

"A Local Service Club with a Global Impact - Offering Leadership and Support to our Community and Beyond"



Moccasin Flower

Official Publication of The Rotary Club of Rochester, Minnesota

Club No. 2164

Organized June 12, 1925

District No. 5960

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VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP: 204

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE: 39.66%

GREATER ROCHESTER ROTARY: Bari Amadio

MEMBERS ON LEAVE: Linda Bonow

RESIGNATIONS: Ralph Spiekerman

NEW MEMBERS: Donna Cunningham, Lisa Baldus

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
December 4	Marvin Ramsay	La Crosse, WI
December 7	Dan Kelly	Rapid City, SD
	Gerald Mahon	Rochester, MN
December 13	Paul Tieskoetter	Decorah, IA
December 14	Dave Oeth	Dubuque, IA
December 15	Mike Mahrer	Grafton, ND
December 17	George Waters	Minneapolis, MN
December 19	Mary Jo Kelly	Aberdeen, SD
December 25	Chris Cross	New Kensington, PA
	David Tines	Chicago, IL
December 27	Cynthia Daube	Detroit, MI
	Sara Gilliland	Lawrence, KS
December 28	Thomas Shives	Newton, IA
	Steve Sperling	St Paul, MN
December 29	Glenn Miller	Mount Palatine, IL

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know.



"Introducing a project that has the ability to transform lives... If a single project could:

- prepare youth for school
- help to close the opportunity gap prevent youth engagement with gangs, drugs, and violence

AND prepare youth to engage successfully in the workforce, this would truly be a project with the power to transform our community! This would be The Place.

Working together in a unique partnership, Boys & Girls Club of Rochester and Child Care Resource & Referral – Head Start have developed a compelling vision to bring both organizations' programs together in a 'Continuum of Care'. Imagine a web of services under one roof, from cradle to college, birth to 18 years of age – for those kids and families who need it the most. This would be [The Place.](#)"

Members of The Rotary Club of Rochester are invited to participate in our offsite Rotary meeting at The Place on Thursday, December 12. [Sign-up online.](#)

Paul Harris Fellows presented



In November, Paul Harris Fellows were presented to current District Governor Elect Karel Weigel and, in memoriam, to Roy Watson, Jr. by Past President Leigh Johnson.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Weekly Meetings

- December 5** Heritage Hall, The Kahler Grand Hotel, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., “Using the Power of History to Transform Lives, Preserving * Sharing * Connecting” presented by Minnesota Historical Society Executive Director Andrea Kajer
- December 12** Rotary tour of The Place, 1026 East Center Street, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- December 19** Rotary Holiday Luncheon, Heritage Hall, The Kahler Grand Hotel, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., “Holiday Selections by Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra (SEMYO)
- December 26** No Thursday meeting, ALL Rotarians are asked to volunteer at the Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic basketball tournament

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Other Meetings & Events

- December 2** Channel One Service Location: Channel One Building 6:00-8:00 pm
- December 9** Holiday Classic Steering Committee Meeting, Aspen Suites Hotel, 11 am
- December 9** Salvation Army Dinner Service, Salvation Army Building, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- December 10** Rotary Club of Rochester Board Meeting, OMC Foundation Offices, 7:00-8:00 a.m.
- December 10** STRIVE Meeting at JM, Rocket Center, 8:10-9:10 a.m.
- December 11** STRIVE Meeting at Mayo, Spartan Room, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- December 11** Community Food Response Service, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:15-6:45 p.m.
- December 12** STRIVE Meeting at Century, The Forum, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- December 18** Guys Read, Franklin Elementary, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- December 19** Guys Read, Boys and Girls Club at Rochester Public Library, 6:15-7 pm.
- December 20** Guys Read, Riverside Elementary, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- December 26** Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic basketball tournament, 10 am–9 pm
- December 27** Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic tournament, 9:30 am-9 pm
- December 27** Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic dance, 5-11 pm
- December 28** Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic basketball tournament, 10 am–9 pm

December Rotary Anniversaries

Mike Muñoz	2 years
Pamela Meyer	2 years
Jennifer Woodfc	2 years
Milt Tostrud	4 years
Dana Funk	14 years
Jerry Downes	16 years
Bill Nietz	22 years
Marilyn Stewart	26 years
Frederick Suhler	30 years

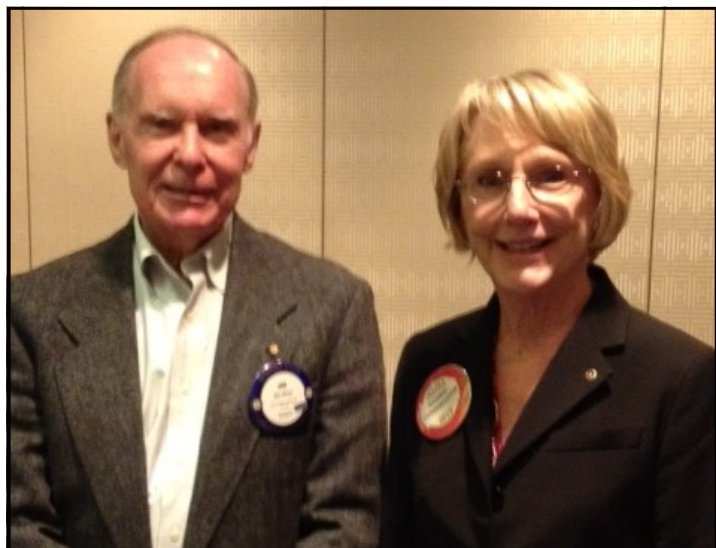


Thanks to all who helped with the November meetings: Greeters: James Frye, Fred Nobrega, Wendy Shannon, Marilyn Stewart, Dan Kelly, Kelly Engler, Cashier: Dana Funk, Mary Jo Kelly, Cris Fischer, Sergeant-at-Arms: John Woodruff, Jim Sloan, Visitors Desk: Kathy Lessard, Steve Courts, Music: Ann Beatty, Judy O’Fallon, Invocations: Merlin Ricklefs, James Frye, Walt Menning, Four Way Test: Bill Wiktor, Steve Courts, Jen Woodford, Introduction of Visitors: Phil Karsell, Heather Holmes, Denny Nigon, Presenters: Patrick Nelson, Amy Caucutt, Mike Ranson, Ari Kolas.



“LIKE” THE
 ROTARY CLUB OF
 ROCHESTER
 ON FACEBOOK!

WELCOME NEW ROTARY MEMBERS!



Rotarian Proposer Jim Sloan with new member Donna Cunningham



New Rotarian Lisa Baldus with Proposer Suzanne Dinusson

ROTARY US BANK HOLIDAY CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The 26th Annual Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic basketball tournament will take place at the Mayo Civic Center (MCC), Thursday, December 26 through Saturday, December 28. Volunteers will be needed each day from mid-morning to late evening to help sell tickets, check wristbands, and provide information to tournament participants and attendees. Volunteers are also needed Friday, December 27 for Holiday Classic Dance setup and food distribution. All Rochester Rotarians are asked to volunteer at this three club fundraiser. Sign-up online at the [Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic Web site](#).

This yearly, fundraising tournament hosts varsity and B-squad teams from sixteen area schools, and the teams play in brackets toward championship games. Community businesses, organizations, and Rotarians support the tournament through sponsorships and advertisements. A special thanks to our platinum sponsor, US Bank, for their continued, platinum sponsorship of the event! Funds are also raised through tickets sales. Tournament passes are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. Day passes are available, as well, for \$12 and \$8. Without the support of our community, the Rotary clubs would not be able to host this successful fundraiser.



Once the games are played, the medals and trophies are given, and the funds are counted, the tournament proceeds are distributed to Rochester youth programs through grants. To date, \$758,540 has been given back to community. The three Rochester Rotary clubs have also recently committed \$40,000 over four years to a new community impact project, the purchase of a new basketball court for the MCC Auditorium. The court will display Rotary's Mark of Excellence center court and the Masterbrand Signature courtside. It will be used not only for the Holiday Classic tournament but also for other youth basketball tournaments held throughout the year at MCC.

Holiday Classic steering committee member Mike Van Straaten shares, "Exciting changes are coming to the Rochester Rotary US Bank Holiday Basketball Tournament. In order to continue Rotary's support of Rochester basketball, changes at the high school conference level have necessitated changes to the tournament. We will actually be expanding the tournament to one of the largest in the state, which will allow spectators to enjoy more of their favorite teams. More details will be explained at a future Rotary meeting."

GUYS READ

According to the RI website, "Literacy and poverty are closely connected, and at least 1.2 billion poor people cannot read or write." (<http://sites.rotary.org/en/annualreport/2011-12/work/Pages/education.aspx>) Rotary club of Rochester Rotarians and friends of Rotary are working with groups of local boys to increase literacy by making reading fun through participation in a new Rochester Public Library program called "Guys Read." The program will work with male readers in second through fifth grades at Franklin and Riverside Elementary Schools and at Boys and Girls Club. Youth Services Librarian Ally Addison shared that guys will be selecting books about 6 weeks prior to the book club session and will have one month to read them. Rotarians will serve as special guests during the actual book clubs that will meet once a month for six months. They will help the lead a book discussion along with the 'Lead Guy.' Each session will also include a gross, guy-centric activity for the young readers.

ONE DAY AT SCHOOL...

What are you doing?

What's that?

Book for **GUYS READ.**

WE READ COOL BOOKS, EAT FOOD, MAKE GROSS STUFF, SMASH THINGS.

Books shown: *Big Name Strikes*, *Super Family*, *The Adventures of Book Glu*, *Robot Dre*, *Spaceheadz*, *The Secret of Captain George Bear*, *3 Clu*, *Lincoln*, *Rick Riordan*, *George Bear*, *Spaceheadz*, *Robot Dre*.

Like the **HULK.**

...Yeah.

SMASH

AFTER SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS SCHOOL LIBRARY UNTIL 4:30 PM JOIN TODAY



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Don't miss out on the opportunity to greet community members, enjoy fellowship, and collect money for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive. Rotarians and their friends are encouraged to sign up for a two hour shift December 7 and/or 14. Ringing locations include Hy-Vee Barlow and North, Walmart North and South and Shopko South. Inside locations are still available. Sign-up at a Thursday meeting or [online at our Club's Web site](#).



KWIK TRIP SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE

Buy a Kwik Trip Scrip card; use it like cash at any Kwik Trip and Rotary benefits. Scrip Gift Cards can be used at the pumps or for any in-store purchase, excluding Money Orders. The Kwik Trip Scrip Gift Card Program allows The Rotary Club of Rochester to keep 10% of the face value of each card. Proceeds will be combined with funds raised at our Biennial Auction and used for "good works." Scrip cards are available for purchase at the registration table at our Thursday club meetings.

The Rotary Club of Rochester 2013-14 Club Progress to Goals

CATEGORY	2013-14 GOALS	As of December 1, 2013
Membership <i>(Began Rotary year with 203)</i>	210	204
Rotary International Foundation Annual Program Fund	\$12,000	\$1,285 (11% of goal)
Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)	100%	.005%
Polio Plus <i>(from Auction proceeds)</i>	\$2,500	\$2,640 (100% of goal)
District 5960 Fast for Hope Project <i>(from Auction proceeds)</i>	\$1,000	\$1,000 (100% of goal)



*You are cordially invited to
The Rotary Club of Rochester Holiday Luncheon*

*Thursday, December 19, 2013
Heritage Hall, Kahler Hotel*

*11:00 a.m. Egnog Reception
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Plated Lunch and Program
Holiday Selections by Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra Ensemble*

*\$14.00 per person
Reservations and payment due by December 12
(Sorry, no late reservations and no refunds after this date)*

*Please clip reservation form below and return it with your check to:
TRCR, PO Box 7566, Rochester, MN 55903-7566*

*Rotary Holiday Luncheon
Please reserve _____ places for:*

Name(s) _____

*Enclosed is check for \$ _____
Please make checks payable to "TRCR"*

A HANDYMAN'S TALE OF ROTARY CONNECTIONS

By Stephen Yafa, *The Rotarian*, May 2013

Cecil “Pancho” Padilla’s emotions hover so close to the surface that at times they engulf him. As he recalls his involvement in setting up a dental clinic in Mulege, Mexico, his voice wavers: “There was a polio-stricken girl we’d helped on an earlier visit, and on this visit we were able to find her a golf cart so she wouldn’t have to crawl through the dirt any longer.”

After a lengthy pause, he continues in a halting voice, barely audible. He talks about spotting the girl’s father standing alone, apart from a group gathered to celebrate the arrival of his daughter’s golf cart.

“I went over and asked him why he wasn’t part of the celebration. He said, ‘I’m so embarrassed. I’m ashamed. You provided my daughter what I can’t provide.’” Padilla wipes his eyes with the back of his hand, breathes deeply, and composes himself before finishing the story.

If you spend any time with Pancho Padilla, you discover that this instantaneous flood of feeling is not unusual. During his Rotary work in the field, which has taken him to more than 70 countries, he keeps his emotions in check and contributes his skills as a self-taught mechanic who can fix just about anything. But once he’s back home, with time to reflect, the memories can reemerge without warning.

Now 72 and living in Davis, near Sacramento, California, in the U.S., Padilla has been retired from Pacific Gas and Electric for two decades. For him, “retired” means buying and restoring vintage cars, cross-country motorcycling, drag racing, and volunteering through Rotary and Habitat for Humanity. He’s also transformed his living room and hallways into Rotary shrines. Among his Rotary medals, ribbons, and plaques is a world map pinpointing all his Rotary trips.

But Padilla’s passion for Rotary goes beyond his collection of memorabilia. After years of donating to The Rotary Foundation, he reached \$250,000 in contributions in 2011, and he was inducted into the Arch C. Klumph Society the following year. At the ceremony, he reminisced about the time his boss at Pacific Gas and Electric asked him to join the Rotary Club of Placerville. “I had no idea that what started out as a company requirement would ultimately become a passion and a lifetime of service.” Today, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Winters.

Modest beginnings

As the son of Mexican-American parents who owned a small farm in rural West Sacramento, the young Padilla mucked out the pigs’ trough and repaired broken equipment while his mother and father worked day jobs in town to support their family. “I never knew I was poor until I went to school and the other kids laughed at the patches on my clothes. My brothers and sister and I grew up happy anyway.”



Cecil “Pancho” Padilla speaks during his induction into the Arch C. Klumph Society 19 October 2012.

Photo Credit: Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

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That hardscrabble upbringing toughened Padilla's hands but not his heart. On the trip to Mulege, he instinctively identified with the wounded pride of the polio victim's father, and just as easily with the victim herself. "As I've moved about to so many countries, there's always a hook that gets me. A parent or a child just hugs me and squeezes me, and they don't want to let me go because I've been able to help. That's what keeps me going back."

For a man so deeply involved with Rotary – he estimates that he owns and wears 97 shirts with the Rotary emblem – Padilla's early connection to the organization was inauspicious. He spent his first four years attending lunch meetings at the Placerville club and meeting for drinks with club members after work, nothing more. But at a district conference in the late '70s, he met a dentist, Don Ratley, who wanted to establish a dental clinic in Mulege. "I spoke Spanish, so he approached me to join him and translate," Padilla remembers.

Expanding his skill set

On that month-long tour in 1979, Ratley taught Padilla how to be a dental assistant – a skill that would later serve him on missions to Africa and beyond. He and Ratley set up a basic clinic and mostly pulled bad teeth, Padilla says. There was a simple reason: They had no equipment for filling cavities. Today, the clinic receives support from many Rotary clubs and occupies a stand-alone building, outfitted with three dental chairs, X-ray machines, and denture-making gear. Among other handyman tasks, Padilla installed its ceiling fans. No local resident has to pay for any services there. "We've come a long way," he says.

These days, when he's not on a Rotary mission, you're most likely to find Padilla acting as a volunteer wingman for Laura Day, governor of District 5160. Her 300-mile-long district includes 71 clubs and Padilla has agreed to drive her to visit all of them. "After so much time in the car together, I know him well," Day says. "I know he's slept on dirt floors in El Salvador, and probably didn't change his clothes for a week in order to dig out a road or build a bridge. He's done polio immunizations, medical clinics in the Philippines, dental assistance in Mexico, Nepal, and Africa – whatever was needed."

On the near horizon is another month-long dental clinic trip to Mulege with two teams that he's organized, along with a mission to Haiti to help in a recovery project and a trip to Chile. For Padilla, the gratification that comes from service is intense and ever-present.

"Maybe I don't have the words for what I feel, but there's never any doubt that I'm going to get something from every project I go on. It could be as simple as a warm tortilla from a child, something that grabs the strings of my heart. I've asked myself many times, where would my life be without these experiences?"



Join Rotary members from around the world in Sydney, Australia, 1-4 June. The 2014 RI Convention will bring together some of the world's leading experts on water, polio, and social media. You'll find new ideas for service — and perhaps a new partner for creating change — in the House of Friendship.

Plan now to make this convention a memorable family vacation. Hug a koala at the Taronga Zoo, don a BridgeSuit and climb the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, or take a cruise around the Darling Harbour.

[Register on the Rotary International Web site.](#)

