



Rotary

Club Rotario de Boquete
Boquete, Chiriqui, Panama
District 4240



June 2022 Newsletter

What Is Rotary International?

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 does the Club Rotario de Boquete Do?

Our club (chartered in 2005), is a mix of 40 Panamanians and expats of multiple nationalities. We meet for fellowship, stimulating speakers and project discussions every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month for lunch at The Rock Restaurant (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).

For more information about Rotary, contact Vernon Kruger, President at +507 6405 0295.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 21st	Lunch Meeting - Speakers Dra Digna and Dra. Sui, Updates on Health Care
July 1 st	New Rotary Year – President and Board Transition
July 14 th	Lunch Meeting – Speaker Ricardo Trivaldos, Rotary Youth Exchange in Panama
July 28 th	Lunch Meeting –
August 11 th	Lunch Meeting -
August 25 th	Lunch Meeting – Speaker Adriane Cromer, Ecologist

Rotary Meeting Recaps

April 28th Speaker - Dr. Luz Graciela Joly spoke on the Ngäbe.

Dr. Luz, an anthropologist, university professor and writer, shared humorous and informative stories of her adventures over the years. At our meeting we were joined by Silvia Salina and Patricia Mendoza of ASASTRAN (an association of indigenous midwives and traditional healers), a key partner in our Manchichi Project.



Rotarian Susan Peterson introducing guest speaker Dr. Luz Graciela Joly at our April 28th luncheon.



Dr Luz asked the ASASTRAN guests to demonstrate a Ngabe tradicional "hair pulling". Everyone had a lot of fun!



Brandy Gregory of the Boquete Knitters Group presented the ASASTRAN visitors with hand knitted blankets and clothes for the babies in the Comarca.

June 9th Speaker - Dra Shannon Tuer presented to our club various medical services available in Boquete, in her office and at other locations. An animated discussion ensued regarding ambulance services in Boquete and several Rotarians want to follow up to see where we can assist.

May 26th Speaker – Rotarian Phil Philips presented his company Finca Santa Marta to the club.



June 18th TOMA (New Rotary Year Transition Ceremony)

Our club enjoyed its annual "changing of the guard" ceremony, with great camaraderie among its members and guests. We had a full afternoon with mingling, dining, transitioning the board, welcoming in new members, honoring 2 members with a Paul Harris award, and hearing from our main, Dr. Miriam Rittmeyer, with an update on our Manchichi Global Grant.



Paul Harris awarded to Teri Nowak (previously) and to Susan Peterson. Both Rotarians have shown great service to Rotary, along with extraordinary financial generosity to the club and its projects.



Outgoing president John McGann, awarded a plaque in appreciation of his service. Incoming president Vernon Kruger presenting his plan for his Rotary year.



Members joined us from the Club Rotario de David.

Ongoing Rotary Project Updates

School Potable Water Project

The urgent need for potable water at many schools in the Boquete area was brought to our attention and our Rotary Club has jumped right on to address this need. Rotarian Ginny Wooley updated the club at the June 9th meeting on the extraordinary success and quick work on this project - 674 students in 6 schools now have access to clean water, and we have 6 more schools to go.



Manchichi Project – Rotary Global Grant

(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.) Dr. Miriam Rittmeyer arrived in Panama, and worked with a team to train 25 midwives this week. Wonderful news and we are all pleased with the difference this project will make in so many lives!

Environment - Recycling Project

The first stage of recycling stations (Valle Escondido, Jaramillo, Los Naranjos, Alto Boquete and Bajo Boquete, Palmira) are completed and already in popular demand. This project, supported by our Club Rotario de Boquete, was initiated by the Mayor of Boquete, and co-sponsored by

several of our area businesses. Please show your appreciation to Hacienda La Esmeralda, The Rock, The Haven, K&R Specialty Coffee, Big Daddys, Sugar and Spice, and Tapout.

Casa Hogar Trisker Project

(Casa Hogar Trisker is a home for abandoned and abused children that our Rotary Club has been supporting in its various needs.). School maintenance projects are completed for the moment, and we are looking to organize a commercial laundry machine.

Rotary Mention in LaPrensa April 19th

Check out this article in La Prensa (a major news outlet in Panama), citing Rotary and our Manchichi project! An excerpt:

<https://www.prensa.com/sociedad/comarcas-las-areas-donde-se-concentra-la-mayor-razon-de-muerte-materna-en-panama/>

“Organizaciones no gubernamentales como el Club Rotario de Boquete, en la provincia de Chiriquí, lideran un programa denominado Manchichi (en lengua ngäbe significa madre- niño), que busca abordar las disparidades existentes en el acceso a la salud, lo que resulta en una alta de incidencia de muerte materna y de los bebés en las zonas remotas.”

(English translation) “Non-governmental organizations such as the Rotary Club of Boquete, in the province of Chiriquí, lead a program called Manchichi (in the Ngäbe language it means mother-child), which seeks to address existing disparities in access to health, resulting in a high incidence of maternal and infant death in remote areas.”

New Member Inductions



In late April we inducted Karen Schwartz as our newest member of the Club Rotario de Boquete. Karen moved to Boquete 11 months ago and has been a frequent visitor to our club.

At the annual JuneTOMA, we inducted 3 new members to the Club Rotario de Boquete: Sherry Scurr, William Melville and Mark Zabitz. Welcome to all our new members!



News From Club Rotaract de Boquete

(Rotaract is our sister club that is targeted for the under 30 crowd.) Panama has the most active Rotaract organization in our Rotary District 4240 (Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador), and Boquete is the top performing club in our district! Congratulations to them!



Rotaract Members pictured here (left to right):
President Ana Julia Ortega, Past President Yair Velasquez
Member Danna Bonaga, Member Yolanda Castillo

Other Club Events

On May 7th, Club Rotario de Boquete members joined Club Rotario de David for a fellowship dinner at Casa Victoria. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, good food and good times!



Incoming club president Vernon Kruger with his wife Dallas, also a member of the Club Rotario de Boquete.

District 4240 Conference in Puntarenas, Costa Rica



Special Mention – Rotarian Susan Peterson

On May 20th, Susan and Price Peterson were honored by the Universidad Tecnológica OTEIMA, who awarded them “The Ideal Immigrant” – to honor a foreigner leaving a positive mark on Chiriqui Province.



Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do:

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?*

De lo que se piensa, sedice o se hace:

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

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.

2022-2023 Rotary Year Board Officers

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