



Rotary

Spectrum



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An evening with mentally challenged kids by Family of RCSLMK
Section of club members with family spent the evening of Saturday, July 20, 2019 with residents of Prabartak, the home for the orphans and mentally challenged kids and grownups



Family of Rtn Ashoke Surana, in presence of family of club members offered a wonderful evening at Prabartak, Salt Lake, the home of fifty-five orphans and mentally challenged. The family offered delicious food and sweets to each of them, which they enjoyed.

Exploring economic development in Alaska through the Open World program

Posted on July 24, 2019 by Natalia Kunzer, Open World Program Officer

In May, I had the opportunity to observe an Open World Program prepared by the Rotary clubs of Homer-Kachemak Bay and Anchorage International in Alaska. Clubs hosted a Russian delegation of six participants for an eight-day program focused on "Regional Economic Development with emphasis on Sustainable Fishery and Tourism." Visitors were nominated by Rotary clubs of Far East Russia, which helped rekindle a long-established relationship between Rotary in Alaska and Far East Russia.



Photo Courtesy of District 5010

The visitors began their trip in Washington, D.C., where they spent a day and met with Mr. Larry Burton, Chief of Staff for Alaska Senator

Dan Sullivan. The delegation was impressed by the U.S. government's openness and dedication to their people.



In Homer, visitors were introduced to the mission and community improvement activities led by the Rotary Club of Homer-Kachemak Bay. Delegates expressed keen interest in Rotary and were genuinely surprised by the number and size of projects local Rotarians have undertaken. The local clubs support schools and students and fundraise significant amounts of money to remodel the Homer History Museum among many other projects. Open World delegate Oleg Ivanov, a member of the Rotary Club of Chita (Eastern Russia), has been inspired by the work of Rotarians and is planning to increase activity of his club back at home. Other delegates also made plans to work with local Rotary clubs more closely once they returned back home. Overall, participants were fascinated by Rotary's role in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and friendship in the international community. Now, after the program, most of participants are visiting local Rotary clubs on a regular basis.



Rotarians in both Homer and Anchorage prepared robust programs for the delegation that showcased the tourism industry, entrepreneurial venues and collaboration between the nonprofit, government and private sectors. The importance of working together on economic growth, sustainability and protection of the environment was emphasized at every meeting.

The group visited an oyster farm, explored challenges of farm keeping and environment preservation, and toured the Port of Homer where they saw fish dock and high-capacity ice planting. They learned about the key role the Port of Homer played in supporting the regional economic drivers of fishing and tourism, and received their first

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at the Auditorium at JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 5.00 PM

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understandings of Federal and Alaska fisheries sustainability regulations.



The delegation was impressed at the ease of reaching out and meeting local officials. Mr. Seaton is a fisherman and educator, who served on the Special Committee on Fisheries and on the Commerce, Community & Economic Development subcommittee while a member of the Alaska Legislature. Mr. Seaton's background in Alaska's governance and as approach to regional development and sustainable fishing provided valuable insights to the delegation.



Delegates met with the Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce and received information on how Homer promotes regional tourism by using fishing and the area's natural beauty to attract visitors. Delegates were able to relate to this strategy and saw parallels where it could be applied in their communities back home.



Meeting with local entrepreneur Mrs. Kate Mitchell, Founder and Matriarch of NOMAR, a company that makes unique products catered to Alaska's assets and needs. Mrs. Mitchell demonstrated that

initiative, persistence and hard work leads to success. Delegates toured the NOMAR facility and were very curious about the process of how materials for products were researched.



Gatherings with hosts and local community members were very lively. Visitors and hosts regularly exchanged stories about their hometowns, work and families. It seemed as if old friends gathered together rather than strangers meeting for the first time.

The Open World Program, operated by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent U.S. federal agency, is a special program available to Rotary clubs in the United States through a grant secured by Rotary International.

Understanding the new rural state in Latin America: how can we respond to it in the water sector?

By Malva Baskovich, Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist & Berenice Flores Arias Uijtewaal, Consultant; July 24, 2019



Proyecto de Agricultura Sostenible y Desarrollo Rural

As development practitioners, a common mistake we may fall into is devising well-intentioned solutions based on an "outdated" understanding of the country or sectoral context.

In the previous blog, we discussed the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector challenges which are persistently looming over rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In this piece, we continue to sketch the "new rurality" by considering new trends and developments witnessed which are altering the rural landscape—and which may require new or revised sector reforms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

So, what has changed or progressed in the rural areas and small towns in LAC? Many practitioners fail to recognize is that despite persistent challenges, the rural context of today is highly different than the last decade.

- Rapid urbanization and sustained economic growth have changed the rural environment. The "new rurality" concept is foremost characterized by the shift from an agrarian model where the society was organized around primary activities, towards a society more articulated with the environment and the urban market. Over 2000-2012 agriculture's share in the LAC economy decreased by 6%, which alters the income composition of rural households (less than 40% of families depend on agricultural activities). However, some countries "re-agriculturalized" over the period, due in part to the commodities boom, predominantly El Salvador, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Uruguay.
- There is a growing number of intermediate cities and small towns. Despite limited statistics on the exact number of small towns in LAC, and recognizing there are varying definitions of

“small cities” per country, Peru estimates there are 644 small towns with populations between 2,001 to 30,000 inhabitants and Mexico counts 5,000 small towns with a population between 2,500 and 15,000 inhabitants. Regardless, it is understood that the quality and management and WSS services are deficient in small towns which are not serviced by WSS utilities. In turn, a decrease in the migration of large urban cities has been witnessed; instead, people are increasingly migrating to intermediate cities and small towns. Intermediate cities—predominantly defined as those towns with between 100,000 and one million inhabitants—are gaining prominence in LAC. It is estimated that intermediate cities are currently home to 32% of Latin Americans. Intermediate cities play a vital role in increasing national and regional productivity and competitiveness; some estimates indicate that they may comprise up to 17% of GDP (CAF, 2019). Above all, intermediate cities may play a crucial role in closing WSS gaps between rural and urban areas.

- The physical distance between urban and rural areas has been reduced, while virtual connectivity has improved. Rural poverty has seen a reduction from 63% to 53% in the first years of the decade, among others attributable to a broad improvement in connectivity and communications reaching rural areas, and improved access to information and communication technology (ICT). Access to mobile telephony in Peru increased from 2% in 2005 to more than 50% by 2012. This change is also reflected in the improvement of road infrastructure.
- The impact of climate change on water quality and water availability is worrisome, yet there is growing awareness about the importance of protecting water resources to secure access to sustainable water for both rural and urban communities. From floods to droughts, the impacts of climate change on water are worse than ever and this is expected to intensify over the years. Climate variability and climate stress impacts water resources, increases the vulnerability of watersheds, and may lead to reductions in aquifer recharge, run-off, and water balance. Fortunately, there is growing awareness at the regional level on the impact of climate change and the need to protect water sources! Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which proposes a holistic approach to water management, is gaining ground in LAC, fostering the introduction of resilience measures in policies, strategies, development plans, investments, technical standards, project cycle, etc. Taking on an integral perspective on the whole water cycle allows reducing risks, eliminating threats, reducing vulnerability and strengthening capacities to recover from potential natural disasters. At the rural community level, there are signs that the cultural value of water is improving, witnessed through increased willingness to pay for access to quality water and the growing commitment to manage and care for community rural water systems.
- Within the human rights to WSS framework, the prevalence and consolidation of community management of WSS services, supported by a legal framework and structure under different arrangements (individually or in partnership) for the administration, operation, and maintenance of WSS services. The legal framework of countries such as Chile, Colombia, and Honduras have allowed for greater private sector participation. The recognition of WSS as a human right is also driving changes in rural WSS policies, especially in promoting the visibility of the “invisible”, allowing also for a growing demand of rural families for improved levels of services such as: water systems with household connections, keeping hand pumps as an important option when water sources are underground, and Basic Sanitation Units (which include a toilet, urinal, sink and shower). Various countries (Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia) no longer consider latrines as a viable option to be included in investment projects.

The World Bank’s Water Global Practice’s Rural Water Security and Sanitation Advisory Services and Analytics Program is designed to

provide a revised picture of the rural LAC WSS context, relying on the following premises:

- The rural sector has changed, and rurality in LAC cannot be understood under the same parameters used in the last decade. There is a need to revise our interpretation of what we define as ‘rural’ from a social, cultural, and economic point of view before designing WSS projects for these segments of the population.
- The challenges still faced by rural areas force us to be innovative and think outside the box. Reaching the most vulnerable rural populations requires a territorial approach and extra efforts towards strengthening multi- and inter-sectoral coordination. It is necessary to strengthen collaboration to propose comprehensive and innovative approaches.
- To achieve SDG 6, especially 6.1 and 6.2, we must review and learn from the ample experiences in rural areas in LAC. Ample stand-alone advancements have been made in the region which by studying in unison, could provide enhanced learning—not only to adequately depict the rural context of today, but also to identify innovations worth sharing. There is a need to make a leap from an approach based on current parameters (e.g. community management and the right to free WSS) to one that acknowledges the challenges still facing the rural sector.

Ultimately, these premises highlight the need to recognize that the rural WSS sector in LAC must be viewed under the same quality scheme lens governing the urban WSS sector.

We invite you to share learning on innovative RWSS experiences in LAC which may be of value to the region (or beyond) to help move the SDG6 agenda forward at the rural level.



Malva Baskovich



Berenice Flores Arias Uijtewaal

5-year plan to increase membership

Posted on July 24, 2019 by Galen Engel, Rotary Club of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, USA



Rotary and Rotaract members in Taipei, Taiwan, take part in an after-hours service project. Creating a separate after-hour meeting can be an effective strategy to attract members your main group isn't reaching.

When I first became a member, I was interested in membership. I was new and didn't know many people in the club and the incoming president asked me to be Sergeant at Arms. It's a good way to get to know everybody and its fun.

In the club of 65 members, the same 10 people seemed to be the ones that were involved in everything. I thought it would be an easy job to engage the whole group and get the rest of them involved. After eight months, I had some success, but not as much as I had thought. It became apparent that it would be easier to build a new group to attract a younger and more vibrant membership base.

Why can't the same club serve more people by having different meeting times in separate places? Why should we expect people from all parts of town to drive 20 minutes to get to our Monday meeting? Is it necessary to come together once a week in the same place when each group will have separate needs and community concerns? What if we had liaisons from each of several separate meeting locations that would get together once a month with the club board? And then all members would get together once a quarter for training and fellowship. This would keep us all on the same page.

After hours format

All meetings could have the same objective of service and growth. The separate groups could compete with each other for fundraising goals and membership. They could come together for combined service projects and to support smaller clubs in the area to help expand their vision and membership.

What I envision is starting with one After Hours meeting, an alternative meeting time every other week. Everyone would have a voice in service projects, membership, fundraising, and future direction. It is important this new group feels in control of where the funds they raise are directed. Half of everything that is raised could go into the general club fund, and the rest to areas this group decides.

If this can be done once, why not do it three or four times in different parts of town not being served or represented by our club? The goal would be to have three or four After Hours groups with 25-30 new members meeting at different times and places, paying dues, raising money, helping serve their local communities and bringing in young excited members. Members who step up to run the smaller meeting groups would gain experience before being put into the five-year rotation of club president. Now we would have a young vibrant leadership team to help engage the older members.

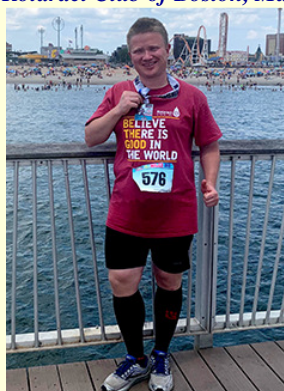
New meeting a year

Meeting areas should be far enough away from each other as to cover all areas of the city, increasing diversity. Even in small towns, different areas have different needs. Nobody understands these needs more than the people who live in these areas. The key to making this, or any other membership model, work is finding the right person to chair the membership committee in each club, district, and zone.

If you created one new meeting time each year, and each new meeting attracted 15 new members every year, by the end of the fifth year, you would have brought in 225 new members. The first new meeting time could split off into its own new club.

Paying it forward through Rotaract

Posted on July 22, 2019 by Georgi Kardzhaliyski, a member of the Rotaract Club of Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Georgi Kardzhaliyski at the Coney Island half marathon

My love affair with Rotary started when I was in high school and was selected by the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission for their US Achievers Program. One of the participants told me about Interact during the break of an SAT prep course and sparked my interest in getting involved. Feeling inspired, I started my high school's first ever Interact club, which I ran successfully with my co-president and about 10 members for a year until I graduated.

I got a scholarship to attend a college in Massachusetts and moved from my small town of Septemvri, Bulgaria.

After several flights, I found myself in the U.S. on 17 August 2009. Imagine being 19 years old, coming to a different country, with a

completely different culture, not knowing anyone, and no one speaking your native language. This moment symbolized my departure from a world that was familiar and comfortable; I realized I had left my family, homeland, and culture behind to discover a whole new community, country, and new friends.

Blanketed in kindness

Within the first few days of my arrival, I was accepted and blanketed in warmth and kindness from the Rotary community in District 7930 (parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire). My 3.5 years in college were exceptionally amazing because of everyone in Rotary who welcomed me. A Rotarian named Sue, a retired K-12 teacher, kindly took me under her wing and introduced me to the Rotary community.



Kardzhaliyski completing the Toronto Marathon in 2018

She invited me to Rotary meetings and conferences and included me in Rotary activities. Sue invited me to her house for supper, corrected my English and let me use her phone to call my parents. There were many more random acts of kindness and she asked nothing in return. She was a compassionate friend and a caring mother. Since then, I've wanted to return the sentiment in some way. I participated in Rotaract throughout college and have been an active member of Rotaract in Boston for the past two years. I love being part of a group of young people who represent a cross section of the world having many different backgrounds.

They are genuinely excited to volunteer, make friends, and provide Service Above Self.

But still, I felt something was missing. I wanted to give back but was unsure how. Then I started running. I ran my first half marathon (21 km) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in November of 2017 and my first marathon in Toronto in October of 2018.

This year, I decided to challenge myself with a goal of running four half marathons in the summer and participating in the Chicago Marathon in October. While running the distance of over 120 km, I will be raising money to support Teach for Bulgaria, an organization very dear to my heart because of their mission - quality education for every child.

Role model

By supporting this cause, I want to make sure that more students are going to have role models like Sue. This is my way of paying it forward to her and Rotary.

I became a Rotaractor because I believe collaboration toward a common goal leads to stronger ties within communities and promotes cultural and economic advancement. I believe in Service Above Self. It's easier to make a change when the world of Rotary work together. I have been grateful for the support I have received from my club and from the Rotaract Club of New York at the United Nations, the Rotaract Club of Manhattan NYC, the Rotaract Club of Toronto, Club Rotaract de Québec, Rotaract Bulgaria, and District 7930.

Birthdays of Rotary members in August 2019

Archana Goyal on August 11, 2019

Rajkumar Rajgharia, past Governor on August 15, 2019

Jhulan Basu, past Governor on August 16, 2019

Kusum Chamaria, past President on August 21, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in Aug 2019

Sp Sunayana & PDG Utpal Majumdar on August 15, 2019

Sp Sipra & PDG Aniruddha Roychoudhury on August 17, 2019

August is Membership & Extension Month