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Rotary Person of the Year

Rotary
Club of Milwaukee

Rotary Person of the Year Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rotary Person of the Year Award?

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee has no higher honor than the Rotary Person of the Year Award. Annually, our club honors an accomplished local individual who has distinguished herself or himself with professional accomplishments.

What are the criteria for the award?

Unlike other awards that recognize civic and philanthropic achievements, this award recognizes individuals, executives and entrepreneurs who, through their profession, are making the Milwaukee community a better place to live and work.

As such, past Rotary Person of the Year Award recipients have shown outstanding leadership in the advancement of ideas, products or services.

Is it awarded to Rotarians?

Members of our club are eligible for the award, but, most often, the winner comes from outside the club.

Who are some examples of people who have received the award?

Last year we celebrated Mary McCormick, the now Retired Executive Director of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. Other recent award recipients include: Beth Weirick, the now retired CEO of Milwaukee Downtown Business Improvement District #21; Michael Gosman, President & CEO of Acts Housing; Daniel Goldin, owner of Boswell Books; and Janan Najeeb, President and CEO of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition;

Who can nominate someone for Rotary Person of the Year?

The most important step in the process of selecting the Rotary Person of the Year is in your hands. The secret to a successful Rotary Person of the Year selection is the nomination submissions from RCM members. It is common for Rotary members to work together on one nomination submission.

How do I nominate someone for Rotary Person of the Year?

The Rotary Person of the Year Committee requests that nominators follow these guidelines:

- Describe why you think the individual you're nominating meets our criteria and should receive the award.
- Nominations should be 500 words or less in length and must be submitted via the application on the Rotary website.
- Submit a one-page attachment if necessary to highlight or note any special attributes beyond what you have written in your nomination.

If I submitted a nomination in the past and the person was not selected, can I nominate the same person again?

Nominations are held over for one year. So, if you submitted a nomination last year, it will be automatically reviewed this year. Please consider providing important updates that could positively impact the decision process. If the nomination was submitted two or more years ago, you are welcome to submit a new nomination.*

**Due to the 2026 selection process, nominations submitted in 2025 will also be considered by the Rotary Person of the Year Committee this year.*

Can you provide an example of a successful nomination?

Please contact the Rotary office for examples of successful nominations.

When are nominations due?

Sunday, January 31st 2027

Who selects the Rotary Person of the Year?

A committee of your fellow Rotarians reviews the nominations. It's a straight-forward process in which the nominees' attributes are scrutinized and compared. The impressive list is narrowed, and one award winner is selected.

For any other questions, please email info@milwaukeerotary.com or contact RPY Committee Chair Nancy Sennett at nsennett@foleyretiredpartners.com.