

Suburban Potpourri (Issue 2)

Dear Rotarians:

If we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyzes the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them accessible for all members.

Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of inclusivity — the first step toward belonging.

If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact.

For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funneled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives.

BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is the spark that ignites The Magic of Rotary .

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

Stephanie A. Urchick

Rotary International President 2024-25

August 2024



District Governor Dinesh Mehta's Message for Our Club Bulletin

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we prepare to usher in the second month of this Rotary Year, let us reflect on our recent achievements and look ahead to the opportunities before us. Your enthusiasm and dedication continue to inspire and drive our collective efforts toward creating a positive impact.

"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way." We did. July was a month of remarkable achievements.

1st July: ANNAPURNA Initiative

We kicked off the Rotary Year with our Annapurna Initiative, where we served meals to over 9000 people throughout our Rotary District. This act of service not only addressed immediate hunger issues but also showcased our commitment to alleviating food insecurity in our communities. Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF, says, "Few things have more impact than nutrition on a child's ability to survive, learn efficiently, and escape a life of poverty."

7th July: District Governor Installation

I am honored to have officially assumed the role of District Governor of Rotary District 3142 on the 7th of July. The Installation Ceremony was a testament to our unity and shared vision for the year ahead. I am grateful for the support and the implicit trust you have placed in me. That same evening, at an event organized at Hotel Satkar Residency, we felicitated Rotarians who pledged contributions of US\$ 1000 and more at the hands of P.R.I.D. K.R. Ravidran.

21st July: Blood Collection Drive

Our Blood Collection Drive was a tremendous success, with numerous Rotarians and community members braving the heavy rains to come together and donate blood. We collected over 1500 units. As a blood donation slogan so poignantly points out, "A mother's tears cannot save her child's life, but your blood can." This initiative significantly contributes to saving lives and meeting the urgent needs of the healthcare system.

Throughout July, I have had the honor and privilege of being invited as Chief Guest at the installation ceremonies of Rotary Clubs in all parts of the District. This has provided me with an opportunity to meet Club Members and learn about the community service projects and CSR initiatives taken up by these Clubs. It is where I see the magic of Rotary happening.

August in Rotary is designated as Membership and New Club Development Month. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and this month provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the values of our members, showcase the global impact of Rotary, and infuse new blood by inviting deserving individuals to serve the community and enjoy the fellowship of kindred souls by joining Rotary.

I encourage each Club to actively engage in recruiting new members while retaining current ones. We need to emphasize the benefits of Rotary membership, including the opportunity to make a difference, build lasting friendships, and develop personal and professional skills. Let us work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

In addition, consider innovative ways to establish new clubs in areas that can benefit from Rotary's presence. By expanding our reach, we can grow our outreach and extend and amplify the impact of our service. Together, we can strengthen our organization and continue to serve our communities with dedication and passion. "What really matters from the point of view of social capital and civic engagement is not merely nominal membership but active and informed membership."

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rtn. Dinesh Mehta

District Governor RID 3142



From The Desk Of Club President

Dear Suburbanites:

Just now, we all have completed our first month of current Rotary Year while creating magic of Rotary among the beneficiaries in the society. With the awesome support from all our members, anns, annets, we are trying to change the lives of beneficiaries in various ways.

In the month of July 2024, we carried out following projects for our club as part of giving back to the society which have helped us to grow to this level.

1. Annapurna Annadan Project Project (which was covered in last month's edition of this newsletter)
2. Distribution of 10th Study Apps among the school of St. Joseph High school near Kapur Bawdi Junction. We distributed about 25 study apps among those students and the students as well as their teachers were quite happy about it.
3. Joint Blood Donation camp on 21st July 2024 along with Rotary Club Of Thane City. In this blood camp, we could jointly collect 20 units of blood.
4. Ann Dr. Gauri Kulkarni proposed a project on World ORS day about "Diarrhea ki Roktham, Safai Aur ORS se Rakhe Apna Dhyan". As part of this project, we conducted following 5 different contests:
 - Poster Competition
 - Drawing Competition
 - Slogan Competition
 - Essay Competition and
 - Rangoli Competition

About 100 students from RJ Thakur High school participated in the above different competitions and our club acknowledged the talent of first three contestants and gave them awards

Warm Regards,

C. S. Joshi

Your Club President.

Activities During the month

1. Installation of the club president and club BOD members

The installation took place on 13th July 2024 evening at Maple-In Banquets. We had requested DG Rtn. Dinesh Mehta ji to be the chief guest of this installation ceremony. Many members of club, anns, as well district dignitaries, rotaracts, teachers from St. Joseph high school were present for the ceremony.



BOD Members with the DG and AG

All the Club members, Anns with DG and AG



2. Distribution Of 10th Study App

Along with PP Sanjiv Rotey and PP Sudhir Kulkarni we distributed the app to about 25 students. More information about this can be found at our [YouTube Channel](#)



3. Blood Donation Camp

About 7 members and annets from our club participated in the blood donation camp. Three walk in persons also donated the blood. So considering this, we collected 10 bottles from our club. 9 members of our co-host club donated and they had one walk in person. So total both the clubs donated 20 units of blood.



4. World ORS Week Celebration

On 28th July along with Thane Academy Of Pediatricians (TAP), Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), Interact Club at R. J. Thakur High school, we celebrated world ORS week. The pediatricians explained the students the importance of cleanliness, nuances of eating street food, what is ORS, how to create ORS if you do not get ORS packet from items available in your house (salt 1 flat tea-spoon, sugar 2 tea-spoons and 500 ml boiled water), etc. On that day, we conducted following 5 different contests:

- Poster Making
- Drawing
- Slogan Drawing and Writing
- Essay and
- Rangoli drawing

About 100 students participated and top three winners of each category were given gifts:



Felicitation of PP Dilip Gatty, who has been helping our club for last many years (especially for Polio Eradication) at the hands of DG during the installation ceremony.

In this felicitation, the club gave him Marathi poem which is translation of Rotary 4 way test. This poem was written by PP and Club secretary Girish Ghate.



Felicitation of IPP Ashish Moghe at the hand of DG for his excellent performance in the excellent year.



Club President with DG & AG



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