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# North Scottarian

**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SCOTT**

Eldridge/Davenport, Iowa

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#### 2019-20

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Jeff Martens

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### Executive Secretary

Deb Peterson

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## North Scott Rotary Honors Dennis Peterson



The invitation went out at 9 a.m. and 47 Rotarians and friends gathered in executive secretary Dennis Peterson's yard last Thursday evening (June 4) to pray, sing and pay their respects. Dennis died two days later. A tribute with more pictures and an obituary are inside.

## This Friday - Our Last Zoom Meeting

## Eldridge update

Eldridge Mayor and North Scott Rotarian Marty O'Boyle will join us at noon on Friday with newly hired city administrator Lisa Kotter to highlight activities in the City of Eldridge and answer our questions. Also, district Rotarians will honor Steve Suiter for his bequest to The Rotary Foundation.



Marty O'Boyle



Lisa Kotter

**Calendar with important dates for future on page 2**

## NORTH SCOTT ROTARY - Calendar of Events

**Friday, June 12:** Weekly meeting via zoom. Marty O'Boyle and new city administrator Lisa Kotter will talk and answer questions about issues of the city. Steve Suiter recognized by District 6000 for Level 2 Bequest Society.

**Friday, June 19:** Board of Directors meeting, 10:45 a.m.

**Friday, June 19:** Our first weekly meeting back at the Steeplegate Inn. Watch for information on COVID-19 protocols. Program is "Lindsay's Legacy," with speaker Diane Koster, mother of the late North Scott Rotarian Lindsay Thul, who died Feb. 1, 2017 at age 29. Zoom link available for those who wish to remote attend. Presentation of Guardian of Integrity Award.

**Saturday, June 20:** Trike build organized by Jeff Ashcraft. "We have scheduled a tryke build for Saturday, June 20 at 9 a.m. at the home of Brad Burt in Eldridge. We hope to build up to six trykes that day, and are in need of no more than 10 Rotarians to volunteer. The build will be

led by Mike Snyder from Mississippi Bend Trykes and should last only a couple of hours at most. If you have time that morning, and would be like to be one of the 10 volunteer builders, please email me at [jeffashcraft@hdcmail.org](mailto:jeffashcraft@hdcmail.org). Please remember we are only going to allow the people who sign up to help build that morning so that we can properly social distance, etc. I'll jot down the first 10 to respond."

**Friday, June 26:** District 6000 Virtual Gavel Passing, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Watch for instructions to log on.

**Friday, June 26:** Installation Party organized by Josie Seymour at Sheridan Meadows Park in Eldridge at 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, July 3:** No meeting

**Friday, July 10:** Back at the Steeplegate Inn (Zoom link available)

**Friday, July 17:** North Scott Rotary Youth Day at the Steeplegate Inn to recognize scholarship recipients.

## 'One of the nicest, most gentle souls I have met'

By Bill Tubbs, reprinted from *The North Scott Press*

I had planned to write about other things this week, but sometimes circumstances claim a higher priority.

This is one of those times.

The email that came Saturday morning from Rotary club president Jeremy Kaiser was not unexpected, but nevertheless hit hard:

*"We just received word that longtime North Scott Rotary member and executive secretary, Dennis Peterson, passed away this morning. Dennis was such a large part of our club, he will be greatly missed in so many ways. On a personal note, Dennis was one of the nicest, most gentle souls I have ever met. Please keep Deb and the Peterson family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."*

The last in-person meeting of the 98-member club was March 5. Weekly meetings resumed the second week of April by Zoom, but by then Dennis was hospitalized, unable to receive visits from his wife, Deb, who assisted as executive secretary, and back-and-forth between care facilities seeking to regain strength after a stroke.

It wasn't to be. Early last week he returned to his residence on South 8th Street for home hospice.

Wednesday evening Dr. Brad Burt, our incoming president, called president Jeremy Kaiser with an inspiration. We should invite members to gather in the Petersons' yard and serenade. The email went out at 9 a.m. Thursday and on only nine hours' notice, 47 showed up.

The first half hour, members walked to the patio door and extended personal greetings to Dennis, who did his best to acknowledge them from his hospital bed.

Signatures were collected on a large, "We (Heart) Dennis" poster.

With members circled around the yard, president Jeremy rang the bell (which I had brought from home; it was a gift from the Rotary district 15 years ago) and called the meeting to order. Members bowed their heads for a heartfelt invocation from past president Scott Case, and song leader and past president Jeff Ashcraft led us in the songs that have been sung at club meetings for decades: "America the Beautiful," "Welcome Song" (to the tune of "Give My Regards to Broadway"), and R-O-T-A-R-Y.

These were accompanied by Jody Johnston-Mohr on a piano that was brought in on a flatbed.

It was meaningful to the point that members didn't want to leave. But we did, quietly, of course, as storm clouds were gathering for high winds and rain later in the evening.

Thirty-six hours later, Dennis was gone.

### Fellowship

Fellowship is a Core Value of Rotary, and in my years of membership, this was one of the most memorable examples of fellowship, that is, watching out for one another in times good and bad.

Dennis Peterson was invited to Rotary membership in 1999 by Bob Bainter and made an impact right away, taking charge of the Youth Exchange program which brought some 15 international students to North Scott over the years.

Nearly half of those students were hosted for at least part of their years by the Petersons. Each in his or her own way left a mark at North Scott.

During my governor year of 2004-05, I opened membership on district committees to newcomers, and Dennis and Deb became part of District 6000's Youth Exchange Committee, making friends with leaders from across the southern half of Iowa. This was no small deal, as District 6000's Youth Exchange program is among the best in the world.

The Petersons persuaded North Scott Rotarian Paul Kalainoff and Susan to join the Youth Exchange Committee, and Paul became chair of the Outbound program, screening and encouraging students to Rotary's high standards for years abroad.

Together for many years in early March, the Petersons and Kalainoffs organized a retreat for Youth Exchange students at the Steeplegate Inn which was paid for by North Scott Rotary. As many as 25 to 30 students from countries on many continents spent a weekend together swimming, laughing and playing games as kids would do, blending native languages and cultures as one human family.

In these and other ways, Dennis created goodwill and better friendships – foundations for peace. His death, too soon, leaves a hole in our hearts, but thanks to the organizing of Brad and Jeremy, we will always have last Thursday to remember.

Godspeed, Dennis.





# North Scott Rotary tribute to Dennis Peterson

Rotary  June 4, 2020



Photos by North Scott Press





## OBITUARY

### Dennis Peterson

Dennis "Denny" Ward Peterson, 76, of Eldridge, passed away Saturday morning, June 6, peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

He was born on April 15, 1944, to Carl and May (Ward) Peterson in Burlington. He was the fifth of six siblings. On March 22, 1970, he married Deborah Sue Collogan in Grand Junction, Iowa. They were blessed with four children.

Dennis graduated from Iowa State University in 1970 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a member of the Army Reserves from 1964-1972. His first job at The Type-writer Shop in Burlington led him to his real passion, computers. He was self-employed as a computer programmer for most of his career. He was the co-owner and landlord of Peterson Properties and held his real estate license with Mel Foster and Iowa Realty. He was very active in the North Scott Rotary, serving as secretary, vice president and president. He hosted several youth exchange students through the Rotary program. He assisted with several community projects in the North Scott area. He was active with his church community, Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge. He served as treasurer at Faith for several years, plus president for a year. He loved and appreciated all of the friends he made through these organizations.

Dennis enjoyed many hobbies and past-times, most of all building, maintaining and enjoying the family cabin on the Mississippi



River near Burlington. He would regularly take his children and grandchildren boating, tubing, fishing and skiing. He enjoyed cooking for the many people that would congregate there on the weekends. He loved spending time at the cabin with all of his extended family members. Another love was flying. He was a pilot for over 20 years, owning his own small plane. While either making trips across the state for holidays or for work, he would often travel in his plane instead of driving.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, his four children, Dawn Martens and Tom McNeil of Wapello, Danelle and Ron Knoche of Iowa City, Deanne and Chris McCarthy of Eldridge, and Devin and Kourtney Peterson of Park View; eight grandchildren, Alyson and Amber Martens, Emily, Anna and Olivia Knoche, Brady Stover, Kinsley and Presley Peterson. He is also survived by his siblings, Dona Dee Swygard, Ronald and Connie Peterson and Joy and Gary Bryant, plus his mother-in-law, Waunita Collogan. He was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law Lowell Collogan, and siblings Marilyn Peterson (in infancy) and Delores Hartman.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday June 11, at the Runge Mortuary & Crematory Davenport. Visitation 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 10 (today), at the Mortuary.

The family wishes memorial contributions be made to "Dennis Peterson" for a contribution to the North Scott Rotary or Faith Lutheran Church in lieu of flowers.

## LAST WEEK

Sixty members and friends connected via Zoom to hear Dr. Louis Katz present the latest data about COVID-19. Visiting Rotarians included Past District Governor Jacque Andrew (Jefferson), District Governor Nominee Alka Khanolkar (Keokuk), Bill Koellner (West Liberty) and Anne Calder (Davenport).

– Bill Tubbs, Interim Editor

Rotary



- ✓ **Join Leaders**
- ✓ **Exchange Ideas**
- ✓ **Take Action**