part of the family of Rotary, members are invited to lend their professional expertise on committees that support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Each year, those committees focus on putting Rotary's strategic priorities into action, challenging clubs to increase their impact, expand their reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase Rotary's ability to adapt.

Would you like to contribute to Rotary's success?

RI and the Foundation are searching

for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to serve on committees in the 2027-28 Rotary year. These positions offer an opportunity for you to apply your leadership skills, share your vocational experience, and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee.

Rotarians and Rotaractors with expertise in the areas detailed in the chart are encouraged to apply. The number of openings is limited. If you're not selected this year, you are welcome to apply again next year.

All committees correspond through email and on virtual platforms, typi-

cally with one mandatory in-person meeting a year. Rotaractors are encouraged to apply to any area based on their background, skills, and experience. Dual members of Rotary and Rotaract are especially welcome to apply.

To be considered for committee membership or to recommend a Rotarian or Rotaractor for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/application2026. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at my.rotary.org and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications are due **15 August**.

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS
AUDIT	Advises leadership on audited financial reports, internal and external audits, and internal control systems	Independence, appropriate business experience, and demonstrated financial literacy in accounting, auditing, banking, insurance, investment, risk management, executive management, or audit governance	One position with a four-year term
COMMUNICATIONS	Advises leadership on Rotary's overall public image, branding, communications, and content strategy	Professional background and experience in internal and external communications, marketing, public image, brand, public relations, media, and content strategy	Two positions with three-year terms
ENHANCING PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT	Advises leadership on enhancing participant engagement and fostering a welcoming and accessible club culture rooted in respect that values different perspectives and voices	Professional or educational experience related to shaping a culture of respect and positive engagement, facilitating difficult conversations, and uniting individuals to solve problems	Two positions with three-year terms
FINANCE	Advises the RI Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; nonprofit experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	Two positions with three-year terms
FUND DEVELOPMENT	Advises The Rotary Foundation Trustees on all aspects of fundraising	Significant experience in nonprofit fundraising. Committee members actively fundraise and support the Foundation.	Two positions with three-year terms
INVESTMENT	Oversees the management of Rotary's investments and the implementation of investment policies by the office of investment. Makes investment policy recommendations to the respective boards of governance.	Institutional investment experience or equivalent	One position with a four-year term
LEARNING	Advises leadership on creating effective learning opportunities for Rotary leaders and members	Adult learning expertise within or outside Rotary. Experience in the professional learning field (including e-learning) or with planning and implementing learning events at the member, club, district, zone, and international levels.	Two positions with three-year terms
OPERATIONS REVIEW	Advises leadership on the effectiveness of operations, administrative procedures, and standards of conduct. Serves as the advisory compensation committee to the Executive Committee of the RI Board.	Experience in management, leadership development, or financial management, and thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations. Appointments are limited to past RI directors and past Foundation trustees.	One position with a six-year term
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Advises leadership on matters regarding the strategic plan	Significant experience in long-term planning, financial management, and RI and Foundation program activities	Two positions with four-year terms
TECHNOLOGY	Advises leadership on enhancing technology practices, products, and strategy to improve the member and participant experience	Expertise in technology development, security and data privacy, product management, and user/participant experience. Non-Rotarian technology experts may be appointed.	Two positions with three-year terms



2027 CONVENTION

¡Hola, Barcelona!

The Rotary International Convention is coming to Barcelona in June, and members who've visited the city along the sea or who live there can hardly contain their excitement.

They want other Rotary members (yes, you!) to experience the energy, culture, and renowned landmarks of the city they love. Speaking of landmarks, the timing of the 26-30 June convention is perfect for visiting Barcelona's signature attraction, the Sagrada Família basilica. Under construction for more than 140 years, the Antoni Gaudí masterpiece reached a milestone after workers finished its final, tallest tower earlier this year.

Some members are saying they're excited to make this their first convention — or to return for another. The gathering has been compared to the United Nations because it often attracts members from 150 countries or more.

Other members are excited to revisit the city after attending the last convention there in 2002, and European members are sure to show up in force for the first convention on their continent since 2019. Rotarians and Rotaractors in Spain can't wait to welcome you to the city known for its warm spirit, breathtaking architecture, food that you'll remember years later, and stunning Mediterranean beaches.

Stroll the Plaça d'Espanya where prominent corridors converge at a sprawling plaza of museums, public art, restaurants, a bullfighting ring, and the Magic Fountain light show. And get tickets in advance for Park Güell with its gardens, play spaces, and more of Gaudí's ornamental architecture.

What speakers, performers, excursions, learning topics, and inspiration are convention organizers lining up? They're hard at work on a program that is sure to impress (Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai spoke at the convention last month). They'll combine Rotary traditions, world-class experiences, and the chance for stress-free travel. ■

Registration opens in September. Learn more at convention.rotary.org.

CROSSWORD

New at the top

By Victor Fleming

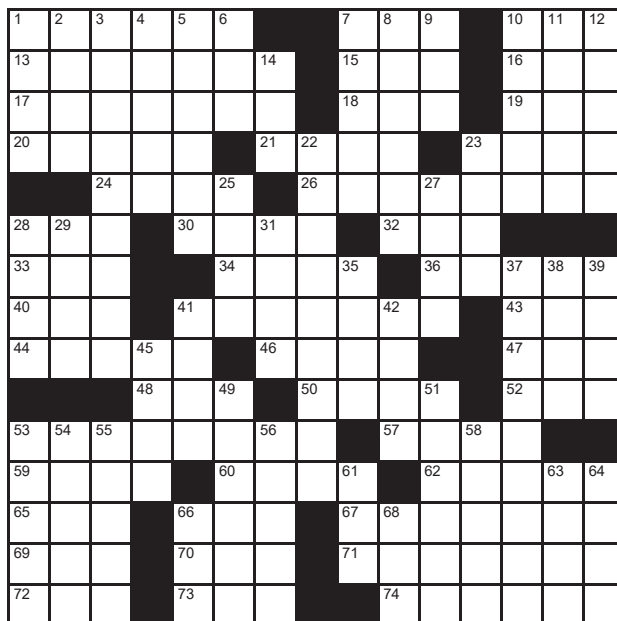
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas

ACROSS

- 1 Start of Rotary's 2026-27 presidential message
7 Highest card
10 1960s protest grp.
13 *The Lord of the Rings* actor
15 Signal to approve
16 Am's antonym
17 New president's home country
18 New homophone
19 "I need some ____"
20 China's Zhou ____
21 "It's us against ____"
23 "Give me a ____"
24 Calculates the total
26 With 53-Across, Rotary's new president
28 Television room
30 Bridge hand
32 "Count me out"
33 "____ be a pleasure!"
34 *Friends* role
36 Roaming sort
40 Abbr. before an office number
41 Second word of the message
43 The Diamondbacks, on scoreboards
44 Antique-shop item
46 Coat-of-arms border
47 Tell an untruth
48 Crunchy sandwich
50 Barely manages, with "out"
52 Edinburgh boy
53 See 26-Across
57 "Buenos ____"
59 Bradley or Epps
60 "____ my day!"
62 With 54-Down, new president's home club
65 Mart start
66 "Fill 'er up!" fill
67 Driver's need
69 Harris and Begley
70 For what ____ worth
71 Bulk up
72 "Street of Dreams" singer Peeples
73 Bit of baby talk
74 End of the message

DOWN

- 1 French movie theater
2 Ballgame delayer
3 London or Liverpool resident
4 Leading
5 Beatles hit "Ticket ____"
6 Manning with two Super Bowl rings
7 "Earth ____" (1950s Penguins hit)
8 Scammer
9 College site letters
10 Carmen setting
11 Have some soda
12 Kinda's kin
14 Go to the ____ for
22 Ten consecutive wins, e.g.
23 Greeting of a sort
25 *Two Mules for Sister ____* (1970 film)
27 Yin partner
28 Brake component
29 "____, Brute?"
31 "OK, I guess"
35 Fine blouse fabric
37 Holiday season temp
38 Opera feature
39 Lost power
41 Hang (around)
42 Be out of
45 Beam with flanges
49 Part of 48-Across
51 *Alice or Seinfeld*
53 Novelist Elizabeth
54 See 62-Across
55 Glider wood
56 Bronco-catching rope
58 "Your gamblin' days ____" (Dylan lyric)
61 Aboveground trains
63 Extremely brief time unit (abbr.)
64 Dispatched
66 Band's assignment
68 "Lord, is ____?"



Solution on opposite page

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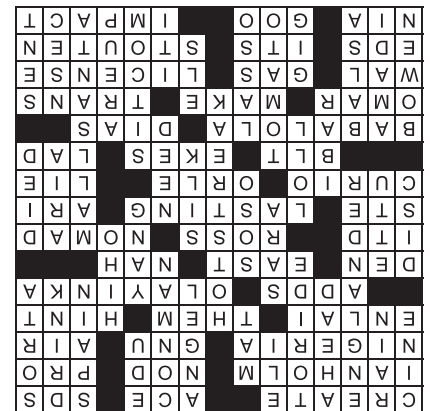
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Soup de grâce

In a land of soups, cocoyam brings broth to perfection

Nigerians have a lot of soups, says Precy Babalola. So, when she and her husband, RI President Olayinka H. Babalola, were visiting Rotary headquarters near Chicago on New Year's Day, she knew just what to make to feel at home: her favorite, cocoyam soup. A hearty, creamy soup, the dish includes fish, palm oil, bitter leaf (a plant in the daisy family that is common in tropical Africa), and its namesake, cocoyam. Babalola used dried fish and snails — including periwinkle snails, a delicacy in coastal Nigeria — that she brought with her and rehydrated on New Year's Eve.

But this isn't a soup that should be reserved for holidays. For Babalola, it's a typical lunch. "That is my favorite soup. So most of the time when I make it, I make quite a lot."

COCO-YUM: In West Africa, cocoyam refers to either taro or tania, starchy root vegetables with brown, fibrous skin. The vegetable is a corm, an enlarged part of the stem that grows underground, rather than a root or tuber. (While similar in name, it is not related to the yam.) Cocoyam can be boiled, fried, made into chips, or ground into flour. For cocoyam soup, Babalola either grinds cubes of cocoyam or uses a powder; the starch acts as a thickener. The plant's leaves are also edible when cooked.

EAT IT WITH: Babalola says that cocoyam soup, or ofe ede, is often eaten with eba, balls of soft, cooked dough made with precooked cassava meal. Break off a piece of the dough and dip it in the soup. ■

Precy Babalola
Rotary Club
of Port Harcourt
Passport, Nigeria

What food is your region famous for? Tell us at magazine@rotary.org and you may see it in an upcoming issue.



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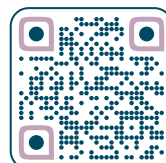
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