



Rotary Club of West Ottawa *The Lloyd Loynes Award For Volunteer Service¹*

Conferred on Rocco N. Disipio, June 28, 2016

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

For one of our members to receive the Lloyd Loynes Award, they must have provided outstanding **hands-on** volunteer service in support of Club projects. This recipient has, literally, been doing exactly that for two decades, and tonight we will pay tribute to this effort. More on that in a minute; I just wanted to give you an “appetizer”.

Our Club is filled with characters of all kinds. This member might be described as very friendly, positive and upbeat. When you get a handshake or a hug from this guy, you can feel the warmth he exudes, and he'll throw in a big friendly smile to top it off.

Oh sure, for years he has been supporting our committees that focus on youth. He's been active in the *4-way Test Award* program and has always gone to a Grade 8 class ceremony to make the annual program presentation. He has also been active as a *Spinoff* editor. He has done an amazing job selling our Rotary Cash Calendars and Mums at Thanksgiving. We're talking about **a lot** of mums. This recipient, either single-handedly or through colleagues, sells each and every year around 20 to 25 per cent of all the chrysanthemum plants ordered. But these incredible contributions were recognized in 2010 when the Club bestowed a *Paul Harris Fellow Award* on him.

Tonight we are recognizing this member for a fundraising activity that he has been doing for 20 years, under the radar.

It started innocently enough. For one of our fundraisers in the 1990s, he thought it would be fun to auction off a home-cooked meal. He'd provide the food and wine, and cook an authentic Italian meal right in your own home. For 8 people no less! Back in those days his children were adolescents so they were part of the deal, too, volunteering as servers with the same charm and humour as their father's!

But word spread. The first meals he auctioned not only raised a lot of money, but the buyers and their guests had a fantastic time. Others wanted in on this amazing deal. The years passed and the dollars piled up. His kids grew up and moved away, but the dinners were still a regular offering at West Ottawa fundraising events. He did some dinners for work colleagues as well, raising more money.

Here we are, 20 years after the first dinner was auctioned off and more than \$35,000 has been raised — one delicious meal and wonderfully entertaining evening at a time. As much fun as they were, they were darn hard work, and expensive, too, for our fellow member. Remember, he bought the food and drinks; the charity got the proceeds. He shopped, he cooked, he served and he cleaned.

This year, our recipient pulled the plug. He has auctioned his last dinner. His kids are long-gone, and he and his new wife have a busy lifestyle. So if you've attended one of his charity dinners, you are part of a lucky, select group. This fellow poured his heart and soul into his meals. Tonight, the Club is thrilled to return that love right back to Rocco Disipio for this lengthy and most impressive fundraising effort. Rocco, please come forward to receive your award.

¹This award is named after the late Lloyd Loynes who was a member of the Rotary Club of West Ottawa. Lloyd promoted many ways of increasing “volunteerism” in the club and the community. The following criteria are considered when reviewing nominations for the award: The nominee must be a member in good standing of the Rotary Club of West Ottawa AND (1) have provided outstanding “hands-on” volunteer service (time and talent) in support of the club's projects, AND/OR (2) have provided outstanding volunteer service to the community, external to Rotary.