

RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter

... A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders

A monthly feature of the Rotary Global History Fellowship

Issue #161 July, 2015



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CONVENTION**

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Extracts from Trustee Chair's Speech to the 2015 Rotary Convention

Read the full text at :

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/trustee-chairs-speech-2015-rotary-convention-john-kenny>



John Kenny
Trustee Chair
(2014-15)

Most of the great foundations in the world have been created by powerful and rich families, but our Foundation has been created by the giving and the goodwill of thousands of Rotarians, just like you. This is why we are proud to call it *our* Foundation.

The future of Rotary and our Foundation will not be shaped at the headquarters in Evanston, but by each and every Rotary club and district working to assist those in their communities and communities in other lands whom they may never see but for whom they know there is great need.

At the start of this Rotary year I set five Foundation goals for the year.

The first goal was to continue to work toward the elimination of polio. We have much to be proud of in our efforts to rid the world of this dreadful disease — Rotary members have contributed over \$1.3 billion, which has allowed Rotary and its partners to immunize over 2.5 billion children. The South East Asia region has been certified as polio-free, and there have been no new cases of polio reported from Nigeria since July of last year.

While we are this close, we are not yet there. Polio is still endemic in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. In each country we face challenges based on fear and distrust. We cannot let up on our efforts, for children everywhere are still at risk until polio is gone. We cannot undo all the good work that has been done in the past. We can, we must, we will eradicate the poliovirus from the face of the earth.

The second goal was to support Rotary's own and only charity — The Rotary Foundation — through our continued giving. I am pleased to tell you that, thanks to your generous support, this year we could see the highest amount ever contributed to the Annual Fund.

Last year our Annual Fund reached almost \$117 million. This year, if our contributions continue at the normal June rate, we can top that figure to make it the highest ever. So please, when you return to your clubs and districts, ensure that your contributions are sent in before the 30th of June.

Let us remember that when we give to our Foundation, we are not sending cash to Evanston. We are helping a blind man to see, a polio victim to walk, a child to grow to adulthood healthily, a student to become educated, and a family to have enough food to eat.

The third goal was to ensure the progress of our new grants.

All new systems take time to become established, but it would appear that Rotarians are embracing the new concept of larger, sustainable projects.

Over 400 district grants and over 600 global grants have been awarded so far this year.

The fourth goal was to foster world understanding, goodwill, and peace by promoting and publicizing the Rotary Peace Centers program.

This year saw the largest application pool to date, with 312 endorsed applications from 85 countries. The 100 selected fellows represent 38 countries, and more than 50 percent of them reside in low-income countries. We should be encouraged to see that this imaginative program is expanding, for it is surely most pertinent in these troubled times.

The fifth and final goal was to emphasize that the future health of the Foundation is in all our hands.

The real work of Rotary is carried out by individual Rotarians in their clubs, for the club is the heart of Rotary.

In the words of Martin Luther King, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

Read the full text at :

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/trustee-chairs-speech-2015-rotary-convention-john-kenny>

What is your EREY Story?



Why do you support the Rotary Foundation? Why do you contribute every year? What is your EREY Story?

We would like to hear your story, and share it with all our readers. Please write to the Editor at jeeturotary@gmail.com

Below is a story from RGHF member PDG Matts Ingemanson

WHY I SUPPORT EREY!

Approximately 15,000 children die every day from preventable diseases. It costs between \$1 and \$2 to save the life of a child. A donation of \$100 to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund (Every Rotarian, Every Year) can save the lives of 50 to 100 children. A donation of \$1,000 can save the lives of 500 to 1,000 children.

There are compassionate Rotarians, who are willing to pay \$5,000 to save the life of one child. With a contribution of \$5,000 to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Giving Program, you can save the lives of 2,500 to 5,000 children and at the same time receive five Paul Harris Fellowships and get half ways towards becoming a Major Donor.

Many children can be saved by low cost solutions like:

- Vaccines
- Antibiotics
- Nutritional supplements
- Insecticide-treated bed nets
- Improved family hygiene
- Low Cost Water Purification
- Teaching literacy skills to children
- Teaching mothers about hygiene to improves the health of their children.
- Digging water wells for villages
- Providing micro loans for women to start businesses to feed their children.

Rotary Founder Paul Harris said that Rotary makes it possible for ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Rotary is in the passion business. Membership in Rotary gives us the opportunity to pursue our passion to serve and make a difference in the world. The meaning of life is to pass on the world to the next generation in better shape. That's what we do in Rotary!

That's why I support EREY!



PDG Matts Ingemanson

**District Governor 2013-2014
Rotary International District 7230
New York & Bermuda**

**Founding Member
Centennial Chair
Chair 2004-2006
Rotary Global History Fellowship**

How to increase the number of Paul Harris Society members in your club



Click image to watch video

As president of the Rotary Club of High Point, North Carolina, USA, Joel Gentry wanted to lead by example.

He and his executive board set a goal for 2014-15 of having five more members join the Paul Harris Society. The society recognizes Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or approved global grants.

"I felt that for me to ask people to do that, I had to set the pace," says Gentry about his decision to contribute at that level. "My wife and I re-evaluated all the places we were giving to and felt convinced we wanted our money to go where it would do the most good, to folks we would probably never see and who wouldn't know we had given."

The Paul Harris Society became an official Rotary Foundation recognition program in 2013 to identify, engage, and thank members who make substantial recurring gifts -- a level of giving that is crucial to the Foundation. While fewer than 3 percent of Rotary members contribute at or above the \$1,000 annual level, those gifts represent more than 35 percent of contributions to the Annual Fund.

Continued ...

The Paul Harris Society is distinct from Paul Harris Fellow recognition. A fellow has made cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or has had that amount contributed in his or her name, while a member of the Paul Harris Society contributes at least \$1,000 each year.

Through their donations, Paul Harris Society members are supporting work in Rotary's six areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies around the world.

David McCoy, Paul Harris Society coordinator for District 7690 in North Carolina, helps club presidents in his district identify potential society members. McCoy says that getting members to join depends largely on the approach.

Most important, he says, is to share the Foundation's story -- to relate how the Foundation is making a difference in the six areas of focus, and also how your club is making a difference through its international projects. McCoy says people aren't interested in the mechanics of giving but rather in the ways that Rotary is changing people's lives.

"We hammer that in, we work hard all year to educate our membership in what The Rotary Foundation does and what it means around the world," McCoy says. "I think clubs don't do enough of that. But if you show them the results, it's not so hard to get the money."

Another key is to make members aware of the Paul Harris Society on a weekly basis. McCoy recommends that clubs hang a banner and attach name tags of club members who are already in the society.

"I watched a past president who has been in our club for 41 years go over to the banner and look at all the names on it," he recalls. "He came over to me to ask what the society is, and of course I always carry a form with me." By the end of the meeting, he had signed up.

RECOGNITION

Districts often honor new society members by presenting them certificates and their insignia at a district or club event that is culturally appropriate and comfortable for the members. McCoy's district plans a big party in October with special speakers, and he says several members have signed up for the society because they didn't want to miss the event.

"It's important to constantly do something to thank donors for going that extra mile," McCoy says. "And people for the most part like the acknowledgment."

McCoy says it's also important to promote the Foundation's four-star rating from Charity Navigator, an evaluator of U.S. charities. The rating, which is the highest that Charity Navigator assigns, reflects the Rotary Foundation's sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

SIGNUP

McCoy emphasizes how easy it is to sign up for the society. Members can enroll through [Rotary Direct](#), Rotary's recurring-giving program, setting up automatic deductions of \$85 a month, \$250 a quarter, or \$1,000 a year. You become a member of the society as soon as you enroll.

"I often tell the story about how, twice a day, I go to Starbucks and buy a large coffee," he says. "At the end of the month, I have blown more than \$85. Many of us waste more than \$85 a month. Why not divert that to the Foundation, where it is doing some good?"

The High Point club's Joel Gentry, who set up his Rotary Direct contributions for quarterly payments, notes, "We don't miss what we don't see."

Finally, McCoy recommends that district leaders set ambitious goals for adding society members. During the first two years in his role, he aimed at adding five or six people annually. This year, when his district Foundation chair asked him to add 50, he balked.

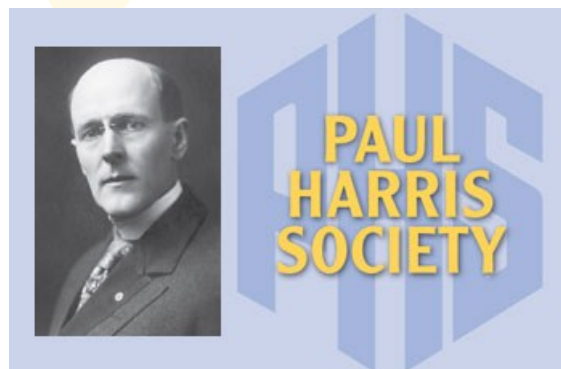
"But until I was challenged to come up with 50, I sort of limped along," he concedes. "Then I started thinking about this: We have 50 clubs in the district; that's one per club. So I said, fine." As of 1 May, McCoy was only a few members short of his goal for the year.

Learn more about the [Paul Harris Society and how you can order insignias](#) to recognize those who join

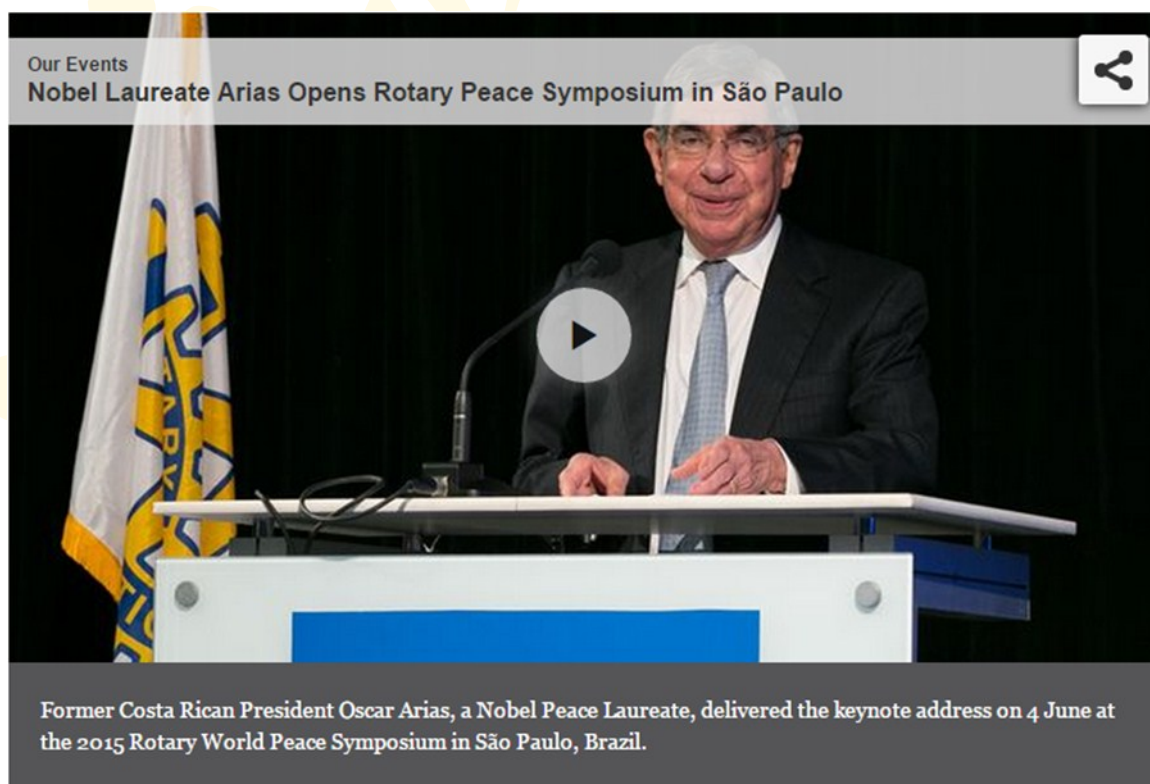
Download the [Paul Harris Society brochure](#)

Find out more about [fundraising](#)

By Arnold R. Grahl
Rotary News
29-May-2015



Peace Symposium speaker wants world to spend more on Education, less on War



Click image to watch video

When former Costa Rican president Oscar Arias was eight years old, his country abolished its military and turned its focus instead to human rights and peace. Now, the Nobel Peace laureate believes the world can gain just as much by following his country's example.

[Speaking at the Rotary Peace Symposium](#) on 4 June in São Paulo, Brazil, Arias recounted how his country traded in its tanks and heavy artillery to invest instead in economic reform and social justice.

"My country promised me, and all its children, that it would invest not in the weapons of our past, but in the tools of our future; not in barracks, but in schools, hospitals, and national parks; not in soldiers, but in teachers, doctors, and park guards," said Arias. "My country decided that it devoted its resources to war long enough and that it wanted to devote the genius of its people to the science of averting war."

Arias, who served as president of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990 and again from 2006 to 2010, addressed 250 Rotary Peace Fellows, alumni, Rotary members, and guests at the peace symposium. The two-day meeting celebrates Rotary's work in peace and conflict prevention.

Continued ...

Other speakers included Steve Killelea, founder and executive chair of the Institute for Economics and Peace, and Peter Kyle, a member of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee and Rotary's representative to the World Bank.

Arias received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his work to bring the countries of Central America together to sign a peace accord that ended the military conflicts that then plagued the region. The conflicts were challenging Costa Rica's culture of peace. As president, Arias was pressured by other governments to take up arms against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and even threatened with sanctions. He stood firm in maintaining his country's neutrality.

"This enabled my little country to become the platform for the peace accords that gradually ended the unrest in our part of the world," he said.

Arias noted that the \$1.77 trillion the world spends on the military could easily eliminate preventable diseases like malaria and provide basic education for children worldwide.

"I don't have to tell a room full of peace fellows that violence feeds off of illiteracy and desperation. If we can change the numbers of our military spending, we will shift the balance towards peace."

Arias explained to the crowd how he became a Rotary member three months ago.

"This organization, of which I am now so proud to be a part, is without a doubt a key player in strengthening and building peace," he concluded. "The [peace fellows] before me today must lead the way. You have tremendous potential, each and every one of you, to recalculate the mathematics of war that has dominated humanity for so long."

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary News
5-Jun-2015



Speed dating for peace

By Ryan Hyland, Rotary staff

Even before the World Cafe session started today, the room was filled with excitement, with people hugging and laughing. It took a few minutes for former Rotary Peace Fellow Cherine Badawi to quiet the 240 people in the room at the Rotary World Peace Symposium in São Paulo, Brazil.

[World Cafe](#), a structured conversation style that aims to spark open and intimate discussion, is modeled to resemble the atmosphere of a cafe. Instead of having white tablecloths, the small round tables were covered with plain white paper and colored markers that attendees could use to express themselves.



Attendees discuss partnering for peace during the World Cafe. Photo by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

The process included three 15-minute rounds of conversation. Each round started with a question about peacebuilding: What is foundational in my commitment to peace? How do we partner in peace? What might we do together to partner for peace? After each round, participants moved to a different table.

Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Carolyn E. Jones called it “speed dating for peace.”

Badawi, who facilitated the World Cafe session, said it was a new and innovative way for peace fellows and Rotary members to collect information and share ideas.

“In the past, we’ve been passive recipients of information rather than being able to engage in building new possibilities and peace projects,” she said. “World Cafe allows people to share personal stories and everybody’s voice to be heard.”

One table had the idea of a Rotary peace fellow consultancy agency, inspired by and modeled after [WASRAG](#). The group would help clubs and districts partner with other NGOs on peace initiatives. Peace fellow consultants would also advise on peace-related grants. After only 15 minutes of dialogue, this tangible idea may change how Rotary promotes peace. “I think the entire energy of the symposium was changed because of what happened here,” said Badawi.



\$40.3 Million In new funding from Rotary
for polio eradication



TAKE ACTION: endpolionow.org

Rotary releases US\$40.3 Million to End Polio worldwide

The continued fight to stamp out polio will receive an additional \$40.3 million boost from Rotary in support of immunization activities and research to be carried out by the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#). The funds will be used by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF for polio immunization, surveillance and research activities in ten countries, as well as to provide technical assistance to additional countries in Africa.

The funding commitment comes at a critical time as Nigeria – the last polio-endemic country in Africa – approaches one-year since its last case of polio, which occurred in Kano State on 24 July, 2014. If the current progress continues, WHO may remove Nigeria from the list of polio-endemic countries as early as September. In addition to the notable progress in Nigeria, no new cases of polio have been reported anywhere in Africa since August 2014.

Experts do, however, strongly caution that it is too soon to fully celebrate. Nigeria needs to go an additional two years without polio to be certified polio-free. Funding and support for high-quality immunization campaigns and surveillance activities will be key to sustaining current gains.

The only two other polio-endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, continue to experience hurdles in polio eradication campaigns including inaccessibility to children and security. Last year, Pakistan saw an outbreak which resulted in more than 300 cases, the highest number in the country in more than a decade. As a result, Pakistan accounted for almost 90% of the world's cases. However, there has been improvement in 2015. Cases are down nearly 70% over this same time in 2014.

Progress against polio, while significant, remains fragile. Rotary's funds will support immunization efforts in: \$9.9 million in Nigeria; \$12.2 million in Pakistan and \$2.3 million in Afghanistan.

Additional funds will support efforts to keep other at-risk countries polio-free. The grants include \$1 million, Cameroon; \$900,000, Chad; \$2 million, Democratic Republic of Congo; \$1.1 million, Ethiopia; \$1 million, Niger; \$1.5 million, Somalia; and \$1.5, South Sudan. In addition, grants totaling \$5.8 million will provide surveillance in African and Eastern Mediterranean regions. Grants to Africa alone total \$19 million. In total, Rotary has donated \$688.5 million to support polio eradication efforts in Africa over the past thirty years.

Source : www.endpolio.org

**END
POLIO
NOW**

Africa on brink of Polio Eradication



Click image to watch video

Nigeria and the whole continent of Africa is on the cusp of being polio free, Dr. Hamid Jafari told audience members at the Rotary Convention on 8 June in São Paulo, Brazil.

Between 2013 and 2014, the reported cases of polio dropped from 53 to just six in Nigeria. Even more encouraging, said Jafari, is that the last case of polio in Nigeria was reported in July of last year and the last case in all of Africa was reported in Somalia in August.

"With a year of no polio cases in Nigeria tantalizingly close, and no cases in Somalia since August, the tireless work of so many people across the continent is paying off," said Jafari, director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for the World Health Organization. "But it is incredibly important that Nigeria remains vigilant. As long as polio exists anywhere, it will continue to be a threat everywhere."

Transmission of the wild poliovirus has also never been stopped in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2014, 85 percent of polio cases worldwide were in Pakistan, the country's highest case count in over a decade. But progress has been made over the last few months to stem the spread of the virus. The focus for the government and all of the polio partners has shifted to missed children. Vaccinators have gained access to areas that have been out of reach for years, said Jafari.

Continued ...

Since January, cases in Pakistan are lower than this time last year thanks to advocacy work from Rotary members, said Jafari. "This is a reminder that we cannot let politics and conflict stand in our way, because at the end of the chain stands a mother or father that just wants to protect their child. But the coming months are the real test. We are entering the high season for polio transmission."

Jafari encouraged attendees to stay committed. "I need you to continue to advocate and engage with your political leaders with that strong, influential Rotary voice of yours, so that all our stakeholders continue to commit to funding the final stages," he said. "I need you to keep on educating and engaging your communities and the global community on this great endeavor."

FOUNDATION GIVING NEARS RECORD HIGH

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair John Kenny updated attendees on the progress of the Foundation. One of his goals as chair was to increase giving. The Annual Fund reached almost \$117 million in 2013-14. This year, if contributions continue at the normal June rate, the fund will top that figure, making it the highest ever, he said.

The Foundation's Endowment Fund has reached a milestone of \$1 billion, where spendable earnings will provide nearly \$13 million of direct financial support next year, more than double the amount five years ago.

"Let us remember that when we give to our Foundation, we are not sending cash to Evanston," Kenny said. "We are helping a blind man to see, a polio victim to walk, a child to grow to adulthood healthily, a student to become educated, and a family to have enough food to eat."

More than 400 district grants and over 600 global grants have been awarded in 2014-15, said Kenny. "The Trustees are conscious of obtaining the views of Rotarians and are seeking their observations on the new program so that they can be considered when a review is made in the 2015-16 Rotary year."

Kenny praised the expansion of the Rotary Peace Centers program. There have been 312 endorsed applications this year from 85 countries, the highest number since the program began in 2002. Of the 100 fellows selected, more than half are from low-income countries.

"We should be encouraged to see that this imaginative program is expanding, for it is surely most pertinent in these troubled times," he said.

"The future health of the Foundation is in all our hands," he concluded. "The real work of Rotary is carried out by individual Rotarians in their clubs, for the club is the heart of Rotary."

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary News
8-Jun-2015

Polio Public Health Emergency: Temporary Recommendations to Reduce International Spread of Poliovirus

On 5 May 2014 the Director-General declared the international spread of wild poliovirus in 2014 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations [IHR 2005], issued Temporary Recommendations to reduce the international spread of wild poliovirus, and requested a reassessment of this situation by the Emergency Committee every 3 months. The fifth meeting of the Emergency Committee was held in April 2015.

Based on the committee's advice and the reports made by affected States Parties, the Director-General extended the following Temporary Recommendations under the IHR (2005), effective May 2015. The committee's full report is available [here](#).

At a glance

States currently exporting wild poliovirus

Afghanistan
Pakistan

States infected with wild poliovirus but not currently exporting

Cameroon
Nigeria
Somalia

States no longer infected by wild poliovirus, but which remain vulnerable to international spread

Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Iraq
Israel
Syrian Arab Republic

Please send questions to: polioihr@who.int

Polio-free countries

While there are no specific IHR Temporary Recommendations for travellers from polio free countries, those travelling to polio-affected countries are advised to consult [International Travel and Health](#)

Source : www.polioeradication.org

RGHF's OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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**Rotary Global History
Fellowship**



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