

ROTARACT NEWS

SPRING 2015

what's going on in the World of Rotaract

Rotaract
Partner von Rotary



NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

RAC BLUE DANUBE

2014 was a great year for the Rotaract Club Blue Danube Niederösterreich. Besides lots of great and interesting presentations like the visit of Matthias Strolz, an Austrian politician and chairman of the NEOS party or the visit of Arno Hofmann, who gave us an insight in the process of the construction of a food factory for Mondelez in Bahrain, we organised great trips to the Late-Night-Show Willkommen Österreich, the cabaret of Josef Hader and the Naturhistorisches Museum (Natural historical museum), where we were able to get a fantastic view of Vienna's skyline by night. One of our most successful projects is the corporation with the Integrationshaus (integration house), where we support teenagers struggling with tough backgrounds. For these young people it is sometimes quite hard to deal with this completely new situation and therefore we organized an afternoon at the Haus des Meeres in the Christmas holiday season to help them take their minds of their problems.



RAC INNSBRUCK

Guided by the three columns - Learn-Help-Enjoy - Rotaract Club Innsbruck has put its main focus on social services. In the past years, we supported the "Integrationshaus" (a social facility in Innsbruck offering food and shelter for refugees, mentally handicapped persons and other people who need help) by applying the "Buy One More" principle. Therefore we prepared some marketing material, gathered at a Saturday morning in front of a supermarket (Hofer), asked people to buy useful items (for example noodles, diapers, rice, tooth paste, and of course some candy) and then delivered the donations directly to where they



were needed. Some other social activities were the organisation of a charity exhibition at the art gallery “Foto Kunst Stadtforum” (FO.KU.S) in Innsbruck for victims affected by the flood catastrophe in the town Kössen (Tyrol) and the participation of our club members in the charity event “Ich helfe laufend” in Vienna.

Besides our social commitment, we also take account of our educating responsibility with presentations involving people from various areas of expertise, for example the rector of the Medical University of Innsbruck, the bishop of the diocese Innsbruck or the artistic director of the Tiroler Landestheater.

For the future, we are working on a cooperation with the “Innsbrucker Sozialen Dienste” (ISD), which means we would support the elderly by taking a walk with them, reading books to them or just giving the opportunity of chatting with somebody.



RAC KLOSTERNEUBURG

In the small town of Klosterneuburg (near Vienna) there was once a Rotaract Club.... Founded in 2010 we are one of the younger clubs in the area, but certainly one of the best! Klosterneuburg is a famous wine region, so one of our first fundraising events was a “Weinsommerfest” (wine summer party) at one of the local “Heurigen”. Tasty food, great live music and, of course, a wine tasting all in all made for a wonderful evening. The donations we raised were handed over to our partner club in Lima, Peru, personally by two of our club members during a visit. There we helped finance a school’s infrastructure.

Last winter, our meeting location was unusually full/packed, when a Negotiation Workshop held by the Harvard educated trainer Dr. Claudia Winkler, LL.M. attracted not only our members but also many friends and colleagues to Klosterneuburg. After this pre-Christmas evening of friendship, fun and of course fruitful negotiations, I am sure every participant took home something to help in personal everyday negotiation situations.

Very new and exciting is the Mentoring program together with our partner RC, the Rotary Club Klosterneuburg. After allocation to respective mentors and mentees, members of both clubs meet in regular sessions to learn from and help each other. So, as you can see, Klosterneuburg’s Rotaract Club is small but active and we are



looking forward to the years to come as part of the national and international Rotaract community!



RAC ST. PÖLTEN

About 5 years ago the idea was born to found a Rotaract Club in St. Pölten. Soon afterwards first informal meetings were held by a small group of enthusiastic and highly motivated students and young professionals, all committed to the aims of Rotary. Finally, on November 6th 2010, after months of preparation and recruiting new members Rotaract St. Pölten was finally chartered by our sponsoring club Rotary St. Pölten. Since then our member count has grown slightly with 23 active members at the moment. One of our popular charity projects is our annual cake baking contest "RotaBACKT" (BACKT meaning baking in German). Another one, the so-called "Rotaract Charity Clubbing", was just successfully pulled off for the second time a couple of weeks ago. The raised funds usually go to different local projects (e.g. „das Nest“,

„Lebenshilfe NÖ“, „Nomaden“). Rotaract St. Pölten also contributes to international service projects as, e.g., the Rotary Project "END POLIO NOW" and organizes children's festival.



RAC WIEN

Being the oldest Rotaract Club in Vienna we celebrated our 35th anniversary in 2014. A great charter weekend gave us the opportunity to connect with our fellow Rotaractors as well as new people. Our club takes part in multiple social projects, our main project being a cooperation with Vinzirast, therefore club members cook and serve warm meals for the homeless in order to support Vinzirasts work in fighting poverty in Vienna. In December just around christmas we always support the ÖMF – the austrian research group for myopathies by selling mulled wine and punch near the Hofburg. A lot of our members also work in the Rotaract district project „Ich Hilfe Laufend“, which takes place for the 5th time this year on May, 17th. This years' proceeds are going to be a donation towards MOMO, a



hospice helping children with deadly diseases. We are happy about 31 active members who work very well together and enjoy being part of a great community. Apart from the regular meetings every two weeks - where we host interesting speakers where also new guest and friends are welcome – we go on trips together like this years clubweekend to Bratislava to bond as a group and have fun together.”



RAC WIEN ALBERTINA

We are a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Our partner Rotary Club is the Rotary Club Wien Albertina to whom we have a very close and ongoing relationship. Our club aims to bring together dedicated individuals to take action in their communities, develop their leadership and professional skills, and have fun. We are a community-based club in Vienna, with students from numerous different University as well as professionals with an incredible diversity. We are true “partners in service” and key members of the family of Rotary. Aside from prestigious

community and service projects that we organize and support, we are meeting on a two weekly basis and have community as well as international guest speakers, who enlighten us in diverse professional levels ranging from the arts, business, and science to education and many other interesting related areas. Our club strives to make a positive impact on the community in which we live. We have a strong partnership with our local Rotary Club. In the past two years, we built up, together with our partner Rotary Club Wien Albertina, a mentoring program between our members and the Rotary members. This aims to establish personal developmental relationships Between the mentees, the Rotaractors, and the mentors on the side of the Rotary club. This program has developed to a great success and has attracted large attention within the Austrian Rotary Community, with numerous Rotary as well as Rotaract clubs all around the country asking for our expertise to introduce similar programs. Another major project we have established is our annual classical charity concert in Vienna’s most beautiful and prestigious concert venues. This concert brings together two important service activities. On the one hand, we want to support young talented classical musicians, who by participating in our concerts have the opportunity to present themselves to a large distinguished audience and network. On the other hand, we are able to raise large sums through the concert tickets and donations that we use to support community based service project with a core focus on children and education. Together with



our Rotary club, we are organizing the biennial Walter Koschatsky art prize, the largest graphic art competition in Europe. The art competition is named after Walter Koschatsky, a founding member of our Rotary Club and the founding director of the famous museum Albertina in Vienna, which name we proudly carry. The art competition aims to support young visual artists donating prizes to the artists in the value of € 20.000 selected from a prestigious international jury and offering a large vernissage and exhibition with international guests, among them gallerists, museum directors and international media representatives.

RAC WIEN GRABEN

Rotaract Club-Wien Graben was founded in 2013 and is a very dynamic club with 28 active Rotaractors. We meet every two weeks in a classical and central Viennese hotel to listen to interesting speakers or to detail-plan our newest projects which we decided upon in our yearly team-building. Our longest lasting project is the Ronald McDonald Kinderhaus in Vienna where we have been cooking dinner for families since 2013 every two weeks. This gives the parents and siblings a break from the dread of hospital visits just across the street. We also host a yearly Tennis Tournament to support a Syrian Refugee Organization called "IHR" and of course we support "Ich Hilfe Laufend" every year! Besides smaller one-time projects, we also have a

mentoring-program with our parent club in place which is a great opportunity for our members to make important connections. For the first time this year we also organized a "Nikolaus-Kino" on the 6th of December where we screened "Paddington Bear" to more than 110 orphans and their adoptive parents - a beautiful day for everyone! Last but not least we hope to have the pleasure to organize the MDPC 2015 - so we are looking forward to meeting all representatives in Salzburg to explain why MDPC 2015 in Vienna would rock

RAC WIEN INNERE STADT

Rotaract Club Wien Innere Stadt was founded in 1998. Regular meetings are every first and third friday each month at the Management Club in Vienna. Social activities of Rotaract Club Wien Innere Stadt are its annual Charityclubbing and support at the event "Ich Hilfe Laufend" On 21 November 2014 Rotaract Club Wien Innere Stadt organized its annual Charityclubbing in Sofies Bar in the 1st district of Vienna. Rotaract Club Wien Innere Stadt donated the earnings to the social pedagogical facility St. Benedikt, which takes care of handicapped children. St. Benedikt is located within the 16th district of Vienna. The raised money will be used for the refurbishment of the children's bedrooms. On 17 May 2015 Rotaract Club Wien Innere Stadt will support the wardrobe at the "Ich Hilfe Laufend" event



RAC WIEN OPER

Rotaract Vienna Opera is a Vienna-based club with currently 53 members. Most of its members are studying in Vienna, however there are also several young professionals participating. The member's professions cover many different fields including pharmacy, business, medicine and engineering. The diversity of interests and experiences within the club ensures engaging conversations during Tuesday evening meetings in Hotel Regina. An important part of the club is the social commitment of its members. Rotaract Vienna Opera aims to support children with special needs. Therefore, the walk-in clinic of St. Anna Children's hospital and MOKI Vienna, a mobile children's nurse service, are among the social projects. There are also regular "field trips" such as culture evenings, company tours or skiing weekends in other regions of Austria. Guests are always welcome to attend a meeting. The meetings and their topics are announced on facebook and on our webpage.



RAC WIEN SECESSION

Our club has a particular emphasis on the "learning" aspect of the Rotaract tradition. Hence we strive to have at least one talk per month with a prominent figure from all ways of life. On the social side, we have two social projects: Our traditional "Rotaract Verzaubert" annual cinema event, where we invite children from underprivileged backgrounds to a movie afternoon. A senior member of our club dresses up as Santa Claus and hands out gift bags carefully filled by our members with sweets and nuts. The other social project is taking place underyear: Our members serve as tutors to children from migrant families under the Konnex program of the Verein Wirtschaft für Integration. This year, we were able to take five children under our patronage. Our club meets twice a month in Gasthaus Adam in Vienna's eighth district. Guests are always welcome, so do drop by if you are interested in a particular talk.
HECK OUT www.futurefounders.at



RAC WIEN STADTPARK

In February 2015, Rotaract Wien-Stadtpark celebrated 20 years of service by organizing its traditional "International Weekend" with a very special highlight: an exclusive Rotaract gala ball at the imperial Kursalon Hübner in Vienna's famous Stadtpark.

Committed to the well-being of children, our club's main local service project is a cooperation with the Caritas Mother-Child shelter home in Vienna (hosting temporarily homeless and refugee families). Once a month, we organise trips and cultural activities with the children in order to provide them with the best possible range of new experiences and a timeout from their everyday life – these include visits to the zoo, museums, ice skating rings or playgrounds. In addition, we support the SOS Children's Village in organizing and running the annual family festival and contribute to Rotarian projects such as 'End Polio Now', 'Hearts for South Africa' or

the Rotaract District-project 'Ich Hilfe Laufend'. Our members meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month to socialise and talk with a prominent guest lecturer, respectively. An annual Christmas punsch, international travels, skiing or hiking trips foster friendship and round up our activities.

Internationally renowned for its open-mindedness and hospitality, Rotaract Wien-Stadtpark is proud to announce that – in cooperation with all clubs of the Vienna region – we plan to host the European Convention (EUCO) 2017. It is time for Vienna, it is time for Rotaract.



RAC BANJA LUKA

Rotaract Club Banja Luka has finalized a project entitled „Ne budi kvaran (Do Not Be Rotten)“ in cooperation with Rotaract clubs from Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Russia and Turkey. The goal of the project was to educate socially vulnerable children about dental hygiene through an interactive workshop. The workshop was held in a daycare center „Nova generacija (New



Generation)”. Every child received a pack with a toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash and a little toy so that they could apply their newly acquired knowledge. Thirty packs were distributed.

Rotaract Club Banja Luka is working on the Fourth Writing Competition. The aim of this project is enhance the development and presentation of writing and creativity of high school students in Banja Luka. The students’ submissions will be assessed and ranked by a four-member committee of eminent experts in the field of literature and language. The winners of the competition will receive appropriate awards.

Rotaract Club Banja Luka is planning to implement the project „Ruksak za budućnost (Backpack for the Future)“ in a cooperation with Rotaract Club Sarajevo, this summer. The aim of this initiative is to help low-income families with children who are starting first grade in primary school in the areas that were affected by the devastating floods in May 2014. This will be accomplished by providing backpacks supplied with all the necessary stationery for a successful start of the school year.



RAC LUKAVAC

RAC Lukavac was officially founded in May 2014. You may find this irrelevant, but it was the first time that both clubs (RAC & IAC) were founded at the same time.

First of all, we must say how proud we are at our communication and teamwork with our IAC. Our mission was to guide them and help them realise what Rotary “family” is. We hope we did a good job.

We are witnesses of what mother nature can do. Last year, our country suffered the greatest damage, as the rain was the haviest in 120 years of recorded weather measurments. So, we had to react quickly, help our community and prove ourselves how much we can do for the people who need our help. Those floods have shown us that humanity still exists.

Also, we had a mutual project with RAC Tuzla 99. With their help, RAC Lukavac donated 100 family packages for the people from the most critical social class.

As for the international cooperation, we had a project “Move the world forward”, which we did with RAC Salt Lake. Aim of this project was to help kindergarten „Little World“, kindergarten for children with autism.

Our last project was “Light it up blue” for World Autism Awareness Day, that held on 2 April.

At the moment, our thoughts and activities are



directed towards organising of our first “birthday party” weekend in Lukavac with our RAC and IAC friends from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

One of our future projects and activities is our traditional third fund raising Rotary Cup - basketball tournament. The funds collected will be used for purchase of water purification units for the Centre for education of preschool age children Lukavac.

Yours in Rotary, Rotaract Club Lukavac!



RAC SARAJEVO

From September 2014 – April 2015 we have implemented number of projects and activities.

Some of already implemented:

- Promotion of the „End Polio Day“ in cooperation with Rotary International Delta Sarajevo; Rotaract Club Sarajevo Blood Donor Day; Universal Childrens Day – Rotaract Sarajevo Project „Letter for a mother, gift for a child“ in cooperation with Clinic for Gynecology and Obstetrics in Sarajevo; Rotaract Sarajevo „New Years“ Party fundraising event for our project

„Rotaract School Bag“; participation at the Diplomatic Winter Bazaar where we donated Manchester City FC player Edin Dzeko signed jersey for the auction; International Women’s day 2015 at the Senior Home Care Center Sarajevo where we give flowers to the ladies and spent quality time with users of the Center;

Planned activities for April –June :

- Project „Therapeutic Horseback Riding for Children with Autism“ in cooperation with Pegasus Horse Club (April/May);
- Project „Sumero“ - joint initiative between Rotary Club Sarajevo International-Delta, Rotary Club Sarajevo, Rotaract Club Sarajevo and Interact Club Sarajevo with the disabled, and with SUMERO the objective is to design and do the planting of the land (the garden areas and courtyard) within and surrounding the center for the disabled, Vogosca, a SUMERO initiative (May 2015);
- Rotary Gala Ball for the benefit of the Special Olympics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (13th June 2015);
- Project „Rotaract School Bag“ for the first graders from 8 – 12 elementary schools- focus is on schools from rural areas, children in need and areas with biggest number of the socially vulnerable families (May/June – September);





RAC TUZLA

Rotaract Club Tuzla participated in World Polio Day on October 24 and 25 by giving away stickers to parents with small children and also placing posters on visible high traffic sites around the city and in hospitals. The material in mention, contained the words “Let’s stop the return of polio to BiH - Vaccinate our children”.

Next project was the Rotaract Movember - during the month of November we organized a lecture on prostate cancer and prevention. As per Movember rules male members grew a mustache during the entire month in order to raise awareness. We also organized a prize giveaway for the best mustache, in order to include the public more and to promote the project.

We assisted our Rotary Club in delivering 40 stoves that use solid fuels to people and families who were struck by last springs ladslides and floods and who are on the the edge existence.

For Rotaract Week we organized free tea for college students on March 13.

Currently we are working on gathering funds and planning a few more projects for the future.



RAC TUZLA 99

Distribution of humanitarian packages

- Rotaract Tuzla ‘99 provided around 1,200 packages as social help
- Project was successfully realised in cooperation with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V (Germany) and JU Medicinska škola TuzLA

ADRR: Meeting of Rotaract Clubs from Bosnia and Herzegovina

- First RAC BiH meeting was held in Tuzla, Majevisa
- 4 Rotaract Clubs from BiH had their representatives on this meeting
- The meeting was led by ADRR for BiH Amir Zonić,
- Second RAC BiH meeting was held in Banja Luka
- 5 Rotaract Clubs from BiH had members that represented their clubs
- The meeting was led by president of Rotaract Tuzla ‘99, Anel Ibralić





UPCOMING EVENTS

MD EVENTS

25. April 2015
RI President Gary C.K. Huang
Conference in Graz

12-14 June 2015
Gala Ball
RAC Sarajevo in Sarajevo

8-10. MAY 2015
45 YEARS CHARTER RAC LINZ
<http://linz.rotaract.at/charterfeier-45-jahre-rotaract-club-linz/>

17. May 2015
Ich helfe laufend, Wien
www.ichhelfelaufend.at

29.+30. May 2015
Rotary District Conference in Vienna
more Infos will follow

26.-30. August 2015
KidsCamp in Upper Austria
www.rotaract-kidscamp.de

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

29 April - 3 May 2015
EURO Bukarest
www.euco2015.ro

Sa, 9. May 2015
First Grand Russian Ball
Moskau RAC Moskow

More Infos at:
<http://rotaracteurope.org/upcoming-events/>

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