



September 2024

Fellow Rotarians,

Another school year begins which means that we are about to grant our first Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship of the 2024/25 academic year. Recall we made two changes last year:

1. In honor of Lyle Neeb's decades long commitment to honoring students, the scholarship is now referred to as the: **Lyle Neeb Perseverance Award**. Thank you, Lyle!
2. We will hold three quarterly presentations (3-4 students each time) instead of one per month. This will enable us to spend an entire meeting on this beautiful program. The meeting dates are: 10/21/24, 1/13/25, and 3/17/25.

As Rotarians, we remain committed to recognizing Oconomowoc High School Seniors who have overcome significant obstacles to become the best possible contributors to society. We are unwavering in our recognition of the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of selected students.

The **Lyle Neeb Perseverance Award** provides an avenue for our club to continue our long and proud history of thinking globally and acting locally. We recognize and encourage tomorrow's leaders to become truly great contributors to society. With your support, we have been able to provide monthly recognition to a worthy student who has overcome significant challenges in their high school career through a \$750 per year scholarship for up to two years (\$1,500 each for up to ten students annually!).

Remember that, for many of these students, this is the first (and potentially only) special recognition they have received for their achievements. Accordingly, we have an opportunity to publicly state that we are proud of them.

Here are some quotes from and about these incredible students:

"My goal has always been to be a leader in my school and community. Being lucky enough to be a recipient of a Rotary scholarship has opened doors for opportunities and strengthened my commitment to reaching my goals."

"Having grown up in a community supported by the Rotary and its members, it was incredible to see your investment in me and my future. I can't thank you enough for supporting me."

"We were figuring out how to afford college and then the Rotary scholarship came through. Not only are we grateful for the support, we also learned that we genuinely connect with the mission of the Rotary to make the world a better place."

This is our tenth annual fund drive for funds to support this scholarship program. If you are like me, learning about the achievements of these students leaves one wondering "What can I do to continue this incredible program?" If you feel so called, the Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation is looking for annual contributors for the Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund. Checks are payable to the *Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation* and can be given/mailed to either George Justice or Brion Collins. We ask that you designate if this is a one-time gift or if you are willing to make a three-year commitment at this level. Many Rotarians have asked what giving levels are acceptable. Of course, all gifts are welcome. We are hoping to secure ten annual contributors at the \$1,500 level. We are concurrently seeking one or two individual or corporate sponsors who can support this project with a \$5-10,000 annual gift. If you can facilitate an introduction, I will follow-up with your employer. Thank you.

Some of you who are over the age of 70½ have taken advantage of the ability to make a gift directly from your IRA via a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" which can be a more tax friendly mechanism.

Thank you for all you do as a Rotarian! If you have any specific questions or comments, feel free to reach out.

Kindest regards,

Lyle Neeb Perseverance Award

2024

Name: _____ Contact info: _____

_____ YES! I would love to be a proud sponsor of the Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship Fund. I will make a tax-deductible contribution today. *Circle* the giving level you feel is right for you.

\$5,000

\$1,500 (Note: We need 10 at this level!)

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

\$100

_____ Other

_____ This contribution will be coming from a qualified charitable distribution.

_____ YES! You can count on me to continue at this level for the next _____ years. Please bill me in monthly/quarterly/annual installments.

_____ YES! My company might be interested in matching my contributions or donating to this worthy program. Please contact me at _____ or another representative of the company at _____.

_____ No. I love being a Rotarian and support our community in other ways. I am unable to contribute to this specific initiative.

Checks are payable to: *Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation* and can be mailed to P.O. BOX 112, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Please enter "Scholarship Fund" in the memo of your check.

Questions: Contact Brion Collins at brioncollins@gmail.com or (414) 807-6859