



Editorial

RI President-elect Olayinka Babalola's 2026-27

Presidential Message

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola called on members to Create Lasting Impact by making their clubs more welcoming, carrying out impactful projects, and allowing their Rotary experiences to transform them personally.

"Rotary has changed us. It has shaped who we are and made us better people," Babalola said at Rotary's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 12 January. "We often talk about changing the world. We talk about ending polio, about building peace. We do not think enough about how Rotary transforms us."

Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, described how joining a Rotaract club as a teenager enlarged his perspective beyond the limited, privileged outlook he'd once had. That change in awareness came from observing the lasting impact his club had in the community, particularly from teaching people to read and write.

"As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact."

Change and impact are not the same, he added: "Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures."

Understanding impact

Rotary members have made an impact by expanding early childhood education in Knysna, South Africa, and increasing access to prenatal care in Nigeria, Babalola said. The Rotary Club of Knysna empowered local women to open and manage early childhood education centers.

"The project has reached thousands of children and families, and it will continue to provide education in those communities for generations," Babalola said. "We can recreate this kind of impact in other parts of the world, and in doing so we can earn the trust and recognition of our neighbors in the communities we serve. And when more communities trust Rotary, more people want to join."

Babalola also described the wide-ranging impact of Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria. The initiative to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates received a US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant in 2022.

"Before Rotary's intervention, many women avoided prenatal care, which is essential to ensuring a safe birth for both mother and child," he said. "After working with Rotary, systems were put in place to help expecting mothers receive prenatal care. The community was involved. Attendance went up. Mortality went down. That project [will] transform lives across Nigeria for decades."

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February in Rotary

Peace Building and Conflict

Resolution Month

Wynberg Rotary meets every

Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm,

Western Province Cricket

Club.

For more information about our club, like us on Facebook or visit our website

Extending a welcome

Babalola urged members to take a more open, welcoming attitude toward newcomers to their clubs. He described how, when he was a Rotaract club member eager to join a Rotary club, the president of the Rotary club treated him with scorn.

“He said, ‘What audacity! You cannot just join. You need an invitation,’” Babalola recalled. “I could have walked away. Instead, I said, ‘I didn’t know a child needed an invitation to enter his parents’ home.’”

While things have changed since that time, Babalola said, they haven’t changed enough. Some clubs close themselves off instead of “embracing the world with open arms,” he said. Young people aren’t necessarily treated with respect, he added, and people with different ideas and backgrounds aren’t always made to feel welcome. He urged members to think about how they could better welcome others.

“You never know whose Rotary story might begin — or end — based on the way you make them feel at a meeting or service project,” he said.

Another way members can focus on personal change, he said, is to aim to do better than their best. He urged district leaders to examine their past successes in raising funds, planning projects, and recruiting members. Then, he said, they should challenge themselves to surpass their past triumphs.

“When we change ourselves, we change our clubs and districts,” he concluded. “When we change our districts, we change the communities we serve. And when we change our communities, we create lasting impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

By Etelka Lehoczky

Submitted by Dave Barnard



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola from the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Port Harcourt, Nigeria is a retired Shell PLC executive and founder of Riviera Technical Services, he is an expert in engineering with extensive experience in the oil and gas industry.

Minutes of the last club meeting

Date: 29 January 2026

Compiled by Barry Cleveland

<i>Attendance</i>	15 Members Present. Guests: Robyn and Ruth. Rotary guest: Ansie from RC Walvis Bay.
<i>Fellowship</i>	Nil
<i>Members' moments</i>	<p>Stacy: 1. Her children have just got their results back from a Tertiary educational course in Digital Marketing: Grant achieved an overall 97% and Vicki 92%. Well done both of you! 2. RC Claremont have approved R10 000 sponsorship towards SPCA Cape Town if Stacy completes the 109Km CT Cycle Tour. Can RC Wynberg match that...?</p> <p>Alan: has an article included in the first chapter of the new book 'Violence Prevention Through Transformative Mediation in South Africa'.</p>
<i>From the President's chair</i>	<p>Welcome to all and especially Ansie from RC Walvis Bay.</p> <p>The 'raid' on RC Swellendam last weekend turned out to be an outstanding occasion with lots of entertainment and fellowship.</p> <p>NB District Conference in May in Durbanville. Members should try and attend – especially the Saturday events.</p> <p>Reminder of the next tennis fellowship event at Kelvin Grove Sunday 29 March R75pp. Contact Michelle Whitehead 083 3101007.</p>
<i>Slots</i>	Dennis introduced Ansie from RC Walvis Bay, which he revisited in 2025, having left when he was 10 years old. Ansie's last contact with WRC was meeting Justin at the 2025 District Conference. She told us that there are 8 Rotary clubs in Namibia, and that RC Walvis Bay has only 8 members, majority female and all from diverse population groups. English is the official language, although not the first language of any of them! Oshiwambo is the language spoken in almost half of Namibian households; and RC Walvis Bay is embarking on a project to produce books for primary schools, in Oshiwambo/English as a form of dictionary to teach English to the young learners, of whom there are an estimated 20 000 in Walvis Bay.
<i>Guest speaker</i>	No guest speaker, as it was a Business Meeting.
<i>Swindle</i>	Robyn drew Justin's name, but he could only manage the Jack of Clubs (Ag shame). Dave won the Attendance Prize but elected to leave it in the kitty.
<i>President's coda</i>	<p>On this day in...</p> <p>1886, Carl Benz applied for a patent for his vehicle powered by a gasoline engine. Patent #37435 may be regarded as the birth certificate of the automobile.</p> <p>1892, the Coca Cola company was founded in Atlanta, Georgia.</p>

Duty Roster

	5 February	12 February	19 February	26 February	5 March
	<i>Francois' 'Me' talk</i>	<i>Norwegian visitors</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>STEP students Cycle Tour update</i>	<i>Social Details TBA</i>
Sergeant	Lunt	Jackson		Todd	
Minutes	Barnard	Thomas		Edwards	
Wynpress editorial	Barnard K	Bird		Cleveland	
Grace	Jackson	Klotz-Gleave		Lunt	
Loyal toast	Schreiber	Thomas		Todd	
International toast	Munday	Murphy		Overbosch	

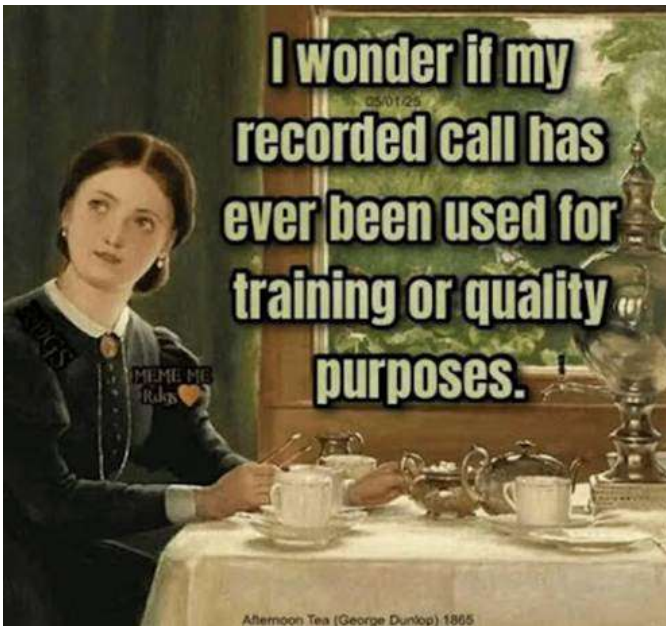
Dates to Diarise

5 February	Meeting at Stacy's home with a 'Me' talk by Francois + bought in pizzas. BYO drinks.
11 February	Welcoming Yellowtail braai for the Norwegian visitors at the Barnards' home. 18.00. Bring drinks, glasses, chairs
12 February	Hosting the Norwegian visitors + school principals at our normal WPCG venue.
15 February	Club braai at the Dietrichs' home.
17 February	Bursary afternoon/evening at Perivale Primary School. 16.00.
19 February	Norwegian visitors taken back to the airport.
26 February	STEP students + CT Cycle Tour briefing.

"Six mistakes mankind keeps making century after century:
 Believing that personal gain is made by crushing others;
 Worrying about things that cannot be changed or corrected;
 Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it;
 Refusing to set aside trivial preferences;
 Neglecting development and refinement of the mind;
 Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do."

— *Marcus Tullius Cicero*

Tailpiece



My Mom was cleaning out their liquor cabinet and offered me a bottle of Vodka they've had for ages.
I had to say no because I know it's 70% water from me stealing it when I was 16.

SARCASM LEAGUE



You think you know stress? When I grew up, if you missed a TV show you just missed it. Forever.

AMERICASBESTPICKS.COM

One day you'll find someone that's obsessed with you.

It's probably going to be a dog. But it is what it is.

My son asked if a punch bowl is where you keep the names of people you want to punch.

I usually keep them in my head, but, storing them in decorative crystal seems really classy.