



DISTRICT 7030 NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2023

English Edition



RI President Jennifer Jones Message



I believe it is a time in our world for brave, courageous, intentional leadership.

Last month, in this column, you heard from my dear friend Anniela Carracedo. She is an amazing member of our Rotary family, and as a past Interactor and now Rotarian, she is this kind of leader.

Anni shared a very personal story about coping with a panic attack, something that I have also experienced. The outpouring and response to this story have been tremendous and punctuate how

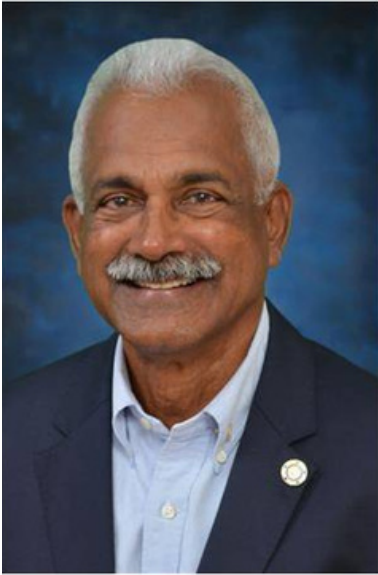
critical it is that we acknowledge not only our strengths but our vulnerabilities too.

When we talk about finding space for one another — creating comfort and care within Rotary — we're describing a club experience where we can all feel comfortable sharing like Anni did, and we can all empathize with and support one another. Whatever we are facing in life, Rotary is a place where we know we're not alone.

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District Governor Leslie Ramdhanny Message



My family of Rotary, greetings, as we celebrated the month of my favourite area of focus – Protecting the Environment. Special thanks to the clubs who have undertaken projects aligned with this area of focus, many of which I have seen when I visited clubs. A clear indication of how Rotarians have committed to preserving our environment.

Rotarians understand that the whole world is their backyard and are taking action to protect the environment. But our efforts must go beyond Rotary, we must educate and engage our communities on the importance of protecting the environment so that they can be empowered to take positive and restorative action.

The month of April also featured D7030, 31st PETS Assembly and Conference in Grenada, April 13th–15th. Over 300 Rotarians and Partners in Service attended what turned out to be a very successful District conference. Feature plenary speakers included Rotary International President's Representative, Director Ananthanarayanan Venkatesh, 2021 World Food Prize Laureate Dr. Shakuntala Haracksingh–Thilsted and our luncheon speaker, world renowned Sergeant Major Johnson Beharry VC. All speakers were motivational and inspiring, evidenced by the standing ovation each received after their respective presentations. Plenary sessions included Rotary information and clubs project presentations highlighting service activities undertaken.

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RI Monthly Theme



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PEOPLE OF ACTION



Penal Rotary Celebrates its 20th Anniversary



On 7th October 2002 the Rotary Club of Penal was chartered. On 8th October 2022 a gala function was held at Doc's Ranch in Philippine, San Fernando to celebrate this milestone. The celebration started off with an Interfaith service on 5th October 2022 where various religious leaders came together to give thanks and praise to almighty God for the opportunities given to us to serve our communities.

In commemoration of this day also the Club embarked on a tree planting exercise with the kind assistance of the students from both the Dayanand Memorial Vedic School and the Avocat Vedic School on their school compounds.

Twenty years have been a long time for us, much has happened. The Club was chartered with twenty five (25) members, history was made, it was the only Club in the organization to have all its members installed with a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF). Since then much has happened, some has moved on, some has passed on, some have gone and some have come, however each contributing to the tremendous and impactful work we have done as a Club.

To date we are thankful to have with us our Charter President Rotarian Surujdeo Mangaroo, Rotarians Dr. Akenath Misir, Clint Arjoon and Diana Antoine all of whom are very active and instrumental to the success of the Club and mentors to the new ones.

Throughout the years we have had some very impactful projects and continue to have some of which we are happy to share.

- 1.The Jaipur limb- prosthetic legs -funded by the Dewan Foundation
- 2.A Shelter home for families displaced by fire and natural disasters.
- 3.Volunteers Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH) free eye testing and glasses done by a team of doctors from the US who spent over one week testing at various venues, school children and members of the public at a cost of over One Million TT dollars.
- 4.Donated Ten Thousand US dollars (US \$ 10,000.) to the Children's life fund.
- 5.Built a music centre for the students at the Penal Rock RC school at a cost of over Sixty-Five Thousand dollars (\$ 6500).
- 6.Donated a solar panel to a student whose home had no electricity at a cost of Fifteen Thousand dollars (\$15000.).
- 7.Donated a motorized wheelchair to a cerebral palsy child at a cost of Nine Thousand Five hundred dollars (\$9500.)
- 8.Donated a hospital bed to a needy family member at a cost of Seven Thousand dollars (\$ 7000).

To date we have fulfilled the Rotary mandate in many ways. The Rotary Club of Penal has certainly done substantial services to our local and global communities as being guided by Rotary's seven areas of focus - promoting peace, providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene, fighting diseases, growing local economies, supporting education, protecting the environment and saving mothers and children.

The President and members of the Rotary Club of Penal would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported and assisted us over the years. A very special thank you to the print and electronic media for their overwhelming support in helping us to highlight our services as we look forward to your continued support in moving forward.

Kind Regards

Pamela Adimoolah, Assistant PRO, Rotary Club of Penal

Penal Rotary Welcomes District 7030 Governor



District Governor 7030 Rotarian Leslie Ramdhanny recently visited Trinidad and Tobago where he paid courtesy calls to Clubs in Trinidad & Tobago. During his visit, Clubs had the opportunity to showcase their current and upcoming projects to him mandated by Rotary International under the seven focus areas for the Rotary year 2022/23.

On his visit to the Rotary Club of Penal we had the distinct pleasure of having him pin the newly formed Interact Club of Barrackpore West Secondary School. This is the seventh Interact club sponsored and assisted by the Rotary Club of Penal. The Interact Club's president Ms. Makeda Mc Leod highlighted the projects recently executed in the community as well as projects in the pipeline The Club was chartered on November 2022 under the guidance of Teacher Advisor Ms. Jamie Birbal.

To commemorate the District Governor's visit as well as the Rotary Club of Penal's twentieth anniversary, trees were planted on the compound of the Barrackpore West Secondary School as well as Debe High Secondary School.

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Paramin Development Committee – A Rotary Community Corps by RC Port of Spain West



According to Rotary International, the PDC, RCC ID #117 was organized on September 1, 1986, but our local accounts confirm that the work in Paramin was actually started in 1977 under the guidance of then President Andrew Mc Eachrane. It was called at that time, 'The Model Village Project' and RC Port of Spain West (**RCPOSW**) worked tirelessly to nurture the village through education, self-sustaining projects and financial support. President Jaspal Bhogal, in his year 1986–1987 stated in a club address,

“Community Service is the heartbeat of Rotary... which encourages the Rotarian to apply the ideal of service to his own neighbourhood... to cause him to consider his citizenship in relation to the world, the nation and the community”. During their respective terms of presidency, all of our Presidents led their executives in service of Paramin.

Noteworthy activities included:

- Donation of fruit trees with the long term purpose of establishing a food co-operative in the village.
- The club was also instrumental in arranging the installation of a Pump Connection at the Base Station at the foothill of Paramin. The community at that time could not enjoy pipe-borne water to their homes.
- A Dental Service program by Dr. Paul Fajgenbaum (Past President) for villagers commenced on 8 August 1984 at his office, where he provided preventative dentistry **free of charge!** This service continued weekly for **36 years** up until the 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Many other projects through the years including the introduction of a Scout Troop, execution of overseas youth exchanges, establishing a community library and an annual health fair, just to name a few.

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Annual Back to School Project



The Rotary Club of Southwest Tobago held its annual back to school drive on Saturday September 10th, 2022, from 9am at our Glen Road base.

This year members sought to provide school supplies for the differently abled student in our community. Keeping with the request of our current Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones, to make Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion part of our year's activities.

To this end, three (3) schools with the combined total of 64 students were targeted. These school were Tobago School for the Deaf, Speech and Language Impaired, Happy Haven, and Learning Tree Early Childhood Care and Education Centre.

On September 13th, 2022, Rotarians visited the respective schools of students, who were unable to attend on Saturday to complete the distributions.

The mentioned schools were given teaching aids like laminating machine, building blocks, motor skills development kit.

The principals and staff were very appreciative of the kind gesture and requested our support and assistance in future school projects, with this request the club is ready to take on this challenge.

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ROTARY CLUB OF TOBAGO – “Coastal Replanting Project”



On Saturday 21st January, the Rotary Club of Tobago along with the Rotary Family in Tobago conducted a coastal replanting project along the shoreline of Lambeau Beach. Fifty (50) seedlings (Seagrape and White Poui) were donated by the Division of Food Security, Natural Resources, the Environment and Sustainable Development to plant along the coast that stretched over 1 mile. We were happy to execute this project during DG Leslie Ramdhanny and DRR Justin Seheult's visit to the island of Tobago as Coastal Erosion has become a serious issue on the island and the Environment is one of our main areas of Focus this year.

ROTARY CLUB OF TOBAGO – “Rotary Friendship Exchange”



On Saturday 25th February, 2023, The Rotary Club of Tobago along with the Rotary Club of Southwest Tobago, Rotaract Club of Tobago and the Interact Club of Southwest Tobago welcomed six (6) visiting Rotarians from Thailand, Canada and the USA through the Rotary Friendship Exchange Program. Of course we had to let them taste our renowned Crab and Dumpling at the Store Bay Beach Facility and they loved it! This Exchange allows you to genuinely experience another culture, guided by friends in Rotary. Exchange participants take turns hosting and visiting one another, forging

friendships that last a lifetime. We were able to exchange a lot of information about our cultures through our social event and fellowship

ROTARY CLUB OF TOBAGO – “Wheelchair Distribution”



On January 29th The Rotary Club of Felicity/Charlieville and "Chair The Love" from the USA in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Tobago and the Rotary Club of Southwest Tobago donated 40 wheelchairs to residents of Tobago. This distribution was done at the Lambeau Multipurpose Facility, Tobago with over 30 volunteers assisting recipients and their families. This project took months of planning and coordination, and we were so happy to be able to provide such relief to those who needed it most! This was a truly heart-warming project.

ENVIRONMENT ACTION with High school and RC CAYENNE

In partnership with the Lycée professionnel Jean Marie Michotte in Cayenne, the Rotary Club of Cayenne is launching an educational project with a group of students on the development of the school's green spaces to raise awareness of environmental action in the form of a challenge.

The students will be accompanied by Mrs. Laurence BENOIT, English teacher in the school, and Mr. Marcello NUNEZ, responsible for the high school students' house.





The pedagogical projects can be declined under different themes:

- plant wall
- Plantation (flower box)
- Vegetable garden
- Medicinal plants area

Until the end of the 2023 school year, the Rotary Club of Cayenne will regularly monitor the progress of the projects and is committed to a long-term project with the school and thus pursue environmental awareness with the youth.

The cohesion of the Rotary Club of Cayenne for their fundraising Golf operation (October 2022)



As every year, the Rotary Club of Cayenne organizes its fundraising operation, namely a golf competition.

This operation mobilizes the club and its members upstream for several weeks to find sponsors, organize logistics and communication of the event.

On the day of the event, the cohesion of all the members of the club made it possible to welcome the sponsors with conviviality so that they perceive the importance of the event for the club and the motivation to collect funds to be able to support the most vulnerable. Our club is proud to have raised nearly 24,000 euros in this beautiful harmony!

GUYANA RYLA 2023 - INTERACT CLUBS Environmental School Project Competition

Guyana RYLA 2023 Environmental School Project Competition concluded on March 9th 2023 when the results of the competition were announced by Assistant Governor (AG) Liz Cox in the presence of our visiting District Governor Leslie Ramdhanny. PAG Luanna, the school teams, supporters and a few Rotarians from the sponsor clubs were also present.

DG Leslie in his remarks welcomed all and expressed his excitement about the idea of the challenge to identify an environmental issue in their school and come up with a solution. While congratulating the 1st

and 2nd place winners indicated that they were all winners as their contributions will encourage all students to pay more attention to environmental issues.

A selected team member from each group shared a brief on their project for the benefit of the DG.

AG Liz in her general remarks shared some thoughts on the competition, indicating that the projects were excellent ideas which touched on more than one area of focus of Rotary International. Guidance was also offered on areas for improvements in project preparation and presentation skills.



The results are as follows:

1st place Winner: The School of the Nations Interact Club with their “stool” project fabricated with recycled plastic bottles generated from the school canteen.

2nd Place Winner: The Interact Club of Queens Collage completed a project titled “Tap-in” of replacing the faucets at the hand sinks in the school with non-concussive (push down /self-closing taps) which deliver a timed flow of water once pressed – as a way to reduce water wastage.



Top speaker awards for each group went to Interactor Riley Nurse of Queens College, Interactor Nathan Taitt of St Joseph High School and Interactor Erick De La Pena of the School of the Nations.

The prize for the best concept of an environmental project was awarded to the St Joseph High School Interact Club – their project was based on composting the grass cuttings from the school lawns, together with the organic scraps from the canteen to create soil which will be used in a

proposed kitchen garden. This was also the most cost-effective project.

The prize for the best overall presenters were awarded to the Interact Club of Queens College.

The prize for the best use of materials for the project from within the environment of their school was awarded to the School of the Nations Interact Club.

Each school was asked to report on the status of the project in 12 months' time.





Theme Month Calendar

Click on the button below to view the calendar

Calendar>>>

Note: Click on the + sign for better viewing





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