



# The 26.50



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Francis Neziyanya**



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## Message from the District Governor

March is Clean Water and Sanitation month. Water and sanitation--one of Rotary's six areas of focus--is the one most of us take to heart.

As we support our foundation through projects, we help those that do not have access to clean water and sanitation in different parts of the world.

Team Rotary, the first Rotary project was providing a public restroom in Chicago for clean sanitation over one hundred years ago. Today we continue to do so in our communities and in the world. Can you imagine what the world would be like without clean water and sanitation? There are more clubs that can use our help every single year--both domestic and internationally.

*"Several years ago, Rotary recognized the innate need of Rotarians to address inequalities in water access around the world by making water and sanitation one of the areas of focus. We now stand in a strong position to work with global partners to find meaningful, sustainable solutions to the single largest threat to humankind."*

*— Rotary Foundation Trustee  
Tom Thorfinnson*

Also this month, let's support our District Governor-Elect Martha Collins and the presidents-elect as we prepare for PETS in Natchez, Mississippi, as well as our Interact clubs (our future leaders) as they gather for Interact convention in Lafayette and our district conference at end of this month in Zachary, as we gather to celebrate our year of SERVING HUMANITY with fun, fellowship and friendship.

*Francis*

WATER AND SANITATION  
2014-15: **302** global grants totaling  
**\$20 million**

## Water and Sanitation

In 1907, the Rotary Club of Chicago launched a community movement to build public toilets in Chicago. Almost 110 years later, those facilities, though primitive by today's standards, would still be considered progress in some parts of the world. More than 660 million people worldwide live without safe access to clean water, and almost 40 percent have no sanitary toilet facilities.

Rotarians have expanded on their early interest in this area of need. Today, an estimated 10,000 clubs participate in water-related projects that are bringing clean water and sanitation to remote areas and greatly reducing the incidence of disease. In a partnership with USAID, Rotary clubs have built wastewater treatment plants in the Philippines, developed water treatment and safe storage systems in homes in the Dominican Republic, and are working to improve sanitation throughout Ghana. The Foundation also funds vocational training teams made up of experts in water and sanitation who visit developing areas and train local residents.

\$24

is all it takes to provide one person with safe water

23 mil

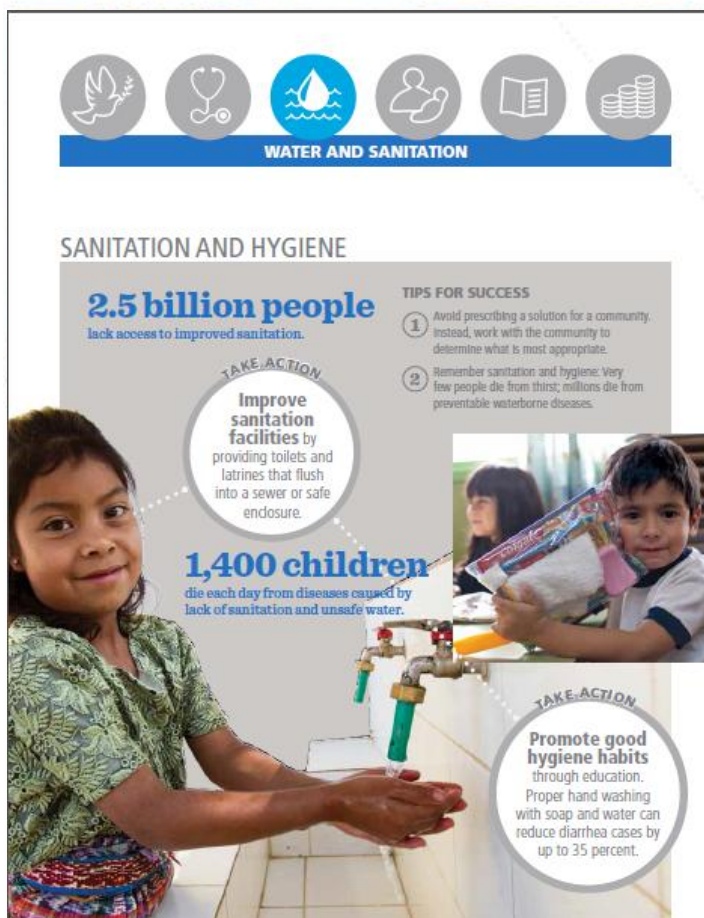
people now have safe water because of Rotary

21 mil

people have access to sanitation and hygiene thanks to Rotary projects

2030

is the year Rotary hopes to finish providing everyone with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene



**WATER AND SANITATION**

**SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

**2.5 billion people** lack access to improved sanitation.

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

1. Avoid prescribing a solution for a community. Instead, work with the community to determine what is most appropriate.
2. Remember sanitation and hygiene. Very few people die from thirst; millions die from preventable waterborne diseases.

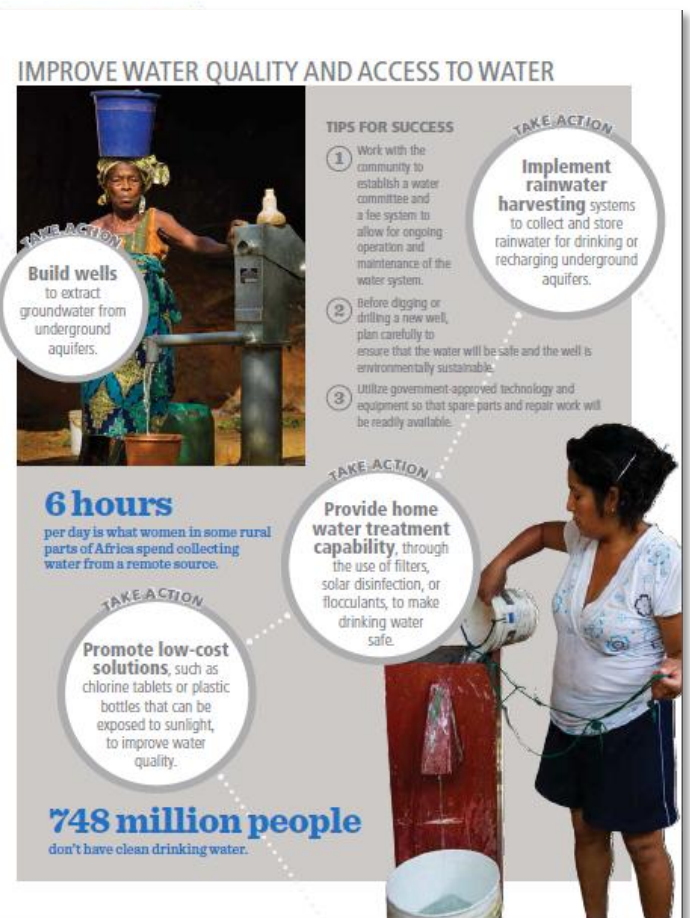
**TAKE ACTION**

**Improve sanitation facilities** by providing toilets and latrines that flush into a sewer or safe enclosure.

**1,400 children** die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Promote good hygiene habits** through education. Proper hand washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhea cases by up to 35 percent.



**IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND ACCESS TO WATER**

**TAKE ACTION**

**Build wells** to extract groundwater from underground aquifers.

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

1. Work with the community to establish a water committee and a fee system to allow for ongoing operation and maintenance of the water system.
2. Before digging or drilling a new well, plan carefully to ensure that the water will be safe and the well is environmentally sustainable.
3. Utilize government-approved technology and equipment so that spare parts and repair work will be readily available.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Implement rainwater harvesting** systems to collect and store rainwater for drinking or recharging underground aquifers.

**6 hours** per day is what women in some rural parts of Africa spend collecting water from a remote source.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Promote low-cost solutions**, such as chlorine tablets or plastic bottles that can be exposed to sunlight, to improve water quality.

**748 million people** don't have clean drinking water.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Provide home water treatment capability**, through the use of filters, solar disinfection, or flocculants, to make drinking water safe.



### The Rotary Club of Morgan City

The Rotary Club of Morgan City (RCMC) recently had the opportunity to participate in the Rotary District 6200 disaster grant program. They applied for grant monies to be used to assist Youngsville families to replace flood-damaged appliances.

The Morgan City Rotary Club was able to make contact with Reverend Tommy Faulk with the First Assembly of God in Youngsville to help coordinate this effort.



RCMC President Bob Harrison worked with ***The Cox Family at Tiger Island Hardware Selecting Their Appliances*** Reverend Faulk to get the names of five families affected by the flood that were given \$1,500.00 vouchers redeemable at Tiger Island Hardware to purchase needed appliances. The First Assembly of God in Youngsville also received a voucher for a washer and dryer to help in their efforts to help the community.



***Margo Benezech and Family at the RCMC Appliance Giveaway***

Several Rotarians greeted the families at Tiger Island Hardware where they were able to pick out the appliances they needed. The vouchers helped to offset the cost of the appliances. The families that received appliances were so humbled by the generosity the RCMC bestowed on them.

Each flood victim had their unique recovery story. Margo Benezech, one of the recipients of a voucher, had broken both shoulders after the flood--adding to her long recovery process--and she was able to take her new dishwasher home that day.

Tiger Island Hardware worked with the families to give them the best for the vouchers and also delivered the appliances to their homes in Youngsville. Communities can reach other communities through service.



## 7 Steps to Increasing Your Club's Facebook Presence

*By PDG Melissa Ward, Rotary Club of Twin Bridges, Southern Saratoga, New York, USA and chair of the Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship*

A Facebook page gives your club a voice on Facebook. With so much other “noise” on social media, there are several things you can do to raise your club’s page above the distractions.

1. **Make good use of visuals.** Your cover photo is prime real estate. Use a photo that really speaks to your club’s mission. Post fun, active photos.
2. **Post regularly.** Share your club’s next program, a photo of a project, create an event for your next fundraiser. For example, post your speaker every Monday. Share a photo every Wednesday. Share an article from Rotary.org every Friday.
3. **Encourage club members to LIKE and SHARE posts from your Facebook Page.** This is where the magic of social media kicks in. When members share posts onto their personal Facebook page, their connections can see it, like it and increase the club’s exposure exponentially. This is key to keeping your club’s posts in the newsfeed.
4. **Your Facebook page can become a source for donations.** If your club’s page has been set up as a not for profit and is verified you may be able to collect donations. See Facebook’s rules. Once your club is approved, people who like your page can run fundraising campaigns on your organization’s behalf. Note: This is currently only for USA based clubs that are or have a foundation that is a registered 501(c)3.
5. **Tag other businesses and organizations you work with.** Place the @ sign in front of the business name and their Facebook page should appear. Select it and it will be tagged in the post. That sends a notice to that business, and gives them the opportunity to share your post on their page. Now you have even MORE exposure.
6. **Have more than one person as a page administrator.** Our club page has three administrators. Each of us is responsible for different aspects of the page. This prevents the page from being forgotten, or from getting lost.
7. **Use Milestones.** Add a milestone for your charter date, for each president, for major events or awards. Milestones increase engagement AND give you a timeline of your club’s history.

The above tips may seem like a lot, but you can do them over time. The most impactful activity is having club members like and share your club’s posts. This helps your club increase its reach and gain awareness in the local community. Using free tools like Hootsuite and Canva will make managing your page easier and more efficient.



## How Did You Celebrate Rotary International's Birthday?

The International Traveling and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF) offered a trip to Nepal to Rotarians around the world to visit the country and provide disaster relief to victims of the February 2015 earthquake in the village of Dhading. On February 23, while in Dhading, traveling Rotarians, including PDG John Olin "Jay" Brown and PAG Ginger Vann, celebrated Rotary International's 112 birthday with Rotarians and Interactors from the village by lighting 112 votive candles and sharing an enormous homemade cake.



*Traveling Rotarians on the left and Dhading Rotarians and Interactors on right*





## The Rotary Club of Golden Meadow



The Rotary Club of Golden Meadow donated non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies and hygiene products to families in need in the area with the help of a disaster grant through Rotary District 6200.



## Bill Gates to Keynote Convention



**Bill Gates**

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will speak at this year's Rotary International Convention June 10-14 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The convention is expected to attract 40,000 Rotary club members from over 160 countries, and inject an estimated \$52.3 million into Atlanta's economy.

"Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been working together on polio eradication for a long time, and our strong partnership will continue through the final years of the effort," said Rotary International President John Germ. "With the most effective resources in place, it's possible that we will soon see the last case of polio in history. At the convention, Bill will say more about how we can — and will — end polio."

"The Rotary International Convention provides an exceptional opportunity to bring together more than 40,000 civic and business community leaders from throughout the world to Atlanta to enjoy our unique brand of southern hospitality," said William Pate, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. "The addition of Microsoft founder Bill Gates as a keynote speaker reflects the importance and good work that Rotary does worldwide."

Atlanta's first Rotary convention took place 100 years ago, when The Rotary Foundation was established with its first contribution of \$26.50. The Rotary Foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$1 billion, and more than \$3 billion have been spent on projects and scholarships that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, and grow local economies.



## The Rotary Club of Baker



The Rotary Club of Baker has been hard-at-work providing disaster relief for residents in the Baker area. On February 11, they distributed three truckloads of sheetrock and green board that was partially funded by disaster-relief grants from District 6200 as well as donations received from Rotary Clubs and Districts in Southern California.

The following two weekends, Baker Rotarians distributed thousands of



dollars of brand new furniture donated by furniture companies in North Carolina. The club paid for the transportation of the furniture and Whitney Bank allowed the furniture to be stored in unused office space until it could be distributed.

On March 10, Baker Rotarians distributed thousands of feet of ceramic tile, hundreds of toilets, tubs, showers and vanities, donated by NOLAH--a 501(c)(3) foundation started by professional football player Karl Wilson--to help restore some of the thousands of homes affected by the August 2016 flood.

Prior to the current disaster relief projects, the Rotary Club of Baker has also distributed cleaning supplies, done mold remediation and distributed insulation. Baker area residents are grateful to all of the Rotary clubs and districts that have helped rebuild this often overlooked city in East Baton Rouge Parish.



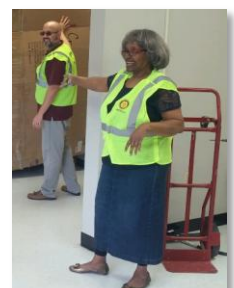
**PDG Jay Brown and PAG Ginger Vann  
Lining Up the Trucks and Trailers**



**President-Elect Tierney Bennett Takes a Picture of a  
Family Receiving New Furniture in Boxes**



**Rotarian Scott Haynes Helps Carry Out a  
Sofa To Be Loaded**



**President-Elect Nominee Doris  
Alexander Coordinating**



## Rotary Club of St. Martinville

The annual St. Martinville Rotary Club Mardi Gras ball is the club's biggest fundraiser of the year that helps to fund all of its various projects throughout the year, including a local fire fighters supper, bingo with the nursing home residents, scholarship awards to all local parish high schools and other projects.

In conjunction with the Mardi Gras Ball St. Martinville Rotarians visited and passed out beads and took photos with the residents of the Landmark of Acadiana nursing home in Cade, Louisiana.



*Pictured above is King Rotary LXX, Club President Jamie Castille; Rotary Captain LXXI Rotarian Al Greig and Junior Maid, Kamy Trosclair, daughter of prospective Rotarian Sandy Trosclair; and Landmark of Louisiana resident Theresa Melancon, grandmother to Jamie Castille.*



## District Conference Checklist

Club Bulletin Contest Submissions: March 10

Significant Achievement Award Nominations: March 15

Food Fest Items: March 15

Club Activity or Project Exhibit Form: March 15

Celebration of Life Submissions: March 15

Golf Tournament Registration: March 24

Door Prizes: Cash Donations: March 15; Gift Form: March 24

Banners from Each Club: First Day of Conference

To access conference forms, please click [here](#).





## Upcoming Events:

<u>City</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Natchez, MS	President-Elect Training Seminar	March 17 - 18, 2017
Lafayette	Interact Conference, Ramada Inn	March 22 - 23, 2017
Zachary	District 6200 Conference	March 30 - April 1, 2017
Lafayette	District 6200 Training Seminar	April 29, 2017
Houma	Peace Forum/Foundation Gala	May 5 - 6, 2017
St. Landry	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards	June 1 - 4, 2017
Atlanta	Rotary International Convention	June 10 - 14, 2017

## Wild Polio Virus Update:

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017 Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2016 Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Total 2016</u>
Afghanistan:	2	0	13
Pakistan:	1	5	20
Nigeria:	0	0	4



**Headlines** Polio Research Committee (PRC) call for research proposals: the PRC is soliciting research proposals to support the implementation of the Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan. The deadline for submissions of proposals is 24 March 2017.

**Afghanistan:** No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2017 remains two, and for 2016 remains 13. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 21 January, from Nahr-e-Saraj district, Helmand.

**Pakistan:** No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2017 remains one, and for 2016 remains 20. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 28 January, from Lodhran district, Punjab.

**Nigeria:** No new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2016 remains four. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 21 August, from Monguno Local Government Area (LGA), Borno.



Please direct all comments about this newsletter to Ginger Vann at [gavanns@yahoo.com](mailto:gavanns@yahoo.com).