



Club Rotario de Boquete
Boquete, Chiriqui, Panama
District 4240



February 2022 Newsletter

What Is Rotary? (Founded 23 February 1905)

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are about 1.4 million Rotary club members belonging to 47,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries. Founded in Chicago in 1905, Rotary has awarded more than US\$2.1 billion in grants, which are administered at the local level by Rotary clubs.

What is the purpose of Rotary?

Rotary clubs exist to improve communities through a range of humanitarian, intercultural and educational activities. Clubs advance international understanding by partnering with clubs in other countries. Rotary also encourages high ethical standards in all vocations.

What do Rotary clubs do?

Rotary clubs address critical issues at home and abroad by providing health care and medical supplies, clean water, disaster relief, environmental cleanup, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions of people in need.

What does the Club Rotario de Boquete Do?

Our club, a mix of 40 Panamanians and expats of multiple nationalities, meets for fellowship, to hear stimulating speakers and to discuss club projects. We meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month for lunch at The Rock Restaurant in Boquete, from 11:30am to 1:00pm – and we welcome visitors. Our club projects are highly focused on education (scholarships, lending tablets to school age children, English in the Comarca, clean water access in schools), on health (spearheading a Rotary Global Grant for maternal and child welfare in the Comarca Ngäbe Buglé) and on the environment (planting trees, establishing recycling bins).



Rotary Meeting at The Rock Restaurant



President John McGann, PE Vernon Kruger,
PEN Tony Royle Planning Strategy

February 10th Rotary Meeting Recap

⇒ *Speaker – Susan Peterson on The Handicap Foundation*



Fellow Rotarian Susan Peterson spoke passionately about the FUNDACIÓN PRO INTEGRACIÓN DE PANAMÁ (The Handicap Foundation), of which she is president this year. The Handicap Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission of helping economically disadvantaged children and adults with disabilities better integrate into mainstreamed Panamanian society. In Panama, there are about 400,000 people with a disability - 75% of which live below the poverty line, the highest percentage being in the Comarcas.

They have a facility just outside Boquete, which holds socials for the handicapped and their families (during normal times), takes donations

and operates as a thrift shop. These earnings then are used to help with transportation to appointments, purchasing medications, equipment and supplies. The Handicap Foundation does need assistance with skills and time, especially technical, social media and help during store hours. “And once we open for our Saturday morning socials, it would be wonderful if some of you would like to offer a few hours of your time to share with our members.....THEY ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO BE APPRECIATED FOR WHO THEY ARE.”

⇒ *Speaking English in the Comarca Program with Robin Javilla Reyes*

Rotarian Teri Nowak has created our “Speaking English in the Comarca” program along with teacher **Robin Javilla Reyes**, to bring students and Rotarians together to practice English. Pictured here is Teri presenting Robin with a printer and with a computer for his teaching needs.



(Excerpt from James Bradley in interviewing Robin for a scholarship award.) “Robin Reyes got up at 5am to walk, shuttle and bus to David for our 11am meeting. As I spoke with Robin, I could see the passion he has for helping the people in his community. He has organized English classes in the Comarca...Robin has requested government support for the classes.. been told that he first needs to get his degree and be certified. Robin is already working on his degree and is a straight A student, and we are excited to have Robin as one of our deserving scholarship recipients.”

March 10th Meeting Speaker

Daisy de Ruiz, Director of Casa Hogar Trisker, will be speaking about the organization's development through the years and plans for the future. Club Rotario de Boquete has been supporting this home for abandoned children for several years. Rotarian Tony Royle recently completed assisting with a clean water source for them, Kevin Fisher updated their lighting (photo below) and Rotarian Sylvia Bradley donated knitted caps (photo below). Rotarian Ron Foss reported that they need another washer/dryer, and we are in the process of donating a new roof, sharing costs between our club and Club Rotario de David.



Environment - Recycling Project



Rotarian Tony Royle reported that the board has approved the project, it will consist of 10 sites, 4 types will be collected, each box costs \$850 with 2 boxes per site, the city will pay 50%, and the city will collect the materials weekly. The first prototype has been installed at Valle Escondido on a trial run. Fundraising is required to fund the remaining 50%.

- The municipality will pay for half of the collection points, will be in charge of maintaining and cleaning the units, as well as the collection and processing of the materials.
- Each box can accept 2 types of material and each station or "Punto Limpio" will have two boxes, meaning 4 types of material will be collected in total: glass, aluminum cans, plastic and cardboard/paper.
- We want to end up with 10 stations in the Boquete area. At the moment we will start with 5, and one box is built and installed in Valle Escondido (they are paying for their own box).
- Rotary needs to fundraise for the balance of 50% payment, build and install the boxes.
- Discounts received from Ferreteria Dorado for the box and GPS graphics in los Naranjos for the signage. We are installing logos (about 8"x8") of the companies that help fund the boxes.
- The goal is to raise at least \$4,250 for our 50% of ten boxes.

Los Broncos Academy Sponsorship

The Los Broncos program is intended to educate the children in the art of a team sport (baseball team), learning how to get along with their peers, social interaction, and the teaching of morals and ethics. Rotary has purchased them new shirts and hats showing the Rotary logo. Photos below show coach Rotarian Ron Foss and the team.



Mi Conexión & Rotaract

The Rotary “Mi Connexión” Project established a tablet lending program (195 tablets!) for primary students in Boquete over the past 2 years. Rotary is currently collaborating with Rotaract de Boquete (& Amigos de Boquete) on teacher development and online learning. The Rotaract “Ally of Education” project is surveying school needs and creating teams to help with repairs to be ready when school classrooms open. The Rotaract “Kasanga” project provides online Spanish and math tutoring to students, and a third initiative provides online teacher training. Education is a key focus for the Club Rotario de Boquete!

Scholarships Awarded

This is a list of our recent approved scholarship applicants, bringing our total this year to 19 students receiving scholarships from Club Rotario de Boquete. These are all very deserving students, for whom these scholarships will have a major impact on their lives. Please join us in congratulating the following:

1. **Kervin Joseph Navarro Pittí** - wants to become a journalist and study at UNAH
2. **Jeison Antonio Miranda Cedeño** - would like to study International Relations and study at UNACHI
3. **Astrid Avila Beluche** - would like to study audiovisual production and plastic arts at UMECIT and Center of Art and Culture
4. **Raciel Gonzalez** - would like to study Medicine at UNACHI
5. **Fernando Montenegro Romero** - Fernando will enter his second year in Medical School at UNACHI
6. **Daisy Escarreloa** - would like to study medicine at UNACHI
7. **Noemi Gonzalez** - wants to study Architecture at UNACHI.
8. **Jazmin Fuentes Araúz** – hopes to study Software Engineering at the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá (UTP),
9. **Carlos Iván Miranda Veterano** - would like to study ENGLISH at UNACHI.
10. **Robin Javilla Reyes** – study teaching (see earlier write up on Robin) at UDELA.

Manchichi Project

The Manchichi Project is a Rotary Global Grant project, training mid-wives in the Comarca Ngäbe Buglé to address the high maternal & infant mortality rates. Funding from the The Rotary Foundation has arrived, Rotary travel restrictions have now been lifted, and the project will proceed with purchasing equipment, and re-hiring the Manchichi staff. March will begin preliminary work on setting up for trainings in the communities for midwives and community members. In April, Dr. Miriam Rittmeyer and her Vocational team will arrive to conduct in-person training. (Pending: MINSA final sign off on patient referrals.)



Visitors



Dr. Prudy Barrett Nelson joined our club meeting in late January. Prudy is a member of the St. Joseph Benton Harbor Michigan Rotary Club, and a member of the Cadre for Rotary International Foundation, reviewing global grant requests. The Manchichi program might qualify for a special grant awarded by the Rotary Foundation annually. Rotarian Jeff Flynn is following up with this very special opportunity.

(Pictured here, from the left, Rod Gottula, Ginny Woolley, Dr. Nelson and her husband)

“The Original Gang” – Club Chartered March 21, 2005



We were honored to have 3 Founding Members of the Club Rotario de Boquete at our February 10th meeting: President John McGann is with (from the left) Howard Hill, Susan Peterson and Hector Sanchez.

2022-2023 Rotary Year Elections

Following the officer elections for the 2022/23 board, please welcome your new leadership team:

President	Vernon Kruger
Vice President	James Bradley
President Elect	Tony Royle
Treasurer	Larry Schmitz
Recording Secretary	Gisela Remsen
Executive Secretary	John McGann

2022 New Member Inductions



Jeff Braddock



Randy Capes



Sean Trollip & Jack Fichter

Special Thanks To...

1. For many years Hacienda La Esmeralda (via Founding Rotarian Susan Peterson) has been proud to donate coffee to the Rotary Club of Boquete with the hope of providing funds from those sales for the Rotary scholarship program, assisting outstanding students needing financial aid. With the increasing quality of their coffee leading to increasing sales, they have been providing about 50 pounds of coffee a month, at no cost to the club.
2. TAN Foundation – Many thanks to Rotarian Teri Nowak who has generously contributed funds for many of the Club Rotario de Boquete projects!

HACIENDA LA
ESMERALDA

For more information about Rotary, please contact John McGann, President at +507 6869 1623.

The **Rotary Four-Way Test** is the cornerstone of all action.

Of the things we think, say, or do:

De lo que se piensa, sedice o se hace:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

1. Es la verdad?
2. Es equitativo para todos los interesados?
3. Creará buena voluntad y mejores amistades?
4. Será beneficioso para todos los interesados?