



## Club President's June Memoir



### It Is A Wrap!

Many years ago, in the year of the Fearless, the club were introduced to monthly memoirs by the Club president. I always looked forward to it - from the Bankers and the Sea to The World at our Feet. His was the funniest, always having me in stitches. If I can recount correctly, the three bankers – A Ghanaian, Zambian and South African - went to sea on a fishing expedition in Ada where the Volta Lake meets the Atlantic Ocean. Our president was the captain of this expedition. They were dared to catch a fish of any size in a lean season of fishing. Note that seasoned fishermen had returned empty handed. The bankers took up the challenge. Supported with two natives of Ada and armed with four anglers and a well-stocked ice chest (take a wild guess what was in the ice chest) they set off in the morning.

With “skilful manoeuvring and the abundant leader skill of the captain” to quote our past president the team finally “subdued the 50lbs, 1.5meters record breaking most beautiful Barracuda fish mankind has ever set sight on”. This difficult task was achieved by an Ashanti/Kwahu Ghanaian, a native of land locked Zambia and a South African with the only one with roots close to the ocean of durbar. See what bankers must do to get new business. I am sure there are other stories. My favourite remains his updates on the New Orleans Convention. I promised to put them together in a book, a promise I STILL intend to keep. I therefore took inspiration from that to follow in his footsteps during my Presidency. And I have totally enjoyed putting the memoirs together month upon month, usually written late into the

night. I guess that is when my creative juices come alive. It also shows me how good the year was despite the odds, uncertainty, and anxiety.



Taipei 2021 could not happen physically, it went virtual. However, to stay relevant and memorable, the twelve (12) districts in Taiwan created a 13ft structure as this year convention sculpture. It has been called a “Dialogue between time and space”, a symbol of a language without a time axis. It has been positioned between modern and old – Taipei main station and historical structure of North Gate. According to the Rotarians, it symbolises a tunnel of time, at the end of a tunnel there is always an open space. Hope at the end of it all, in my opinion. The unveiling was exciting and the revelation stunning.

Speaking of conventions, I had the time of my life at the last virtual convention. I did not expect it to be so much fun. The first virtual convention was a bit dry in my opinion. This one was interactive, engaging, and exciting with so much to do at every point in time. I doff my hat off to the Host Organizing Committee. Whask! The 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual RI Convention went on seamlessly day after day. It was well organised and almost felt like one was there in person. In Essence, everything that went in person at conventions was executed virtually and even more. I got to make friends with Rotarians from all over I would not have if we had attended physically. Even though, the main



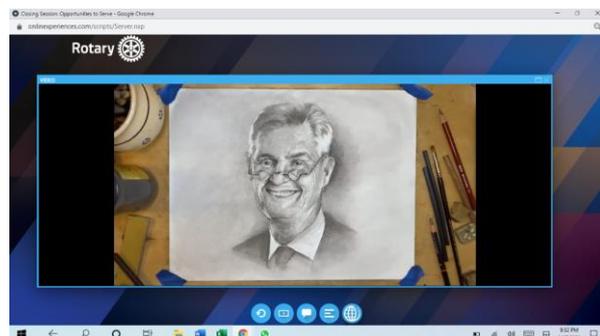
session lasted an hour, there were other activities to engage one during the rest of the period. Activities like yoga to start the day with and meditation to end the day. House of friendship was opened throughout the period and you could navigate from stalls to stalls. Fellowship /action groups held individual activities. And there was a Market place if one was interested in purchasing some Rotary memorabilia. The convention also offered a photobooth where pictures could be taken and placed on photo wall, almost like 'I was here some'. The Trivia games tested ones' Rotary knowledge and provided an opportunity to learn more. **Did you know the minimum number to start a fellowship is 20?**

The Opening session showcased of course the exciting flag ceremony; Rotary International President Nominee Jennifer Jones acceptance speech (she shared the stage in the meadows with her niece) an Acapella group – Filiharmious and speeches by various Rotary leaders and personality. Attending the various breakout session (I did at least one a day) improved my Rotary and professional knowledge. The Saturday Breakout Session - Alumni: A Hidden Gem for Membership and Service – made a huge impact on me in how the alumni could help in membership growth. One example cited how the following clubs had been form through the alumni - Eclub of Environmental issues, Eclub of global travellers and Eclub of exchange enthusiasts.



The General session saw Knaack & Susanne take us through some German cooking lessons; a presentation on how Shelter box assisted during this pandemic and Sarah, a Rotarian from Uganda whose father had been a Rotarian.

It is hard to choose which breakout session I enjoyed the most. The breakout session on Sunday tackled "Bridging Cultures: Public Image Success Stories". In summary a good public image opens opportunities. We also looked at a case study of Rotary of Beirut and global grants aid the citizens on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August blast.



On Tuesday evening, I joined the wine fellowship group online where we learnt some more about wines and had fellowship with Rotarians all over the world. I met for the first time the Rotarian in charge of the fellowship. We had exchanged communication severally via email.

Before the closing ceremony, we enjoyed music from DJ Erthyan, which was also spectacularly handled. Rotarians from all over the world dances in their rooms, houses or in groups. I very

much liked how they would pencil sketch the speaker as they were being introduced. Such an innovation, an idea worth taking an opportunity of. The Meet & Greet the Rotary Leadership was another innovation we may not have gotten if we had attended the convention physically.



Choosing the session with Rotary International President Nominee was brilliant because I totally enjoyed the session. We had opportunity to have questions addressed and suggestions offered. In her opinion, if a Rotarian attended just one meeting and 3 other Rotary activities either online or physical it

was a good sign for a club. We got to meet her spouse who is also a Rotarian. We need more of those to inspire us.

Have you JOINED a FELLOWSHIP GROUP yet? Kudos to AG Mawuse and DGSR Laud who have since joined the Rotary wine appreciation fellowship. We should plan a hangout soon.

**June**, the last month in the Rotary calendar, recognises the importance of international fellowship and good will among Rotarians with similar recreational and vocational interests, promote increased participation in fellowships and increase understanding of this program. Fellowship provides opportunities for Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside their own Club, District, or country. Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding, and peace. These groups are encouraged to celebrate Rotary Fellowship Month through projects, activities, and events.



TO JOIN TEXT OR CALL  
**RTN NANA ADJOO 024 483 1345**  
**RTR ANNE RUTH 054 613 1354**

In this last month, we got to know two of our members well with a classification talk Rotarian Hephie and Rotarian Kathleen. Past Assistant Governor Jeff encouraged us to join a fellowship or action group as he reiterated the attributes and benefits. Meanwhile we had the BREW fellowship in the house serving us with jugs of beer. Rotarian Chairman Essien took the club through Back-to-School interactive session. It was an evening of good laughter, teasing and fun. Our last meeting ended the Rotary year with an end of year report, symbolic hand over ceremony. Awards of club officers, patron of Accra high school interact club and our media partners. We were grateful for District Governor Yvonne to attend and pin three Paul Harris Fellows and three Benefactors.

We proposed to make Frank Kofi Appeageyi of Syndicated Capital our partners in service projects an Honorary member.



We also went tree planting. In celebration of Green Ghana Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, we went tree planting at the Achimota Forest with Rotarians from other clubs.

Our new Rotarians are already shining in various activities – Inter club quiz, Paul Harris Fellows, Rotary Leadership Institute, and others. Keep It Up! That is the Rotary Spirit! Make your sponsors and mentors proud.



As we wined down the Rotary year, we spent the month crossing our “t’s and dot our ‘l’s, preparing to hand over to the incoming President and board! I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the entire club for being such a great spot and to my team at the top Ayekoo! for passion, hard work and commitment. We braved through the odds, uncertainty and anxiety and we did it our way. We made it FUN!

**At this stroke of  
midnight, the curtains  
will close and it is a  
WRAP!**

STILL Remember even if vaccinated ... Let us all STILL mask up, disinfect, or wash our hands & keep our distance. Let **US** continue to be **SAFE!**

**It is SIMPLY great to fellowship AGAIN!**

I remain ever ready to serve Rotarian Roma