

# Rotarian Spotlights

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## Tom Van Cleave & Marge Brown September 1, 2022



**Tom Van Cleave:** Tom's first exposure to Rotary was when he was 12 and his uncle took him to a meeting in Polo, IL. Years later, he was asked to join the Batavia Club by member Don Clark. Don thought Tom's business would benefit from visiting the club, and the rest is history. When asked why he has remained a member for so many years, Tom points to the strong friendships he has formed, the vibrant conversation at meetings, our philanthropy, and of course, the regular service projects. Tom also likes our international efforts, like the Foundation Grant he coordinated to provide over \$10,000 in dental supplies to a clinic in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Tom says one thing you take away from Rotary is the feeling that you are welcome anywhere in the world. He can name 17 Rotary Clubs he has visited during personal and business travel. He recalls how the Rotary Club of San Juan helped him organize a 100 person visit to the island. "Rotary," says Tom, "is like a welcome mat."

**Marge Brown:** Already well-known throughout Batavia, Marge joined the club at husband Dave's urging. Dave had joined earlier and positioned the club as a great couple experience. (We have multiple members who are couples.) Marge was also looking for a way to have an impact beyond the immediate community. Almost seven months into Rotary, Marge is impressed with the impact the club has locally and Rotary International's global reach. She shared that the number of projects delivered by our small group is truly outstanding. Of course, Marge stepped right up and became involved. While she has always been involved in community activities, Marge says that her involvement in Rotary has more clearly defined her purpose. She has enjoyed meeting new and interesting people while getting to know some earlier acquaintances a little better. She believes we need to do a better job of increasing our visibility. Marge is proud to be a Rotarian and wants everyone to know that if you want to have an impact on your community, Rotary is for you.

## Holly Deitchman & Dan Hoefler September 16, 2022



**Holly Deitchman:** Holly loves her fellow Rotarians and says that Rotary serves as her reminder of the importance of serving. Originally invited to join by Library Director George Scheetz, Rotary has exposed Holly to local leaders and increased her visibility within the community. When Holly attended her first meeting, she was surprised to meet the Fire Chief, Sheriff, a council member, local business owners, and Batavians from all occupations. Holly was one of three female members and is the first woman to serve a full term as President. She has also been Youth Exchange Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Appropriations Chair, and has served on multiple committees. She has stayed with Rotary for 13 years because of the friendships she has formed and the regular service projects that she regularly attends with her children. Holly says that Rotary takes priority in her calendar after 13 years of active participation. She is especially fond of the support Rotary gives to local Not-for-Profits.

**Dan Hoefler:** Twelve years ago, Dan was a member of the Historic Preservation Commission who regularly purchased Rotary Corvette Raffle tickets. He knew many Rotarians and was eventually invited to a breakfast meeting by then member Tom Lalonde. He realized that joining Rotary would put him in touch with his community while expanding his personal reach and impact. He also became aware of an extended family connection: his father-in-law was a founding member of the club when it was chartered in 1948. Dan rapidly became engaged in club activities, including the Raffle Committee, Appropriations, and served as President for 1-1/2 terms. He shared that the club has changed and adapted well over the past 12 years while continuing to have significant local and international impact. Dan's involvement in Rotary keeps him focused and energetic. He supports the global mission and loves the club's service orientation. Dan says, "The world needs organizations like Rotary." We couldn't agree more.

## Marcie Lucas & Bob Hubbard October 30, 2022



**Marcie Lucas** joined Rotary in February 2022. She had been invited to speak to the club in her role as Foundation Coordinator for Fox Valley Special Recreation Association. She researched the club prior to her visit and liked what she learned. Marcie decided to join the club after her visit and immediately became engaged. So, what convinced her to join? Marcie loves Batavia and immediately saw Rotary for what it is. Rotarians care about their community and work to have a positive impact on everyone. Marcie says, "This is a diverse group of people who share common values while valuing their differences." There are many things she likes about the club. It is a great way to meet people and make new friends, share values, and make a huge impact on the community. She also appreciates the flexible attendance requirements that allow her to focus on her work while still being a contributing club member. One of the first people Marcie recruited was her husband, Mark. Mark is now our Environmental Committee Chair. Marcie and Mark are one of three couples in our club. Marcie shared that Rotary is the place to be if you want to make an impact and have fun while you do.

**Bob Hubbard** joined the Rotary Club in 1985 and is one of our longest serving members. Bob was raised in Batavia, attended Wartburg College after high school, and was drafted into the Army. He worked in D.C. after service. Bob eventually returned to work at Hubbard's Ethan Allen. The store had been in Bob's family since 1910 and Bob ran it until he retired. He was invited to join Rotary by then member Dave Moyer shortly after he returned. Bob thought it would be a great way to re-engage with the community and meet some new neighbors, and he's still active in the club 37 years later. We asked Bob why a member would stay with the club for so long. Bob responded that he enjoys the weekly programs, learns a lot about the community, and has met some really nice people. Add the opportunity to give back to the community and enjoy the power of a group effort, and you have an impactful combination. Bob also mentioned that he has enjoyed board opportunities at area Not-for-Profits and other commercial board opportunities due to his involvement with Rotary. We asked Bob how the club has changed over the years. He responded "Rotary was more of a social group in 1985. We have evolved into a service organization with projects that truly impact our community." He added that "Everyone has a calling. A group like Rotary makes it easy to answer your call."



## Margaret Perreault & Dick Larson March 26, 2023



**Margaret Perreault** engaged with Rotary before she joined the club, assisting Chamber Executive and Rotarian Holly Deitchman during a Salvation Army “Ring the Bell” day. It was only natural to join Rotary when Margaret succeeded Holly as President and CEO of the Batavia Chamber of Commerce. What began as a civic duty has turned into a community commitment. Margaret jumped right in. Having previously served as Community Service Chair and Outreach Services Chair, she is in line to become club president for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Margaret likes the good people of Rotary and the good works we perform. Margaret rarely misses a weekly meeting. She believes the best way to engage with the Rotary community is to regularly attend the meetings. That’s where the impact begins. Margaret has lived in Batavia with husband Jim since 2000. They have four children: Jimmy, Maggie, Mary Clare, and Michael. They recently welcomed Jimmy’s spouse Basia to the family. Margaret is very happy to be a Rotarian and encourages all members to participate in regular meetings, offsite meetings, and service projects.

**Dick Larson** is one of our longest serving members, having joined almost 28 years ago. He was invited to speak at the club while a sitting Kane County judge. He liked what he saw and visited the club multiple times after speaking. He decided to join after member Walt Donat invited him. Dick has always been active in his community, so joining Rotary was a natural step. Dick was Club President and brought a Rotary International President’s Citation to the club during his term. He supports the work of the Rotary Foundation and particularly likes the international efforts Rotary initiates. Dick appreciates the community involvement, the local and international projects, and specifically values the efforts of [ShelterBox USA](#). He regularly talks up Rotary within his Sugar Grove community, his church, and believes in Rotary’s Four-Way Test: “Is it the Truth, Is It Fair to All Concerned, Will It Build Goodwill & Better Friendships, Will It Be Beneficial to All Concerned.” What keeps Dick in the club after 28 years? Even as the club has evolved over the years, he always feels welcome.