

# ROTARY CLUB NEWS: Rotarians reflect on FISU experience

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Lake Placid Rotary Club member Debbie Erenstone, left, poses with fellow 2023 FISU Winter World University Games volunteer Amy Garrison. (Provided photo)

Six members of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid volunteered for six or more shifts at the Lake Placid 2023 FISU Winter World University Games this month, and many more Rotarians participated as guests and spectators.

Even before the games began, Rotarians were engaged with the project.

“My commitment to the FISU games was completed before the games even began,” wrote Rotarian May Chow. “I chose a position in accreditation. I helped with issuing credentials to the workforce staff and volunteers. I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing friends. It was a great experience.”

Lee Lamparski was unable to be in Lake Placid during the games, yet wanted to volunteer where she could. So she helped with the uniform distribution before the games.

“I got to see, firsthand, the hundreds of volunteers it took to run these events,” Lamparski said. “I enjoyed talking with people who came from across this country, as far as LA, and Canada. As early as December the volunteers were excited to be here, some were visiting for the first time.”



Lake Placid Rotary Club member Randy Quayle asks Nancy Beattie, of Lake Placid, for her credentials at the Olympic Center during the 2023 FISU World University Games. (Provided photo)

Carolyn Bordonaro, who owns Origin Coffee Co. in Lake Placid and Saranac Lake, wrote, “Around the world, coffee is one of those things that brings people together. It was pretty cool to stop and look around our shops and see people from all different countries, speaking many different languages, and really enjoying themselves. We had a blast getting to meet so many friendly people from all over the world and heard many nice remarks from visitors about their great time at the games.”



Randy Quayle volunteered for general help at the Olympic Center.

“I’ve enjoyed my volunteer work,” he said. “Lots of nice people and it’s good to feel a part of something. The volunteer coordinators were well trained and did a great job and it was a lot of fun.”

Debbie Erenstone volunteered at Mount Van Hoevenberg and for the biathlon.

Rotarian Sean Donovan worked hospitality and protocol at Mount Van Hoevenberg. He spent most of his time in the VIP lounge, where he met coaches, officials and FISU delegates from France, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Italy, Uganda and Benin.

If it was someone’s first visit here, Donovan asked about their impression of Lake Placid and the Adirondacks.

“It was so nice to receive not just positive responses, but often energetic positive responses,” he said.

Donovan escorted medal and mascot presenters to the staging area for the ceremony preparation.

“I was even fortunate enough to be a presenter at the team biathlon ceremony where the U.S., Japan, and Ukraine were awarded gold, silver, bronze, respectively,” he said.

All the Rotarian volunteers commented that they were impressed by the professional execution of the events and the commensurate live video productions, both live and broadcast.

“The ORDA crews,” Donovan said, “teamed with support teams germane to each event and assisted by volunteers, continually produced timely and professional quality events, particularly in light of almost daily weather changes impacting the conditions at Mount Van Hoevenberg.”

Stephanie Pianka volunteered with protocol and FISU relations.

“I was responsible for ensuring that the VIP lounges at the ’32 Rink, ’80 Rink and speedskating oval were stocked by catering, kept in good condition and that checking credentials to ensure that access to the lounges was restricted to FISU officials, family, guests and local officials and VIPs,” she said. “I enjoyed meeting other local residents who volunteered (including a gentleman and his wife who just built a house here and also live in Hawaii), athletes, officials and coaches from all over the world and even Nathan Chen. I am glad that I was able to participate in this event and help the community.”

As a result of the work of these six volunteers, FISU will provide a \$300 grant per volunteer to our club, a total of \$1,800. Rotary is grateful for the opportunity to take part in such a great event and for the financial support.

(Martha Pritchard Spear is a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid.)