



1919-2019 ROTARY CLUB OF LA CROSSE



100

YEARS OF SERVICE

1919-2019 Centennial Booklet

## The International Association of Rotary Clubs

Hereby Certifies that the ROTARY CLUB of

*La Crosse, Wis.*

has been elected to membership in this Association and, having agreed to be bound by the Constitution thereof, which agreement is duly evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is declared to be an affiliating club of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, to be and remain such as provided by the Constitution of this Association.

Witness the seal of the International Association  
of Rotary Clubs, duly attested by its officers, this

*first* day of *June*, Anno Domini 19*19*.



*Stanley R. Perry*  
Secretary

*John C. Goad*  
President



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



When our Rotary Club of La Crosse was chartered on June 1, 1919, those visionary members set out to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

For the past 100 years, our club has fervently worked toward accomplishing this mission and much more. As Rotarians, we frequently do not seek recognition for our good works. Therefore, for a brief moment in June 2019, we are stopping and gathering together as a group to celebrate our past and honor our accomplishments.

After this brief pause, we will be back to work serving our local, national and international communities. As people of action, Rotarians will continue to influence our communities for the remainder of this century and beyond.

It is my great honor and privilege to raise a toast to our past, our present and our future.

Respectfully,

**Todd Restel, President 2018–19**

## 2018–19

### Board of Directors

**Todd Restel**

President

**Tami Woods**

President-Elect

**Andy Bakkum**

President-Elect Nominee

**Jodi Widuch**

Past President

**Nick Passe**

Secretary

**Rob Palmberg**

Treasurer

**Pat Ruda**

Rotary Works Foundation  
Liaison

**David Amborn**

Sergeant-at-Arms

**Carol Abrahamzon**

**Sarah Arendt-Beyer**

**Greg Curti**

**Mark Jolivette**

**Catherine Kolkmeier**

**Al Louis**

**Alex Lueck**

**Ashley Skoczynski**

**Miranda TerBeest**

**Lyn Sheffer**

Club Administrator

## Contents

- 2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 4 100 POINTS OF LIGHT
- 6 CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES
- 7 FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS
- 8 AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARDEES
- 16 DISTRICT GOVERNORS
- 20 CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS
- 22 100 YEARS OF PRESIDENTS

Of the things we  
think, say or do

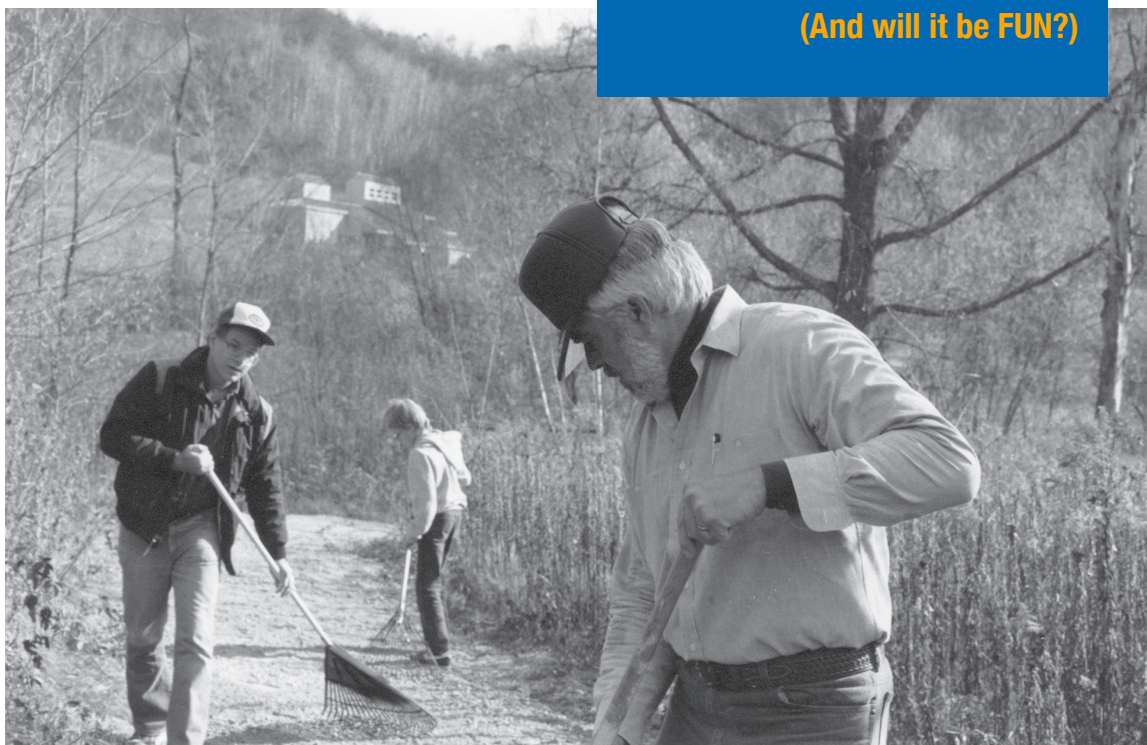
**Is it the TRUTH?**

**Is it FAIR to all concerned?**

**Will it build GOODWILL and  
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all  
concerned?**

**(And will it be FUN?)**



Courtesy of the La Crosse Public Library Archives

# 100 Points of Light

## Rotary Club of La Crosse 1919–2019

*Items in blue refer to national and international Rotary events.*

1. Paul Harris, a Racine native, forms the first Rotary Club in Chicago along with three other business men in 1905.
2. The first club in Wisconsin, #40, is in Superior, sponsored by the Duluth Club. This is 1912 and also the year Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland, joined Winnipeg, Canada, to make Rotary clubs international.
3. Milwaukee, #57 and Madison, #71 were chartered in 1913. By the end of that year there were 83 Rotary Clubs in the world with about 10,000 members.
4. 32 La Crosse men, after many meetings and consultations, are enrolled as the La Crosse Rotary Club on May 27, 1919.
5. John Poole, 8th president of Rotary International, from Washington DC, signs the La Crosse Rotary Club charter.
6. Charter members include: Dr. William E. Bannen, Percy D. Bentley, A.M. Brayton, Thad H. Brindley, Harry M. Curtis, Harry Dahl, Dr. E.E. Evans, W.B. Fraser, Dr. John H. Gatterdam, Philo M. Gelatt, A.L. Goetzmann, Jerome W. Hanks, J.J. Hirschheimer, W.F. Hurtgen, Alfred James, O.L. Johnson, William A. Jones, Frank L. Koppelburger, Bart E. McCormick, A.R. McKinnon, Arthur L. Myers, James E. Novak, Chester R. Pieper, Frank W. Pitman, Fred A. Reiman, Otto M. Schlabach, Argyle R. Scott, Reuben N. Trane, Fred P. Wenzel, Ed M. Wing, Walter S. Woods, and Peter J. Yerly.
7. La Crosse Rotary Club is chartered #488 on June 1, 1919, 14 years after Rotary was founded in Chicago. The number 488 indicates how clubs had grown across the world since 1905.





Courtesy of the La Crosse Public Library Archives

8. Madison and Minneapolis clubs establish the La Crosse club. Minneapolis, as the installing club, brings down 26 members on a private railroad car for the installation. Madison, the sponsoring club, sends six representatives.
9. Bart E. McCormick, charter member and Superintendent of Schools, is the first president.
10. Subsequent superintendents have also been part of Rotary: Richard Swantz, Tom Downs, Jerry Kember, and current superintendent, Randy Nelson.
11. Charter member Philo M. Gelatt ran the National Gauge & Equipment Co., which later became Northern Engraving. He is the father of Charles Gelatt and grandfather of Dan and Philip Gelatt.

## 100 Points of Light

12. Harry Dahl, charter member, ran Dahl Motors. His great grandsons now run various segments of the business
13. One charter member in 1919 was Reuben Trane, who founded Trane Company. Ryan Geister, a current member, works for Trane.
14. Charter members Thad Brindley of W.A. Roosevelt Company, and Fred Reiman of Reiman Ready to Wear, were related through marriage. Thad's son Jim Brindley and Fred's grandson Steve Reiman headed up W.A. Roosevelt after Thad's retirement in 1950. Steve Reiman was a member of the Valley View Rotary Club and is now a member of Caledonia Rotary. Jim Brindley's son Tom was a member of the Valley View Rotary Club.
15. Ed Wing, charter member, worked at Batavian National Bank which evolved into US Bank, where current Rotarians Andy Bakkum, Ben Lachecki, and Tim Kolek work.
16. The last living charter member was Art Myers, originally from the La Crosse Plow Company. This company was in the building currently being renovated by Rotarian Sandra Cleary.
17. By the end of July, 1919, there were 550 clubs with an estimated membership of 45,000 men in Rotary International.
18. On December 30, 1919, the Rotary Club of La Crosse hosted its First Annual Dinner to the Ladies.
19. In 1919, the Rotary Club had their weekly meetings at the Elks Club. Subsequent locations were: Hotel Stoddard, 1920-1979; Elk's Club 1979-1980; Moose Club, 1980; Radisson Hotel or Center, 1980–present.
20. The Rotary Club of La Crosse was originally in District 10. This was changed in 1925 to District 625. Around 1985, due to the growth of Rotary worldwide, a zero was added to all districts to accommodate even more future growth, thus we became District 6250.

## 2019 Centennial Committees and Chairpersons

### Centennial

Todd Restel

### Riverside International Friendship Gardens

Chuck Hanson

### Fundraising

Lee Rasch

### Art

Eva Marie Restel

### Social, Event Dedication & Party

Tami Woods

### History

Patt Boge

### Volunteer

Steve O'Malley

### Marketing & Media

Jamie Capuzzi

### Commemorative Coin

Al Louis



## La Crosse Rotary Foundation Presidents

1983–89 Charles H. Hanson

1989–90 Elmer Topel

1990–91 Michael Hartigan

1991–92 Anita Froegel

1992–93 Lindon Saline

1993–94 Val J. Schute

1994–95 Peter Krause

1995–96 Jim White

1996–97 Jim Brindley

1997–98 Ingrid McCallson

1998–99 Patricia Boge

1999–2000 Marv Davis

2000–01 Joseph Durst

2001–02 Jean Bassett

2002–03 Tim Durtsche

2003–04 Bill Hoel

2004–05 Steve Tanke

2005–06 Dave Amborn

2006–07 Gary Klein

2007–08 Trish Grathen

21. The Gateway Area Council, Inc. Boy Scouts of America benefited when the Club, in 1928, deeded to them 97 acres of land to form Camp Decorah. The club also was a prime mover in the building of “Rotary Hall,” the camp dining hall which is still used today.

22. Club President in 1936–37 was Hans Zoerb of La Crosse Floral. His granddaughter Linda, a current Rotary member, is president of the floral company.

23. At its 25th anniversary, in 1944, the Rotary Club of La Crosse had 50 members.

24. In 1954, Rotarian Fred Funk, president of La Crosse Trailer Corp. and vice president of La Crosse Rubber Mills, was honored for 33 years of perfect attendance. Currently in 2019, Rotarians Elmer Grassman, 48 years, and Jack Haase, 42 years, have more than 40 years of perfect attendance.

25. Rotary Foundation is formed as an endowment fund in 1917 by Arch Klumph, then president of what would become Rotary International.

26. La Crosse Rotary Club Foundation is established in 1983. The initial Foundation President, Chuck Hanson, and Foundation Secretary, Jack Haase, are still members of the club. Contributions are used to help fund area community projects, expanding the scope of service projects with special fund-raising events.

## 100 Points of Light

27. In 2008, the La Crosse Rotary Foundation became the Rotary Works Foundation, Inc. and included the following clubs: Caledonia, Holmen, La Crescent, La Crosse Downtown, La Crosse After-Hours, La Crosse East, La Crosse Valley View, Onalaska Hilltoppers, and Onalaska. The mission is to support local and international charitable and educational activities.
28. Kenna Christians, president-elect of the La Crosse Rotary Foundation, transitions into the first president of the new RWF in 2008.
29. Funds come from Rotary member pledges, donations from each club, and profits from the yearly Avenues of Service dinner and fund raiser.
30. The first Paul Harris Fellows recognition was established in 1957 to acknowledge individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation. Currently the number of members is over 1 million.
31. La Crosse Rotary Paul Harris Fellows recognition is started in 1979. Ralph Steele is the first recipient.
32. Downtown Rotary has, or sponsored, 310 Paul Harris Fellows. This includes not only Rotarians but spouses, friends, etc. Of these 14 are benefactors, 10 are part of the Bequest Society, and 10 are Major Donors. Our Club has donated \$742,509 since 1979.
33. The first La Crosse Rotary Club Group Study Exchange team goes to New Zealand in 1968. Return visit of the New Zealand team comes here in 1969.
34. A 50th anniversary celebration is held in 1969. Downtown Rotary boasts 125 members. Past president Jim Ash presides over the program.
35. La Crosse Rotary Club sponsors or is instrumental in starting 12 area clubs: Melrose, 1928 (inactive); West Salem, 1948 (inactive); Onalaska, 1960; La Crosse East, 1971; Valley View, 1980; La Crescent, 1982; Prairie du Chien, 1986; Viroqua, 1987; La Crosse North, 1988 (inactive); Caledonia, 1999; Dubna, 1993 (inactive); and After Hours, 2011.

### Avenues of Service awardees from our club

#### Rotary Four Way Test Award for Lifetime Achievement

2007 Jack Haase  
2011 Dean Dickinson  
2013 Elmer Grassman and  
Pat Smith  
2015 Phil Quillin  
2016 Bill Pritchard  
2018 Chuck Hanson

#### Rising Star Award

2015 Matt Boshcka



36. The first area Rotary presidents meeting occurred on January 23, 1981. Clubs included Downtown, East, Valley View, Onalaska, and West Salem. The Presidents continue to meet monthly and include: Downtown Rotary, Rotary East, Rotary After-Hours, Caledonia, La Crescent, Holmen, Onalaska Hilltoppers, Onalaska, Valley View, and Sparta.
37. Norskedalen, a nature and history center in Coon Valley, benefited from handicapped-accessible trails built by our club in 1983.
38. In May 1987, the US Supreme Court ruled that Rotary International was a “public accommodation” and could not exclude women from membership.
39. The following August, the first women are admitted to the Downtown Rotary Club: Anita Froegel, Patricia Heim and Beverly Simone.
40. Sharon Imes is elected the Club’s first female president in 1992. The Club has had nine female presidents: Sharon Imes, Anita Froegel, Debby Johnson, Anne Snow, Kathryn Sexauer, Trish Grathen, Cheryl Hancock, Patricia Boge, and Jodi Widuch. Tami Woods is the president elect for 2019-20.



41. Hands Across the Heartland was the name given to a 1992 goodwill mission supported by the La Crosse Rotary Club. Over 200 tons of donated goods were flown to and distributed to Dubna, Russia, Sister City of La Crosse. This helped to lay the groundwork for our club’s sponsorship of a Rotary Club in Dubna. In 1993, 29 members were chartered as the Dubna Rotary Club, the fifth Rotary Club in Russia.

## 100 Points of Light

42. La Crosse Symphony launches its Conductor Wannabe contest in 1993. Downtown Rotary has two of the contestants: Jerome Boge and Doug Hastad. Jerome Boge won this first contest. 2018's winner was Downtown Rotarian Roz Schnick. Many other Downtown Rotarians participate each year as contestants raising money for the Symphony.
43. At 75th Anniversary, May 12, 1994, Downtown Rotary has 137 members, 44 are current Paul Harris Fellows.
44. Chuck Hanson is MC of the 75th anniversary program. Slogan: Proud of our Past--Challenged by the Future.
45. Kids Coulee, 75th anniversary project, is dedicated at Myrick Park in September 1994.
46. Chaired by Chuck Hanson, Doug Hastad and Sharon Imes, this Rotary sponsored, community-built playground features elements for children of all abilities. Approximately \$250,000 was raised and over 3000 volunteers helped to build this playground. Construction was done over a period of two weeks. Robert S. Leathers and Associates, New York, was the architectural firm chosen for the project. They are a family owned firm specializing in custom play spaces that are a reflection of children's imaginations and the wants and needs of their clients.



47. Many La Crosse Rotary members have been honored locally by area festivals over the years.

48. Concerns for youth and students guide Downtown Rotary: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, local high schools, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College, and International Exchange Student Program.



49. Fruit Baskets, the Rotary Club's major fundraiser, was brought to the Club as a potential project by Chuck Hanson in 1993. 26 years later, chaired by Dave Amborn, Downtown Rotary is still at it--1900 baskets in 2018!

50. Meals-on-Wheels, now called Mobile Meals, a program for the elderly and home bound, is maintained by the club. Mike Desmond has chaired this committee for the past 15 years.

51. Scholarships and interest-free loans are established at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Western Wisconsin Technical College.

52. Rotarians take to the area each Christmas season to ring bells for the local Salvation Army.

53. Rotarians assist with the establishment and maintenance of the Hixon Forest Nature Trail.

54. Funds were provided to construct a school in Gambia, West Africa, in memory of Pat Steele, wife of Rotarian Ralph Steele.

55. In 2008, Rotary collects school supplies to send to troops in Afghanistan for distribution to area schools.

56. An animated display of a Mississippi riverboat was built with donated Rotary funds. This was part of River Front USA.

## **Festival royalty from our club**

### **Festmasters**

1969–70 Hans Zoerb  
2005–06 Peter Stinson  
2007–08 Peter Krause  
2009–10 Todd Ondell  
2011–12 Jerry Kember  
2014–15 Scott Horne

### **Mrs. Oktoberfests**

1989 Jean Gitz Bassett  
1994 Joyce Wichelt  
1995 Patricia Boge  
1996 Sandra McCormick  
2004 Sharon Imes  
2006 Earlamae Dahlby  
2008 Robyn Tanke  
2013 Kenna Christians  
2018 Mary Mickelson

### **Commodores**

1984 Phil Quillin  
1989 Tom Reinert  
1999 Pat Smith  
2000 Art Fahey  
2001 Bill Hoel  
2008 J. Michael Hartigan  
2015 Steve Doll

### **Mardi Gras Royalty**

1991 Tom & June Reinert  
1992 Jerome & Patricia Boge  
2005 Joe & Barb Kruse  
2015 Greg & Kathy Curti

## 100 Points of Light

57. Ongoing La Crosse Rotary service projects include Come to Supper, a free community meal, served at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The Club sends volunteers every other month to help serve the meal, clean up, and socialize with the attendees.

58. Rotary Lights, started in 1995, along with six other clubs. Opening night in Riverside Park, the Friday following Thanksgiving, gives delight to thousands with its holiday display and collection of food items for area pantries. It continues as a cooperative effort among the area's Rotary clubs, numerous other non-profit groups, volunteer organizations, sponsors, steering committee, and board. Nearly 160,000 visitors per year enjoy this holiday tradition while driving, walking, or taking a carriage ride through Riverside Park.

59. Rotary International founded Interact in 1962. Interact is the high school equivalent of Rotary and brings together young people ages 12–18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of servant leadership.

60. Interact begins in the La Crosse area in 2015 with four clubs: Logan, Central, Aquinas, and West Salem. One of the first projects is starting an iFeed event.

61. Current La Crosse Rotary Club Interact advisors are Andy Bakkum, Tom Berkedal, Patricia Boge, Bob Masevich, Joan Parke Mueller, Rob Palmberg, Eva Marie Restel, Michelle Skemp and Candice Tlustosch.

62. iFeed, is a one-day event where dried meals are packed and boxed, ready for shipment to a country where children are hungry. It's also an all Coulee region food drive to fill area food pantries. In 2018 over 100,000 meals were packed for sending to Nicaragua and over 34,000 food items were collected.

63. The event is held at Logan High School and is organized by seven high school Interact clubs and their advisors. The high schools involved are Logan, Central, Aquinas, West Salem, Holmen, Onalaska, and Caledonia.

64. The dried food ingredients come from an organization called Kids Against Hunger, also started by Rotarians.





65. The Brain Game book was first published in 2001 by the La Crosse Rotary Brain Game, Inc. and is meant as a “how-to” guide for parents. The book is divided into five sections by the child’s age. Every new parent in the La Crosse area receives a free copy. The book is available in Spanish and is now in its third edition. An electronic version is also available on Amazon.

66. Dean Dickinson, president 2004–2005, starts Dean’s Marbles, a weekly raffle drawing, bringing in an average of \$50 each week.

67. The Avenues of Service annual recognition began in 1989. This program recognizes outstanding Rotarians and projects from nine area clubs. The dinner/silent auction/raffle is a fundraiser for the Rotary Works Foundation.

68. Rotary International has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years. More than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries have been immunized. Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9 % since the first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotary has contributed \$1.8 billion toward this eradication. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. 33 cases were reported in 2018.

69. The Downtown La Crosse Rotary continues to contribute financially as well as personally. Four Rotarians have participated in India’s National Immunization Day: Dean Dickinson, Todd Restel, Patricia Boge, and Bud Hammes. Joyce Wichelt participated in an immunization exercise in Ghana, Africa, and Sharon Imes in Nigeria, Africa. In 2005 the Club completed its pledge commitment of \$100,000 for Polio Plus which placed us in the top ranks of all clubs in Rotary for our support of the polio eradication effort. A commissioned artwork, “The End of Polio” by Diane French, was a big part of the success in completing our pledge. Rotarians could purchase signed giclee prints of the original. Rotarian Meredyth Lillejord coordinated the project.



## 100 Points of Light

70. In 2008, Downtown Rotary helped support the launch of Freedom Honor Flight, the first Wisconsin honor flight organization, which has since flown more than 2,000 veterans to Washington DC in 23 flights. Club members who are founding and still-active board members include Chuck Hanson, Bill Hoel and Kathy Van Kirk.

71. “In the worst of times, we often see the best of the human spirit emerge. That was certainly the case when Hurricane Katrina (August 5, 2005) destroyed thousands of lives and homes along the gulf coast,” said Rotarian Dave Amborn, primary organizer of the Katrina Relief Fund Task Force, which included 30+ members from the Rotary Club of La Crosse. The month-long fundraising campaign, a Downtown Club production, resulted in a \$217,000 gift to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

72. Rotary Youth Exchange began in 1927 involving only European students. Exchanges between California and Latin American countries started in 1939. Activities spread to the Eastern United States in 1958.

73. Youth Exchange became an official program of Rotary International in 1972. Currently there are more than 8,000 students, ages 15-19, in over 60 countries. They stay with 2-3 host families and are required to attend school in their host country.

74. Youth Exchange begins in La Crosse Rotary in 1980. Between 1980 and 2019, there have been 42 Inbound students and between 1982 and 2019, 47 Outbound students for a total of 89. Currently the Club has two inbound students: Lucia, Spain; Inga, Germany (2019-20) and three outbound students: Joel Restel, France; Ashlyn Neader, India; and Macy Neader, Taiwan (2019-20).





75. Rotary Vista Trail, a Rotary project in Hixon Forest, is dedicated on September 19, 2016. Speakers include: Mayor Tim Kabat; Superintendent of Park Facilities, Jay Odeggaard; Downtown Rotary Club representative, Kurt Schroeder; WisCorps director, Willie Bittner; and Outdoor Recreation Alliance Executive Director, Jeffrey Worrell.
76. Extending from the trail head in Hixon Forest to the top of Miller Bluff, the 2.3 miles-long Rotary Vista Trail is one of the premiere multi-use trails in the region. Rotarian Kurt Schroeder spearheaded this project for Downtown Rotary. Downtown Rotary also pays for the Vista Trail signage.
77. In 1965, the La Crosse Rotary Club and La Crosse County Historical Society raised money to restore and mount the old courthouse bell (1904) on a pedestal outside the new courthouse building. Many other organizations joined in this project and the bell was dedicated in the new location in September 1968. At some point the bell and plaque were moved again and then ultimately stored. Weber Holdings builds Belle Square, an apartment/retail development, on the original site of the courthouse, and reinstalls the bell and plaque. Downtown Rotary participates in the rededication in 2016.



## 100 Points of Light

78. 2017-18 International President Ian Riseley challenges every Rotarian to plant a tree by Earth Day, April 23, 2018.

79. Tree planting project is formed under President Jodi Widuch's leadership in 2017. 300 white pine trees (whips) were planted at Camp Decorah. After-Hours Rotary Club joins Downtown in planting these trees on June 2, 2018. A large rock, engraved with the Rotary wheel, is placed on the planting site. La Crosse Rotarian Sheila Wieser, owner of La Crosse Memorials, is the donor.

80. 150, probably more, trees are planted by individual Downtown Rotarians on their own property.

81. Barry Rassin, 2018-19 is the Rotary International President. A native of the Bahamas, his theme is "Be the Inspiration."

82. Bill Hoel, La Crosse Rotary Club, is the 2018-2019 District 6250 Governor. There are 61 clubs and 12 groups.

83. 2018-19 Assistant Governors for Groups 3 and 12 are Patricia Boge, La Crosse Rotary and Dave Ebner, La Crescent Rotary. They represent Group 3: Holmen, Onalaska, Onalaska Hilltoppers, Sparta, and Valley View and Group 12: La Crosse Rotary, Rotary East, Rotary After-Hours, La Crescent, and Caledonia.

## District Governors from our club

1925–26 Burt E. McCormick

1942–43 Arthur O. Scott

1957–58 Robert C. Moen

1968–69 Harold R. Cram

1978–79 Richard B. Brindley

1986–87 Ralph V. Steele

1997–98 Sharon K. Imes

2003–04 Robert A. Bendiksen

2009–10 Dean D. Dickinson

2011–12 Charles E. Hanson

2018–19 G. William Hoel





84. The STAR (Specialized Training for Action in Rotary) was created in 1976 by the Rotary Club of El Paso, Texas. New members were required to attend a monthly breakfast covering such topics as the Four Avenues of Service, the Rotary Foundation, Rotary International programs, and club history.

85. La Crosse Rotary began STAR in our area in the '90s, initiated by Dean Dickinson, and gradually opens it up to other clubs in the area.

## STAR curriculum (may vary)

**July—Welcome to the new Rotary year: theme/goal; Rotary International**

**September—Club Service: roles and responsibilities (board, officers, meetings, history, district conference)**

**November—Rotary International Foundation, Rotary Works Foundation, annual support**

**January—Community Service**

**March—International Service and Projects, Youth Exchange, Friendship Exchange**

**May—Vocational Service, Youth Committee, RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)**

86. La Crosse area STAR committee meets every other month for breakfast. All members are considered STAR members for their first year.

87. Expectations from Rotarians after attending STAR are: attendance at meetings, give Classification Talk within six months of “graduation,” join a minimum of two committees within their home club.

88. In 2016, the Rotary Club of La Crosse gave a \$1,000 check to Operation: River Watch, a campus-driven organization that has curtailed several drownings around Riverside Park. Founded in 2006, student volunteers from UW-La Crosse, Viterbo University and Western Technical College patrol the Mississippi River along Riverside Park during the academic year, Thursdays through Saturdays, from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. The three schools partner with the La Crosse Police Department and the Radisson Hotel.



*100 Years of Service Above Self*

## 100 Points of Light

89. Wine into Water for Uganda, a joint project between the Tomah Rotary Club and the La Crosse Rotary Club was held on January 30, 2104, in La Crosse. The event raised over \$34,000 through donations, sponsorships, raffles, matching grants, and an auction. Funds went to support the international project in Busulo, Uganda, and included initiatives for clean water, self-sustaining chicken farms, daily meals, educational support, and micro businesses for women and young men.



90. A Pallet of Pampers, a 2015 project, was born through the initiative of Rotarians Dean Dickinson, Peter Krause and Craig Ubbelohde. Following an article from La Crosse's Parenting Place about the need for diapers, these Rotarians plus club members' donations resulted in over 13,000 diapers (three pallets) delivered to the Parenting Place.



91. India Project, 2016-17, was a joint effort between La Crosse Rotary (Roger LeGrand) and Valley View (Sondra LeGrand) to support sanitation and menstrual health project in a secondary school located in Tamil Nadu, South India. The facility opened in 2017, helping 950 student boys, girls, and teachers.

92. La Crosse Rotary Club, under the leadership of Steve O'Malley, participated in fundraising as well as work days to fix up a Habitat Home for the Kochagian family. The home was dedicated in 2018.

93. USO La Crosse Regional Airport Lounge became a La Crosse Rotary initiative in 2018. Steve Lindeman brought the idea of collaborating with the USO to purchase items for the lounge. The Club, along with Rotary Works Foundation, Rotary District 6250 and the Brown Stuff Foundation raised \$13, 200 to purchase laptop computers, lockable storage, display cases, chest freezer, coffee dispenser, chairs, and more.

94. The Club will also provide ongoing volunteer opportunities at the lounge, greeting the troops (about 50,000 annually) and providing area information.

95. In celebration of 100 years of Rotary in our region, area clubs are partnering with the International Friendship Gardens, the La Crosse Friends of Cameroon, the City of La Crosse, and others to develop a garden in honor of the sister city relationship between La Crosse Wisconsin, and Kumbo, Cameroon.
96. The Cameroon Garden Project: Growing Hearts Across the World committee, chaired by Lee Rasch, raises the necessary funds to support the Cameroon Garden.
97. The garden is located in Riverside Park in La Crosse and is the newest addition to the International Friendship Gardens, in a prominent location where the Mississippi, Black, and La Crosse rivers meet.



98. “100 Years of Service” is the theme of the centennial celebration of La Crosse Downtown Rotary. The date is June 20, 2019. Keynote speaker is Stephanie Urchick, Rotary International Director-elect. Todd Restel, 2018-19, is president, Tami Woods, 2019–2020, is president-elect, and Andrew Bakkum, 2020–21 is president-elect nominee.
99. The 100th celebration is open to all Rotarians. Many state and national dignitaries are expected to attend.
100. La Crosse Rotary Club has 186 active members and 23 honorary members.

# Members

## Rotary Club of La Crosse 2018–19

Carol Abrahamzon	Scott Chorski	Brad Fischer	Charles Hanson
David Amborn	Kenna Christians	Colin Fleming	Cheryl Hanson
Sarah Arendt-Beyer	Roger Christians	Nancy Flottmeyer	J. Michael Hartigan
Jerry Arndt	Sandra Cleary	Beth Franklin	Herbert Heili*
Andrew Bakkum	Dave Clements*	Arlan Frels	Mary Beth Hensel
Judson Beck	Gregory Curti	Anita Froegel	G. William Hoel, Jr.
Thomas Behrenbeck	Angela Czerwinski	James Gallagher*	John Honadel
Robert Bendiksen	Earlmae Dahlby	William Geister	Scott Horne
Katie Berkedal	Robert Daley	Marjorie Gillespie	Daniel Howes
Tom Berkedal	Marv Davis	Timothy Gillespie	Peter Hughes
Patricia Boge	Mike Desmond*	Thomas Golden*	Sharon Imes
Matthew Boshcka	Dean Dickinson	Grant Golson	Will Jedlicka
Kerstin Boudreau	John Dingman*	Joe Gow	Tara Johnson
Scott Bradford	Steve Doll	Peter Grabow	Debra Johnson Towner
Tom Brock	Gloria Doyle	Elmer Grassman	David Johnston
Ward Brown	Lisa Duncanson	Trish Grathen	Mark Jolivet
Lynn Bruns	Matt Durtsche	Kaycie Green	Ilene Kernozek
Lu Cagin	Susan Durtsche	David Gresham*	Judy Kirkpatrick*
Timothy Candahl	Tim Durtsche	Mary Ann Gschwind	Ramon Kline*
Jamie Capuzzi	Tim Ehler	Ann Haase*	Tina Klinger
Diana Carey	Cindy Ericksen	Jack Haase	Ted Knutson
Michael Carey	Pete Eversole*	Bernard Hammes	Tim Kolek
Joe Carlson	Art Fahey	Cheryl Hancock	Catherine Kolkmeier
Mark Cassellius	Tom Fider*	Gerald Hanoski	David Koudelka*



Peter Krause	Michael Nickel	Gary Schettler	Tom Thompson
Kelly Krieg-Sigman	Maria Norberg	Jamie Schloegel	Candice Tlustosch
Lewis Kuhlman	Bruce Norgaard	Rosalie Schnick	David Trapp
Richard Kyte	Patty Nuttleman	Kurt Schroeder	Josh Trust
Benjamin Lachecki	Jeff Odom	Valentine Schute	Craig Ubbelohde
Brian Langenhorst	Steve O'Malley	Mike Seichter	Kathy Van Kirk- Przywojski
Roger LeGrand	Todd Ondell	Kathryn Sexauer	Kyle Visker
James Lewis	Jamie O'Neill	Steve Shultz	Thai Vue
Meredyth Lillejord	Gerald Ostreng*	Regina Siegel	Barry Watkins
Steve Lindeman	Rob Palmberg	Joseph Skemp	Benjamin Wedro
Alan Louis	Joan K. Parke	Michelle Skemp	John Wettstein
Audrey Lucier	Andy Parrish	Ashley Skoczynski	James White*
Alex Lueck	Nicholas Passe	Brent Smith	Joyce Wichel
Erick Maki	Stephen Porter	Patrick Smith*	Jodi Widuch
Robert Masewicz	Anna Prinsen	Anne Snow	Sheila Wieser
Dillon McArdle	Lee Rasch	Mark Solyst	Todd Wilson
Ingrid McCallson	Greg Reichert	Roger Sorenson*	Grant Withrow
Sandra McCormick	Brad Reinhart	Mary Stanek	Terry Witzke*
Mary Mickelson	Brian Reitzel	Roger Stanford	Mary Kay Wolf
Annette Mikat	Eva Marie Restel	Bonnie Steidl	Tami Woods
Carl Miller*	Todd Restel	David Stoeffler	Liz Wuensch
Brian Mlsna	Dave Riley*	Richard Strauss	Marcie Wycoff-Horn
David Morrison	Sheila Riley	Richard Swantz*	Tita Yutuc
John Morrissey	Bob Riutzel	Bruce Swanwick	Donald Zimmerman
Robin Moses	Dan Roemhild	Michael Swenson	Joseph Zoellner
Paul Mueller	Fred Ross*	Steven Tanke*	Linda Zoerb
Joseph Nduka	Petra Roter	Glena Temple	
Randy Nelson	Pat Ruda	John-Peter Temple	
Ed Neuman	James Salmo	Miranda TerBeest	<i>*Honorary member</i>

# 100 Years of Rotary Club of La Crosse Presidents

1919—20 Bart E. McCormick	1943—44 Fred E. Steele	1967—68 John A. Elliott
1920—21 Edward E. Evans	1944—45 Richard W. Bardwell	1968—69 J. William Murphy
1921—22 Peter J. Yerly	1945—46 Marshall S. Olson	1969—70 Richard B. Brindley
1922—23 Otto M. Schlabach	1946—47 James G. Peterson	1970—71 Robert H. Steuck
1923—24 Thad H. Brindley	1947—48 Lawrence M. Engelhard	1971—72 Earl L. Bittner
1924—25 Wallace W. Cameron	1948—49 Dow J. Byers	1972—73 Thomas W. Golden
1925—26 William Torrance	1949—50 John Arntson	1973—74 Richard O. Wrobel
1926—27 Andrew Lees	1950—51 Maurice O. Graff	1974—75 Oscar Lindgreen Jr.
1927—28 Wallace Montague	1951—52 Robert C. Moen	1975—76 T.D. Solie
1928—29 John G. Felton	1952—53 Milo G. Knutson	1976—77 Joseph H. Schreier
1929—30 George W. Dudley	1953—54 Harold R. Cram	1977—78 Elmer W. Grassman
1930—31 George D. Scott	1954—55 Theodore G. Strehl	1978—79 William H. Mann
1931—32 A.F. Bremicker	1955—56 Arthur M.G. Moody	1979—80 E. William Vickroy
1932—33 William L. Rossiter	1956—57 E. Ted Neubauer	1980—81 Ralph V. Steele
1933—34 Eugene H. Townsend	1957—58 James O. Ash	1981—82 Phillip J. Quillin
1934—35 Walter S. Small	1958—59 Robert E. Munk	1982—83 Robert J. Daley, Sr.
1935—36 Alf H. Gundersen	1959—60 Arthur F. Jordan	1983—84 John A. Poellinger
1936—37 John G. Zoerb	1960—61 James M. Brindley	1984—85 Ted A. Nelson
1937—38 Erwin A. Chinander	1961—62 N. George DeDakis	1985—86 Walter A. Nesler
1938—39 Ralph W. Page	1962—63 Ross E. Hunt	1986—87 Philip S. Davy
1939—40 Albert H. Schubert	1963—64 Marvin L. Schirmacher	1987—88 David R. Witmer
1940—41 Rollin E. Buchanan	1964—65 Melvin L. Frank	1988—89 Roland L. Solberg
1941—42 Theodore W. Ward	1965—66 Milton L. Hogulund	1989—90 Patrick C. Brockman
1942—43 Rexford S. Mitchell	1966—67 Samuel F. Fellows	1990—91 John C. Haase

1991—92 Robert A. Bendiksen  
 1992—93 Sharon K. Imes  
 1993—94 Charles E. Hanson  
 1994—95 Anita F. Froegel  
 1995—96 David D. Riley  
 1996—97 Thomas R. Berkedal  
 1997—98 Thomas D. Reinert  
 1998—99 David A. Trapp  
 1999—00 J. Todd Ondell  
 2000—01 Peter J. Grabow  
 2001—02 J. Michael Hartigan  
 2002—03 Debby R. Johnson  
 2003—04 Anne C. Snow/  
     Debby R. Johnson  
 2004—05 Dean D. Dickinson  
 2005—06 Peter J. Krause  
 2006—07 Al S. Thompson, Jr.  
 2007—08 G. William Hoel, Jr.  
 2008—09 Kathryn J. Sexauer  
 2009—10 David J. Amborn  
 2010—11 Patricia A. Grathen  
 2011—12 Cary R. Heyer  
 2012—13 Cheryl A. Hancock  
 2013—14 Jeffrey S. Odom  
 2014—15 William A. Pritchard  
 2015—16 Roger E. Christians  
 2016—17 Patricia A. Boge  
 2017—18 Jodi M. Widuch  
 2018—19 Todd S. Restel



*Proclamation*  
*Mayor Tim Kabat*  
*City of La Crosse*

**WHEREAS**, the Rotary Club of La Crosse was chartered on June 1, 1919, and is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rotary Club of La Crosse is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization whose mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, over its 100 years, the Rotary Club of La Crosse has worked tirelessly to unite people and to take action on local, national and international issues to create lasting positive change.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM KABAT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE**, do hereby proclaim June 1, 2019 as

**"ROTARY CLUB OF LA CROSSE DAY"**

in the City of La Crosse in recognition of the outstanding contributions of the Rotary Club of La Crosse over its 100 year history to the greater La Crosse area.

Dated on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, Two Thousand Nineteen.



*Tim Kabat*  
 MAYOR TIM KABAT

*Centennial booklet: Sarah Arendt-Beyer, Patricia Boge, Jack Haase, Bill Pritchard, Dan Roemhild and Kathy Van Kirk.*

# 100

YEARS OF SERVICE

1919-2019 ROTARY CLUB OF LACROSSE



Rotary Club of La Crosse  
PO Box 1914  
La Crosse WI 54602-1914  
608-526-4491  
[rotarylax@charter.net](mailto:rotarylax@charter.net)