

June 9, 2017

WASRAG's Annual Report for the year 2016-17

Friends,

This year marks a significant milestone in WASRAG's progress. Early in February 2007 the Board of Directors of Rotary International approved the formation of WASRAG and the first Annual General Meeting was held that year in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ten years later we have much to be proud of – and exciting plans for the future!

In those early days Rotarian Action Groups had an uphill battle. It needed strong and persistent Rotarians to convince the Board of Rotary International that RAGs should be formed. The acceptance was quite tentative. There was concern that RAGs might negatively impact The Rotary Foundation – but the Foundation continued to flourish. As RI's concerns faded, RAGs increasingly became partners with the Foundation in serving humanity.

Our first six years were the “building years”. Passionate and dedicated Rotarians like Ron Denham and Bob Wubbena developed a vision, built a management structure and recruited like-minded Rotarians to join them. As the relationship with RI thawed, we developed stronger relationships with RI and the Rotary Foundation. Excited by the opportunities they saw, some Rotary senior leaders joined WASRAG's administrative team, thus raising our profile and taking us into mainstream Rotary.

When the Future Vision Plan was implemented, The Rotary Foundation identified six Areas of Focus and appointed a Manager for the Water and Sanitation AOF. WASRAG became an important part of the support team for that role. Many of our members sit on Rotary committees and others have been called on for technical advice. Our support of our Area of Focus Manager is the model that other Areas of Focus aspire to. WASRAG continues to lead the way.

One tangible example of the close relationship with the Foundation is a recent decision of the Trustees to choose WASH in Schools (WinS) as the targeted challenge to be offered to all clubs worldwide once the current pilot is completed. Yet another opportunity to utilize the skills of our members and increase our involvement in the pilot projects in Kenya, Guatemala/ Honduras/Belize and India

In 2016 WASRAG adopted a revised Constitution and Bylaws which reduced the number of Board members and clearly separated the roles of the WASRAG Board and the Operations Team. The Board meets three times a year online, with a face-to-face meeting at the



International Convention. The nine-member Operations Team conducts the day-to-day activities of WASRAG. The relationship between the Board and the Operations Team is evolving into a highly effective management structure

Our future is exciting. We have drawn together the resources that we need to fulfil our mission:

“To provide information, support and encouragement to Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and districts and to take active roles in projects/programs to develop safe water and sanitation as a means of promoting health and alleviating hunger.”

Despite an excellent Newsletter and a large mailing list, not all clubs and districts know what WASRAG can offer. Many of the initiatives described in the Operations Team report are aimed at raising awareness of WASRAG’s resources. Our newly established Ambassador Program and Professional Services Team are just two of several strategies designed to address this concern.

In the next few pages we will summarize some of the many activities that are underway in the WASRAG firmament. There are many opportunities to get involved and be part of our team. We hope you will find WASRAG’s future as exciting as we do!

On behalf of myself and the other Board members, I’d like to thank each and every WASRAG member. Your support has been invaluable. Many of you will be mentioned later in this document. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Results of the election for new members of the Board

We would like to thank departing Board members Val Johnson and Ravi Langer for their services to the WASRAG Board. Elected to the Board to fill these two vacancies are Ramesh Aggarwal and Monica Louie. We are delighted that two such capable and dedicated people will be joining the team!

Yours in Rotary,

Bill Boyd, WASRAG Chair

Board Members

Mark Balla

Michael Barrington

Val Johnson

Peter Kyle

Ravi Langer

Chris Mutalya

Bharat Pandya

Mike Webb



REPORT OF THE WASRAG OPERATIONS TEAM 2016 – 17

In compliance with WASRAG by laws, the WASRAG Board approved a team of nine members to begin the Rotary year in July 2016. A year later, there have been several changes. Tom Thorfinnson was recruited to a senior staff position with Rotary International. Sandra Forster, who played such a key role in the Seoul Summit, had to step down for family reasons. Similarly Geeta Manek had to resign from the Communications role.

We were fortunate in recruiting Chris Etienne and Brian Hall and they are both adding great value to the team, as show in the following report.

2016-2017	2017-18
Nicholas Mancus (Chair)	Nicholas Mancus (Chair)
Tom Thorfinnson (Vice Chair)	Mary Beth Growney Selene (Vice Chair)
Mike Colasurdo (Treasurer)	Mike Colasurdo (Treasurer)
Ron Denham (Programs)	Ron Denham (Programs)
Sandra Forster (Administration)	Chris Etienne (Client Satisfaction)
Mary Beth Growney-Selene (Fundraising)	Brian Hall (Communications)
Geeta Manek (Communications)	Ginny Ryan (Membership)
Ginny Ryan (Membership)	Anna Shepherd (Administration)
Client Satisfaction (Vacant)	Fundraising (vacant)

One very critical position remains unfilled. Mary Beth has been juggling many demands on her time in her new role as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, and she has also stepped into the role of Vice Chair of the Operations Team. We must now fill the “Fundraising” role. If you are, or know someone who might be, a person with expertise in this area, who would be interested in this volunteer role, please contact Ops Team Chair Nicholas Mancus.

Some of the most significant achievements in 2016-17

WASRAG Ambassador Program:

The role of a WASRAG Ambassador is quite demanding. It requires commitment, dedication and a passion for WASH. WASRAG Ambassadors are the “go to people” for Rotarians around the world looking for help with their WASH programs. Still in the early stages, there are currently 12 active ambassadors – and we need more! All Ambassadors are volunteers who provide speakers for club/district events, assist with global grants, provide information about

WASRAG's many opportunities and enlarge our membership. Their reward? The coolest pin in the Rotary world!

If you are interested in learning more about the Ambassador role, refer to the www.wasrag.org website. You will find a summary of the skills needed and a link to a simple tool to register. Program Team Leader Ginny Ryan will review your application with you. The Ambassador Program Team, including Carolyn Meub, Chris Mutalya and Anna Shepherd will then review it. On approval it will be endorsed by the Operations Team. Please address any questions about the WASRAG Ambassador Program to Ginny at ginny@wasrag.org.

We are honoured to present the current WASRAG Ambassadors:

- Harish Bhaatt – Tanzania 9211
- Marcos Calvert – Mexico 4170
- Avner “Avi” Fuchs – Israel 2490
- David Legg – United States-7500
- Isis Mejias – United States 5890
- Moses Musiitwa – Uganda 9211
- Patrick Obath – Kenya 9212
- Warwick Pleass – Oceania 9920
- Rekha Shetty – India 3230
- Ravi Vadlamani – India 3150
- Alan Watson – New Zealand 5050
- Bob Wubbena – Pacific NW 5020



Professional Services Team:

Many of the foremost WASH experts in the Rotary world are WASRAG members. Under the leadership of Chair Emeritus Ron Denham, a number of these authorities have combined to form a pool of expertise to assist Rotarians in a number of ways:

- Supporting clubs and districts, on demand, to prepare robust applications for Global Grants and other requests for funding.
- Evaluating optional solutions for WASH projects and programs.
- Supporting clubs and districts in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects and programs.
- Providing expertise and guidance on any aspect of WASH programs.
- Assisting in collating “Lessons Learned” on all aspects of WASH projects.



- Guiding clubs and districts on the implications of sustainability to ensure that Rotary projects meet the requirements of the SDGs.
- Creating an interactive forum to discuss and recommend appropriate processes.

Team members currently include: Guy Alearts (UNESCO-IHE, Delft) and Rotarians Greg Bucove, Mark Cromer, Peter Fritz, Dale Gray, Rochelle Holm, Henk Holtslag, James McGill, Wajik Malki, Isis Mejias, Prakash Tata, Singanallur Srikanth, James van der Graaf, Jeffrey Walters and Bob Wubben.

The Team's services will be highlighted in an upcoming bulletin to members, along with details of how WASRAG members can access this significant new resource.

WASRAG's Newsletter:

For a number of years PDG Nancy Gilbert produced WASRAG's newsletter almost single-handedly, providing an interesting, informative mix of articles on all aspects of WASH. She set a very high standard! Now in the capable hands of WASRAG's newsletter team of Ian Rumbles and Terri Black (D7710, RC of Clayton, NC), and supported by Communications Team leader Brian Hall and WASRAG Administrator Anna Shepherd, WASRAG's newsletter is providing more emphasis on WASH projects – telling the stories of Rotarians as they bring WASH to people in need. We love to hear our members' stories and encourage you to tell us about your club's WASH projects. Just drop a line to Ian and Terri at info@wasrag.org.

World Water Summit(s)

WWS8 in Seoul was a tough act to follow! But Co-Chairs PDGs Julia Phelps and Ron Denham, assisted by Summit Team members Marga Hewko, Isis Mejias, Peggy Pollen and Anna Shepherd have pulled out all the stops this year to present WWS9's "WASH and Women" on Friday June 9, 2017. This year's summit was cut to a half-day event to avoid conflict with the Presidential Peace Conference taking place that same afternoon. Instead, interested participants are invited to join a series of complimentary informal round-table discussions and workshops. All are aimed at giving WASRAG members and other Rotarians the tools they need to facilitate the very best WASH projects.

In a new departure for WASRAG, Rotarians will have the opportunity to register for World Water Summit 10 while they are in Atlanta. WWS-10 is scheduled for June 22nd, 2018 in Toronto, Canada. Registration will be available at WWS9 or at the WASRAG Booth (#2927) in the Atlanta House of Friendship.



WASRAG's Tenth Anniversary Celebration

A key role on WASRAG's Operations Team is Membership Satisfaction. The team realized that there is a significant need for someone who will address such areas as membership recognition, organizing social events, ensuring WASRAG is represented at Rotary functions and dealing with innovations within Rotary. This was especially critical this year as we celebrate WASRAG's Tenth Anniversary! We were very fortunate in identifying Chris Etienne to fulfill this role. Along with fellow Operations Team member Mary Beth Growney-Selene, Chris is managing our celebration at the Georgia Aquarium on June 10th. Plans are to honour some of the WASRAG members (and others) who have contributed so much to our success in our first ten years! We can't tell you more here – but watch out for the July newsletter for more details!

BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide)/WASRAG MOU

BREW and WASRAG have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding concerning areas of mutual interest. Both recognize the critical importance of clean water. BREW has stated as one of its goals a wish to provide more clean water by supporting WASRAG and donating a portion of the funds it raises to WASRAG-endorsed WASH projects. BREW also agrees to invite and encourage commercial brewers globally to support club projects endorsed by WASRAG.

As part of her role in Membership Satisfaction, Chris Etienne will act as liaison between the two groups, helping BREW to identify appropriate project WASRAG endorsed projects.

The WASRAG Fund

WASRAG is using \$5,000 in DAF (Donor Advised Funds) to fund the pilot of a new program targeted at assisting Rotary clubs to conduct improved WASH projects through the Rotary Foundation. WASRAG will review clubs' Global Grant applications before they are submitted to the Foundation and offer suggestions on how they could be improved. Once the suggestions are incorporated into the final application and taken into account in the project design, WASRAG will contribute \$500 towards the project. These funds will be donated directly to The Rotary Foundation and earmarked to the specific project once the project has been approved by TRF.

In the 2016-2017 year, WASRAG Operations Team fundraisers Mary Beth Growney-Selene and Ron Denham explored additional sources of funding to expand the program once the pilot is completed. Details of the fund and how to apply will be posted on the WASRAG website shortly. In the meantime anyone with questions should contact Operations Team Chair Nicholas Mancus.

Finances

No report on WASRAG's activities would be complete with a mention of the major role played by our Treasurer, Mike Colasurdo. Despite many demands on his time by other roles at the senior levels of RI, Michael still finds time to ensure timely, accurate "QuickBooks" reports are produced every month to keep us on track. Working with Michael and Ginny Ryan and Anna Shepherd, Michael has ensured our finances are in their best shape ever.

Our Sponsors: Wallace Genetic Foundation

David Douglas and the Wallace Genetic Foundation have been instrumental in our success. Right from the beginning they have supported and encouraged WASRAG's mission. Many foundations hesitate to donate funds for non-project purposes. The Wallace Genetic Foundation's generous donations have supported our administrative activities and enable us to share the WASH message with the entire Rotary world.

Other Sponsors:

Many organizations have sponsored our World Water Summits over the years. This year's Consul-Level Sponsors (\$10K) are Procter & Gamble and Kohler Co. We thank them most sincerely for their generosity.

And finally, heartfelt thanks

So many people contribute to WASRAG's success. A number of them will be recognized at WASRAG's Tenth Anniversary Celebration at the Georgia Aquarium on Saturday June 10th. We won't spoil the surprise by mentioning them here! Everyone mentioned in this report has contributed significantly. Ten years after WASRAG's launch, WASH projects enjoy a high profile in the developing world as more and more Rotarians recognize the critical importance of clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

Thank you!

Nicholas Mancus,
Chair – WASRAG Operations Team