

“Service Above Self” Important for New Inductees

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Experiences associated with Rotary in the past can often have a great influence on non-members seeking membership with a Rotary club in their community. This was the case when Colleen McEwan, a mother of a recent Rotary Youth Exchange student and a host mother for a number of exchange students, including the club’s 2016-17 in-bound Rotary Youth Exchange student from Spain experienced first-hand the service that Rotary provides for youth. This was also the situation for Allison Kirkwood, who received a grant from Rotary to participate in a leadership conference in Montreal while she was a grade eleven student and while in Gulu, Uganda volunteering at a hospital where she attended weekly Rotary meetings with a local club, experienced the service an international club provided for those in need in their community.

That membership became a reality for both Allison and Colleen when club Membership Director Max Mosley inducted them into the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise at the club’s regular meeting on September 22nd, followed by a round of applause and personal welcome greetings and hugs from all of the members of the club.



Serving the local community and those in need internationally and meeting like-minded people with similar values are important to Colleen McEwan and Allison Kirkwood. Colleen shares that “Rotary has a wonderful reputation for providing support here and abroad and is known for their ethics.” Likewise, Allison states that “I needed to round out my life with some volunteering and thought that Rotary would be an ideal way to do so while meeting great people.” Rotary’s motto of “service above self” was clearly on the minds of Colleen and Allison when they sought out membership with the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise.

The busy work schedule of both Allison and Colleen, now involving service with the Sunrise Rotary club, most likely will not interfere with the special personal interests they have, as

they both recognize that they need a balance in their personal lives. Allison will no doubt continue her love of travel, biking, skiing, touring the valley with her visitors, and improving her French; while Colleen will certainly continue traveling, skiing, golfing, reading and attending her regular yoga sessions.



Colleen McEwan's passion for helping and enabling people in difficulty, led her to a career in nursing which has extended over 30 years. After attaining a Registered Nursing (RN) diploma from the Vancouver General Hospital Nursing School, she started her career as a front-line nurse at Vancouver General Hospital. Shortly after, she graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and then served as a hospital educator at Richmond Hospital. Her focus on her personal education continued when she achieved a Masters of Arts in Adult Education, again at the University of British Columbia. With this wealth of knowledge and skill, she began her nursing career in the management and leadership field, first at Richmond Hospital, followed by a management position at the Kamloops Hospital, and then in Vernon as the Director of Vernon Jubilee Hospital. Four years ago, she moved to Kelowna and went back to psychiatry as a manager of the Adolescent Psychiatry Unit at KGH and Cara Centre. This is the template with image at the left side and floating text on the right side.



Allison Kirkwood's post-secondary education and career has also been in the medical field. Following high school graduation at Barriere Secondary School, she attended the University of British Columbia and graduated with a Bachelor of Science focused on Pharmacy in 2005 and in the following year, graduated from the British Columbia Hospital Practice Residency Program. With the expertise she gained from her post-secondary education, she started employment at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver where she enjoyed a successful experience as a pharmacist mostly in the ER and geriatric rehabilitation wards from 2006-10, as a Medication Safety Pharmacist from 2010-2012, and then as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist and Program Manager from 2012-15. While being employed, she was able to graduate with a Master of Health Administration, also from the University of British Columbia. In 2016, Allison moved to Kelowna and started a new challenge as the Formulary Coordinator at Interior Health.