



## Rotary 1993-2000

In 1993, the RCM Community Trust reached \$600,000, and a woman from Michigan became the first woman district governor. In 1995, after many years of work from Rotarians, the Health Education Center opened.

During this era, Rotarians attended Tyrotarian events at Harnischfeger, Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee County Transit Center, the Haggerty Museum, the restored Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the expanded Froedtert Hospital (following the closing of County Hospital), and the Riverside Urban Environmental Center (later to be renamed the Urban Ecology Center).



*A 1994 Tyrotarian Tour of Harley Davidson*

During 1998, RCM joined celebrations for the 50th anniversary of adoption by the United Nations of the International Declaration of Human Rights. The RCM Golf Outing raised \$5,400 for the Youth Education Committee.

Rotarians continued to enjoy exciting and informative programs:

- In 1993, Newly-elected Congressman Tom Barrett spoke, as did Senator Herb Kohl who emphasized the importance of deficit reduction and health care reform.
- The CEO of Time Warner Cable predicted the day would come when 200 television stations could be available to home viewers.
- The CEO of Pabst Brewery outlined steps for the company's rebound.

- Lawrencia Bembenek discussed her prison experience.
- The CEO of Wisconsin Electric discussed Vision 2000: An Environmental Forum.
- In 1994, N.P.R. commentator Robert Siegel presented on the Middle East.
- Mayor John Norquist discussed the new Riverwalk.
- Hugh Sidey of Time Magazine spoke on the American Presidency.
- The Journal Communications' CEO discussed the Stadium Project Commission report in 1995, recommending a \$223 million stadium with the Brewers contributing 7% of the cost.
- That same year, Brewers' President Bud Selig explained to Rotary his reasons for opposing a downtown stadium.
- In 1996, Bob Harlan explained to Rotary the benefits of the Packers shifting games away from Milwaukee.
- Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson spoke on "Leading a Calmer Wisconsin Supreme Court."
- Historian John Gurda gave perspective on the celebration of Milwaukee's 150th anniversary.
- Former Mayor Frank Zeidler discussed Milwaukee's history of clean government.
- In 1997, Wendy Selig-Prieb assured Rotarians the Brewers had no intention of moving to the National League.
- UWM Chancellor Zimpher presented The Milwaukee Idea as a way to build a great city and UWM Dean of the School of Education discussed the likely impact of School Choice if it was approved by the Wisconsin legislature.
- In 1999, the Wisconsin Secretary of Commerce assured RCM that the state supported the expanded Art Museum and new convention center, while the Milwaukee economy was surging.
- The President of Rotary International spoke to RCM about progress in efforts to eradicate Polio.

- Ohio Congressional representative John Kasich – now the state’s Governor – explained to RCM why he was actively running for President.
- County Executive Ament presented his vision for County government enhancing the quality of life over the next 25 years.

### Milwaukee and the World 1993-2000

Arthur Ashe died of AIDS at age 50, Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize, the Holocaust Memorial Museum opened in Washington, D.C., the World Trade Center was bombed, NAFTA became law, the Air Force was required to allow women to serve as pilots, and Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time.

That year, Milwaukee County adopted its first billion-dollar budget, even though County Stadium and the museum were privatized.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton announced that health care reform was his priority during his first State of the Union address. China first became connected to the internet and the Channel Tunnel opened after 15,000 workers spent seven years building it. O.J. Simpson’s former spouse, Nicole, and her friend Ronald Goldman were murdered, and the first conference on the future of the World Wide Web was held in San Francisco.

The years leading up to the turn of the second century witnessed the most active period of investment in public facilities in Milwaukee history. The expansion of the Milwaukee Art Museum, construction of the new stadium for the Brewers, and development of the new convention center represented nearly a billion dollars in new buildings.

The years 1995 and 1996 brought significant changes to the global landscape. The internet entered the public consciousness, DVDs were available, France tested the last atomic bomb, and the Hoover Institution released a report describing the benefits of global warming. In those years, the Dow Jones first reached 5,000, and Denver opened the largest airport in the U.S.

By 1997-1999, the global population had reached 6 billion (it was 1.6 billion when RCM was chartered), and the Euro was established as currency. Google was founded, and Woolworth stores were shuttered after 177 years in business. The Columbine High School massacre left 12 students and one teacher dead.

In 2000, the first hybrid Toyota Prius appeared in the U.S., the Concorde jet crashed in Paris, the U.S. Supreme Court awarded the presidency to George W. Bush after the Florida recount, and the Dow Jones reached 11,777 at the peak of the dot-com bubble.



*Construction of the Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum*

*Photo Courtesy of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

**Created by Bill Durkin, edited by Mary Bolich**

**Bill Durkin**, President of Durkin & Associates, was a member of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee from 2000 through his passing in the spring of 2021. Bill, who was instrumental in the development of MKE Urban Stables, was actively engaged in the Club’s Centennial Anniversary celebration in 2013. An avid student of history, Bill created this history of the Club set in the context of key events occurring in the City, the State and the World.

**Mary Bolich**, a Principal with Red Rabbit Creative, joined Rotary in 2019. Mary has an extensive background in creative writing, journalism and editing working for organizations such as Kohler, Kohl’s and the U.S. Navy. She is the volunteer coordinator of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee’s People of Action profile series.