



A publication of the Rotary Club of Kampala North

Kampala North News

ISSUE 04 | DECEMBER 2023

Rotary Young Leadership Awards 2023



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Rotary

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Season 2023





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President's Message for the Month of December

As we reach the halfway mark of the Rotary Year, I congratulate you for your dedicated service to the less privileged. I want to thank members for the various activities conducted during the Rotary Foundation Month of November. So far, we have contributed USD 21,870 to the Rotary Foundation (TRF). I wish to thank PDG Bob for the generous TRF contribution made via the Rotary Peace Centre. I call upon members yet to contribute or pledge to join and ensure that our target of USD 40,000 for the year is met.

I wish to thank the RCKN membership for sponsoring six youths to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) that took place at Kaazi during the 8-10th December 2023. We sponsored youths from our partner Rotaract clubs of KANOS, Musical, and Buganda Royal. Based on the initial testimonies, the sponsored Rotaracters gained significantly and are positioned to serve better in the clubs and careers.

We elected new club officers for 2024/25 and a President Nominee for Rotary Year 2025/26; congratulations to Rtn Stella Alibateese for accepting to serve the club as president for 2025/26. I also wish to thank the electoral commission headed by PP Cissy for a job well done. With the next Board in place, preparations for the next planning retreat will start.

We congratulate Edna Caroline Byenkya, Diana Doris Akiidii-M'Bingham and Dr Wilberforce Turyasingura upon successfully joining the club. We look forward to excellent service with this new additional pair of hands.

On Saturday, January 13, 2024, our club trainer will organise joint training for the service projects and TRF committees. When called upon, please register for this important capacity enhancement activity. In addition, the membership committee is organising our bonding retreat, which is scheduled to take place in January 2024. Finally, the 2023

Singing and Dancing committee decided that it will present the awards and other recognitions to the winning clubs in the respective clubs; as such, during January 2024, the committee will recognise the sponsors for the 2023 edition and conduct four award sessions during the fellowship of overall winners (Rotary Club of Kampala Maisha and Rotaract Rotaract Club of Nangabo) and the runners up clubs (Rotary Club of Kampala City and Rotaract Club of Kampala North).

Monday, 18th December 2023, will be our last fellowship during 2023 before we embark on the festive activities. The chair family of Rotary has organised a rich menu of activities on the day to send us out to the festive season in a very joyous mood. The day also presents an opportunity for every member to celebrate their friends of the year. I wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year

Ibrahim Kasirye,
President RCKN 2023/2024



Disasters are not natural. Let's stop saying they are.

RI President Message - December 2023

As I attend the United Nations COP28 climate change summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, this December; I will speak about the convergence of two global crises: climate change and mental health. As the World Health Organization has noted, climate change worsens risk factors – such as disruptions to homes and livelihoods – for mental health problems. The emotional distress of a disaster also makes it difficult for people to recover and rebuild.

Rotary partner ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that has helped more than 2.5 million displaced people in approximately 100 countries with emergency shelter, essential household items, and technical support. I wish to share this month's column with their CEO, Sanj Srikanthan, who explains that the words we choose to describe disasters matter. The term "natural disaster" should be redefined to include tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. This term perpetuates a dangerous myth

that nothing could have been done to prevent such disasters, leading to a lack of action to help those affected. It may seem harmless, but it's crucial to change the language.

The language we use matters. When we frame disasters as natural, we fail to acknowledge the complex interplay between nature and the role of human actions and how they impact communities around the world.

Earth's natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, extreme storms, drought, and flooding, are influenced by human factors such as location, housing types, political instability, and lack of proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities. Disasters are a result of systemic inequalities in access to resources and power, with poverty being the worst affected group. Framing these events as natural undermines the need for proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities, masking the underlying social, economic, and political instability

that makes marginalized and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected. Issues like inequality, poverty, urbanization, deforestation, and the climate crisis can make communities more vulnerable.

At ShelterBox, "disaster" is more specific, describing the extreme weather, earthquake, tsunami, or volcanic eruption. I urge everyone to help us in breaking this cycle by committing to language that accurately reflects why people are affected so badly.

Only then does it pave the way to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and work toward a more just and equitable future for all, with the necessary investment, resources, and proactive measures to help protect affected communities.

Disasters are not natural. Let's stop saying they are.

R. Gordon R. McNally

President 2023-24



Endless Gratitude, thank you All!

Dear Friends,

It feels like just yesterday when we gathered in Mbarara city to embark on the journey of leading this district. Yet, here we are today, celebrating the successful completion of the first quarter of our term. November, in particular, has been a month like no other, filled with numerous events that many of us attended, showcasing our collective dedication. The Peace concert, the TRF Dinner, the Golf Tournament, and the BCUP fundraiser event among so many other commitments yet you showed up in all these- you are true ambassadors of "Creating Hope in the World."

I extend my gratitude to the secretariat and my team for their support as I continued visiting different clubs as per the DG's calendar. By the second week of February 2024, I am confident that we will have covered all the 123. These visits have been far from futile; witnessing the remarkable initiatives undertaken by clubs, especially those beyond Kampala and its metropolitan areas, has left me truly humbled. The generosity and spirit displayed by all Rotarians is inspiring, and the bonds formed during these visits will endure beyond my leadership period—this exemplifies the essence of real fellowship.

What continues to captivate me

is the unwavering commitment to the BCUP agenda. Our promise to invest five years of our Rotary period in enhancing the skills of the boychild and empowering young men is materializing, and the enthusiasm is commendable. Kudos to the team in charge of Youth Service for their efforts in the mentorship series, and the success statistics received are truly heartening. The prospect of our young ladies finding empowered and well-nurtured partners is a testament to our shared goal of reducing crime and idleness while fostering confidence in boys and young men.

I must also acknowledge the incredible giving spirit you have shown me. Your continuous generosity is a profound expression of love for me as your leader. I am confident that, in the second half of our year, we will surpass our target, especially considering the overwhelming response to the TRF dinner. The organizers deserve a salute for their hard work, and the memorable celebration that unfolded that night will undoubtedly go down in history as an event with a difference.

Whenever people do good, people must celebrate, people must tap themselves on the back. My friends, I implore you to use December to reflect on what kind of celebration we want in April 2024 when we congregate at the

Speke Resort Munyonyo to account to the same people who ushered us into leadership in April 2023 in Mbarara. This celebration, though, cannot go down in history if we do not attend it—I am inviting you, therefore, to come and be a part of the great celebration of the 99th Discon at Speke Resort Munyonyo on the 18th day of April. Be there, show up, and be counted.

As we enter the festive season celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let's reflect on the values of the season. May you find time to rest and be with family, extending a hand to neighbours in need and supporting one another. The birth of Christ should remind us of the gifts, friends, and families in our lives, as well as the reasons we've dedicated ourselves to a life of service and our clubs' commitments to helping communities and the world.

Norah and I extend our warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas season and a fantastic entry into the year 2024. I look forward to meeting you again and continuing with a renewed vigour in the service of what God has bestowed upon us.

Warm regards,

Edward Kakembo-Nsubuga

District Governor

Clubs Which Utilise More - Give More

In his current role as the District Rotary Foundation Chair, Past District Governor FX Ssentamu brings a fervent passion for philanthropy, a deep commitment to stewardship across all clubs, and a genuine love for excellence. Recently, he took a moment to sit down with the Wave team, sharing his profound insights on the art of giving. Below, we present key excerpts from this enlightening conversation."



1. The Rotary Foundation is majorly a giving and receiving relationship between Rotarians and their clubs and the Foundation. How is District 9213 performing?

PDG Xavier: In comparison to the previous year, we have not yet achieved the same level, but this can be reasonably explained. Last year, the presence of RI President Jenniffer Jones at the concert significantly motivated people to contribute to the endowment fund. Generally, those who haven't grasped the foundation's purpose might donate only once, receive recognition, and conclude their involvement. On the contrary, individuals who comprehend the foundation's mission tend to give consistently.

Regrettably, a considerable number of one-time attendees at larger events contribute to the foundation without a clear understanding of the underlying purpose. Although this boosts momentum and helps us surpass our targets, the crucial question remains: Do we have donors who contribute because they understand the 'why'? My response is affirmative. Despite setting an ambitious target of USD 540,000, I am highly optimistic that we will achieve it. The recently concluded recognitions in the first half of

the year stimulated significant contributions, reinforcing our confidence in reaching the set target as we enter the second half of the year.

2. How are the different clubs performing on average?

PDG Xavier: People are inclined to contribute when they can witness the tangible impact of their money. This is evident in clubs with numerous projects, indicating a strong culture of giving. Once a project receives approval, funding tends to flow in effortlessly, particularly in the larger Kampala and its metropolitan areas.

However, the scenario is different for Upcountry clubs, where many projects rely heavily on international donors, often termed as "Flight Projects." To promote greater ownership and sustainability, we have implemented rigorous measures. For instance, in global grant projects with international partners, each club is expected to contribute a minimum of USD 1000. Without this commitment, international partners may bring projects aligned with their own interests, going to the extent of supplying materials, and this starts raising concerns about long-term sustainability.

In instances where reporting is

handled by international partners and the host club lacks awareness of the project's dynamics, questions arise regarding the host club's role. It is essential for a club to understand the community's needs, and during our grant training, we have intervened in several projects where the host club demonstrated a lack of awareness about the project's progress. This is sad.

3. Last month, the district report showed that 49.6% of us had not yet given to the Foundation- Is it this bad?

PDG Xavier: This percentage is a cause for concern, and it has promoted us to reflect on the situation. Last year, we encountered a challenge with seven clubs that demonstrated zero giving, despite our efforts to facilitate improvement. Upon a recent review of the statistics, it was disconcerting to discover that a significant portion of clubs—40 in total—had Presidents who had not contributed. This highlights a pattern starting from the club leaders, including district officers, who also showed a lack of support for the Foundation.

The root of this issue often lies in a fundamental misunderstanding of the value of giving. Genuine giving extends beyond merely appeasing a District Governor or seeking

public recognition. It is about understanding the “why” behind the act of giving. Our continuous emphasis on this topic aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the purpose of giving.

It is crucial to encourage leaders within clubs to set an example by actively participating in giving. Club meetings should provide opportunities to discuss the value of giving, presenting tangible evidence of the impact on communities through videos and pictures. Sharing these achievements with guests and new members can inspire a genuine understanding of the significance of funding from The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and motivate continued contributions.

Leadership entails inspiration, and it becomes challenging for Presidents and Assistant Governors to inspire Rotarians in their clubs to give when they themselves have not contributed. As we progress through the year, the goal is to reduce the number of clubs with zero giving and, ideally, address the issue of Rotarians who have yet to contribute.

4. How do you expect AGs to pull off this with their clubs?

PDG Xavier: The Assistant Governor (AG) serves as a support system for the District Governor (DG) in areas where the DG may not be present. The primary role of the DG is to offer support, mentorship, encouragement, education, and inspiration to the clubs within the district, urging them to reach their optimal potential. Consequently, in locations where the DG is absent, the AG assumes these responsibilities competently.

Within the foundation, AGs should possess a comprehensive understanding of their club

memberships, identifying significant contributors and those who may need encouragement. Analyzing this information, they collaborate with club Presidents and engage individual members, recognizing that each member responds uniquely to the call for charitable contributions. AGs should actively contemplate strategies to personalize the giving experience, tailoring their approach to the diverse preferences of each member.

It has become evident that a personalized approach to giving is essential. AGs can contribute significantly by dedicating time to analyze data and statistics from their respective clubs, fostering a culture of increased giving among members. If every AG invests the effort to understand and leverage club dynamics, the district is likely to surpass its targets, aligning with the collective desire to achieve more. Thus, the AG assumes a pivotal role across various aspects, including giving, membership, and beyond. To accomplish these objectives, AGs should empower themselves with accurate information and establish effective outreach strategies.

5. Do we have clubs which are still barred from conducting business with the TRF?

PDG Xavier: Certainly, the Rotary Club of Mbale is there—its banned, while the Rotary Club of Mityana recently had a 7-year ban lifted after rectifying their operational issues. Stewardship is a crucial aspect of Rotary, both for leaders and their members. Clubs may face restrictions on participating in global grants if they fall short in this regard.

Financial stewardship encompasses how clubs manage funds, from collections for the Sergeant at Arms, PolioPlus, club dues, to contributions

to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Proper stewardship involves collecting funds and utilizing them for their intended purposes; failure to do so may lead to disciplinary actions, including bans. Members are urged to scrutinize club leadership, ensuring that funds are utilized appropriately.

Some clubs have been reported using funds, including TRF money, to cover dues for members who haven't paid—a clear violation of stewardship principles. Rotarians should not assume that leaders always act ethically; vigilance is crucial. Even the most unsuspecting Rotarian could make mistakes when trust is misplaced. It's essential for members to oversee and directly monitor club leadership.

Instances of clubs being barred often result from an overreliance on specific individuals. Clubs may even be terminated for consistently keeping the same contact person for all projects. Stewardship requires change in project leadership to prevent complacency and oversight.

To address these issues, there's a need for extensive capacity building and increased member involvement. Many Rotarians fall off the register because of a lack of engagement. The emphasis should be on changing project focal persons, just as we change Presidents regularly, to ensure a broader and more dynamic involvement in club activities. Stewardship, as a responsibility of each member, involves establishing systems, demanding accountability, and receiving regular reports on all collections and their utilization. Regular assessments are crucial to ensuring funds are used effectively and transparently.

PDG FX Ssentamu



Arresting the Danger of Zoom Rotary

The Age of Zoom Rotary is here. Online meetings were an absolute necessity during the lockdowns. Within or outside Rotary, they create convenience and save costs – for organisations and individuals. Within organisations, they have however created a new threat – the very ease of holding such meetings has led to a proliferation that is compromising efficiency and productivity. My focus here is however on only Rotary.

The essence of Rotary is friendship and social interaction combined with boots on the ground approaches to addressing community challenges. The hard reality is that the less we meet physically, the more distant we grow from each other, and the more we reduce the boots on the

ground approach that made Rotary what it is. The example that best illustrates this is marriage or any similar relationship – try reducing it to an online activity and observe the consequences.

Rotary is family. The consummation of Rotary is strengthening friendships and engaging communities hands on, and yet we are developing a culture where the convenience of individuals trumps the very essence of Rotary. It is even worse for new Rotarians, and especially clubs that were formed during the lockdown: many members do not even know each other, and clubs are becoming glorified online schools where the main objective is to learn from the many talks. Indeed, I have seen many clubs

more concerned about maximizing attendance of online meetings by Rotarians and guests from other clubs rather than the strengthening the club as a member organization that is dedicated to service.

I am not suggesting the elimination of Zoom meetings, because they do create convenience, and we also have e-clubs (whose effectiveness is not the subject of this article): I am advocating for a balance. This can be as simple as a club legislating that while all meetings will remain hybrid, any member should be required to attend at least two physical meetings of their club each month. As a good friend of mine often says, failing to address this danger is at any club's own hazard and peril.

Tusu





The Chronicles of an Assistant Governor: Unveiling the Dean of AGs

Assistant Governors (AGs) are appointed by the District Governor to motivate and support their designated clubs to thrive. This Rotary Year twenty-eight of us were entrusted with the responsibility of supporting the DG's in his tour of duty. Each Assistant Governor has a responsibility of between 4-6 Rotary Clubs. The two most commonly asked questions are; how are Assistant Governors selected? The second is what exactly is the role of Assistant Governors?

The selection criteria for AGs includes being an active and longstanding membership in a club within the district, leadership experience as a President or Charter President, knowledge of Rotary policies and tools, and regular participation in district events. AGs may serve for up to three years, subject to annual reappointment.

The responsibilities of AGs encompass visiting clubs regularly to discuss activities, resources, and opportunities. They assist clubs in setting and achieving goals, finding solutions to challenges, and meeting administrative requirements. AGs act as liaisons between clubs and district committees, mentor leaders on strategies for success, and encourage club involvement in district activities. Keeping abreast of Rotary initiatives and updating successors on club status is crucial. AGs also play a pivotal role in informing the District Governor about club progress.

Following my appointment as AG, I was humbled by the request of the AGs to serve as their dean. This would still have not worked out without the acceptance of my

nomination by the District Governor, for which I am very grateful. This trust and call to additional duty challenged me as a Rotarian. I sought guidance and counsel from the District Governor and our PDGs on how I could make a difference in this role. I am forever grateful for the great guidance I received and continue to receive.

Although this role comes with a light definition on scope of work, I have since learnt that it carries an important responsibility. Like I did while President of Presidents in 2021-2022, I chose to adopt a servant leadership approach while regarding each AG as my supervisor and a determinant of 'how high I should jump' each day. What has worked for me is making friends in this journey, being available 24/7 to each AG, reaching out to them as individuals if not for anything but to check how things are going and where I can make a difference. I have deployed a high sense of judgement to provide my presence or additional support wherever necessary. I have happily taken the role of substitute AG which has so far been a very rewarding experience. I have enjoyed serving my peers and dealing with their day to day needs for information and resources, representation in various district meetings and fora, coordinating the DG's information flow to us, sharing his expectations regularly and above all listening to the AGs to appreciate the varying perceptions on different issues. We have learnt so much so far from each other on what works and what doesn't work for different clubs being our learning points. We have collectively shared inputs to complex situations. We are a very

well bonded family – what affects one of us affects us all. We are such a bubbly and transparent team, we share jokes and encouraging words with each other from morning to late in the night. We love party and have held an AGs night out to loosen a little from Rotary business with lined up home hospitalities to celebrate our being Rotarians.

While with lots of confidence, I applaud the AGs for such a terrific start. My plea to my colleagues the AGs is to use this opportunity to grow our network of friends in Rotary through the clubs we serve. Let us use this to improve ourselves and work towards becoming better and more informed/resourceful Rotarians because there is no better opportunity to grow our leadership skills than the one on our hands. More importantly is to leave all our clubs much better than we found them, and hand over to our predecessors vibrant, stronger and more organized clubs with functional systems. We are all looking forward to being part of the legacy that doubled membership in our clubs, that expanded Rotary in a very significant way, that supported the DG's call to end the culture of zero giving Rotarians and zero giving Clubs. We are proud to be remembered as the AGs that supported District Governor Edward Kakembo Nsubuga sow the mustard seed of Uplifting the Boy Child, a program that has already registered great success by the immeasurable buy in across the country and beyond.

Together Let's continue Creating Hope in The World

Kate Barasa Asekenye



Wishing you a blessed Festive Season 2023

Dear Rotary Family,

As we embrace the warmth of the festive season, I am reminded of the incredible journey we have undertaken together as a Rotary family. This year has been a testament to our collective strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service above self.

In the spirit of the season, let us celebrate the joy of giving and the power of community. Our Rotary family has been a beacon of hope, illuminating lives with

compassion and kindness. From impactful community projects to the camaraderie forged in our meetings, each moment reflects the true essence of Rotary.

As we gather with loved ones and reflect on the blessings of the past year, let us also extend our gratitude to every member who has contributed their time, talent, and heart to make a difference. Together, we have planted seeds of positive change that will continue to blossom in the coming year.

May this festive season bring you

moments of joy, laughter, and the company of those you hold dear. Let the spirit of Rotary guide us as we embark on a new chapter filled with opportunities to serve, connect, and uplift.

Wishing you and your loved ones a festive season filled with peace, love, and the joy of making a difference.

In Rotary spirit,

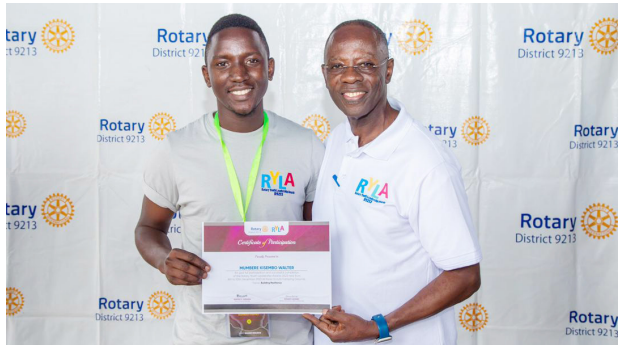
Younis Sebagala
Public Image Chair
Rotary Club of Kampala North

DECEMBER CELEBRANTS

Rtn Nigel and Ann Berna Othembi	3 rd	Anniversary
Rtn. Samwiri and Ann Loyce Katungukaa	5 th	Anniversary
Rtn. John and Ann Barbara Magezi	5 th	Anniversary
Rtn. Steven and Ann Annet Munabi	9 th	Anniversary
Rtn. Charles and Ann Anne Lubowa	14 th	Anniversary
Rtn. Herbert and Ann Gladys Muhumuza	15 th	Anniversary
Rtn. Naka and Rtn. Fulgence Mungereza	16 th	Anniversary
Rtn. Maurice and Martha Murali	16 th	Anniversary
Rtn. John and Rtn. Flavia Kagwa	21 st	Anniversary
Rtn. Ibra and Ann Mariam Kasirye	22 nd	Anniversary
Rtn. Patrick and Ann Frances Batumbya	23 rd	Anniversary
Rtn. Oskar and Ann Suzannah Semweva	23 rd	Anniversary
Rtn. Derek and Ann Catherine Kyambadde	27 th	Anniversary

Rtn. Patrick Batumbya	5 th	Birthday
Ann Annet Munabi	6 th	Birthday
Rtn Mary Immaculate Nalwoga	9 th	Birthday
Rtn. Fred Mukwanga	10 th	Birthday
Andy Fulgence Mungereza	10 th	Birthday
Rtn. Mary Immaculate Nalunga	10 th	Birthday
Rtn Macleean Berunga	12 th	Birthday
Rtn. Frank Mwesigye	13 th	Birthday
Andy Patrick Alemu	15 th	Birthday
Rtn. Hasfsah Seguya	16 th	Birthday
Ann Edith Kasekende	26 th	Birthday
Rtn. Eva Mwenebirinda	28 th	Birthday
Ann Hone Mwesigye	28 th	Birthday

Pictorial: Highlights for Rotary Young Leadership Awards 2023



#Rotary24



SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024





Our Services

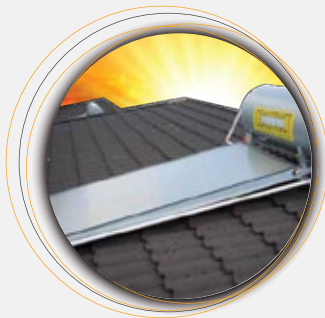
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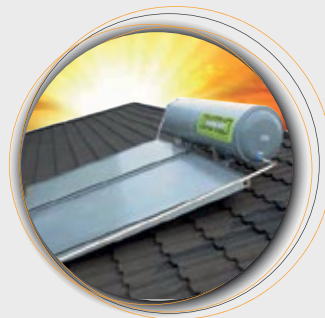


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