



# The RotaPoint



ROTARY CLUB OF POINT LOMA

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JULY 2013

## PLRC Signs Off Rotary Year 2012-13 With Demotion/Promotion Dinner



On June 28th the Point Loma Rotary Club held its annual yearend dinner at the San Diego Yacht Club. (Top left) Outgoing PLRC President **Denise Oxley** swore in new President **George Klein**. (Top right) Emcee **Gary Stephany** presented Denise with the traditional gavel plaque. (Bottom) Dressed in her British judicial robe, Denise offered her thanks to club members who filled instrumental positions during the year.

*(photoplay continued on page 2)*

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PLRC Signs Off Rotary Year 2012-13 *(continued from page one)*



*Photos by Ken Osborne*

# Club Bulletin Board

## Exchange of Banners

One of the colorful traditions of many Rotary clubs is the exchange of small banners, flags, or pennants. Rotarians traveling to distant locations often take banners to exchange at make-up meetings as a token of friendship. Many clubs use the decorative banners they have received for attractive displays at club meetings and district events. Participating clubs are encouraged to ensure that the designs of their banners are distinctive and expressive of the clubs' communities.

Exchanging club banners is a very pleasant custom, especially when a

creative and artistic banner tells an interesting story of community pride. If you expect to make up at a distant club, contact Club Service Director **Frank White** to obtain a banner to exchange.

**George Klein**

## Club Assembly Alert

A PLRC club assembly will be held during the July 26th meeting. Officers and directors will outline their service objectives for Rotary Year 2013-14.

## District Membership Seminar

Come and attend the seminar on

Saturday, August 3, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. Learn about ways to attract and increase your club's membership. Get tools to help you retain your members. Share your successes and challenges with other Rotarians. The target audience is club presidents and presidents-elect, membership chairs, and any members interest in club membership growth and retention.

## Leadership Academy

LA Class of 2013 will begin this September. Registration is now open. Learn the hows and whys of Rotary.

## Calendar of Events *(tentative and subject to change)*

**Friday, July 19:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: **Len Herring**, California Center for Sustainable Energy.

**Friday, July 26:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: **Club Assembly**.

**Friday, August 2:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: to be announced.

**Saturday, August 3: District 5340 Membership Seminar**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, 92108. Check in/continental breakfast, 8:00 AM; adjournment, 11:15 AM.

**Friday, August 9:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: to be announced.

**Friday, August 16:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: to be announced.

**Friday, August 23:** Club meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, 12:10 PM. Program: to be announced.

**Friday, August 30:** Club dark. No meeting. **Labor Day** weekend.

*(Ed. Note: The President's Weekly Bulletin highlights forthcoming programs as well as program changes and future Rotary-related events.)*

**The RotaPoint**  
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## PLRC Board, 2012-13

### Officers

**George Klein**, President  
**Rex Young**, President-elect  
**Kay Wegner**, Secretary  
**Valerie Hume**, Treasurer

### Directors

**Frank White**, Club Service and Membership Chair  
**Philip Heintz**, Community Service  
**Tim McCully**, International Service  
**Debra Gookin**, New Generations  
**Kali Mistry**, Vocational Service

**Denise Oxley**, Immediate Past President

# Water and Sanitation in Africa

by Ruby Pratka, worldpress.org

*[Ed. Note: The following article is adapted from one written by Canadian-educated freelance journalist Ruby Pratka 15 months ago about an important issue, one with continuing relevancy today regarding development in parts of Africa.]*

Nearly 90 percent of the world's population now has access to clean drinking water, up from 76 percent a decade before. But the benefits of that water are still elusive for hundreds of millions of people.

**Godelieve Niragira** is a mother of four in Gikungu, a suburb of Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. "We can spend two days with no water, and the shocking thing is that no one ever tells us the reason it was cut off," she says. "We have to camp out in front of the tap and stay there until we have enough water to fill a jug or bucket."

When there is no water, no one can wash their hands. "Everyone is afraid of catching some epidemic disease, which could arise from one moment to the next," adds another resident.

There was no running water at all in Gikungu until a neighborhood association raised 600,000 Burundian francs (\$465, six months salary for a middle-class professional) to outfit 120 houses with plumbing. "It's better than nothing," says a member of the association.

Despite steps forward over the past few years, Sub-Saharan Africa "remains at the back of the queue" in terms of drinking water and sanitation says **George Yap**, executive director of WaterCan, a Canadian NGO active in East Africa. He says access to drinking water goes hand in hand with access to improved sanitation and hygiene education, which is much less

widespread.

"We talk about drinking water, but we don't talk enough about sanitation," adds **Anais Mourey** of Coalition Eau, a French partnership of NGOs dedicated to increasing water access. According to the coalition, 40 percent of the world's population, around three billion people, lacks access to toilets. All seven continents are affected, although South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa are the worst off.

The United Nations had hoped to halve the proportion of the world's population without access to drinking water and sanitation, but has acknowledged that "improvements in sanitation are bypassing the poor" and "the sanitation target appears to be out of reach."

"We have to treat access to drinking water and sanitation separately, but overall it is one global issue," Yap says. "With access to drinking water we're on track, but with sanitation we're off track. We could help a family with a pit latrine, but what happens if they don't wash their hands afterwards? We could build a well with clean, delicious water, but if you put it in a dirty bucket, that water is dangerous again."

United Nations Development Program statistics confirm a gap between drinking water and sanitation coverage. In Botswana, one of the more prosperous countries of Southern Africa, more than 90 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water, but only 60 percent has improved sanitation. In rural areas, that drops to 40 percent. In Kenya, one country where WaterCan's work is focused, more than half the population has clean drinking water, but only a third

is covered with sanitation programs. In rural regions or arid West African countries like Chad, Niger, and Mauritania, less than 10 percent of the population has toilets.

In Kenya, WaterCan partners with a local organization, Maji Na Ufanisi, and local youth to build and maintain safe and clean toilet facilities for schools as well as rural and slum communities. "We train communities to do maintenance because if you don't do that, the system breaks down," says Yap.

"We want to increase the access of slum dwellers to clean water and sanitation in order to create a more conducive learning environment," says Maji Na Ufanisi Executive Director **Edward Kairu**. "Students are able to concentrate and come to school more often." Kairu would like to expand the program with funding from WaterCan, the Nairobi city government, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Funding is where sanitation initiatives are at a disadvantage. "Donors want quick results," says Yap. "With water, you dig wells, you have water, things happen. Sanitation is different; it is about separating human waste from drinking water and from the environment."

"Sanitation isn't a priority for funders; it's still not easy to talk about it," says Mourey. "But if we don't talk about it, kids will continue to die of diarrhea." As elections approach in both the United States and France, Mourey calls on Western voters to generate the "political will and targeted finance" needed to improve the situation. "We have to move faster or else we won't get there."

# PLRC Passing Parade, June-July 2013



*(Left) During the June 7th PLRC meeting, **George Klein** presented **Dick Thorn** with the District 5340 Governor's Visionary Award.*

*(Bottom right) On June 7th, **Jarvis Ross** of the Peninsula Community Planning Board spoke to the club about the organization and its objectives.*

*— Photos by **Ken Osborne***

*(Bottom Left) On June 14th, Captain **Andy Mills** of the Western Division, San Diego Police Department, visited the club.*

*— Photo by **Frank White***

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# PLRC Passing Parade

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During the June 14th meeting, “**Flip**” **Heintz** presented a PLRC contribution to Boy Scout Troop 24 in the amount of \$200.

— Photo by **Frank White**



On June 21st, RYLA attendee **Marcella Marquez**, visited the club and received her certificate. She is pictured here with her mother, **Carla**, and with PLRCer **Debra Gookin**.

— Photo by **Jim Piburn**

(continued on page 8 with District Governor’s visit)

# PLRC Passing Parade (DG Visit)

*(continued from page seven)*



District 5340 Governor, **Carl Kruse**, visited the club on July 12th. (Top left) The DG discussed such issues as increasing club memberships while retaining current members, energizing members regarding Rotary’s goals of service, and igniting greater passion for Rotary among the members. (Top right) Carl awarded PLRCer **Rick Stakelum** with the Governor’s Torchbearer Award for RY 2013-14, passing his own Olympic torch to Rick as emblematic of the honor. (Bottom left) Membership chair **Frank White** received the Governor’s Igniter (igniting the torch) award for 2013-14 for his contribution to increasing club membership. (Bottom Right) **George Klein** received the Governor’s Energizers Award in connection with his new role as PLRC President for RY 2013-14.

— Photos by **Ken Osborne**

