



CONVENTION

Must-have apps

At the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, 10-14 June, your smartphone can help you keep track of your schedule, make social plans, and find your way around. Simplify your life by downloading a few key apps.

Start with the free Rotary Events app: Find it in your app store by searching “Rotary Events.” It will let you plan your daily schedule, learn about featured speakers, and download session handouts. It also will help you connect with other Rotarians, share photos, rate sessions, and send feedback to convention organizers. The app will be available for download on 10 May.

Find out what’s happening around town in music, theater, and art with the Atlanta PlanIt app, which has extensive event listings. For expert reviews of restaurants and music venues, download the Atlanta magazine app, through which you can buy the December 2016 “Best of Atlanta” issue for \$5.99 without subscribing. That issue has plenty of tips on the best places to eat, see theater and art, and hear music.

When you venture outside the Georgia World Congress Center, take advantage of Atlanta’s public transportation system, MARTA. The free MARTA On the Go app provides route schedules, estimated arrival times, system maps, and a useful feature that locates the station or stop closest to you. — HANK SARTIN

To register, go to [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).



DISPATCHES

Precious resources: water and time

At the southern end of Lake Kivu in central Africa is a narrow corridor where thousands fled the Rwandan genocide to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1994. Conflicts continued for more than a decade in the region.

One of the casualties was the region’s water system, with a reservoir destroyed and piping shattered. Women and children had to walk several hours daily to retrieve water for cooking and drinking. For children, it meant less time for school; for women, it took time away from income-generating ventures.

Amani Matabaro of the Rotary Club of Bukavu Mwangaza in eastern Congo understood what a repaired water system could do for the region. The club helped set up community focus groups and then worked with Harlan Green, then-grants chairman of the Rotary Club of Montecito, Calif., to seek a Rotary Foundation grant of \$63,000.

“We concentrated on eight villages, bringing water from roughly 4 kilometers away,” Green says.

The Bukavu Mwangaza club worked to ensure a sense of community ownership.

“The community was very excited. Everyone was actively involved at different steps,” Matabaro says. Residents carried water equipment and construction materials, dug trenches for the pipeline, provided security at project sites, and even donated some pipeline.

The Mumosho Water Project, completed last August, included the construction of new spigots, the repair of broken spigots, and the addition of two reservoirs and a water tank at the Mumosho Health Clinic. The project has created direct access to clean water for about 18,000 people but indirectly affects over 50,000 residents. The club also partnered with the clinic to train health care workers and community mobilizers to educate the villagers on clean water practices. The project has reduced waterborne diseases. Village women have more time to sell craft items in the market, and pregnant women can access water at the health clinic. “And now the kids can go to school,” Green says. “They don’t have to take two, three hours a day just trucking water back and forth. The impact was the improvement in the lives of women and children.”

— NIKKI KALLIO

51

New water spigots installed

18,000

People receiving clean running water from the project

100

Estimated kilometers of pipes laid