

# Annual Report 23-24 Rotary Club Bonaire

## Foreword

Before you is the first annual report of the Rotary Club Bonaire in which you can read back what happened in the past year. I wish my fellow Rotarians lots of reading pleasure.

The social goals of Rotary can only be achieved with an active club of people. Looking back on the past year, we can see that we succeeded in the main goal of the 2023-2024 board: to bring back the spirit in the club. The joint efforts of members in the successful fundraising events, the interesting speakers at the lunch meetings, the attention for the club in the press and two new enthusiastic members. Even though we lost two highly valued members, membership remained steady.

I thank the members for their active involvement in the club, especially my fellow board members Simone van Hengstum and Wietze Koopman, who had a considerable share in the success of this board's year.

Jan Okhuijsen

President

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## Introduction

After the difficult covid years, RCB members found it difficult to pick up where they left off. The 23-24 board therefore chose as its goal to foster a sense of belonging and to bind members more strongly to the club. The chosen means to achieve this: conversations with individual members, interesting speakers at lunch meetings, organizing joint activities and attracting new members.

In this first annual report in the RCB's existence, the 23-24 Board provides an overview of what has happened in the past Rotary year to achieve the goal.

## Conversations with members

Way before the Turn Over Dinner, the incoming board started having coffee or lunch conversations with individual members. These conversations addressed why we are members of Rotary, what we consider important and what we want to accomplish. Also what we have been missing in recent years, what we need to do differently to get back the atmosphere of togetherness. The discussions showed that all members are motivated to make contributions to society on Bonaire. We realize that RCB has enormous potential clout thanks to the network of its members. By intensifying mutual contacts, we can stimulate fellowship and commitment to be active for the club. By attracting socially engaged new members, we ensure rejuvenation of the club. These and other suggestions that emerged in the discussions formed a good basis for the incoming board to give the RCB back the momentum it needs to regain a prominent place in Bonaire's society.

What do we wish for?

- RCB becomes more dynamic again
- Doing more together
- More well attended meetings with interesting topics/speakers
- In 5 years a large, active club with a prominent place in society
- Proud to be a member

Rotary  

## Turn Over Dinner



The transition from the old to the new board got off to a flying start, thanks in part to the unburdening of the events committee and the wonderful contribution of master of ceremonies André Lendering, his creative wife Ludwina and counselor Marisela.

In the beautiful ambiance of Macaroca restaurant, incoming chairman Jan Okhuijsen was given a captain's cap and literally got the helm in his hands to steer RCB across turbulent waters. Incoming treasurer Simone van Hengstum got an anchor connected with a long line to the life buoy for incoming secretary Wietze Koopman. In no time,

everybody present was wearing a sailor's outfit, ready to serve!

## Weekly meetings

The suggestion to hold an informal evening meeting once a month proved unsuccessful. The meetings where interesting speakers were invited were, however, successful.

**Mary and Vincent Lenderink** talked about a wine tasting fundraiser they organized for Flagler College. **Charlotte Hesterman** spoke about the plastic recycling company she founded with Lucky Luke Bastiaan.



**Diane Thomas** spoke about the foundation that supports family caregivers in Bonaire. **Johan van Bleck** talked about his foundation Terra Barra, which manages a botanical garden with the help of volunteers, grows local trees to reforest Bonaire and will start an education program for local goat farmers. **Lizet Wolf** presented a project for school students to get hands-on experience with a handyman to help people on Bonaire. **Ronald Zwarter** told an exceptionally well-attended meeting about the developments at the Dutch Caribbean Police Force. **Harry**

**Somers** gave a summary of the Thodé report on possible introduction of a social minimum for Bonaire. **Wietze Koopman** spoke about the October decisions of the House of Representatives to actually implement some of Thodé's proposals by 2024. **Barbara Griot** presented the program of the informal care week. **Sylvia Dermout** gave a presentation on the problem of Plastic Soup in the oceans. What is being done about it and what everyone can do to prevent it



from getting worse. **Maurice**



**Adriaans** talked about opportunities of agriculture on Bonaire and the role of LVV in it. **Miles Mercera** talked about tourism policy and the difficult process of opening new flight connections. **Miranda Verburg** and **Pauline van der Loo** presented the plans for children's playgrounds on Bonaire, part of which had already been realized. **Elyane Nicolaas** and **Judette Frederiks** told what the Council for Education and the Labor Market (ROA) is doing in collaboration with stakeholders to prevent that in 25 years, half of the workforce will be

low-skilled. **Rochelle Heerema** told about the Positive Mind Foundation's teaching kit to encourage reading among young people and using the books to talk about poverty issues. **Evert Piar** explained the activities of the Alzheimer's Foundation during District Governor Brian Glasgow's visit. **Maarten van der Scheer** presented the



future plans of our airport. And during the



very successful last Wednesday meeting of the year, on location in Rincon, **Jan-Henk van der Wier** talked about his project to revitalize Kas Schermer.

## Fundraising

Through the Rotary Bonaire Foundation, RCB financially supports a variety of community causes. To make this possible, RCB also organized two major fundraising activities this year: the Rotarally and the Feria.



The day of the famous **Rotarally** turned out to coincide with the rainiest day of the year. Not deterred by the weather forecast, the rally committee nevertheless got 155 participants in 49 teams to the start. Especially the route to the end point, the kunuku of Edison Rijna, required an adventurous spirit from the participants. The

pleasant afterglow for the participants who reached the end point, with a tasty meal and of course ice cold beer, wine and soda, provided an animated end to an exciting day. Thanks to this event, an amount of \$10.000 was made available for social causes.



For a long time it looked like the **Feria** in 2024 would be limited in size. But thanks to a final offensive by the Feria committee, many items, even a lot of good-selling items, including a great catch from Corine at Harbour Village were collected in the last month.

The lack of a central storage facility created a tough logistical challenge this year. Thanks to the support of Napa, Rocargo and Balfran, the logistical puzzle was brought to a successful conclusion. With the efforts of all members present in Bonaire and a

large group of volunteers from outside, the market was a great success. With the proceeds of \$22.500 came a substantial contribution to the Rotary fund. The foundation now has the financial room to support another major community project.

In addition to external fundraising, RCB also funds the Rotary Foundation through proceeds from raffles, which take place during each official meeting. In this board year, these raffles (including the TOD and Christmas raffle) raised a total of \$7.500.

All in all, \$40,000 was raised for charity this year.



Family Day



This fellowship promoting event also took place at the kunuku of Edison Rijna. Thanks to the good organization of the Family Day committee, this became a particularly enjoyable day. Not only for members, but also for their partners and children. The following Wednesday it turned out that everyone had survived the way home in one piece. Rotarians can withstand a bump.

Public relations

Both in newspapers and on the radio, RCB received considerable attention in this Rotary year. A total of 17 press releases went out about the change of board, about the Slagbaai Weekend, the Rally and the Feria, about the Paul Harris for André, about the financial support RCB gave to social causes on Bonaire and about the interesting presentations made during the lunch meetings.

Social goals

The Community Service Committee has not been idle this year. There were 11 applications received of which 3 applications for amounts over \$500. The following donations were granted after a positive recommendation from the CSC.

Rotarally un gran éksito Rotary steunt Tera Barra

KRALENDIJK - Kardinando entre kaba i... E granitashon a resultu a... Rotary Club Bonaire...



Kondekorashon haltu pa André Lendering

Van onze correspondent... Johan van Bleck van Tera Barra (rechts) neemt de... KRALENDIJK - Stichting Tera Barra...



Leskist voor Bonaire

gesproken werd. Kinderen die niet mee konden met activiteiten waar een eigen bijdrage... het lezen te stimuleren en aan de hand van de boeken te praten pa su...

Rotary Club steunt zaak Unkobon

Van onze correspondent... KRALENDIJK - De Vereniging van alle... Rotary Club Bonaire...

Klusbus MBO Bonaire gaat de barrios in

Van onze correspondent... KRALENDIJK - Studenten van de... MBO Bonaire hebben op 14 juni...

Sociale bestemming voor Kas di Schermer Plan di futuro Aeropuerto Flamingo

KRALENDIJK - resientemente dunnu un... Kas di Schermer ta un gran proyecto...



Abismo spantoso entre enseñansa i

KRALENDIJK - Rotary Club Bonaire... enseñansa i merkado laboral... "Si nos laga tur kos bai a risibí un presentashon...



Rotary ta sostené Mantelzorg i Stichting Project

KRALENDIJK - "E tabata la mes ta kaba i... Rotary Club Bonaire ta sostené...

Denro di 5 aña Bonaire mester produsí un kuart di alimento... KRALENDIJK - Mula pa nos remanensha...



mantelzorg
F&B kappersdag
Terra Barra
Melaan
Duathlon Morales
Baracudas
Diabetesdag
Wolf pack baseball
Wilhelmina fonds
Lala Montanus knutselen ouderen
Slagbaai weekend
Totaal



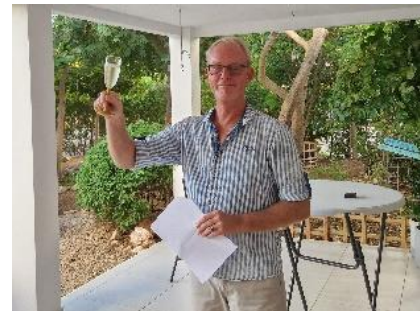
## Other activities

The **Christmas dinner** was very atmospheric despite the low attendance of members. Those who did attend could see that restaurant Macaroca had managed to put together a tasty menu.

The **New Year's meeting** however, was well attended. Jan



Okhuijsen, who had opened his residence, concluded in his humor-laden New Year's speech that to his surprise he had become chairman of an events committee. That events committee also had a surprise in store for André Lendering, who was presented with a well-deserved Paul Harris Award.



As noted earlier, the **informal evening meetings** were not an unqualified success. Both an evening at a member's home and an evening at The Dock restaurant were moderately to poorly attended by members. The pre carnival evening at The Bucket, on the other hand, could count on sufficient interest.



A **whatsapp group** was set up to keep members informed of the latest developments and birthdays. Updating the **registration with the Chamber of Commerce** turned out to be a bit of a hassle, but was finally successful. The new **website** allows the RCB board to make changes in-house.

## Membership



This year, with Jonathan Croes and Renance Rodriguez, we were able to welcome two new members to RCB.



Champion for attendance was Roger Hamilton with 95% attendance, closely followed by Barbara Griot with 92% and Evert Piar (89%). The poodle prize for attendance was for Miles Mercera who attended only twice this year. Bas Noij had apologized for the entire year due to a world trip