

ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB

1958—2025



MEMBER HANDBOOK

Anchorage International Rotary Club
P.O. Box 104488
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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Table of Contents..... | 2 |
| Welcome to Anchorage International Rotary Club!..... | 3 |
| How You Were Selected..... | 3 |
| A Word about "Classification"..... | 3 |
| The Object of Rotary..... | 4 |
| Service in Rotary..... | 4 |
| And Most Important of All: The Four-Way Test..... | 4 |
| Five Avenues of Service..... | 5 |
| Fundraising..... | 5 |
| Club Organization..... | 5 |
| Our Rotary District 5010..... | 6 |
| Conferences, Conventions, and Institutes..... | 6 |
| Membership..... | 6 |
| Dues, Fines, and Initiation Fees..... | 7 |
| Club Roster..... | 8 |
| Communications..... | 8 |
| Why Attendance is Important..... | 8 |
| "Make-ups"..... | 9 |
| Rotary Foundation..... | 10 |
| Student Exchange Program..... | 10 |
| Anchorage International Rotary Memorial Scholarship Fund..... | 11 |
| Red Badge to Blue Badge Requirements..... | 11 |
| History of the Anchorage International Rotary Club..... | 13 |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 - 2025..... | 27 |

Welcome to Anchorage International Rotary Club!

The day you join Anchorage International Rotary Club, it suddenly becomes a new club. Your unique personality, ideas, and participation give our club a new character and a new collective personality. Anchorage International Rotary Club is composed of highly distinct individuals who, when they come together as Rotarians, create something special. When we lose a member, we all feel a loss and when we gain a new member, we are immediately aware of a significant new addition that will impact our club.

Each member has a great opportunity to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to our club. Your membership will further strengthen Anchorage International Rotary and we eagerly look forward to your active participation. This "guide" will help orient you to club activities and describe some of the many facets of Rotary.

How You Were Selected

A current member who knows you as a friend or business acquaintance proposed you for membership. That member is your sponsor and will have the responsibility of helping you become involved in club activities. Ask your sponsor to assist you whenever you have questions about Rotary. Your proposed membership has been reviewed by the Membership Committee to see if your occupational "classification" is open (not currently held by more members than allowed) and the committee has also considered you carefully for your potential as an active, contributing member. All members have been informed by special notice of your proposed membership.

Rotary cannot be likened to a country club or a fraternal lodge. There are responsibilities and opportunities far beyond those of simply "belonging" and attending occasional luncheons with a congenial group of men and women. You will find your horizons broadened as you make new friends who are active in a wide variety of occupations and professions in Anchorage and as you become aware of community and international service opportunities.

A Word about "Classification"

A member holds a "classification." That is the business or professional designation for your vocation. You are regarded as an outstanding representative of your vocational classification in our community.

The Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is "to encourage and foster the ideal of service." You will help promote this objective by:

1. Fostering high ethical standards in your business or profession.
2. Applying the ideal of service in your personal, business and community life.
3. Developing constructive acquaintances and friendships in our community.
4. Advancing international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men and women united.

Service in Rotary

Service is the all-important Rotary principle. You will hear our motto, "Service above Self" many times.

Rotary clubs exist for the purpose of giving men and women an organized outlet to serve others in their community in an organized manner, which could not be done as well by the individual working alone. You become a member of Rotary Club, which in turn, is one of more than 46,000 clubs worldwide in more than 200 countries with a total membership exceeding 1,400,000, including the former Soviet Union. Rotary International is headquartered in Evanston, Illinois.

As a Rotarian you will enjoy both the company of other men and women in your own community and the pleasure of working with them for the good of your community and the world.

And Most Important of All: The Four-Way Test

The essence of Rotary is summed up in its famous "Four-Way Test":

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

If we abide by this test in whatever we say and do in our personal lives and in our chosen vocations, we will be well on our way toward leading productive lives that are sensitive to the needs and feelings of our fellow men and women. You are becoming a member of an organization that is attempting every day to raise the standards of conduct between human beings. We enlist your participation and support in this endeavor.

Five Avenues of Service

All activities of a Rotary Club come under Rotary International's basic organization known as "The Five Avenues of Service":

1. Club Service
2. Vocational Service
3. Community Service
4. International Service
5. Youth Services

The club president appoints one or more directors for each avenue of service. All club committees and their chairman are included under one of these Five Avenues. You will have an opportunity to serve in one or more of these areas. You need not wait to be asked--you may volunteer at any time! Part of your responsibility as a Rotarian is to participate.

Anchorage International Rotary Club serves its community in many ways. We make donations of money and time to several active charitable organizations such as Beans Café, the, AWAIC Shelter, Clare House, neighborhood health fairs, STAR and many others. We financed and built a pavilion in Kincaid Park for community use, and we sponsor an annual cleanup and beautification project at the park. We have a close, supportive relationship with North Star Elementary School and the Martin Luther King Career Center, both in the Anchorage School District.

Fundraising

Each year we hold a charity raffle, have sponsored golf tournaments; conduct auctions, or some other events to raise funds for our service projects. These require many hours of work on the part of Anchorage International Rotarians. They will provide an excellent way for you, as a new member, to become involved in your club and to get to know fellow members.

Club Organization

Each Rotary Club is an independent organization which meets the standards of Rotary International by complying with requirements for charter, organization, and bylaws. We conform to all the basic Rotary International requirements in order to maintain our association with the thousands of other Rotary clubs throughout the world. In all local matters we are an independent, democratic group.

Our club officers are much as in other clubs: We have a president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. Our Board of Directors is composed of the above officers as well as our immediate past president and one or more directors for each of the Five Avenues of Service. The president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary are elected each December, and take office at the beginning of the Rotary Year on July 1. The president-elect begins identifying committee chairmen for the coming year as

soon as possible so that all the new officers and directors know in what capacity they will serve months before they take office to enable them to prepare for their responsibilities.

The Board of Directors meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month, sometimes at a designated location. Alternatively, they will meet via Zoom meetings. Any member may attend and contribute his or her ideas. Attending board meetings is an excellent way to inform yourself about club activities and to find activities in which you can participate.

Our Rotary District 5010

Rotary worldwide is divided into about 465 districts, with an average of 45 clubs in each district. Our district has over 1,500 members and 37 clubs, and covers the entire State of Alaska. Anchorage area meeting times and locations are listed in this guide. For information about other communities, log on to the District 5010 website <https://rotarydistrict5010.org/>.

There is a district governor for each Rotary district. He/she is an outstanding Rotarian with many years of service who has been honored by the clubs in his/her district by their selection as governor for one year. The district governor has the very responsible job of promoting every Rotary club in his/her district. Our district governor visits every club in district 5010 during his or her one-year term and also serves as an official delegate at the annual Rotary International Convention.

Conferences, Conventions, and Institutes

District 5010 holds a district conference each spring. This is a practical and inspirational exchange of ideas. The incoming president and secretary are required to attend each year and all members are encouraged to attend. A training institute is also often held to provide the opportunity to learn more about Rotary and to work with fellow Rotarians from the north. There is also an annual convention of Rotary International held in the different countries each year. In addition to face-to-face meetings, Rotary also provides an on-line course for potential leaders called, "District Leadership Academy" and offers webinars on specific topics, such as how to work with your club's website.

Membership

Effective with the 2001 Rotary International Legislative Session, there are now only two types of memberships in Rotary:

1. Active; and
2. Honorary.

One of the great truisms of life is "no man was ever honored for what he received; he is honored for what he gave." Thus, in Rotary, memberships are not had for the asking; they are earned.

Active membership is limited to no more than 10% of the club membership from any single field, such as banking or architecture.

An Honorary Member is a person who has distinguished himself or herself by service to Rotary, and who resides within the territorial limits of this club. The Board of Directors elects members to honorary status.

Dues, Fines, and Initiation Fees

Total annual dues are \$350, paid annually in July. The initiation fee is \$100, which covers start-up costs such as the packet of material you receive and your luncheon badge. Additional small amounts help cover the expenses of Rotary headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, and our district office expenses. Locally our dues income pays for club supplies, social meeting costs, club badges and other Rotary mark items, guest speakers' luncheons, and a variety of minor club necessities, which do add up over the course of a year. Dues not used for these purposes are saved for charitable contributions given each year to international and community activities sponsored by the club. For new members, the annual dues in the first year are prorated based on the remaining number of months in the Rotary year.

One of the time-honored traditions of Rotary is fining our fellow members for just about any reason! It's simply a humorous way of building the club treasury so the club can support numerous service activities, exchange students, the Rotary Foundation and other worthy causes. Fines are usually modest and no members are fined frequently (unless they persist in forgetting to wear their Rotary pins or trying to advertise their businesses during club meetings!).

Watch out for a slip of the tongue, which may cost you a couple of dollars! Mentioning your company name publicly at a club meeting may turn out to be expensive "advertising." And, if you are noteworthy enough to have your picture in the newspaper, regardless of the nature of the event, your always-observant club president or sergeant-at-arms will make sure you get an extra "clipping." Remember to wear your Rotary pin at all photo opportunities!

The No Fine button is a Rotary tradition that allows you to "advertise" your company as much as you want for a designated time. Depending on the current president, the No Fine button may be available for a meeting or a month. The purchase price varies depending on demand. Holding the No Fine button lets you distribute brochures or "flyers," display your company products, and make appropriate announcements or descriptions regarding your business or professional services.

Club Roster

Our club maintains an on-line membership roster containing each member's photograph, home and business addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, names of spouse and children (if applicable,) and interests. Corrections to your listing should be given to the club's administrator, Janine Becka or make your own corrections and post your own photo on our club's website. A Rotary user name and a password are required to access this information. Ask Janine if you are not sure how to go about this. It's easy.

The club roster must never be used by a member as a mailing list to promote a business. Rotarians are not banded together for the purpose of trading business, although business does tend to flow from one to the other simply because it is natural to do business with those you know and trust. However, members must not presume that Rotary membership requires that you will or must do business with fellow Rotarians. Study your roster so that you can recognize members in the club and make friends faster.

Communications

A part of your dues also pays for your subscription to the official magazine of Rotary, THE ROTARIAN. It describes the many activities of Rotary International and also contains many good articles on timely subjects of general interest.

Your club bulletin, or newsletter, is published and e-mailed to you weekly and tells of happenings and events in the club, news of new members, programs for upcoming luncheon meetings and other special announcements. The editor also usually makes a few printed copies available at club meetings. The bulletin editor is always eager to receive items from you of interest to the general membership. Please contact the editor regarding your reactions to the bulletin and any news items you think should appear in it.

Why Attendance is Important

One of your responsibilities as a member is faithful attendance. Regular attendance is a direct measure of how important Rotary is to you. You are extremely important to Rotary or you would not be a member in the first place. Regular attendance by most of our members is the reason we have an interesting and worthwhile association with each other.

Our Program Committee provides a variety of stimulating speakers from a wide cross section of Anchorage and Alaska. We make a special effort to hear from people in all walks of life so we can learn more about our community, its problems, and its opportunities. In this way, Rotary serves each one of us by broadening our horizons.

Speakers want to talk to you and they appreciate the fact that you are a significant representative of your business or profession. If you do not attend, you are missed, and you miss an opportunity to learn more about Anchorage and Alaska.

Make your Rotary attendance a good habit. Sure, sometimes it is difficult to get away from a busy day's work, but make Rotary an essential part of your week. Place it on your schedule as you do other appointments. If a member is not interested in attending regularly, it would be fairer for them to let somebody else in their business become a member. However, we want you to be that important representation of your classification.

"Make-ups"

You will hear a great deal about "make-ups." "Making-up" means that you attend another Rotary club meeting when you must be absent from a regular Anchorage International Club meeting. If business commitments, travel or illness prohibit you from attending our regular Friday luncheon meeting, you have the privilege to make up by visiting at a regular meeting of another club. This may be done 14 days before an anticipated absence or 14 days after a missed meeting.

Rotary clubs in the Anchorage area are:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| District 5010 eClub | Saturday | 8 a.m. Online |
| | Join Online [Login to view details] | |
| Anchorage-Downtown | Tuesday | Noon Petroleum Club of Anchorage |
| Anchorage East | Wednesday | Noon Coast International Inn |
| Anchorage Gateway | Friday | Noon Kava's Pancake House |
| Anchorage Hillside | Thursday | 6:30 p.m. O'Brady's Burgers and Brew Restaurant |
| Anchorage International | Friday | Noon Coast International Inn |
| Anchorage Midtown | Wednesday | 6 p.m. IHOP |
| Anchorage-Russian Jack | Tuesday | 7 a.m. Lakefront Hotel, 3 rd Floor |
| Anchorage South | Thursday | Noon Altura Bistro |
| Eagle River | Friday | Noon Pomodoro - 12801 Old Glenn |
| Girdwood Rotary | Thursday | 6:30 p.m. Alpenglow Coffee House |

Check the District website for up-to-date meeting information and links.

If you are traveling in Alaska or "Outside," check to Rotary International website or ask the club secretary to check the directory of Rotary club meetings in virtually any part of the world. You will be warmly welcomed whenever you visit another Rotary club. Make-ups bring you a richness of Rotary experience and an opportunity to make friends, which you can find in no other way. A final reminder: It is your responsibility to be sure that our club secretary is informed of your make-up. Be sure to sign in when you attend another Rotary luncheon meeting to assure that you will be properly credited for your attendance.

Early Leaving

Members are expected to attend the entire luncheon meeting. If for some reason you must leave early, try to avoid walking out on the speaker. This is discourteous and a Rotary "no-no." If you must leave early, please leave just prior to the speaker's program. This will allow you to receive credit for attendance by attending the required 60 percent of that meeting.

Anchorage International Rotary Club members arrive at meetings between 11:30 a.m. and noon. The president calls the meetings to order at 12:10 p.m. and the meetings normally conclude at 1:00 p.m. However, there are occasions when the program extends a few minutes longer than anticipated. We realize that we all work long and busy days, so Rotary tries to make efficient use of our time.

Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is a trust voluntarily supported by Rotary clubs and Rotarians throughout the world. The object of the Rotary Foundation is to further international understanding and the friendly relations among people of this nation through projects of an educational nature.

The Foundation grants graduate fellowships, undergraduate scholarships, technical training awards, and it finances transportation for Vocational Training Teams. Total grants involve millions of dollars and affect thousands of lives every year.

One of Rotary's distinct honors is the Paul Harris Fellow Award (Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905). A member can become a Paul Harris Fellow by contributing \$1,000 or more to the Foundation. A member can make individual contributions or may be honored by being designated a Paul Harris Fellow by their club. One member may honor another by making him or her a Fellow. You do not have to be a Rotarian to become a Paul Harris Fellow. Many Rotarians make their family members Paul Harris Fellows.

Members are encouraged to become Paul Harris Sustaining Members by contributing \$100 per year to the Rotary Foundation.

Student Exchange Program

Anchorage International Rotary Club has participated in the Student Exchange Program. Each year an inbound high school student from another nation visits Anchorage and lives with the families of several of our club members. Other families help provide stimulating educational opportunities for the inbound student on occasional evenings and weekends.

Also, each year a local high school student is selected to go abroad, attend high school in a foreign nation, and live with Rotary families. Our Rotary club sponsors this

student and helps cover his/her travel expenses. The Student Exchange Program is an outstanding example of Rotary's emphasis on youth, education and international understanding.

Anchorage International Rotary Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Club's scholarship program originated as the Virgil Knight Scholarship Fund. Virgil Knight was an outstanding Rotarian in our club who served as president and also as district governor. After his death, the club established the Virgil Knight Scholarship Fund, which acted as a separate entity. In following years, we had lost several outstanding members and it was felt that a memorial to all of our departed members was appropriate. In 1994 the scholarship fund was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation and renamed the Anchorage International Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship Fund. Over the years the club and members made several large donations. The fund is now able to award several scholarships annually while building the endowment principal in the fund.

Red Badge to Blue Badge Requirements

As a new Rotarian and new member of the Anchorage International Rotary Club, a red badge will be presented to you upon joining. This badge will set you apart from the other members to make them aware of your new member status. To receive a blue badge, the following tasks will be asked of you within the first six months of membership:

1. Review this Club Handbook
2. Log into our Club Website and update all applicable information
3. Assist with a club meeting. Perform one of the various activities involved in running weekly meetings. These include performing the Invocation, introducing visiting Rotarians, selling weekly raffle tickets, and substituting at the back table when the Secretary or Treasurer is absent. Work with Club Service Director to schedule mutually convenient times.
4. Serve as a greeter for four weeks. Coordinate this with the Club Service Director.
5. Attend a Board of Directors meeting. These are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at noon, typically in the first-floor museum room of the Wells Fargo Financial Center at Northern Lights and C Streets in Anchorage. Zoom meetings are also conducted for these sessions. No reservations are required.
6. Give a Classification Talk at our club. Coordinate this with the Club Service chairperson. The talk, about 3-5 minutes in length, should cover both

personal and business aspects of your life. This will be your only chance to give a commercial without being fined.

7. Join a committee. Once you determine into which Avenue of Service you wish to become involved, go to that Director and request a committee assignment. You will find a current list of board members as an attachment at the end of this document.
8. Attend at least two meetings at two different Rotary Clubs. These may be make-up meetings or in addition to your regular attendance at our meetings.
9. Gain access to the My Rotary website (Executive Secretary Janine Becka can help with this setup).
10. Complete the following Online Training through the My Rotary Website:
 - i. **Rotary Basics** (about 20 minutes)
'My Rotary'>'Learning and Reference'>'The Learning Center'>'About Rotary' (tile)>'Rotary Basics'.
 - ii. **New Member Basics** (about 2 hours)
'My Rotary'>'Learning and Reference'>'The Learning Center'>'About Rotary' (tile)>'New Member Basics'
11. We encourage you to become a Paul Harris Sustaining Member by starting a ten-year program of donating \$100 per year to the Rotary Foundation.
12. It is your responsibility to keep track of your fulfillment of the above requirements.
13. Once you have met these requirements you must inform the Club President or Membership Chair so that your blue badge can be ordered and presented to you.

New members to our club that have previously held a rotary membership for over one year will be presented a blue badge upon joining our club. We do ask that you complete the following steps during your first three months in the club to introduce yourself and get to know everyone better:

1. Review this Club Handbook
2. Log into our Club Website and update all applicable information
3. Greet twice and assist with club meeting as needed
4. Give a brief classification talk to introduce yourself
5. Attend one board meeting
6. Join a committee

Rotary has several seminars and conferences that are held at both the state and national levels. You are encouraged to attend either in person or via the closed-circuit broadcasts held locally when available. These seminars and conferences are a great opportunity to become familiar with Rotary's functions and programs, as well as meet Rotary members from other clubs who share your interests.

History of the Anchorage International Rotary Club

The Anchorage International Rotary Club was chartered in 1958 as the Spenard Rotary Club, the ninth Rotary Club in Alaska. The Club name was changed to the Anchorage International Rotary Club during the 1983-84 year. Our Club has sponsored the chartering of six additional Rotary clubs in Alaska.

The meetings of the new Spenard Club began at the Forest Park Country Club, held at noon on Fridays, and for several years the membership barely held at about 25. The potential for new members was not great since the Spenard area was sparsely populated, but gradually the membership began to increase. Of the 23 charter members of the Spenard Rotary Club, eight became club presidents.

When the Forest Park Country Club was sold in 1966 to Times publisher Robert Atwood, the Spenard Rotary Club moved to the original "Discovery Room" of the Captain Cook Hotel. In 1968, during Jim Flood's presidency, the club moved to the Gold Rush Hotel, newly built and in the territorial limits of the club. The hotel burned in 1969 during Allen Parker's presidency, with the loss of most of the club property, and the move was made once again to the Captain Cook Hotel.

During Forest Hayden's presidency, the Spenard Rotary Club moved once again to the Gold Rush Hotel until 1975 when, during Jim Sutherland's presidency, the club moved to its present location at the Coast International Inn.

The extension efforts of the International Rotary Club speak for themselves. Of the 16 Rotary clubs in Alaska, our club sponsored five of these clubs. These include Anchorage East, Wasilla, Eagle River, Kenai, and Anchorage South. This shows a very large commitment on the part of Spenard Rotarians, particularly past president and past district governor, Jim Sutherland, in the furtherance of Rotary in "Service above Self."

Very few records were kept of the history of the Spenard Rotary Club during its early years and the club scrapbook of historical records for the years 1957 through 1964 were lost in the Anchorage earthquake of 1964. However, the club prospered during the period of 1957 through 1964 and club membership records show 42 members as of March 23, 1964, a sizable growth from its beginnings. Mel Huden, Dave Robinson, Virgil Knight, and Bob Pfeiffer as the first few presidents had their hands full in the club's growth.

During Gordon Catching's presidency, one of our members, Alan Hoday, encouraged our club to provide a scholarship fund that assisted Amos Midamba from Africa in attending the Anchorage Community College. This was our first great venture

in allowing an international student to receive a portion of his education in the United States.

Then came the tragedy of the Good Friday Earthquake on March 27, 1964. John Miller, affectionately known as "The Earthquake President," led the club on some outstanding feats. The entire club pitched in and helped for more than 24 hours in round-the-clock vigils in keeping things orderly in Anchorage, retrieving belongings, and general help to re-establish Anchorage. A salvage team was organized to help displaced residents clear belongings from damaged and destroyed dwellings. The ROTARIAN magazine of June 1964 recounts the deeds of the Spenard Rotary Club during the earthquake.

Jud Harlan recounted during his year of hosting diplomats from the United Nations. That year the club also donated \$200 to District 510 in Chile for its earthquake disaster relief. During the club presidency of Jimmy Baker and incoming president, Jim Flood, the 53rd annual conference of Rotary District 504 was held at Anchorage, Alaska. A special feature of the conference was an Alaska Wild Game Dinner held on May 15, 1967.

Al Combs, during his presidency, had the honor of a visit of the President of Rotary International for 1969-1970, James F. Conway, and co-sponsored a dinner in his honor on September 8, 1969, together with the Anchorage Rotary Club. Also, during that year, Al began a program of providing from Rotarians in the Spenard club, host homes for December 24 and 25, for those airline personnel away from their homes during the holiday period. It was highly successful and warmly received by the airlines and crews.

During the presidency of Roy Davie, the airline personnel holiday time continued for December 24 and 25. The Anchorage East Rotary Club had been formed with the special representative for that large effort being Al Combs, and the 57th annual conference of Rotary District 504 was held in Anchorage, Alaska, under the co-sponsorship of the Anchorage, Spenard and Anchorage East clubs. Lloyd Hines was the District Governor (Anchorage Rotary Club), Bill Lahnum, Conference Chairman, complete with the ceremony of the Prince George, British Columbia, Pipe Band and Scottish Highland Dancers, and a parade by the Scottish Pipe Band down 5th Avenue. It was a district conference to be long remembered.

During 1973, with Forest Hayden as president, the Spenard Rotary Club sponsored the purchase of two dogs for Anchorage Police Department. Forest paved the way for Alaska participation in the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program, with an outbound student sponsored by the Spenard Club (Eileen McCormick) to Bolivia, and the acceptance of two inbound students: Monika Hehn from Germany, and Lindy Boxsell from Australia.

Under President Lloyd Lindsay, the Youth Exchange program was actively continued and a new program instituted by President Lindsay, to provide a food basket to needy families for Thanksgiving Day. The first Paul Harris Fellowship was awarded

to Virgil Knight, long active in Spenard Club and district activities. (The Rotary Club donated the sum of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation to bestow this honor on a Rotarian.)

Bob Smith, the next President of the club, continued the participation in the Youth Exchange program; begun in conjunction with the other two clubs in Anchorage, a Rotary Suit Sale with the proceeds to go to a designated cause and to rotate between the three Anchorage clubs' sponsored projects. The President of Rotary International, Bill Robbins, paid a visit to Anchorage and was hosted at a dinner in his honor at the Anchorage Westward Hotel. Bob presented him a five-foot high totem, named "The Real Bob Smith" from the Spenard Club. A picture of the presentation was published in ROTARIAN magazine. The club newsletter, the SPENARD SPOKES, was reactivated on a regular basis with Virgil Knight as editor.

During Jim Sutherland's presidency (1975-1976), the Rotary Suit Sale was continued, with the proceeds used to purchase a new freezer and other needed items for special homes supported by the Alaska Children's Services. An amount of \$1,200 was donated to the Kings Lake Fine Arts Camp for scholarships and building construction. A donation of \$500 was sent for earthquake relief for Guatemala. A Classification Survey was performed in the Palmer/Wasilla area as the groundwork for a future Rotary Club in that area. Past President Lloyd Lindsay was named during this time to become a Paul Harris Fellow for his dedicated work in the Spenard Club.

The next President, Al Opp, placed through the club the name of Virgil Knight, to become District Governor for 1977-78 of Rotary District 503. Al also organized the three Anchorage clubs to co-sponsor the District 503 Rotary Conference to be held in 1978; and recommended to the District Governor the name of Past President Jim Sutherland to be special representative in forming a Rotary Club in the Matanuska Valley. Jim Sutherland was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the club during Al's term of office.

During the year 1978, the Rotary District 503 Assembly and Conference was held in Anchorage, Alaska, sponsored by the three Anchorage clubs with Jim Sutherland from the Spenard Club serving as general chairman for the conference. Virgil Knight from our Club was District Governor for that Rotary year.

During the presidency of Hal Wagner, Forest Hayden, long active in the Rotary Youth Exchange program both at the club and District 503 levels, was honored by the club of being named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Jon Domela, the next president of the club, recommended the name of Chris Gibbs to become special representative to form a Rotary Club in Eagle River, Alaska. That Rotary Club of Eagle River became the third club sponsored by the Spenard Club. During this time, Al Combs headed a raffle, which began a fund to be named as the Virgil Knight Scholarship fund, in honor of the many years of service to Rotary by our beloved past president and district governor.

During the presidency of Chris Gibbs, Fred Chambers was recommended to become special representative of the District Governor in the formation of a new Rotary Club in the Kenai-Soldotna area; and Ed Muhlhauser was named the special representative to form a new club in South Anchorage. Those two clubs brought the total number of clubs sponsored by the Spenard Rotary Club to five, which remains a record for club sponsorship in District 503. George Hall was appointed to spearhead the First Annual Spenard Rotary Golf Tournament. It was held at Settler's Bay Golf Course and netted over \$1,900. Of that amount, \$1,455 was donated to the Boy Scouts of America.

George Hall became the next president of our club. The Golf Tournament Committee continued its efforts throughout the year. Many hours of effort were invested by the board to revise the bylaws. Also, the Virgil Knight Scholarship Fund was made a separate entity.

Brian Maither's year of presidency (1981-82) was an active one. Twenty-two new members were brought into the Spenard Club. The second annual Spenard Rotary Golf Tournament was again held at Settler's Bay, netting over \$9,000. Our club presented a check to the Boy Scouts of America for approximately \$7,000. Spenard Rotary teamed up with the National Federation of the Blind to present a musical program, which netted over \$6,000 for our club. Bronwon Evans from Australia was our foreign exchange student. She provided an excellent international exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Ken Ferguson was the president for 1982-83. He writes, "Two major events took place during my year as president. We celebrated the 25th anniversary of Spenard Rotary and we changed the name of our club to Anchorage International Rotary. I am, to date, the only man to serve as president of both Spenard and Anchorage International Rotary. We also experienced the wettest golf tournament in the history of the club. It was a terrific honor to serve as president of this fine club."

Trygve Erickson was president during 1983-84. He writes, "This will be remembered as a fun year for Anchorage International Rotary. We started the year with a king salmon fishing trip to the Deshka River. Using members' riverboats and airplanes, a large contingent of Rotarians and families had a fun weekend. Our next fun time was the annual picnic and fish fry. About the same time as the picnic, a Rotary group spent an enjoyable day and a half on members' boats at the Seward Silver Salmon Derby. We closed 1983 with a successful Christmas party. 1984 was highlighted with our Second Annual Lakeside Fireside at members' cabins in the Willow area.

Don Schroer (1985-86) term as president produced the first Anchorage International Club membership of over 100 members, while Rotary International went over the one-million-member mark. Don's emphasis on stressing a strong committee system for the club produced a very active club year.

The club participated in the Rotary Fur Rendezvous Float during Fred Kehl's Presidency (1987-88). Allen Combs donated the trailer for the float along with the garage space to build it. The theme was "ROTARY, SERVING YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD", and our exchange student, Marianne Keller, rode on the float. Fred also wrote that our club contributed a total of \$6,857.50 to local charities from the proceeds of the 1987 golf tournament, and that there were five Paul Harris Fellows inaugurated in the club in 1987-88 with a sixth to be brought in.

During Tim Dugan's term, we started 1988-1989 with our most profitable golf tournament. Teresa Nover was our first Rotary Foundation Scholar. She will studied in Thailand. Chris Giannotti was our first Rotary Group Study Exchange chosen. He spent six weeks in Japan. We helped a Rotary Club in Ajmer, India, with a well digging project. Anchorage International Rotary created a new club flag with the picture of a plane and the caption "Float Plane Capital of the World." Work was started to create sister clubs in Australia (Kensington in Sydney), in Korea (the Pyeongtaeg-Central Club), and in India (the Ajmer Club). We had a great meeting with the Pioneer Home residents as our guests. Our club adopted Dimond High and we had more activities with the students than ever before.

Leighton Thetford, president in 1989-1990 brought change to our Rotary room layout, utilizing a larger room with an elevated platform. Greeters welcomed members and visitors and part of our fellowship was to sing, at first reluctantly, replacing the Pledge. Our annual golf tournament, raffle, and dinner fundraiser was a huge success. This allowed our club to donate to numerous charities and complete financially our Kincaid Park Pavilion dream. Eighteen of our newest members became sustaining Paul Harris participants.

1990-1991, during the presidency of Harold Pierce, brought the completion of the pavilion at Kincaid Park. This project proved to be worthwhile. Not only did it create a project to develop a stronger camaraderie, but also it gave the community an outstanding recreational structure. During the year, our reinstated sponsorship of a foreign exchange student, paving the way for many more exchange students.

1991-1992 saw a larger Board of Directors, bringing the board to 15 members. This was implemented to give the Club Board of Directors a larger cross section of Rotarians. The death of several beloved Rotarians brought us the desire to keep their spirits alive through a revised and broadened scholarship fund conceived under Ron Wilde's leadership.

During the fiscal year 1992/93 the Anchorage International Rotary Club was fortunate to be involved in a variety of successes. Rotary International voted to increase our District 5010 to include all of Russia east of the Urals. (Over 30,000,000 people live in this area.) This made District 5010 the largest district in the world. Jim Sutherland, a past president of our Club and a longtime member, was the District Governor. Our Club increased its membership by 10%. Youth Exchange is a very big part of our Club and has increased our hosting from one student to two. During the 92/93 year our Club received the Rotary International Presidential Citation of

Accomplishment. All this was brought about under the leadership of Brian Britt, President.

During 1993/1994 President Joe Zimmermann initiated numerous changes for the development of the club, beginning with the implementation of "forward funding" so that incoming presidents would raise funds for their presidential years. With no money to spend that year the "Read to Me" program was introduced at North Star Elementary School with Rotarians reading to students. Other changes and activities during the year included establishing a Sergeant-at-Arms budget, Red Badge program for new members, the establishment of the Anchorage International Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2 salmon bakes, 4 club assemblies during the year, a Christmas party including an opera singer and Edgar Paul Boyko playing Santa, the creation of an intentionally diverse Board of Directors, mentorship program for new members, coordinating an areawide Rotary meeting including all Anchorage area Rotary clubs and a special guest speaker from Seattle, International Service projects capitalizing on obtaining matching funds, and an "I Did It" recognition program for club members who performed good works and accomplished Rotary goals. The club also raised \$1,000, then was able to obtain multiple matching grants to bring this to \$9,000, that was used to fund 9 "Rotahomes" in Fiji. A reward for accomplishments was winning awards including a Presidential Citation for "Balanced Club Achievement", and a District Governor's Citation for our "World Community Service, Fiji Rotahomes".

For 1994/95 Joan Beauchamp became Anchorage International Rotary Club's first female president. During Joan's year there was more participation in club activities for new members than any other time in recent years because of the red badge program. Socials began to grow and a greater percentage of members not only attended meetings but they also participated in more club activities. The club sponsored two incoming and two out-going exchange students. We also had one Cultural Ambassadorial Scholar who attended the Gothe Institute in Germany. Tim Dugan led a Group Study Exchange Team to Australia. Our members hosted three of the five GSE Team Members from Australia. A club survey gave Joan's year an outstanding report for fellowship, friendliness, and fun meetings. The club was also proud to have our women so active in our club.

1995/1996 was Ted Trueblood's year as club president. During Ted's year we continued our active club involvement to obtain the presidential citation. We sponsored two youth exchange students and continued our involvement with the school/business partnership and Read to Me program at North Star Elementary school. Ted held our club's first charity car raffle fund-raiser.

Chuck May was the club's president for 1996/1997. Chuck's theme for his year was "hands on projects" for our members. Highlights were the Bike Safety Program, meals for AWAIC Shelter, Food Bank, sweater drive, the "Read-to-Me Program", and cleanup of our Pavilion at Kincaid Park. Eleven Paul Harris awards were presented to club members; a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded; we contributed \$6,000 to Providence Children's Hospital; and presented a teacher of the year award to a teacher at North Star Elementary. The club hosted the Italian GSE Team, provided \$4,000 for

an eye camp in Waltair, India, and sponsored two exchange students from Finland and Australia. The club received the Presidential Citation and was recognized by the Rotary Foundation for \$10/member increase in giving to the Foundation.

For 1997/1998 Debbie Amundson was the club's president. Debbie's theme was "youth services". The club donated five \$1,000 scholarships, built playground equipment, sponsored a youth hockey team, purchased soccer goals for the Boys and Girls Club, hosted a youth exchange student from Denmark, purchased books, math kits, and dedicated the Lloyd Lindsay Reading Room at North Star Elementary. In addition, we hosted Russian students who attended RYLA, donated funds to The Children of Russia world community service project, awarded teacher of the year awards, and supported Junior Achievement classes. The club celebrated its 40th Anniversary, completed a beautification project at the Kincaid Pavilion, donated baby food to the Food Bank of Alaska, and contributed to Covenant House and the AWAIC shelter. We presented a Corporate Paul Harris award to Burger King of Alaska, held fun club fellowships, and supported the Rotary Foundation. Debbie held the club's first snow machine raffle, which raised over \$32,000.

Raj Bhargava was the Club President for 1998/1999. He was very interested in international projects, reaching out to Fiji, the Cook Islands, Russia and India. To improve camaraderie and "bring fun into Rotary" (the DG's theme), Raj held monthly fellowships to draw together all the members. (The club has a 15% turnover annually.) A \$30,000 collection from the snow machine raffle allowed the Club to donate \$6,000 to our scholarship fund, the largest amount to date. Other charity programs were funded at levels comparable to the previous year. A special event was the return of our first exchange student, Lindy Hooper from Australia, for a 25-year reunion. At the first meeting of the year, seven Rotary District Governors were present and the bilingual meeting was also conducted in Japanese. At the Changing of the Guard dinner, DG Peter Ernst and Sri Gurudeva of Hawaii were honored guests, closing out a wonderful year.

1999/2000 saw Mark Simpson as our Club President. Mark's theme was "Youth Enrichment & Education." The Club was active in all four areas of service, as well as the Paul Harris Foundation auction and the Scholarship awards program. The club was involved again with a Youth Exchange student from France, The Read-To-Me program at North Star Elementary, assistance with the Rotary Habitat House, support for the AWAIC Shelter, and the Food Bank of Alaska, to name a few. Also, several members of our Club traveled to India for the Polio Plus immunization. The Club raffle, in addition to the other fundraising events, raised over thirty thousand dollars for the 2000 Rotary year.

For 2000/2001, "the new millennium," Steve Strait was the Club President. Steve's focus was on community service and having fun meetings. Our Rotary club was awarded the Anchorage School district's prestigious 'Top Star' award, competing with 400 other business-school partnerships programs, in recognition of our dedication to the Read to Me program at North Star elementary school as well as providing Santa with gifts for all their students.

Anchorage International funded Habitat for Humanity projects in Anchorage and overseas, a Russian Irkutsk-Baikal Orphanage project, the Anchorage International Rotary Scholarship program and the Food Bank of Alaska in memory of the passing of member Jack Doyle. We raised money for the India Earthquake Disaster relief fund. The club exchange student was Eduardo Cordova Saiki from Peru. Club member Tim Dugan made the entire club proud when he was one of only 50 Rotarians worldwide to be awarded the coveted Rotary Foundation "Distinguished Service Award" from the Foundation Trustees.

Kim O'Meara (now Erickson) led the club as President during the 2001-2002 Rotary Year. Along with Rotarians around the world, we launched a "Global Quest" for new members that brought in 19 new members with a net increase in membership of over 10%. The Club sponsored Samuli Nevanpera as our inbound youth exchange student from Finland and sent Maile Bruns as our outbound student to Venezuela. Other International Services included hosting for a humanitarian mission to eastern Russia, sending a GSE applicant to India, and Tim Dugan's work to coordinate clubs from several districts for a Low-Income Housing project in El Salvador. Locally, we continued our award-winning School Business Partnership with Northstar Elementary School, provided student scholarships through the Anchorage International Memorial Scholarship Fund, rang the bell for Salvation Army, participated in building a Rotary Habitat for Humanity House in Anchorage, and took part in the 2nd. Annual Pillars of America program. Member enthusiasm for these and other Rotary projects was evident in the success of each of our fund-raisers during the year. The club raised \$50,535 during our annual fall raffle led by President-Elect Ben Walters, and set records for our Scholarship Pie Auction (\$6,150) and Foundation Auction (\$6,337). All in all, it was truly a year of members exhibiting "service above self" in a variety of Rotary activities.

Ben Walters was our club President for 2002/2003. He had been a Rotarian for 33 years. He came to Anchorage from Ketchikan where he served as the District Attorney. His Uncle, John R. King, known as "Cap" King, was one of the first members inducted into the club after it was chartered and he introduced Ben to Rotary. Honoring the memory of his uncle, Ben accepted the call for President-Elect for the year 2002/2003. Referring to himself as one of the "Ole Guys", one of his goals for the Rotary meetings is to have fun. He believes the meetings need to be interesting, something that is worth taking the time away from our other responsibilities to attend. He states that Friendship and Fellowship are very important aspects of his Rotary goals. Ben is excited about the possibility of installing a playground in conjunction with the picnic shelter at Kincaid Park as he took part in the construction of the Shelter. As Rotary President for the year 2002-2003 Ben stated that he wished to lead the Rotary in making "a lasting contribution to our community and maybe move our aspirations toward world understanding and peace a little closer to reality."

Vito Ungaro served as President for the Rotary year 2003/2004. The Rotary theme was "Lend a Hand" and there were many opportunities created to meet that theme under Vito's watch. Vito was born in Brooklyn, New York, and had lived in Alaska

for over 20 years and had been in Anchorage International Rotary since 1996. A major focus of Vito's year was to incorporate "fun" into meetings and social gatherings. Throughout the year, Anchorage International Rotary played host to events that included other local Rotary clubs - softball games, a rafting trip, and outside social picnics to name a few. North Star Elementary School which is part of the Rotary 100 Year Centennial Project, received combination TV/VCR/DVD to be used as a teaching tool. Over the previous 6 years Vito has assured that every child at North Star received a gift during the holiday season. As Rotary President, Vito increased club membership and received a Presidential Citation among other awards. Vito said of his year "I just love doing things for the kids in our community which I was able to do with the North Star project and will work in the future on a Rotarian Memorial that will recognize deceased club members".

Cindy Hawkins presided over the club during the 2004/2005 Centennial year. The projects included North Star School computers, AWAIC shelter and many others.

For the year 2005/2006 Larry Linegar was the president.

Donna Benjamin was president during 2006/2007. Her goal for the year was to get members more actively involved in projects and to have a good time doing it. She focused on hands on projects such as Habitat for Humanity. Her year was highlighted by numerous social events such as wine tasting, progressive dinners, and other fun activities. Her year went out in a bang with a Hawaiian Luau that featured a whole roasted pig and hula dancing by both Donna Benjamin and president elect Greg Wakefield.

During 2007/2008, Greg Wakefield presided over the club. His focus was to complete an ambitious project started during Larry Linegar's year. The Kincaid Park project added to the clubs support of the picnic pavilion area out at Kincaid Park with a memorial walk, additional flower beds and placing whale bones at the end of the memorial walk. His year culminated in the completion of this project.

Al Biss presided over the club during 2008/2009. His year was highlighted by many community activities and projects that were in place as well as maintaining the Kincaid Park project after vandalism to the whale bones.

During 2009/2010 Naomi Sweetman presided over the club. Her theme for the year was "Back to Basics". The focus of club activities, during her year, club members were asked to ensure that community projects that were financially supported also had a component of involvement from the club, either through presentations at the club or actual work on the community project. This year saw the re-emergence of the North Star Elementary "Read to Me" program as well as the implementation of the North Star Elementary Parent's University where parents were provided instruction on the use of the personal computer and a computer to take home. During first Friday's the club recited the 4-Way test with various levels of success. Speakers were honored for their programs through a donation of a book each week to North Star Elementary School.

Bob Huston was president during the 2010/2011 Rotary year. During his tenure Tim Trueblood started the North Star Elementary School Parent's University project. Meals and support were provided to Clare House, the Santa Project was a big success and we teamed with the Girdwood Rotary club on a wine tasting event.

Tim Ellis served as club president for the 2011/2012 rotary year. During Tim's tenure we were very proud of AIR past President Ted Trueblood who served as District Governor of our Rotary District 5010. This was the last year District 5010 included the Russian clubs, at the end of this rotary year the Russian clubs officially became their own district. Our youth exchange student was Camilla Nordmann from Denmark and the club now had a Facebook page. The AIR Club was recognized and awarded the Anchorage School District School Business Partner Star Award for all the work done with North Star Elementary School. We participated in the MOA Build a Bike program, the Spenard Health Fair and we also helped with security at the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall. Our club provided funding to many worthy causes including the Virgil Knight Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, the Alaska Veterans Museum for a memorial sign on Attu Island, the Anchorage Senior Center, First Tee Golf Program for Youth, the Food Bank Move for Hunger, STAR and Scholarships were awarded to High School Students going on to advanced education.

Jan Ingram served as club president in 2012/2013.

For the 2013/2014 Rotary year, Greg O'Keefe served as our club president. Under his leadership and with help from Nina Mann the club continued to support Clare House by providing dinners, assembling desks, and preparing a grant for a commercial dishwasher for their new facility. AIRC participated in the Heart Run, and our social chair, Cathie Straub, organized a number of great firesides. The first was at President Greg's house welcoming our exchange student Indra Beenen from Germany. Another fireside was hosted at the home of Gil Kruschitz, and a great Super Bowl party at Kevin Fimon's house, followed by a "Sweet 16" party for Indra at the Wakefield home. Club member Phil Livingston organized another successful health fair at the Spenard Rec Center and Ben Schulman organized support for the Stone Soup group. During the district conference AIRC was recognized for co-sponsoring the new district e-club, and we had a team of volunteers help paint a house in East Anchorage. The Erickson's once again sponsored the Iditarod restart party at their house at Long Lake and then invited everyone back after the snow melted for a going away party for Indra.

Bill Pearson had the distinguished honor as serving as club president for the 2014/2015 year which he themed "Membership and Meetings." Bill's year started out with an intense primary season for the Governor and U.S. Senate with many of the distinguished candidates presenting to the club, including the eventual winners. Bill proved that you can be a President and new father with the birth of his son only five weeks into his tenure as President. The first social event was held at Past President Al Biss' house and was enjoyed by all. The club's tenor did not slow down with a run off in the Mayoral election the next spring. Once again, the club hosted a vibrant exchange student, Emma from Finland, who amazed us with her energy and adventure, including a trip down the Grand Canyon. A rotating group (just like the origins of Rotary) of Past

Presidents agreed to serve as Sargent-At-Arms keeping the club in line and providing the traditional Anchorage International Rotary Club levity. The Foundation Auction and King Career Center auctions were banner successes raising funds for the foundation and scholarships. The club even made the evening news when they showed up in mass for the Paint the Town Event. New membership increased significantly and all around the Club enjoyed another fantastic year. The traditional club programs were supported with the help of the membership and an always engaged Board of Officers.

Kevin Fimon Club President 2015/2016:

2016-17 saw Bruce Erickson serving as Club President. The tone for the year was for Anchorage International Members to be proud of what they have worked hard to build and to make sure the rest of Rotary and the Community see what we do. The year began with saying goodbye to Ply (Insiri Thitikul) as she returned home to Thailand and hearing from 15-16 outbound student, Andrew Kagerer, on his year in Indonesia. Andrew was just one of many fascinating speakers for the year. Our year of service started with a great piece of Bakery Equipment being donated to the Downtown Soup Kitchen's New Hope Center with the help of a District Grant. The King Career Center Pie Auction was a great success with a large sum of money raised for the Scholarship Fund. February brought our Foundation auction where Jan Ingram and Celeste Cohen led the way to a record setting haul for the Foundation and Polio Plus. A.I.R. adopted a Road for Cleanup and we painted a House in early June. DG Michelle O'Brien visited, there was a great evening social at Cathie Straub's Home. We also gathered for the Santa Bob Run in December, Rang the Bell for the Salvation Army, had a Midnight Putters Golf Tournament in June and closed the year with a changing of the guard at the Alaska Zoo.

2017-2018 Ben Schulman had the privilege of serving as Club President. The club enjoyed another fun year with involvement in the cleanup of Wisconsin Street, we supplied school supplies and put together baskets for teachers of North Star Elementary. We provided meals for the Clare House, Supported Dollars for Dogs, gave money to the Dictionary Project in local schools, and supported Alaska Child & Family. We also used a district grant to purchase a Tilt Skillet for the Downtown Hope Center with the help of Anchorage South Rotary Club and Anchorage East Rotary Club. During the year, we completed a Vision Session which had not been done since Past President Jan Ingram's year. We hosted Akila Amala as an inbound Student from Indonesia and sent out Ellen Wallace as our outbound exchange student who went to Belgium. We had a couple great Firesides with one that included RI's Dean Rohrs and was hosted by Past DG Ted Trueblood and his wife Gloria. Another successful Pie Auction was held at King Career Center soon to be King Tech High School. Our Foundation Chair, Celeste Cohen, rallied the troops for another fabulous Foundation Auction that raised over \$23K. It was a full year held together by the support of a fabulous board.

2018-2019 Debra Mason started her year out by breaking her ankle, canceling the first Board meeting, and not attending the first couple of meetings in July. Fortunately, the past presidents were willing and able to take over meetings until Debra was able to step back in to run meetings. It was amazing how everyone helped. Despite

the rocky start, we had a fun year doing all the things we normally do, including meals for Clare House, helping with the Dictionary Projects, and supporting various charities in Anchorage. Additionally, we did several international projects. We sent \$2,000 to a food bank in La Mission, Mexico, and over 45 children's books to a library in La Mission, Mexico. We sponsored and supported the FASD project where we sent a vocational training team to Australia to learn more about how they handle fetal alcohol syndrome. We also took part in the Open World Program with the Homer-Kachemak Bay Club. This project required lots of hands-on volunteers, both from the Club and from others. We hosted the Russian delegation formed of five business professionals and entrepreneurs, a bicultural facilitator, an interpreter, and the Rotary International Open World Liaison. The delegation was hosted by the Rotary Club of Homer-Kachemak Bay from May 17-21, 2019. On May 21, the delegation traveled to Anchorage until their return home on May 25. While in Anchorage, the Open World program participants were hosted by members of the Rotary Club of Anchorage International as well as two Rotarians from other Anchorage Clubs. We arranged for them to meet with many different businesses, government officials and UAA educators. Everyone who met the delegation was impressed with their knowledge and willingness to share their ideas. It was clear that the delegates share common goals and aspirations as those they met with during their visit. We had a successful Pie Auction held at King Tech High School. Our Foundation chair, Becky Erickson, did a fabulous job planning and working the Foundation Auction. It was a wonderful year due to the support of our fabulous board and members.

2019 – 2020: Angie Rush: While my year saw the beginning of a pandemic that derailed many of our efforts, I was incredibly grateful for the support and resiliency of our AWESOME club. To the Past Presidents who committed to serving alongside me during my term, THANK YOU. Your guidance, longevity, mentoring, and past leadership helped me be a better Rotarian and assisted me in going outside of my comfort zone, to do something I would never have considered before. Thank you for those who shared, "You can't break Rotary."

2020 – 2021: Art Clark: We had a fairly successful year during the 2020 pandemic. In that year we had the opportunity to have guest speakers from around the country. Including Jodie Olsen, the head of the Peace Corp. Not only did we hear from her, but we had people giving us presentations and updates from around the country. We also had a great opportunity to come together as a group for mutual support in a troubling time.

2021 – 2022: Ric Schmidt: We began the 2021-2022 AIRC year with club participation in the July 9th AK Child & Family Alaska Flag Day Parade, which was followed up by a wonderful AIRC club social Luau at Penny May's house. At the end of July 17 AIRC club members showed up for the Wisconsin Road Cleanup with additional help from AIRC member Neil Harper's Street Sweeper. August brought AIRC participation in the Hillside Fire Festival, followed by the September AIRC support for the North Star Grade School Health Fair and the Moose Mama organization. Another Wisconsin Road Cleanup was held in October, along with the AK Child & Family Book Drive gathering 3,682 books. November was a busy month with the

ASYMCA Marketplace and 'Arctic Warrior' projects, plus the AIRC Thanksgiving Flower Major Fundraiser. December Salvation Army Bell Ringing brought AIRC members together in a community fundraising event and the year wrapped up with the ASYMCA Marketplace Food/Books Drive and a Holiday Fireside at Penny May's house. The new year brought a club commitment for the 'Fun on the Run' and 'Play to Learn' District Grant projects, and the AIRC Memorial Scholarship organizational meeting. Student Anna-Lisa Promish attended the RYLA gathering at King's Lake Camp. A District Grant Submittal for a storage shed at Clare House was tendered and approved, plus \$1,000 committed to Russian Jack Rotary Club for AYC District Grant. The May Wisconsin Road Cleanup saw 16 club members participate along with Neil Harper's Street Sweeper. The last month included the "Adopt a Precinct" Fundraiser and the assembly of 650 bags for 'Fun on the Run' & 'Play to Learn' Club/District Projects. Every other month AIRC provided dinner for Clare House with additional support during holiday times. The year wrapped up with the Changing of the Guard Dinner at the Wakefield's residence.

2022 – 2023: Jay Tung: This year's focus was rebuilding the club's social foundation after two years of COVID remote meetings. We restarted weekly in-person meetings and increased attendance from single digits to above pre-COVID 30s/40s. We organized monthly social events to reintroduce ourselves without the one-hour meeting rush. With an energized membership push, our Rotarians brought in eight new members. On Veterans Day, we facilitated presentation of Quilts of Valor Combat Awards to six AIRC club/family members including husband/wife and father/son pairs ranging from Vietnam to Afghanistan/Iraq Wars. Engaged members introduced the Alaska Adopt a Precinct program, enabling us to serve the community, support the democratic process, and increase our club operations budget. After working one election, an AIRC member spoke with the host school principal, resulting in a donation of \$600 in snacks for North Star Elementary instructional support. Our Memorial Scholarship annual Pie Auction fundraiser came back after a 2-year hiatus, raising almost \$16K for the endowment fund and awarding \$15K in secondary education scholarships to deserving high school seniors. We continued to sponsor suppers for Clare House, a local women's/children's shelter, contributing approximately 300 meals including a lavish Christmas dinner. In addition, with a \$3.3K District Grant, we purchased a King Tech School built storage shed, garden tools, and toys for Clare House's new garden and play area. Anchorage International joined Russian Jack and East Anchorage Rotary Clubs in a joint District Grant for Anchorage Youth Court's Peer Mediation Course in teen conflict resolution. Over 20 members enjoyed volunteering again as holiday bell ringers for the Salvation Army, even bringing pets and live music. Heavily involved in this year's District RYLA conference held in ANC, our members took the lead for support, contributing funds and garnering sponsors for food, activities, and swag for the RYLA weekend. We enthusiastically participated in AK Air National Guard's outreach program, enabling club families to learn of the 176th Wing's mission and support of the Alaskan community. One member spearheaded a drive for the Alaska Armed Services YMCA, resulting in a donation of \$1K in goods/cash to the ASYMCA Marketplace supporting JBER families. A great rebuild year to springboard into an even better 2023-24 term for President Becky.

2023-2024: Becky Erickson: We started the Rotary year with the beat of a drum, by Anchorage Firefighters Pipes and Drums at our first annual Field of Honor. Five hundred flags flew in formation at Delany Park Strip, on July 4th. It was a huge undertaking and investment and I am honored that AIRC members believed in me and helped create this fundraiser and community event, even though they could not really see the big picture until it was all in place!

July 14th was my first regular meeting at the podium and how do you top the Field of Honor? You invite opera performer Luke Honeck to sing an acapella rendition of our National Anthem.

This bio would be too long if I went into detail on all the projects and volunteer time AIRC members contributed, so here is the short version we accomplished: Alaska Child & Family AK Flag Day and Trunker Treat, Project Amigo – Sponsored student Edwin Israel Andreas Martinez, Third Grade Dictionary Project, Walk a mile in Her Shoes, North Star Elementary School snacks, clothing and Fall Carnival, Thanksgiving Flower Bouquet Fundraiser, Alaska Health Fair Inc. District Matching Grant, Alaska Armed Services YMCA, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Clare House monthly feeding, Scholarship Pie Auction which allowed us to award \$15,000 covering 10 scholarships, Foundation Auction that we partnered with Anchorage East Rotary, Wisconsin Road Clean Up, Eagle River Nature Center Pollinator Garden District Matching Grant, which coincided with the Zone 28/32 Life on Land Symposium. Over 100 Rotarians from both zones along with RI President Gordon and Heather McNally attended worked on the garden.

Three District Matching Grants accomplished by our club and each one gave back to the community in amazing ways.

Our club is not just a service club, we also mentor and I am so pleased that we made an impact on two young gentlemen that Angie Rush shared with us from Alaska Child & Family, Samarious and Aiden, they both embraced our club and keep Rotary values as they move on to new life adventures.

I am the first to admit that standing in front of the room was not my strong point and I have a little trouble delegating duties, but I am so proud to have been President of AIRC and thank the members for allowing me the honor.

**ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 – 2025**

President: Mark Cosby
President Elect: Shari Showalter
Immediate Past President: Becky Erickson
Secretary: Shera Boom
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Director - Vocational Service: VACANT
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Director - Community Service: Monika Fair
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Club Administration: VACANT
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Programs: Ben Schulman
Rotary Foundation: Ted Trueblood, Director
Polio Plus Chair: George Stweart
Grants Chari: Shari Showalter
Fundraising Chair: Ben Schulman
Membership: Becky Erickson
Membership Co-Chair: VACANT
Sergeant at Arms: Patrick May
Co-Sergeant at Arms: Penny May
Social Chair/ Public Relations: Penny May
Scribe: Trygve Erickson
Weekly Bulletin: Kris Shippen
Website: VACANT
Youth Services Committee: VACANT
Calendar Organizer: Jeanne Brady
Social Media: Chera Boom
Executive Secretary: Janine Becka