



Rotary International

Governor's Newsletter

ISSUE 3 / SEPTEMBER 2012

CYPRUS

ARMENIA

BAHRAIN

LEBANON

PALESTINE

JORDAN

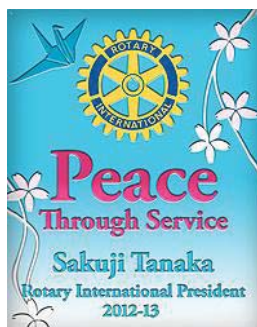
DISTRICT 2450

EGYPT

GEORGIA

SUDAN

UAE



DISTRICT GOVERNOR

2012-13

Kevork Mahdessian

RI PRESIDENT

2012-13

Sakuji Tanaka



Governor's Message

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I trust you have all returned safely from summer holidays, both religious and non-religious, refreshed and with batteries recharged in order to seek, identify and make the best use of our strengths, potential and capabilities in order to serve our communities and further strengthen our Clubs, our District, and Rotary.



There is endless opportunity for service in our communities, which has increased dramatically as a result of the economic situation which is adversely affecting the lives of many people in the countries which our District serves. I am certain that your planning for the new year has taken account of these new challenges.

As you start implementing your action plans in the five avenues of service, do not overlook the opportunities offered by matching grants for the substantially increased funding of your projects. You may turn to the District TRF Committee for advice and assistance. In the Rotary calendar, September is New Generations Month. As you recall, New Generations was only a few years ago added as a fifth avenue of service in Rotary, in recognition of the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in lead-

ership development activities, community and international service, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

We truly have in Rotary the finest youth programs in the world. A wide range of programs fall under the New Generations umbrella, including Rotaract, Interact, RYLA and Youth Exchange. Focusing more on youth is crucial for Rotary to thrive and survive. It is one of the reasons why we have programs on literacy, leadership training, and ethics for young people. Their intrinsic value continues to escalate.

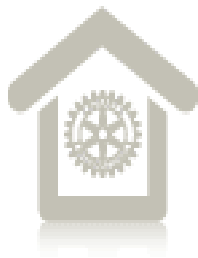
We do a great job with these programs, but they can benefit further from coordination and communication. And, we need to give them more visibility.

At the same time, we should open the doors to the new generations, seeking to induct younger qualified members into our clubs, and give them the opportunity to prove they can be as passionate as elder Rotarians are in humanitarian work and in strengthening our clubs.

In concluding, I would like to stress that we should come closer to our Rotaractors and Interactors, support and partake in their activities, and offer them opportunities to come closer to our Rotary clubs and feel part of the great Rotary family.

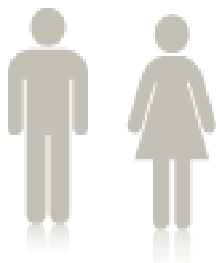
Yours in Rotary
Kevork Mahdessian
Governor
District 2450 (2012-2013)

34,196



CLUBS

1,218,269



ROTARIANS

196



COUNTRIES

Message from
RI President 2012-13
Sakuji Tanaka
September 2012



Dear fellow Rotarians,

Many of you know that we now have five Avenues of Service in Rotary. The fifth, and newest, is New Generations Service. There are many ways to serve through this avenue, and you will read about some of them in this month's issue.

All of the work we do to educate children, to improve maternal health, to help families live healthier lives – all of this is service to New Generations. We also serve New Generations by working to eradicate polio, helping to ensure that future generations of children will be born into a polio-free world.

Our youth and young adult programs, such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange, are a very important part of this Avenue of Service. We must remember that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. By helping to develop young leaders and bringing younger members into our clubs, we strengthen communities – and Rotary's future.

For most of my life, I have been a salesman. I learned long ago that being a good salesman is not enough. You must also have a good product. If you are a good salesman, you will make the first sale. But if you do not have a good product, you will make only the first sale. You will not make the second.

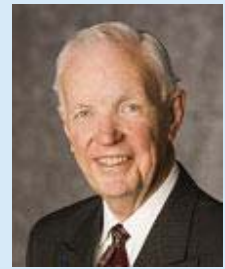
It is not enough to bring new members into Rotary. We want them to stay. We want the new, young members to become longtime members. We want them to be Rotary leaders in 10, 20, or 30 years.

How do we do this? We have to look at our product. We have to look at Rotary not with our own eyes, but with new eyes. When we invite a new member to join and that person's answer is no, we should ask why. This is not to pressure someone into joining. It is to find out more information. What are the obstacles to membership? Is it an inconvenient meeting time? Is it too much of a time commitment? Is it something else that we have not thought of?

We need to ask questions, and we need to open ourselves to the answers. We cannot say, "No, we will not do this," just because we have never done it before. Why not have child care at a meeting? Why not involve families in projects? Why not make attendance requirements less strict, or meet less often?

Our new Avenue of New Generations Service is an important step in ensuring many future generations of Rotary, and of Service Above Self.

Message from
Foundation Trustee Chair 2012-13
Wilfrid J. Wilkinson
September 2012



Highlight our Foundation's good work

In July, I outlined the goals that your Rotary Foundation has set for 2012-13. In August, I emphasized that while it is essential to have goals, we can't achieve them without a plan.

Many clubs and districts are off to a flying start and have both goals and a plan, and I offer them my sincere congratulations. However, nearly 50 years of experience in Rotary suggests to me that a much greater number are only starting to plan now. I would like to offer some ideas.

Every club should have a meeting that highlights the good work that our Foundation is doing. Perhaps it is a report on a recent Matching Grant project, Group Study Exchange, or vocational training team, or a talk by a former Rotary Peace Fellow or Ambassadorial Scholar. Perhaps Rotarians in your club or district have participated in a National Immunization Day and have seen firsthand the work to End Polio Now.

After you have made the case for our Foundation's work all over the world, it is essential that you ask for both physical and financial support. How about discussing local Foundation projects? Inviting every member to contribute? Inviting non-members to contribute? Presenting the opportunity to become Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Bequest Society members? Perhaps your meeting on the Foundation will be so effective, it will inspire an individual to become a member of the Arch C. Klumph Society.

My request is that every Rotarian do something, and more important, encourage others to do something.

The world needs Rotary, but Rotary needs like-minded people to join us as we continue Doing Good in the World.

District Governor's Visit to Dubai for Training & Rotary Extension

August 2012



**Saeed Bin Belaila- President Emiratus,
DG Kevork Mahdessian**

**UAE Rotarians,
Saeed Bin Belaila- President Emiratus,
DG Kevork Mahdessian,
Yaseen Jaffer-President R.C. Dubai,
H.E. Sulaiman Almazroui-UAE Ambassador at
Brussels**



**District Governor Kevork Mahdessian Pinning
Assistant Governor Abdullah Al Ansari of R.C.
Dubai
On the right DDG for UAE Rtn Nabil Mitri**

**H.E. Sulaiman Almazroui-UAE Ambassador at
Brussels
Elise Bijon-UN World Food Program Manager
District Governor Kevork Mahdessian
Yaseen Jaffer-President R.C. Dubai**



District Governor's Visit to Lebanon Clubs
August 2012

BEIRUT - R.C. Metropolitan



R.C. Beirut Cadmus



BEIRUT - R.C. Kesrouan



Dinner in honour of DG at PDG Farid Gebran's



R.C. Hamanna



R.C. Hamanna



District Governor's Visit to Lebanon Clubs
August 2012

Meeting with Lebanon Rotaractor Clubs Representatives



R.C. Zahle Bekaa



R.C. Zgharta Zawieh / Bike Marathon against Cancer



R.C. Aley



District Governor's Visit to Lebanon Clubs
August 2012

Visiting Projects in Zahle



Dinner R.C. Sahel Metn and Beirut Phoenix



R.C. Metn



R.C. Beirut Phoenix



My spouse and I would like to thank most sincerely all the Rotary Club Presidents and Members for their warm hospitality during our official visits

DG Kevork Mahdessian



The First Rotarian to Climb Mount Ararat

Our very own RCBC Rotarian, **Christine Arzoumanian**, reached the summit of Mount Ararat on July 18, 2012 all the way up to 5,165 meters in four days. Christine is a former DG Rotaract Representative (D2450, 2009-2010) and a Past President (PP) of Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club.

The daughter of former Mount Lebanon cycling champion Gabriel Arzoumanian, she has been keenly interested in extreme sports from her adolescence (in particular mountaineering). She has already conquered many summits in Lebanon and abroad.

"I hope to form a team of Rotarians and Rotaractors from our District who are interested in climbing summits and raising funds for Rotary causes. I ask all those interested to e-mail me at rchikeforlife@gmail.com".



The climb started at 2,200 meters. "We reached 3,200 meters on day one and 4,100 meters on day two, then went back down after a short break to 3,200 meters -- to allow the body to get used to the altitude" she explained. "On day three, we went back up to 4,100 meters, and on day four -- just after midnight -- we took off on the final stretch".

"The last 800 hundred meters of the climb consisted of a succession of steep slopes, their surfaces a rough mix of snow and ice -- which made it necessary to wear crampons to avoid sliding.

"The acid test for me was the last 300 meters. The altitude was kicking in and the oxygen level dropping. My fingers were frozen and my face and lips were all blue, according to the guide. Also, I had no energy to move a muscle, so I stopped".

"I was told that, given my condition, I would need two to three hours to reach the summit, and was advised not to continue — in order to maintain my energy for the lengthy journey back down. At that moment of truth, I looked at my team and I looked at the summit which was so close; then I looked up to Heaven, and with God's miraculous help, I found the strength to actually start "running", tears of determination streaming down my face. I reached the summit in 30 minutes"

"As I reached the peak itself, I went down on my knees kissed the holy summit, thanked God and prayed. I was on top of Mount Ararat, where Noah's Arc landed. As I waited impatiently for my team-mates to come through the fog, the weather was getting really bad and it was freezing cold up there yet the atmosphere was very warm. I experienced inexplicable feelings that I will cherish forever. For me, Mount Ararat is a truly holy mountain. It reminds me of who I am as a person; of my roots; of my strengths and of my weaknesses; of the qualities of my soul and of how I deal with difficulties with a smile and a loving heart towards all".

"The Rotarian in me feels this experience has parallels with Rotary and Rotaract. I believe it is with this mindset and spirit that we achieve Service Above Self within our communities. Indeed, together with fellow Rotarians and with the help of the Rotary organization, we climb mountains that are higher than 5165 meters every day to meet the needs of our communities that are our ultimate summits. Physical fitness and the right diet are fundamental to mountain climbing, but it is the mind, in collaboration with the soul, that will take you to the summit and back down again".

For Christine, every challenge invites and inspires goodness in response, "just as Rotary and Rotaract would have us respond with God's will".

District 2450 News

President of the Lebanese Tennis Federation



PAG May Monla Chmaytelli of Rotary Club Tripoli-Maarad has been selected as the first female President of the Lebanese Tennis Federation.

*It is a great honour both for her and her family
but also for the family of Rotary.*



DISTRICT 2450 4TH CYPRUS CONFERENCE
21-23 September 2012
AT PAFIANA HEIGHTS LUXURY RESORT & SPA, Paphos, Cyprus



77th DISTRICT 2450 CONFERENCE

4-7 APRIL 2013, LIMASSOL-CYPRUS

77th DISTRICT 2450 CONFERENCE
4-7 APRIL 2013, LIMASSOL-CYPRUS



*The Last of the Best Together
We'll make it The Best of the Last*

Conference Organising Committee Chairman

PAG Christina Covotsou-Patroclou

chair.LastoftheBest@gmail.com / +357 99686882



Message from District Governor Kevork Mahdessian

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, Family and Friends of Rotary,

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you to the 77th District 2450 Conference to be held in Limassol, Cyprus, from the 4th to the 7th of April of 2013.

The city of Limassol is stretched along the shores of the Mediterranean and is the most exciting and vibrant city of the Island, with close proximity to historic sites and monuments as well as to the green pine forest covered mountains.

The venue hotels are in walking distance to each other, all strategically built on the sea-shore with facilities to meet all tastes.

Our exceptional organizing committee are preparing wonderful programs for you, with highly interesting topics from brilliant speakers and personalities. Visits for the spouses are organized to interesting sights and resorts, whilst visits for shopping are not forgotten.

Evening functions are going to be great, with lots of fun and surprises. We shall have fantastic fellowship and create an unforgettable atmosphere as we intend to make this 'The Last Of The Best' of District Conferences for District 2450.

We shall usher-in the two New Districts of 2451 & 2452 with great festivity, by strengthening our bonds of friendship with programs for future cooperation and joint activities. We promise to deliver to you an exceptionally interesting conference well balanced with interesting Rotary work but full of fun and fellowship.

Dear friends, we are waiting for you with open hearts and open arms, please join us so that TOGETHER, we make this Conference "The Best Of The Last."

See You in Limassol, 4th to 7th April 2013.

Kevork Mahdessian

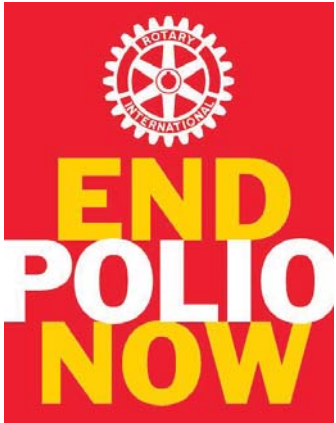
DG 2012-2013



New End Polio Now website launches

Rotary has created a virtual home – endpolionow.org – where people can rally together to finish the fight against polio. The website is available in English, with other languages to follow. Key features include:

- ◊ Compelling stories you can share about polio eradication
- ◊ Interactive, dynamic graphics that help you tell the story
- ◊ How your and others' donations can be used to fight polio
- ◊ How to use your social media status to share Rotary's polio story and calculate your "social worth"
- ◊ Links to polio communications [resources](#) that will help you educate and inspire others to end polio now



"To achieve a polio-free world, Rotary and its partners in the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) need your support to spread the word," says Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. "Together, we must educate and activate individuals, organizations, and most importantly, governments, to keep up the fight to end polio now. Robust and coordinated digital outreach is necessary to reach our goal."

You are encouraged to visit endpolionow.org, interact with its features, and share it with others through your own websites, blogs, and social media channels.

"We are '[this close](#)' to making history by eradicating the crippling disease polio once and for all," says Scott. "Case counts have never been lower, the number of countries affected has never been fewer – the time to beat polio is now."



Dates of District Governor's Official Visits

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>DATES</i>
Lebanon Club Visits	22/08/2012 – 28/08/2012
Cyprus Club Visits	04/09/2012 – 07/09/2012
Cyprus Club Visits	10/09/2012 – 15/09/2012
Lebanon Club Visits	17/09/2012 – 21/09/2012
District 2450 4th Cyprus Conference 21/09/2012 – 23/09/2012	
Cyprus Club Visits	25/09/2012
Selection of Director For Zone 20 A+B 29/09/2012- 30/09/2012	
Lebanon Club Visits	02/10/2012 – 04/10/2012
Membership Seminar – Lebanon 05/10/2012 – 07/10/2012	
Jordan / Palestine Club Visits	12/10/2012 – 18/10/2012
Vocational Training Seminar – Jordan 13/10/2012	
Armenia / Georgia Club Visits	18/10/2012 – 26/10/2012
Cyprus Club Visits	01/11/2012 – 02/11/2012

...Dates of District Governor's Official Visits

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>DATES</i>
Egypt Club Visits	03/11/2012 – 14/11/2012
20B Zone Meeting Rotary Institute – Izmir 16/11/2012 – 18/11/2012	
Egypt Rotary Foundation District Seminar 22/11/12 - 24/11/2012	
Egypt Club Visits	25/11/2012 – 27/11/2012
Berlin Peace Forum 29/11/2012 – 02/12/2012	
U.A.E. Rotary Foundation District Seminar & Club Visits 06/12/2012 – 12/12/2012	
Sudan Club Visit	20/01/2013 – 21/01/2013
Egypt Club Visits	22/01/2013 – 31/01/2013
Bahrain Club Visits	13/02/2013 – 16/02/2013
77th District Conference Limassol	04/04/2013 – 07/04/2013