



District Governor Newsletter 2019 - 2020

DISTRICT 9400 NPC • ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 2019

Rotary



A very happy Spring Greeting to all our Rotarians and family of Rotary!

September is a month of new beginnings and fresh energy. Our theme for this month is Basic Education and Literacy, which fits well with the renewed drive that comes with the changing seasons, and, for the millions globally who are illiterate, Rotary has a focused goal and will dedicate their efforts for this month to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education and increase adult literacy. Whatever we can do to facilitate a window of hope for a better future in this respect will have a lasting and lifelong impact.

Today, a staggering 775 million people over the age of 15 worldwide are illiterate. That is 17% of the world's population. A sobering statistic indeed.

The traditional definition of literacy is "the ability to read and write in the modern world." Another broad interpretation sees literacy as knowledge and competence in a specified area, which demonstrates that the concept of literacy has evolved in its meaning.


This can be brought right to our own doorsteps as Rotarians – how computer literate or Information Technology (IT) literate are you, how knowledgeable are you on Rotary? If we want to tap into the numerous resources available on the web at "My Rotary", we need to ensure that most of our club members are engaged on "My Rotary". It might be an idea to hold an IT Literacy training meeting in September where all members are shown how to:

- ➔ Gain access onto "My Rotary"
- ➔ Surf "My Rotary" to find important documents, templates, videos, branding examples, etc.
- ➔ Demonstrate how to look up the club's Presidential Citation goals.
- ➔ Go into E-Learning and go through some models.


The result will be that Rotarians have a new world opened to them where they can navigate "My Rotary" with confidence.

These are some highlights of Literacy and Basic Education achievements – amazing things that Rotary members have made happen:

 **Opening schools:** In Afghanistan, Rotary members opened a girls' school to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance.

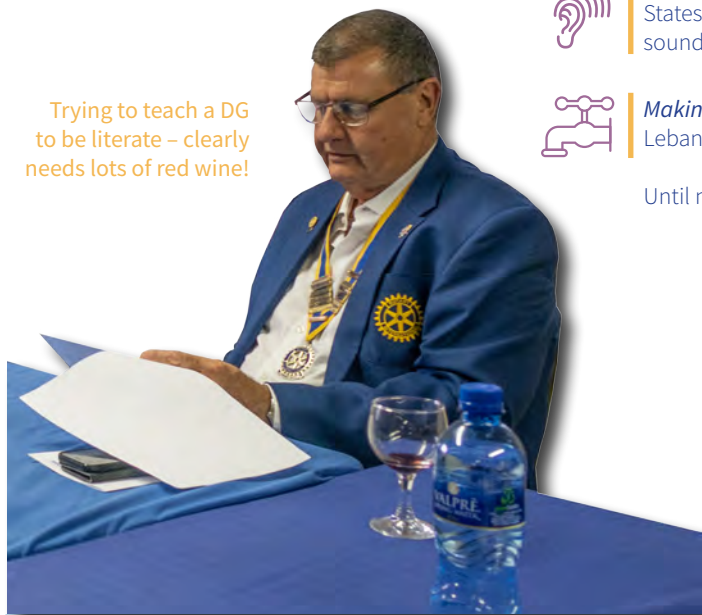
 **Teaching adults to read:** Rotary members in the United States partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to recruit and train tutors after a study showed that more than half of the local adult population was functionally illiterate.

 **New teaching methods:** The SOUNDS programme in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the United States teaches educators how to improve literacy by teaching children to recognize letters by sounds instead of names. [Learn how Rotary is supporting education](#)

 **Making schools healthy:** Rotarians are providing clean, fresh water to every public school in Lebanon so students can be healthier and get a better education.

Until next month ...

Trying to teach a DG to be literate – clearly needs lots of red wine!



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ROTARY LEARNING LIBRARY (RLL)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As we move into the third month of our Rotary year, the **Rotary Learning Library** (managed by the Rotary Club of Kromboom, District 9350 in Cape Town) is proud to announce the introduction of their new publication, **Business for Beginners**, available from October, to all Southern African Rotary Clubs. The new publication, very relevant to **Rotary's current emphasis on entrepreneurship**, will join our three other publications highlighted here:

- ➔ **The Illustrated Dictionary:** At R1200 per box of 10 copies...an essential part of any young person's "mini library".
- ➔ **The First Atlas:** which covers the fascinating study of geography, not merely by advising which city/country is here or there on the "world map"; but mixing the material with political comment, agricultural information and much explanatory data. R900 per box of 10.
- ➔ **The Book of Knowledge:** a mine of information, covering an enormous range of subjects in the fields of art, history, sport and others – a veritable "mini encyclopaedia" which all young minds would rush to embrace. R1500 per box of 10.
- ➔ **Business for Beginners (B4B):** Complete with internet links, it provides young entrepreneurs with guidance at every turn along the tortuous path to self-fulfilment and business success. The book, co-branded by **Rotary & Teen Entrepreneur**, is divided into 7 chapters, with guidance front and back. It is a sound and vital investment to encourage entrepreneurship, essential for the growth of the economies of southern Africa at R1600 per box of 10. Please order early – some 600 are pre-sold, leaving 400 left for "early bird clubs": **email admin@dictionariesforafrica.com Cell: 072 288 1076**

www.dictionariesforafrica.com



The Rotary E Club of South Africa D9400, together with 4 Rotary Clubs from Germany and the USA, the City of Joburg and the Sesego Foundation celebrated Women's Month with the graduation of 143 practitioners from 28 Early Childhood Centres in the Greater Alexandra area near Sandton in Johannesburg.



Youth Exchange student arriving at ORT - met by YEX District Chair Terry Cannon.



School for skeptics

In the internet age, Literacy means distinguishing between fact and fiction

By Vanessa Glavinskas
Illustrations by Harry Campbell

Read more stories from The Rotarian

