



2008-2009 Zone 10A
Regional Rotary
International Membership
Coordinators

RRIMC Sam F Owor
oworis@yahoo.com
PDG D9200

RRIMC June Webber
PDG 9350
corpcon@global.co.za

RRIMC Alain Bambara
PDG D9100
alainbambara@wanadoo.fr

RRIMC Tunji Funsho
PDG D9100
adoteibrown@hotmail.com

RRIMC Patrick Chisanga
PDG D9210
Chisanga@zamnet.zm

CONTENTS

Page 1: Message from RI
President Dong Kurn Lee

Pages 2/3: *A New Year, a
New Team* - Membership
Update for Zone 10A

Page 4: New RI Zone
Realignment Plan
*Approved; Starting the
year with an Action Plan* -
D9300

Page 5: *Building Clubs
with effective Recruitment:*
MD&R Ch D9350 David
Holtzhausen

Page 6: Regional Member-
ship Training Seminar

Page 7: *The Challenge—*
PDG Noel Trevaskis—
Membership on the Move
newsletter Zones 7 and
8A.

Page 8: : Soroti Rotary
Club—THE GIFT OF LIFE!

THE MEMBERSHIP ENERGISER

ZONE 10A MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

JULY 2008

LET'S MAKE DREAMS REAL!



Dong Kurn Lee
President, Rotary International
2008-2009



RI president stresses diversity ...

Rotary International News - 2 July 2008

Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee stressed that a diverse Rotary is a strong Rotary during a visit to the Rotary Club of Chicago on 1 July.

As part of a long-standing tradition for RI presidents, Lee addressed members of the Chicago club, the birthplace of Rotary, as one of his first official acts. He stressed the need to bring in new leadership to take over for the old as part of the 2008-09 RI theme, *Make Dreams Real*.

"Every Rotarian that we bring into our clubs helps to *Make Dreams Real*," Lee said, to a packed second-floor room in the elegant Union League Club in downtown Chicago. "Every single one is another pair of hands, and another mind, and another heart to do Rotary's work."

Lee called on every district **to increase membership by 10 percent and to add two clubs during this Rotary year.**

"If we do not bring in younger members, we will miss out on a great deal of energy and expertise," he added. "And we will not be training a new generation of members to become club presidents, district governors, and senior RI leaders in the years to come."

Lee said the membership of a healthy Rotary club is made up of men and women of different ages, vocations, professions, skills, and talents. A club that is not diversified is less able to conduct ambitious projects and has a narrower range of resources.

As part of the push for growth, Lee asked Rotarians to be creative in promoting membership and to expand their quest for new members.

"There are many qualified professionals who may simply be overlooked because their professions are not typical for Rotary members," he said.

**We will *Make Dreams Real* by giving children hope and
a chance at a future"**

Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee



**ZONE 10A
MEMBERSHIP TEAM
(primary responsibility)**

RRIMC Sam F. Owori
District 9200 (Eritrea,
Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya,
Tanzania and Uganda)

RRIMC June Webber
Districts 9270, 9300, 9320,
9350 (Republic of South
Africa, Namibia, Angola,
Lesotho)

RRIMC Alain Bambara
District 9100 Francophone
and Lusophone countries
(i.e. Benin, Togo, Niger, Mali,
Boukina Faso, Guinea, Senegal,
Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde;
District 9150 (Cameroon, Chad, DR
Congo, Congo Republic, Burundi,
Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome
& Principe, CAR, Gabon) D9220 (Djibouti,
Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Comoro
la., Madagascar, Mayotte)

RRIMC Tunji Funsho
District 9100 Anglophone
Countries (i.e. The Gambia,
Sierra Leone, Liberia and
Ghana). All 4 Districts of
Nigeria i.e. Districts 9110,
9120, 9130 and 9140

RRIMC Patrick Chisanga
District 9210 comprising
Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi,
Mozambique; District 9250
comprising: Botswana,
Mozambique, South Africa,
Swaziland

RRIMC
Regional Rotary
International Membership
Coordinators

A NEW YEAR, A NEW TEAM!

A big “thank you”

It is very rewarding to look back on the year at the positive growth in Zone 10A that has been sustained since 1 June 2007, with a **5.4%** annual membership increase as at 31 May 2008. We could even improve on this figure when statistics for June are posted on the RI website.

This favourable increase has come about through the sheer hard work and commitment of leadership - at international, district and club level. RI Past President Wilf Wilkinson encouraged us to *Share Rotary through Membership*, making membership **every** Rotarian’s responsibility. As we enter the new Rotary year, we need to reinforce this message so that we can Grow Membership and *Make Dreams Real*.

We would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation to all the District Governors in Zone 10A, and to their MD&R teams, for the time and energy they have expended to strengthen and grow membership. Not every district has been successful in their efforts—nonetheless, their efforts are acknowledged with thanks.

District 9120 again records the second highest annual membership increase of 45.74%, behind District 3270 in India, at a staggering figure of 52.31%. Once again, sincere congratulations to PDG Saliu Ahmed and his membership team on this significant achievement. We look forward to learning from PDG Saliu Ahmed how this feat was accomplished at the Presidential Membership/Child Mortality Conference in Johannesburg on 2 August. District 9200 remains the largest District in Zone 10A with 3236 members in 114 clubs, with D9100 coming in second with 2703 members. D9120 - the smallest District in Zone 10A—has demonstrated great heart and passion to grow its membership, proving to us all that it can be done!

The Monthly comparison to Start figures taken from the RI Website as at 31 May are tabled below for information—

| Dis- trict | Zone | Starting | Figures | Database | Figures | # | % |
|---------------|------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | | 01 July | 2007 | 31 May | 2008 | Increase/ Decrease | Increase Decrease |
| | | # Clubs | #Membe rs | #Clubs | #Membe rs | | |
| 9100 | 10 | 89 | 2427 | 98 | 2703 | 276 | 11.37% |
| 9110 | 10 | 79 | 1692 | 80 | 1646 | -46 | -2.72% |
| 9120 | 10 | 27 | 527 | 31 | 768 | 241 | 45.73% |
| 9130 | 10 | 30 | 710 | 31 | 687 | -23 | -3.24% |
| 9140 | 10 | 72 | 1493 | 74 | 1644 | 151 | 10.11% |
| 9150 | 10 | 53 | 1238 | 56 | 1307 | 69 | 5.57% |
| 9200 | 10 | 109 | 3048 | 114 | 3236 | 188 | 6.17% |
| 9210 | 10 | 53 | 1176 | 53 | 1222 | 46 | 3.91% |
| 9220 | 10 | 52 | 1278 | 53 | 1330 | 52 | 4.07% |
| 9250 | 10 | 47 | 842 | 47 | 885 | 43 | 5.11% |
| 9270 | 10 | 46 | 993 | 46 | 1025 | 32 | 3.22% |
| 9300 | 10 | 49 | 978 | 48 | 965 | -13 | -1.33% |
| 9320 | 10 | 51 | 1165 | 52 | 1177 | 12 | 1.03% |
| 9350 | 10 | 61 | 1437 | 61 | 1439 | 2 | 0.14% |
| | | 818 | 19004 | 844 | 20034 | 1030 | 5.4% |

Our worldwide membership also improved with 1,226,142 members in 33,040 Clubs, indicating an increase of 31,629 members (2.65% as compared to last month’s 2.42%) and 318 Clubs (as compared to last month’s 251) when compared to the year-start figures of 1,194,513 members and 32,722 Clubs. Also, our 31 May 2008 worldwide membership figures exceed last year’s end-year figures of 1,224,168 members and 32, 471 Clubs.

A NEW YEAR, A NEW TEAM!

A big “thank you”

We would also like to record our sincere appreciation to our Regional Membership Zone Coordinators Alain Bambara, Patrick Chisanga, Hamid Aboo and Adotei Brown who played an important and integral role in our membership team in the 2007-2008 RY. In particular we wish to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing Regional Membership Zone Coordinators Hamid and Adotei. It has been a real pleasure to have had you on our team.

Welcome

On 1 July we welcomed back aboard Alain and Patrick as fully fledged RRIMCs for Zone 10A. Tunji Funsho from Nigeria also joined as the 5th RRIMC for the 2008-2009 Rotary year, with Sam Owori being the most senior and knowledgeable RRIMC. As of 1 July the number of Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators increased from 44—64. Our region is very fortunate to have gained three additional intensively trained RRIMCs who are available to assist Districts and Clubs implement viable, long-term, strategic plans to promote membership development and growth in their respective areas. The primary regions of responsibility allocated to RRIMCs in Zone 10A can be found on page 2. RRIMCs are a valuable and important RI resource group available and enthusiastic to work with Districts and Clubs. We are counting on your support to grow membership and *Make Dreams Real* this Rotary year.

Re-appointment to RI MD&R Committee

PDG John Gomes has been reappointed to the RI MD&R Committee for the 2008-2009. John is a source of great wisdom, motivation and support to our membership team in Zone 10A. We wish him renewed energy and much success with all his membership-related activities this year.

Reinforcing the Zone 10A Regional Goals for 2010....

To all the incoming District Governors and District Membership Development Chairs and their teams, and Club Presidents, may we wish you all a successful and productive year as we work together, in collaboration, to grow and strengthen membership in this vast, exciting and needy region in Africa. We ask that you please support the Zone 10A Regional Goals for 2010, in particular, the additional goal added this RY - **To urge and encourage districts and clubs to support and achieve the RI President and Zone 10A membership goals.**

The Membership Energiser—a bi-monthly publication ...

Finally, distributing this newsletter as widely as possible to all Rotarians in your District and posting it on your District's website, will go a long way to help us motivate and inspire Rotarians to promote and improve the quality and quantity of membership in your respective area of this region. We are aware that we need to deliver a consistent message on membership to Rotarians in Sub-Sahara Africa and that this message must be relevant. To do this we need feedback on membership success stories in your districts and the particular aspects of membership we need to highlight. We look enormously forward to hearing from you.

Good luck.

June Webber and Sam Owori
RRIMCs 2007-2008



ZONE 10A REGIONAL GOALS 2010

- To raise membership to 30,000
- To Increase membership by an average of 15% per annum
- To make Rotary relevant by growing it to the needs of the continent
- To give attention and extra help to clubs under 25 members and especially those with 10 and fewer members
- To urge and encourage districts to aim at achieving at least 75 Clubs and 2700 members
- To urge and encourage districts and clubs to support and achieve the RI President and Zone 10A membership goals.

Please send membership articles/news to -

The Editor
RRIMC June Webber
corpcon@global.co.za



IMPORTANT NEWSFLASH!

The deadline date for the Presidential Conference to be held between 1-3 August 2008 at Emperors Palace Hotel/Casino, Johannesburg, South Africa has been extended to **12 July 2008** by popular demand as some folks are still obtaining visas. Hereafter, there will be **no** refunds on bookings made

The registration form can also be found on the www.rotary9300.co.za website.

This is the website address where you will meet many friends and make new ones. www.emperorspalace.co.za

NEW RI ZONE REALIGNMENT PLAN APPROVED

Message from Ms DONNA M. McDONALD, Manager of the RI Membership Development Division, dated 24 June 2008, is summarized as follows:

The RI Board has approved the new Zone Realignment Plan for the Rotary world (Decision B-12-a), which will be effective on 1 July 2009 in most instances.

The Zone and Director coverage of the RRIMCs will remain the same in RY 2008-2009, with the coverage conforming to the realigned structure on 1 July 2009/

Among the approved modifications on the new Zone Plan is: Consistent with the labeling of sections in other Zones, the designation of sections in Zone 7 is reversed, with Zone 7A shall be the Philippines and Indonesia; and Zone 7B shall be New Zealand and the Islands.

A new Director nomination schedule will be in effect.

The name of Zone Coordinators will be changed to Regional Coordinators, allowing flexibility in describing their geographical responsibilities.

The revised Zones structure shall go into effect on 1 July 2008, except for the Presidents' and Directors' nominating processes, and the membership reports generated by the Secretariat shall be based upon the revised Zones structure effective 1 July 2008.

STARTING THE YEAR WITH AN ACTION PLAN ...

Does your club have an action plan to grow its membership?

Every Rotary Club needs to have in place at the start of the new Rotary year, an action plan as a guideline to achieve its membership goals. Two clubs have kindly shared their ideas with us—PDG Peter Margolius and Carin van der Schyf of the **Rotary Club of Little Falls** (D9300) and PP David Holtzhausen of the **Rotary Club of Bellville** (D9350). Both Peter and David are MD&R Chairs for their respective districts and understand the importance of identifying strategies to achieve their own club's membership goals. Perhaps these ideas could work in your Rotary club.

Action Plan of the Rotary Club of Little Falls (D9300)

Aims and Objectives for 2008-2009: To grow membership by a minimum of 10 members

Action Plan to Achieve Objectives

- Membership to be the first item on the Agenda of all Club Meetings and discussed
- Membership to be the first item on the Agenda of all Committees and discussed at every committee meeting
- A brochure of The Rotary Club of Little Falls to be designed by Membership Committee for distribution and publicity purposes
- A cheese and wine function to be held on the months with 5 Thursdays where prospective members are invited to a presentation on Rotary International and The Rotary Club of Little Falls
- A campaign launched to promote The Rotary Club of Little Falls to the major businesses in the area with the objective of recruiting members as well as a source of fund raising for the club
- The Club's Classification list be updated to identify classifications we require in the club to give a balanced representation
- A banner with pictures of Club Projects is made to publicise the activities of the club
- **Ask** people to join. Many people would like to join but have never been **asked**.

BUILDING CLUBS WITH EFFECTIVE RECRUIMENT!

PP David Holtzhausen—Membership Chair D9350

What works for the Rotary Club of Bellville (D9350) ...

One of the key issues facing clubs today is ensuring that we find members who will actively contribute to our club's success, and to ensure that we retain them as members after induction. All too often we see clubs successfully induct new members, to hear they have resigned within the first year.

In my own club, the Rotary Club of Bellville, we were introduced to a concept used by a club in Canada, which we have amended and adopted for recruitment of new members. The success of this can be judged by our membership this past year – we have inducted 8 new members, and all are active in the club. One is on the new board, three others have accepted leadership positions in our projects, and all are extremely active members of the club. It is also interesting to note that four of these members are under 30, and another two under 40!

This can be compared to the previous two years which show we lost five members within the first 12-18 months of them joining, often as they never fitted in with the clubs activities. In one instance the resigning member left to devote attention to a youth group through her church – an interest none of us knew about and which we could have used to grow our youth involvement at the club.

What is the secret of this success? Our induction is a now a process which culminates with welcoming the new member as a member of the club at the formal induction.

The process starts from when a visitor attends a club meeting. They are immediately spoken to by the membership director or one of the club leaders, and given information on Rotary – a copy of "Rotary Basics", a brochure on the club and a personal information sheet to complete and hand back to us. Membership then follows up and invites them back to the next meeting.

If the prospective member shows interest and attends at least two more meetings, the board will discuss the new member, and provisionally approve the member as a prospective Rotarian. At the next meeting of the club, the prospective member is introduced to the members as a prospective member, and given a temporary name badge.

With this, the prospective member is given a "passport" welcoming them and setting out a series of tasks the new member must undertake during the weeks ahead. The onus shifts to each Director to ensure that the prospective member completes at least one of the tasks under each avenue of service, which can be as varied as visiting a project, attending a committee meeting, or meeting the director to discuss what happens in that avenue.

The result is that by the time the prospective member is ready to be inducted, they know more about the activities of the club than some of our long-standing members! It also ensures that the Board can identify the strengths and interests of the new member, and use their talents to the clubs best advantage. Should the prospective member not be serious about Rotary, this quickly shows up, and often they will withdraw before completing the process.

The induction of new members remains a special evening, and this is made even more special by the fact that the new members are already known to the club, and are already involved

The process has only been in use for a year, but has been so successful that it has been adopted as our standard procedure. As with any new system, it is as good as the people applying it. With the entire club backing the system, and monitoring its success, it will transform the membership process in your club, as it has done in our own!

Should any club wish to get copies of the process, or the other documentation we use, please feel free to contact me on davidho@yebo.co.za

DG Alex van der Sluys with President Sylvia and three of our new members - Johan & Michelle Retief and Lana Potgieter. Johan & Michelle are 27 and 28 respectively, and are now our youngest members.



ENERGISE YOUR DISTRICT & CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP THIS RY!



REGIONAL ROTARY MEMBERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR—1 AUGUST 2008

The above Regional Rotary Membership Training Seminar takes place on Friday, 1 August from 14:00 – 17:30. Anyone who is passionate and serious about growing and strengthening Rotary in their district and club in Zone 10A should attend this seminar.

Venue: UTOPIA 3 at UNION CATERERS, 840 Cura Road, Willow Glen, Pretoria: **Cost:** R60-00 per person—includes refreshments on arrival, mid-afternoon tea/coffee and seminar material: **Registration form:** The form is downloadable at: www.rotarypretoriaeast.org.za. Closing date for registration extended to Friday, 25 July 2008, Booking essential to ensure participation. **Queries:** PDG Eben Brümmer— ebes@mweb.co.za or June Webber— corpcon@global.co.za.

Objectives of the Seminar -

- ◆ Review current membership priorities and establish zone goals for the 2008-2009 Rotary year
- ◆ Review the role of the District Membership Chair and the roles of the membership committee
- ◆ Develop strategies for securing ongoing support of Districts/clubs/Rotarians
- ◆ Share successful strategies in various areas of membership development – recruitment, retention, organising new clubs
- ◆ Review the membership resources available to “Grow membership and Make Dreams Real”

We are privileged that both Jennifer Deters and Jana Bodensteiner from the Rotary International Membership Development Division will be attending. Jennifer Deters will be presenting at the seminar on “RI Member and club resources – On line recruiting”

Seminar presentation topics -

“Thinking smarter (Strengthening and creating strong clubs – emphasis on the planning principles and Club Assessment Tools)
RI Member and club resources – On line recruiting:
“Strong Leadership + good communication = a great club!”
“Does your club mirror the community it serves”
“Clubs in a comfort zone”
“Increasing Brand Recognition”

Breakout Group Discussion Group topics

“How can district membership chairs organize and get their jobs done”
“How can I use the data capture tool. How can I train and motivate club secretaries to input both recruitment and loss data immediately”
“Now that you’ve got them, how do you keep them” - a discussion of successful Retention strategies
“Creating Strong Clubs – How can we help do this? How can we use the club leadership plan Action Steps?”
“Watch your district grow” - Plan your District Membership Seminar with specific membership development issues and challenges in mind.

"Grow Membership & Make Dreams Real"

DIARY DATES

- 1 August 2008
Regional Membership
Training Seminar
Pretoria,
South Africa
- 1—3 August 2008
Presidential Membership/
Child Mortality
Conference
Johannesburg,
South Africa
- 6-7 February 2009
Presidential Membership/
Child Mortality
Conference
Cairo
- 21—24 June 2009
Rotary International
Convention,
Birmingham, England
- 17—24 January 2010
International Assembly
San Diego, California,
USA
- 20—23 June 2010
Rotary International
Convention, Montreal,
Canada
- ### TENTATIVE
- 25—30 April 2010
Council of Legislation
Chicago, USA
- June 20-23, 2010
Rotary International
Convention
Montreal, Canada
- 2011
Rotary International
Convention
New Orleans, USA
- 2014
Rotary International
Convention
Sydney
- 2016
Rotary International
Convention
Seoul, Korea

THE CHALLENGE

PDG Noel Trevaskis, D 9710, Rotary Club of Goulburn Argyle.
 RRIMC and Board member of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund.

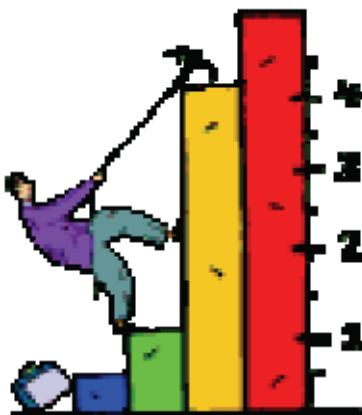


With effect from 1 July 2008, sixty-four experienced Rotarians take up their role as Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators—an important Rotary resource to help districts and clubs achieve significant membership growth. Membership Newsletters from other zones are shared. This article is from Membership on the Move—Zone 7A and 8A July 2008 newsletter ...

The Challenge.....

Can we increase our membership by 10%? RI President DK Lee has given all Rotarians a challenge to increase the membership of our Clubs by 10%, is that achievable? I believe it is. If you look at your Club with fifty members that means five extra members over the next twelve months or if you have twenty members it is a gain of two members, numbers don't sound as daunting as the percentage increase does.

What can you do? You can be committed to the goal of increasing our membership and doing something positive about it. How do you get started? Firstly your Club President has to be committed to increasing membership and the whole Club has to be committed and involved. Do you have an effective recruitment programme in place and if not will you find an effective programme for your Club?



The Club should do a Club assessment of itself: is your Club an attractive Club? Do you have good programmes? Are all Members involved in the Club programmes? Are your meetings well run? These questions and others can be answered by doing a Club assessment or using the Club Health Check programme.

Rotary Clubs should not be the same as they were five, ten or twenty years ago and should not be the same Club in five, ten or twenty year's time, Clubs should forever be changing as change is progress!

Too often Clubs have been living in the past and relying on the same people to bring members into the Club, we need everyone involved in recruitment and retention of members.

If every Club was to form their Clubs into teams of two members and each team of two given the task of bringing in one new member into their Club over the next twelve months imagine what we could achieve in twelve months?

Every team of two Rotarians bringing in a Rotarian into their Club every year, achievable yes! We would then more than achieve DK Lee's goal for membership.

The BEYOND 2000 programme is a programme that can help Clubs achieve their membership goals, check it out on the membership website: www.membership.rotary.org.au

May Rotarians continue to be ambassadors of goodwill to high and low, rich and poor, to all races, to the devotees of all religious faiths and members of all political parties, purveyors of tolerance, forbearance, justice, kindness, neighborliness and friendliness to all the inhabitants of this snug little world, the best little world which we know."

Paul Harris

Soroti Rotary Club and THE GIFT OF LIFE... a heart warming story



RRIMC Sam Owori shared with us this special and heartwarming story about the driving passion and commitment behind of one of its members to charter the **Soroti Rotary Club**, which vividly illustrates the power of Rotary and how it can shape one's professional destiny ...

Photo: Los Angeles during the RI convention at the Gift Of Life booth. From L-R: Robbie Donno (Chairman/Founder, GOL), Grace Agwaru(first GOL child), Sajid Baseer Shaikh (RD 3270: Pakistan & Afghanistan GOL) Brett Halvorson (GOL recipient/ child President and Mrs. Reagan brought over on Air Force One in 1983 from Korea) Rob Raylman (Executive Director, GOL), Gloria Williams (GOLI administrative assistant) seated.

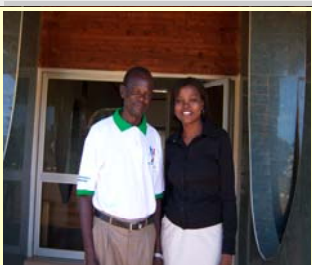
"I thought I owe all of you some special information about the new Soroti Rotary Club, some 250 kilometers from Kampala. Two of the people who have been driving the formation of this new club are a now not so young lady called GRACE AGWARU, and her father. Grace was the first ever case in the late 1970s that was sent from Uganda by the Rotary Club of Kampala to the USA for Open Heart Surgery. This was the precursor of what developed into the now world famous GIFT OF LIFE programme.

Grace was followed sometime later by John Engole and Robinah Nakabuye, all from Uganda. All the three open heart surgeries were successful, but it was after the third case of Robinah that the expression **Gift of Life** was used because the case was so complicated that it was a real "gift of life". The surgeons and the late PDG Tony Zino, did not hold any hope that she would survive. Years later they came to Kampala to cross check on Robinah only to find she had finished school and was not only working, but was a mother of a healthy bouncing son. She had not been expected to be able to do any of these things. All these three people are alive, well and kicking. Robinah, appropriately, works at the Heart Institute in Mulago Hospital, Kampala.

Grace is an articulate and well qualified professional. She lives and works in Soroti and the point I want to stress is the desire of Grace and her father to give something back to and through Rotary. This is why they both have been so active in the formation of that club."

Grace expands on this story ... "I work as program manager for a charity organisation TEFFORD that is reaching out to less fortunate communities in slum areas of Soroti and Kumi. Most of these communities live there due to various reasons like recent floods and other poverty related problems. My work as a trained agricultural economist and community development professional, get me to visit these families in their homes and groups to share how they can be self sufficient through developing businesses as well as agricultural production. Being a beneficiary myself, I now know what it means to receive love and that is just what I try to give during my extended life.

I have always longed for a time when I would be able to give back as a sign of my gratitude. So when I was of age I thought being a Rotarian was the best way to do it. My family has been part of my efforts in everyway; first of all they were able to relate my life saving story on many occasions and to bring me up knowing that I am a miracle that happened not for anything but the love from members of Rotary Club of Kampala and doctors in Uganda, Manhasset Rotary club in NY, and St. Francis hospital in Long Island in USA. I received my surgery in 1975 at 5 years old accompanied by dad. Before my surgery doctors had told my parents I would not live more than 16 years now its 33 healthy years since my surgery.



Being part of Soroti Central Rotary club is 'a dream come true'. This club to which my dad Silvester Agwaru is part also, has Faustine Engole and his wife Cecilia whose child was the third to benefit from this life saving surgery. It is not surprising that the initiators of this promising club include these families together with their close family friends. They have all expressed their desire to give something back to and through Rotary."

"Dad and I have also been actively involved in linking heart patients to the Uganda heart institute in Uganda and GOL. Already GOL has operated on over 10,000 children and we shall have a child from Uganda to mark this achievement. Through my Rotary club, I am looking to enhance the work of GOL in Uganda and in my Rotary district. This is my dream and I am happy it's becoming a reality" ... Grace Agwaru.