



**“YOU ARE THE  
LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD...”**

RID 3291, Zone-16  
**Rotary**  
Garden Reach



**2322<sup>nd</sup> RWM & J-RWM with Zone 16 Clubs**



**Saluting the past, celebrating the present,  
shaping the future.  
Happy Independence Day**



**"YOU ARE THE  
LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD..."**



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

## Greetings on Birthday

*Aug 17th : Sukriti, Daughter of Rtn. Tanmoy Das Mahapatra*

### Principles of Rotary International in the Spirit of India's Independence

On this auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day, we celebrate our nation's freedom but also to reflect on the values that can keep this freedom alive, vibrant, and meaningful. Today, I write about how the "Principles of Rotary International" blend harmoniously with the ideals of our hard-earned independence.

#### 1. Service above Self – The Essence of Freedom

Rotary's motto, Service above Self, resonates with the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters in India's struggle for independence. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, and Sarojini Naidu placed the nation's welfare above their personal safety, wealth, and comfort. Similarly, Rotary calls for prioritising the needs of others, whether through education, healthcare, or community development—continuing the legacy of selfless service that India's independence heroes embodied.

#### 2. The Four-Way Test – Moral Compass for a New Nation

Rotary's Four-Way Test—

- ☀ Is it the truth?
- ☀ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ☀ Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- ☀ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These questions mirror the ethical vision of independent India's founding fathers. The framing of the Constitution, led by Dr. BR Ambedkar, was guided by principles of truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit for all. Rotary's framework continues to be a relevant guide for ethical governance, responsible citizenship, and social harmony in independent India.

#### 3. Promoting Peace – From Colonial Struggle to Global Harmony

India's independence was achieved through a largely non-violent movement, proving to the world that peace can be a powerful tool for political change. Rotary does commitment to peace—through conflict resolution, cultural understand, and humanitarian aid—aligns with India's post-independence diplomatic stance, especially its role in the Non-Aligned Movement and peacekeeping missions.

#### 4. Fostering Fellowship – Unity in Diversity

India is a land of immense cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity. The success of its democracy rests on unity amid differences, much like Rotary's worldwide fellowship that transcends borders, religions, and ideologies. Rotary clubs in India serve as microcosms of this diversity, bringing together individuals from different walks of life for a common humanitarian purpose.

#### 5. Leadership with Integrity – Building the Nation

Post-independence India required leaders who could inspire trust, guide progress, and uphold justice. Rotary's emphasis on leadership grounded in integrity mirrors this need. Whether in eradicating polio, providing clean water, or promoting literacy, Rotary members in India have demonstrated that honest, transparent, and compassionate leadership is the key to sustainable progress.

#### 6. Education and Empowerment – The True Freedom

India's struggle for independence was not just political—it was also a battle against ignorance and inequality. Leaders believed that education was the foundation of true freedom. Rotary's focus on literacy and vocational training aligns perfectly with this vision, empowering communities to enjoy not just political independence but also social and economic self-reliance.

*Friends, as we salute the Tricolour on August 15th, 2025, let us remember that freedom is not a possession—it is a responsibility. The principles of Rotary give us the tools to honour that responsibility: to serve, to speak the truth, to promote peace, to embrace diversity, to lead with integrity, and to empower every citizen.*

*In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

*Let us, as Rotarians, lose ourselves in service—so that India may forever find herself in unity, prosperity, and peace.*

**Jai Hind!**



**"YOU ARE THE  
LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD..."**



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

## Larry A Lunsford selected to be 2027-28 Rotary International President

**Larry A Lunsford**, a member of the Rotary Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA, is the selection of the nominating committee to become **Rotary International's President for 2027-28**. He will officially become the President-nominee on September 15th, 2025 if no other candidates challenge him.

Lunsford attended Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, on an academic scholarship, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in accounting. He first encountered Rotary when he received a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to spend the 1981-82 academic year at the University of Newcastle in Australia



A certified public accountant, Lunsford spent seven years working for Ernst & Young before joining a family-owned business, Bernstein-Rein Advertising, in 1990. He is currently Executive Vice- President and Chief Financial Officer for the Bernstein group of Companies. He has held positions on the boards of the Kansas City Spirit Festival and the Variety Club as well as serving as Director of a local bank and Treasurer of the Epilepsy Foundation for the Heart of America. He has also served on Truman State University's alumni and foundation boards and received the university's Distinguished Service Award.

Lunsford joined the Rotary Kansas City-Plaza in 1991 and has since served as District Governor (2001-02), RI Director (2013-15), and Trustee of The Rotary Foundation (2021-25, Vice-chair 2024-25). He has been a member of RI committees, including the Executive Committee (Chair 2014-

15), Membership Growth Committee (Chair 2016-18), and Nominating Committee for President of RI (Chair 2023-24). He also has served on The Rotary Foundation's Executive Committee (Chair 2023-24), Finance Committee (Chair 2022-23 and 2024-25), and Participant Experience Committee (Chair 2023-24).

Lunsford has been awarded The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award, The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and the RI Service above Self Award. He and his wife, Jill Lunsford, have two children and one grandchild. They are Major Donors, Bequest Society members, multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation, and Sustaining Members.

**The members of the Nominating Committee from India for the Rotary Year 2027-28 President of Rotary International are:**

- ★ **Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, Rotary Pune Sports City, Maharashtra, India (Secretary)**
- ★ **Basker Chockalingam, Rotary Karur, Tamil Nadu, India.**

## Presidential aide looks forward to uniting for good

### John de Giorgio, aide to 2025-26 RI President Francesco Arezzo

I received a call from Francesco (Arezzo) in the evening, just as we were preparing to go to the main dinner of a district conference in Calabria, Italy, as president's representatives. He told me that he had been selected by the RI Board to be the Rotary International President for 2025-26. I have to say I got emotional. He immediately asked whether my partner, Monique, and I would accept being aides this year for he and his wife, Anna.

Clearly, we were honoured but also a bit daunted given the much shorter ramp-up time than usual. At the same time, we felt that both Monique and I have a tech and international business background, good communications skills, and language capabilities, all of which could be helpful.

I was born in Malta – a small, successful European Union member country with a population of around 560,000 at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Sea. My formal education was in the United Kingdom. Monique is British so we are an interesting anglophile couple.

Francesco had been my District Governor when I was President of the Rotary Club of Malta; we got his and Anna's attention rather by accident. Monique had gone on an outing with the spouses – all of who were Italian – and she could just about order a gelato in Italian at that stage. So when, close to the end of the tour, she needed help to find a restroom, it became apparent that she had not understood a word all afternoon and had nodded politely at seemingly the right moments, but now her cover was blown! Anna scooped her up and sat us at their table, as they had an exchange student over from the US at the time and so they could converse in English.

We started to work closely with Francesco and Anna and on their visit to our club, they participated in a 'Hand's On Day' we were running, helping with gardening and painting benches for a long-term project, Dar Il Kaptan, at a respite home for the disabled. Over time, we learned Italian and Francesco and Anna learned English.

We have been confidants for many years, sharing the same vision and values, not just in Rotary. I believe that Francesco is the right President at this moment. The world and Rotary in particular, is passing through a challenging period with great changes taking place all over.

Francesco is a force for unity, stability, and strong values while also being open to innovation. Humble by nature, he also cares very much about humility. He is a collaborative leader whose style motivates and draws people into a set of shared goals. Francesco is a unifier serving in a year where we **"Unite for Good"**. How perfect is that?



**"YOU ARE THE  
LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD..."**



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



As for me, my Rotary veins run deep. My father was one of five members of the committee that led to the formation of the Malta Rotary Club in 1967. It was just after Malta gained its independence and he was involved in the establishment of many fabrics of a new civil society.

I became a second-generation Rotarian in 2000. It was where I would spend a night a week with many of my oldest friends. But truth be told, I wasn't really engaged in club activities beyond an occasional fundraiser. Then I was asked to be on the board of directors with a view of serving as President in 2009-10. That eventually led to my selection as Governor of District 2110 (Sicily & Malta) in 2017-18.

After Francesco's call, Monique and I spent the rest of the district conference discussing the idea in case our selection as aides was approved by RI. As we prepared to attend the Convention in Calgary in a few days, we began working out how to shelve our lives for a year. Some practical considerations had to be worked out. My eldest daughter, Yasmin, runs the software company I started in Malta over 40 years ago, and my youngest daughter, Amber, was married last year and gave birth to our first grandson, Noah, in March. They live in Provence, France. My involvement

in the software company is minimal these days but I am an active Rotary member and a keen sailor. In fact, I crossed the Atlantic last year in a sailboat and want to do more. But for Francesco, we are willing to shuffle and shelve these obligations and hobbies.

After landing in Calgary and arriving at our hotel, we went through our usual unpacking routine and I sent a message to Francesco to let him know we had arrived. I then received a message from him saying **"Benvenuto al mio Aide" – Welcome to my Aide.** It was quite a surreal and emotional moment.

Within minutes we heard from Francesco's newly appointed executive assistant asking to meet with us for a briefing. We were added to various WhatsApp groups and email lists, and we had to digest information, names, and the schedule – shall we say – rather quickly.

Our desire is to use our experience to add structure to the role, through technology and process, so more time can be spent on projects and less time online and on calls. We both have backgrounds in international business and protocol, so the idea of travel and cultural exchanges are exciting to us. My personal interest in current affairs, diplomacy, and finance; our experience in event planning; and our passion for Rotary will be put to good use.

I am looking forward to seeing our friendship with Francesco and Anna deepens, through language mistakes, humorous occasions, and many other satisfying moments. We really will Unite for Good!

**I just wish time allowed us to do visits by boat!**

## Get to know us

### Holger Knaack, TRF Trustee Chair

When most people join Rotary, they know little, if anything, about The Rotary Foundation.

Membership Month is a great time to highlight the powerful connection between membership and our Foundation.

People who are drawn to Rotary care deeply about their communities and want to make a substantive difference. They're looking for meaningful, hands-on ways to serve — and the Foundation helps make those opportunities possible.

Cause-based Rotary clubs are one exciting way new members are finding purpose in Rotary, and these clubs also bring fresh energy and activity to our Foundation. I invited Marisol Chianello, president of one such club, to share her perspective:

"As a non-profit attorney, I long believed I didn't have the time to be part of Rotary. But when I heard about a new cause-based e-club — the Rotary Club of Mental Health and Wellness District 5280 — I felt I had to be part of it.

In just three years, our club has done a lot to support mental health needs in Southern California and awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduate students in the field, including one this year to a student in Uganda.





**"YOU ARE THE  
LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD..."**



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Just a few months ago, we were approved for our first global grant to provide a mix of in-person and digital mental wellness support to survivors of the 2023 earthquakes in south-eastern Turkey.

Through our service, we've attracted new members from across the United States, including women and younger members who might not have otherwise joined Rotary. Cause-based clubs like ours offer a meaningful entry point for people committed to a specific cause — backed by the global reach and Foundation support of Rotary."

Marisol's story reminds us what's possible when Rotary service meets Foundation support. I wonder how many cause-based club members knew the full extent of Foundation resources when they began. How many existing clubs could partner with these groups on grants?

As we build new Rotary and Rotaract clubs and welcome new members, let's keep The Rotary Foundation at the forefront. The Foundation enriches the membership experience, supports club growth, and deepens our impact.

The Rotary Foundation is more than just a source of funding; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. It's a living expression of who we are as Rotary. The Foundation, too, can be a vital part of every member's experience when they join us or start a new club.

Dear Rotary Leaders,

As you may recall, last April, President-elect SangKoo Yun informed us all of his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and his decision to step back from Rotary responsibilities so he could focus on his treatment. Today, President-elect SangKoo notified me in a letter that he has decided to resign as President-elect of Rotary International after extensive consultation with his doctors. In his message, he shared the following sentiments:

"My doctors have advised that it may not be possible for me to meet the demanding travel and schedule required of our President. As much as I wish to serve in this role, I must honour that advice."

"It has been a tremendous honour and pleasure to be given the opportunity to lead our organization. I will continue to serve however I can and my love for Rotary and my commitment to our mission remains unshaken."



On behalf of the Rotary International Board and with a heavy heart, I accepted SangKoo's resignation. While it is a difficult decision, we deeply appreciate SangKoo's thoughtful consideration and his focus on the best interest of Rotary.

The Board will convene soon to determine next steps. We will keep you updated on any further developments.

I want to thank SangKoo for his tremendous service, leadership and contributions to our organization. Please join me in wishing him a swift recovery and good health in the future.

With warm regards,

Francesco Arezzo

President, Rotary International, 2025-26

11-Aug-2025



"YOU ARE THE  
**LIGHT**  
OF THE WORLD..."



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

*Dear Fellow Rotarian,*

*If you dislike Me  
or any fellow  
Rotarian*

*Please try and dislike  
me alone!*

*Don't be out there  
lying about me and  
trying to recruit other  
fellow Rotarians and  
other people to dislike  
me with you.....*

***RUMOURS** can make  
you **HATE** an Innocent  
person and **LOVE** a  
Hypocrite.*

*Always take time to  
verify information.*

