



Rotary International *Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians¹*

Awarded to Linda M. Flynn on June 28, 2016

(The following text was read at the awards presentation ceremony)

One of the most prestigious awards a Rotarian can receive is the *Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians*. It is bestowed by Rotary International (RI). To qualify, a nominee must have performed noteworthy service in each of Rotary's five Avenues of Service. These are: **Club, Vocational, Community, International** and **Youth**.

Many Rotarians have participated in two or three Avenues, but few have served in all five. This year our Club is fortunate; we have a member who has qualified for the Citation. In fact, her contributions to each Avenue are far too numerous to list here. Consequently, only examples are cited.

In **Club Service**, she has been an outstanding contributor to numerous Club committees. Moreover, she served two stints on our Board for a total of 7 years, one as President. She played instrumental roles in the reviews and updating of the Club's by-laws and the criteria for Club awards. She has also been a leader in Club fundraising, and worked tirelessly to keep the *Mums for Thanksgiving* fundraiser alive.

In **Vocational Service**, she was a lead trainer in the Club's *ABCs of Fraud* program — a community-outreach initiative directed to seniors. With experience built during a successful career as a high-level administrator, she has taken leadership roles on many of our most important committees — most recently, as Chair of the Venue Search Committee and Co-Chair of the 60th Anniversary Committee. She also wrote our *President-Elect Training Manual*.

In **Community Service** her contributions have been many and multi-faceted. She introduced the *Dictionary 4 Life Project* to Canada. The provision of pictorial dictionaries to primary school students as gifts from Rotary clubs has promoted literacy and enhanced the lives of hundreds of Grade 3 students in Ottawa and beyond. On taking charge of the Club's *ABCs of Fraud* program, she applied well-honed vocational skills to emphasize training, and recognition for the program's partners and volunteers, thereby, re-energizing the program. She served on the Club's Environment Committee for years and was a regular on the *Hunt Club Road Clean-up* crew.

In **International Service**, she has hosted an Ambassadorial Scholar; served on the World Community Service Committee; and was a major contributor to planning our Club's Host Hospitality Event at the Montreal RI Convention in 2010. She also hosted Scottish Rotary Curlers twice, and has attended two RI Conventions.

In **Youth Service**, she was a volunteer at the *Homework Club* at Winthrop Court. She led us in gathering funds and used books for *Twice Upon a Time*, a book depository serving low-income families. And, as the current Literacy Chair for our Rotary District, she is encouraging District clubs to strengthen their efforts to promote literacy amongst youth.

By now, most West Ottawa Rotarians will have identified the award recipient; it could only be Linda Flynn. When taking on a task, Linda becomes a well-oiled machine. This has been demonstrated time and time again in projects across all Avenues of Service. But we also know there is more at play than just Linda's considerable intellect, executive skills and unbounded energy. She also pours her heart and soul, her great humour, and her empathy and wisdom into every activity. These attributes make it a joy to volunteer alongside her. They have also made her a most valuable source of sound advice, personal support and mentorship.

Linda, you are an inspiration to us all -- the embodiment of our motto, "*Service Above Self*" and a role model of the Ideal Rotarian. We are delighted that your multifaceted service in Rotary has qualified you for Rotary International's *Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians*. It is with pride that we present it to you tonight. Please come forward to receive your Citation.

¹The Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians is awarded by Rotary International (RI) to Rotarians who have demonstrated support of the Object of Rotary through participation in service activities in each of the five Avenues of Service: Club, Vocational, Community, International and Youth. To be eligible for consideration for this award, a Rotarian must be nominated by his or her Rotary club. A club may nominate only one candidate per year and an individual may receive the award only once. Candidates deemed worthy are recognized by Rotary International through the bestowal of a citation certificate signed by the RI President.