

Excelsior Morning Rotary Club 30th Anniversary Celebration

Excelsior Morning
Rotary

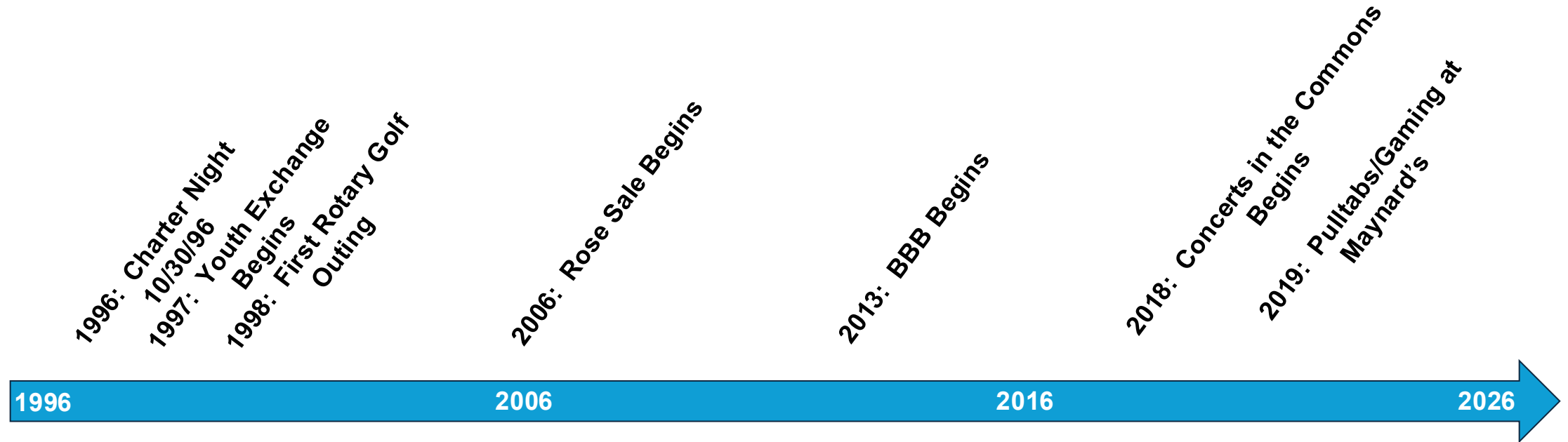


Contents

- Our History and Traditions
- Charter Members
- Meeting Format and 4-Way Test
- Membership & Culture
- Youth Services
- Youth Exchange
- Local & International Service
- Signature Events
- Gaming
- Awards
- Rotary Foundation / Paul Harris Awards



Timeline of Events



Our History

Bagpipes have played a role in our club since its inception. This tradition was introduced to the Excelsior Rotary Club during the International Goodwill Meeting held in Winnipeg, Canada decades ago.

In 1910, Winnipeg was the first Rotary Club outside of the United States. It was, in essence, “The Club That Made Rotary International!” In 1925, Winnipeg began hosting the Goodwill Weekend, and clubs from Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Central Canada would gather in Winnipeg in February each year.

The event was held for 85 years and included curling, a formal meeting and seminar, a tour of Winnipeg, a grand banquet, and themed hospitality suites hosted by the Americans.

The Excelsior Noon Club was a perennial attending with groups ranging from 10 – 25 Rotarians per year.



Our History

The idea of the Lake Minnetonka Excelsior Rotary Club was formed at a District 5950 meeting on the University of Minnesota Campus during the month of October in 1994. Present were past district governors and at-large members, John Fischer and Bob Weiss.

Rotary International was committed to adding new clubs to each district. The idea was brought up to start a morning club in Excelsior. Bob Weiss was asked to explore and lead the task of founding a club.

Bob approached the existing Excelsior Rotary Club #2113, which met over lunch, to request that #2113 sponsor the new morning club. At that time, the Noon Club was 70 members strong, but only five members from the Noon Club could transfer to the new club.



Our History

After a lengthy discussion at the board meeting, the Excelsior Noon Club agreed to sponsor the new charter.

Phil Marty, Ross McGlasson, and Bob Weiss were the three noon club members that transferred to the new club.

As is a Rotary tradition, the Noon Club gifted its meeting bell - which is still used to call our meeting to order and to close each meeting.

Rotary International, at that time, had a requirement of a minimum of 25 members in order to charter a new club. Excelsior Morning Rotary's charter night was held at the Mai Tai Restaurant located next to Maynard's on October 30, 1996, and all 36 charter members were present.

Nick Ruehl acted as the master of ceremonies, and the guest speaker was #5950 District Governor Thomas M. Thorfinnson.



Our History

Our club was presented its charter as #31837. That number signifies that the club was the 31,837th club inducted into Rotary International.

That evening, we had five past district governors and spouses, the current district governor in attendance, and 14 other Rotary Clubs in District #5950 were also present.

Excelsior Rotary (Noon) Club President Lee Paris and Immediate Past President Amy Mook presented our club with a meeting bell.

Our Large Blue Rotary Banner with the Club's official name was presented to us by the Buffalo Rotary Club #2105.

The lectern that we use today was given to the club by Bob Weiss, and the Rotary sticker on the front of it is original.



Our History

Although there had been many weekly meetings before we were chartered, the chartered club's first weekly meeting started November 6, 1996 at Maynard's Restaurant.

The first several months of meetings were at Maynard's, and Maynard's and the Stevens family have been special partners with our club for all 30 years.

Maynard's has supported us in too many ways to list, but we are very grateful for its commitment to all things Rotary.

Elected officers were Doug Lees as President, Susan Sano Vice President, Guy Sasanfar as Treasurer. Ann Fenger acted as our first Youth Exchange Officer.



Our Traditions

- **Our meeting location** for 30 years - **Maynard's**
- **Our meeting time:** 6:45AM coffee, 7:00AM start and end promptly at 8:00AM
- **Our Bell** which opens and closes every meeting- Given to us at our **Charter Night by the Noon Club**
- Our weekly **Pledge and Inspiration**
- **The Pig** - Given to us by the **Mound Club**
- Our **Club Banner** - Given to us at Charter Night by the **Buffalo MN Club**
- Our **banner that holds all of the International Club flags** from our inbound and outbound exchange students, and Clubs we have visited
- Spring and Fall **Trail Clean-Up** – Started and still led by Phil Marty
- **First Thursdays** - Started by then President Austin Kraft in 2010
- The **Joyce Gustafson ('99) and McGlasson Family ('15)** Awards
- And, most recently, past president Zarir's tradition of **Two Minutes of Connection**

Our Charter Members

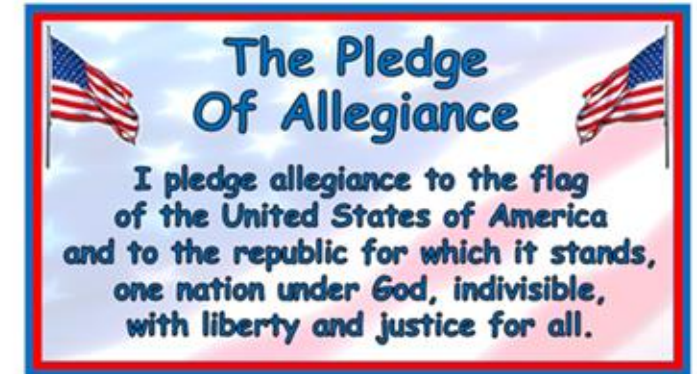
Don David	Mal Ellison	Ann Fenger*	Rich Friedman	Liz Fuller
John Gorecki	Jonathan Guyton	Patrick Hanily	Lee Harren	Jane Heiland*
Kay Heimark	Pro Hruda	Leslie Jenson	Daniel Jett	Brad Johnson
Mike Jorgensen	Glenn Keller	Don Kelly	Doug Lees	Doug Livingston
Phil Marty*	Jim MacFarland	Ross McGlasson*	Mary Merz	Bob Miller
Tom Nicol*	Kye Ploen	Pete Rinzel	Susan Sano	Guy Sasanfar
Alan Stricker	Alan Tollefson	Job Van Gieson	Kathy Wachter	Bob Weiss
Tom Wilder				

*** Current Member**

LMERC Typical (non-COVID) Weekly Meeting

Wednesday morning; Max time: 1 hour

- Social/fellowship (coffee; breakfast; general gathering)
- Pledge/Inspiration Rotarian leads us through:
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Inspiration
 - Four Way Test
- Pass the “pig” (announcements; “good things”; miscellaneous stuff)
- Presentation

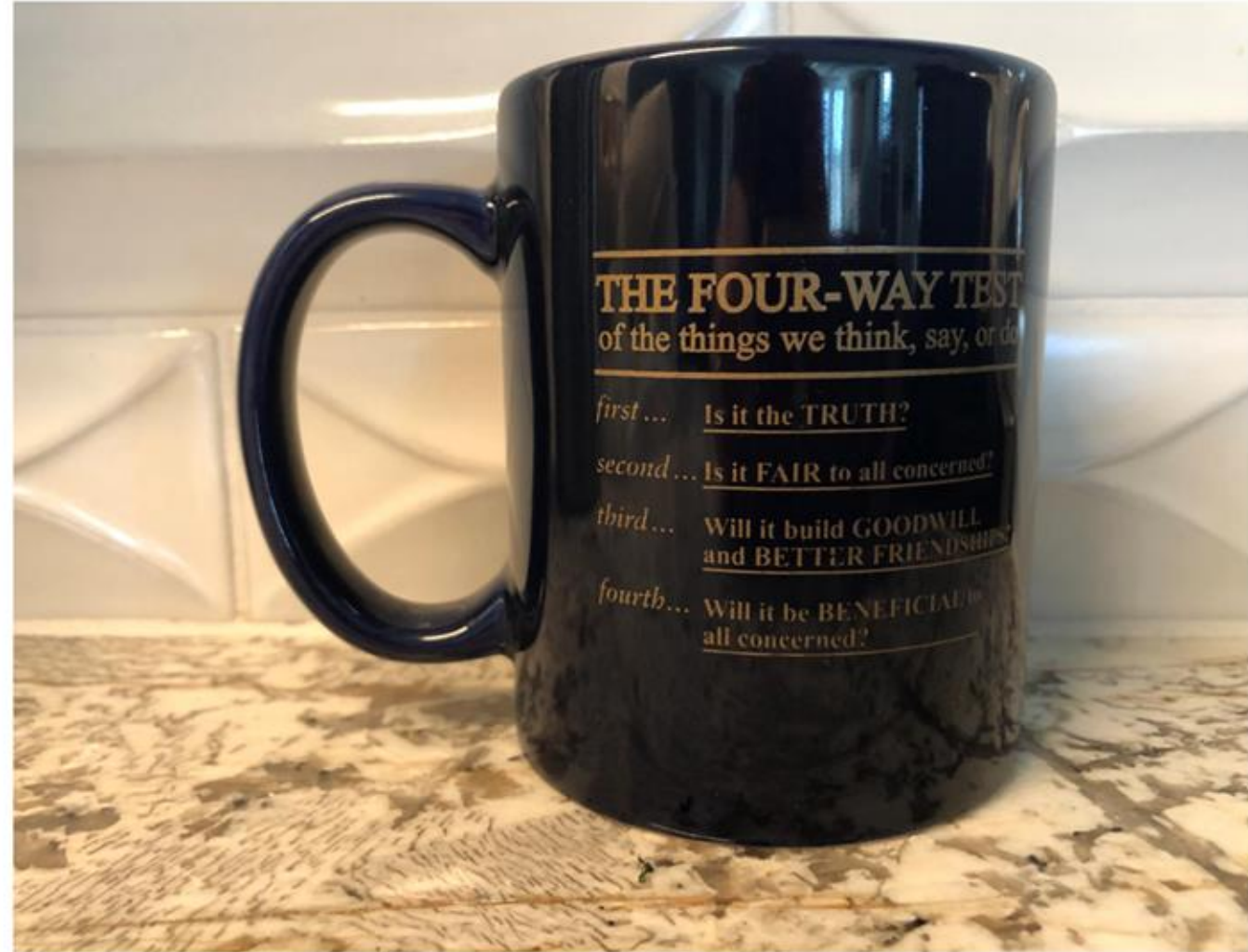


Four Way Test

Every meeting....

- Of all the things we think, say and do:
 - Is it the TRUTH?
 - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

History of the Four-Way Test



into more than a hundred
languages and published in thousands of ways.

Membership Guiding Principles



Our club has always embraced women as members, and importantly, women in leadership of the club. At a time when other 5950 district clubs did not yet embrace women as members, 8 of 35 charter members were women, an uncommon ratio for that era in Rotary, and our 2nd club president was a woman (Susan Sano).



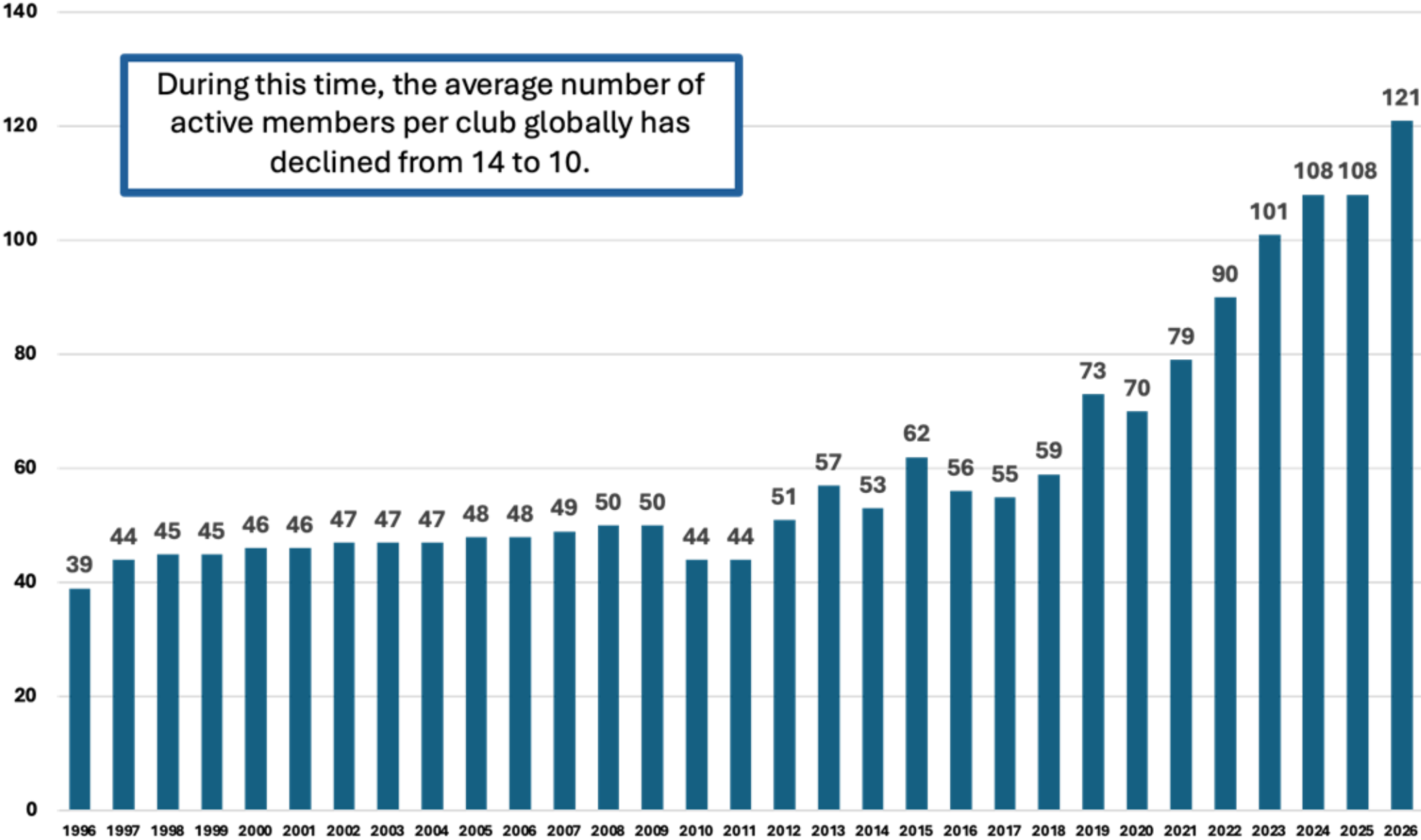
Following Susan, we have had 8 women as president over 30 years. When our club was formed initially, charter members agreed to take turns serving as club president as part of their commitment. The women in the club, notably Ann Fenger and Jane Heiland, were high energy “doers who got things done”.



Today, our members represent a blend of ages, professions, and life stages — from entrepreneurs and educators to health professionals and civic leaders. We’re united by purpose and by a sense of belonging.



Excelsior Morning Rotary Club - Active Members



Our Culture

- Culturally, our club has always embraced action, with a Can-Do Attitude, having a significant impact on our community from the very beginning. Our club was determined to raise money from outside sources and specifically did not want to be a “check-writing” club.
- We describe our fellowship using the **TRIBE framework** — a reflection of what makes our Club thrive:
 - **Traditions:** Honoring our history while evolving with the times.
 - **Relevance:** Ensuring our work meets current community needs.
 - **Identity:** Being proud of who we are and what we represent.
 - **Belonging:** Creating space for everyone’s voice.
 - **Effectiveness:** Measuring impact by outcomes, not just effort.
- Our Club’s growth from three dozen members to more than one hundred today is proof that our mix of purpose and friendship keeps people coming back — and inviting others in.

TRADITIONS—Our Golden Thread

What Lessons do we take from past events to help the team succeed in the future?

Camaraderie—As Rotarians we develop friendships based on trust and enjoy working together to achieve a common goal.

RELEVANCE—Our Meaning

What is meaningful in what our team does beyond personal gain?

Impact—We enrich our local and global communities by making a meaningful impact in people’s lives.

IDENTITY—Our Edge

What is our team’s distinctive edge, the magic that gives it an unfair advantage? What makes us unique from other clubs?

Can-Do Attitude--We are a fun and talented group of doers who get things done!

BELONGING--Our Glue

What holds our team together, so members feel included and accepted? What do we expect of each other?

Engaged--We are a team of welcoming, reliable, committed individuals having fun working together.

EFFECTIVENESS--Our Capability

What capabilities enable our team to succeed?

Effective Leadership--We are vibrant, enterprising members who build upon our experiences and expertise.

Youth Services - Interact

The Excelsior Morning Rotary Interact Club was started at Minnetonka High School by Ann Fenger and Rich Friedman in 2011. Mary Kuhn was working at MHS at the time and was approached by Ann and other Rotarians, and they requested she act as the MHS adult advisor. Mary remembers ...

“Ann Fenger and a few other Rotarians approached me about helping to launch Interact at the high school. I believe the year was 2011. We had probably 20 kids or so both years. We developed a board and had elections in the year to follow. Meetings were run similar to our Rotary meeting, starting with the pledge. We met Wednesday morning before school, 2x per month with the entire club and 2x with the board. The kids pitched ideas service activities and we created a calendar for projects - roughly 6 to 8 per year. Many of the same activities they’re currently doing - sandwich making, salvation army bell ringing, blanket making, Christmas card writing to military overseas, collection and sorting of school supplies for Mano Mano, etc. If possible, I or a student might bring in or present info on the organization the group would be serving. The most memorable project was, in my mind, coordinating a service project with a Rotary Club located in Ghana to provide long lasting lights for kids for night studying.” —Mary Kuhn

•

Ann also remembers her first youth project from 2006 when Rotary received a district grant to help buy computers for high school kids in Grande Bourg, Argentina

Youth Services - Interact

In 2018, Tamara Schwartz took over the reins of Youth Services as the Rotary Advisor along with Kathleen Mallery. In the Fall of 2019, they planned an **Interact 5K race**, sponsored by the students and the cross-country team. Students worked with The Lakes Running store to sponsor the event. The spring of 2020 brought Covid, and Interact meetings moved outdoors and the 5K became an “On your honor” run. The students were incredibly resourceful and resilient as they made the necessary changes to keep people safe during Covid.

2020 brought more outdoor and virtual meetings as students tried very hard to stay connected. Tammy Schwartz became Rotary President in July 2020, and Cari Gerlicher became the Youth Services Chair, with Kathleen Mallery continuing to share Interact duties.

During the Fall of 2021, Interact students began to talk about opening a **Food Shelf** in MHS. After several meetings with Principal Erickson, and then Minnetonka Public Schools Superintendent Dennis Peterson, permission was granted to open the food shelf at MHS in 2023. By the end of the 2025-26 school year, 489 orders had been filled with most supporting a family of five or more. MHS found the Interact Club's food shelf a new space in 2025 with four times the room - and 100% fewer mice!

Youth Services - Interact Pics



Youth Services - Interact Pics



Youth Services - Interact



Camp RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (Camp RYLA) is a fun, intensive leadership camp where high school juniors and sophomores develop leadership, teambuilding, and problem-solving skills.

Joint youth activity run by Rotary Districts #5950 and #5960.

Promotes individual growth and leadership capabilities through physical, mental, emotional, and intellectual challenges.

Five day camp is held at YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI.

About 100 high school students are selected from southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin by their local Rotary Clubs which pay the camp tuition.

Free to students and their families.



Camp Enterprise

The Rotary Clubs of Edina have administered the amazing leadership development program, Camp Enterprise, for high school juniors and seniors for almost 50 years. It is one of their signature programs each year.

It provides a three-day camp at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, Minnesota for high school juniors and seniors. It is designed to introduce students to the free enterprise system and encourage entrepreneurship and ethical business practices.

Each year, at least five \$1,000 higher education scholarships are awarded to students of exceptional merit. Camp Enterprise has awarded more than \$80,000 in scholarships since its inception.

Students learn by participating in team-building projects, hearing speakers, and engaging in case studies.

This program supports more than 120 high school students, 16 college counselors, and numerous speakers and volunteers.



Camp Enterprise



Youth Exchange



The most significant act performed by our club during our 2nd year was sending an outbound Youth Exchange student to Argentina, and sponsoring inbound student from Hungary.



- During our first decade we had a total of 21 inbound and outbound students. This has proven to be a fundamental commitment of our club until the pandemic in 2020 temporarily stopped the program.



- Rotarian Ann Fenger, as Youth Exchange Chair, managed this program for more than 20 years. The commitment that Ann brought to our club, and to youth exchange in particular, cannot be overstated.



- Our Club's hosting model typically involves three host families, giving each student a variety of experiences during their stay.









Local and International Service

SERVICE & COMMITTEES: HANDS-ON IMPACT

COMMITTEE IMPACT

Service is the lifeblood of Rotary—our committees bring it to life every week. The **Local** Service Committee leads efforts like:



Trail Clean-Up

our first hands-on project, begun in 1997.



Bell Ringing



Blood Drives

partnering with Memorial Blood Centers to help save lives.



Meal and Sandwich Packing

fast-paced, high-energy events where members and families pack thousands of meals for food-insecure Minnesotans.



ICA Support (Food Dash)

providing both donations and manpower to keep shelves stocked.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Meanwhile, our **International Committee** connects our small town to the wider world, amplifying our reach—often turning a \$1 contribution into \$3 or more.

Local Service - Trail Clean-Up



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



Fishing for Kids



Kids Against Hunger



International Service

- Our Club's international reach reflects Rotary's global spirit. Here are some highlights from our decades of cross-border collaboration:
- **2006–2011:**
 - \$23,500 directed to two projects in Buenos Aires, providing 56 computers, 10 printers, a projector, and a camera for a vocational technology school.
 - Donation of two incubators for premature babies in Argentina.
 - A \$1,000 contribution leveraged into ~\$15,000 to fund five wells in Haiti, led by Bob Weiss.
 - More than \$45,000 in support to **Smile Network** and **Cleft Palate** initiatives (Kathy Hanson, Karen Sorbo).
 - Member trip to India to participate in **Polio Immunization Day** (Jane Heiland).
 - \$26,000 to **Women at the Well** and other safe-water projects.



International Service

- **2014–2024:**
 - **Guatemala:** Wakami (women's entrepreneurship and crafts)
 - **Ghana:** Shamba Partnership (community agriculture and education)
 - **Bolivia:** Mano a Mano (healthcare infrastructure)
 - **South Africa:** Africa Classroom Connection (school construction)
 - **Nicaragua:** Project Minnesota–León (education and community development)
 - **Worldwide:** ShelterBox (disaster relief)
- Each project includes a clear emphasis on sustainability, accountability, and local partnership — ensuring that every dollar invested multiplies through community empowerment.



International Service

Bricks to Bread



Chimbote, Peru





ShelterBox

Fundraising & Signature Events

Golf Tournament (1998 – 2021)

- What began as a joint effort with the Noon Club quickly became one of our longest-running traditions.
- For more than two decades, the golf tournament at venues such as Minnetonka Country Club, Burl Oaks, and Deer Run netted between **\$30,000 and \$40,000** per year. The proceeds funded scholarships, youth programs, and international grants.
- By 2021, members decided to sunset the tournament after 24 successful years, not because the spirit had faded, but because the club's focus was shifting toward more community-visible events that connected Rotary directly with our neighbors.
- This is the main reason that the golf tournament was eventually stopped ... as successful as it was, most of the money raised through the golf and auction came from the members.



Golf Tournament





Rose Sale (2010 - Present)

- Conceived by **Gregg Elliott and Pat Hanily**, the Rose Sale grew from a simple fundraiser into an annual spring ritual of friendship.
- Members fan out across the west-metro area delivering sometimes up to a thousand bouquets, often by hand, to businesses and homes. Each sale brings smiles and conversations that embody Rotary's personal touch.
- More than just a fundraiser, the Rose Sale has become the initiation activity for the "freshman class" of new club members.
- Each year, new club members coordinate the event, learn to work together and become comfortable with fundraising.
- Selling roses has become an extension of goodwill to the community: brightening offices, kitchens, and classrooms while supporting Rotary causes both near and far.





BBB: Bingo & Burgers by the Bay (2013 – 2024)

- In January of 2013 President Pat Hanily felt that our club had enough members to add another fundraising event. A group, led by Pat Hanily, and including Brian Tichey, Dave Petroske, Mark Williams, and Chip Cheney, met at Pat's house to brainstorm ideas.
- The result was Bingo & Burgers by the Bay (or BBB).
- What began as a small gathering evolved into a popular community evening where families played BINGO, laughed, and ate together on the shores of Lake Minnetonka.
- Pat's original thought was that the event should raise the profile of the club in Excelsior and beyond and also somehow benefit the business community. The original goal was to make sure the club didn't lose money.



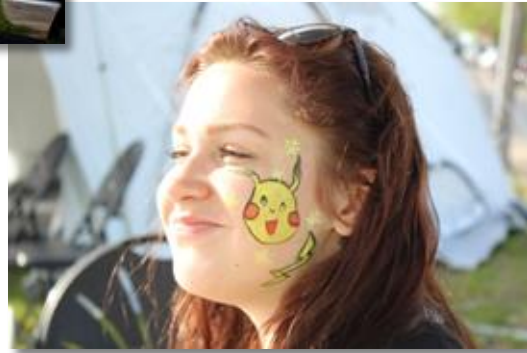
BBB: Bingo & Burgers by the Bay (2013 – 2024)

- The first event was held Saturday, May 5th in the empty lot next to The Dock movie theater. Three hours of bingo was followed by a two-hour live band concert.
- A large tent was set up to house the bingo games. Maynard's partnered with us to supply hamburgers and brats, and the Excelsior American Legion provided beer and wine for us to sell. Prizes were solicited from local businesses.
- BBB was a family event with face painting and other activities provided for kids. In addition to bingo, there was also a raffle with prizes from big screen TVs to trips.
- The funds raised were donated to the South Minnetonka Chamber of Commerce to help pay for the July 4th fireworks. The event continued every year until 2024.
- BBB proved that fellowship could be a fundraising tool and that Rotary's most powerful gift is its ability to bring people together.



We impact our community through events and fundraising

Bingo & Burgers by the Bay



Concerts in the Commons (2015 – Present)

- The Excelsior Morning Rotary Club's involvement with the Concerts in the Commons developed out of a conversation at a Rotary happy hour in 2015. At the time, the Concerts in the Commons was run by the Excelsior Park and Recreation Department.
- In 2015, there were five concerts held once a month on Wednesday evenings. Attendance was inconsistent and often there were no concessions.
- With the help of Tom Nicol, the St. Cloud Rotary Club became our model. That club created a concert series in St. Cloud, called Summertime by George (Lake George). The club's purpose was to help with improvements to the Lake George Park. The club was very successful in that endeavor, and it was an inspiration for us to do something similar in Excelsior with the Commons.



Concerts in the Commons (2015 – Present)

- At about the same time, the Community for the Commons (C4C) was organized as a group that could take over the management of the Commons Park and create a master plan for park improvements.
- Listening sessions and open houses gathered input from residents and concerned citizens. During this time, the C4C leadership sought out our Rotary Club for input. The C4C leadership saw the value of the vision for a concert series.
- In 2017, C4C presented a Commons Master Plan that was accepted by the City of Excelsior.
- Fast-forwarding to 2025, the concert series is made up of seven concerts held on every other Wednesday evening, attracting thousand of people from Excelsior and the surrounding communities.
- Food trucks provide a wide array of specialties. We sell beer and wine through our partnership with the Excelsior Legion, and we have successfully engaged with many corporate sponsors. This past year, we raised over **\$700,000** that was given back to the community.



Concert in the Commons







Gaming (Pull-Tabs): A New Era of Community Funding

- In 2018, Jack Stevens approached Tom Nicol and told Tom that he was thinking of starting selling pull-tabs at Maynard's.
- Given our long-standing relationship between LMERC and the Stevens family, Jack asked Tom if our club would be willing to run it.
- Tom framed up the idea and brought it to the Board in 2018-19 during Charlie Kanan and Brian Nau's tenures as president.
- The Board readily agreed, and the booth at Maynard's opened in July of 2019.
- Our club's goal was to always achieve a four-star / gold star rating. Tom, David Kordonowy, and Larry Lembrich have been primarily responsible for our Gaming operation since it began.



Charitable Gaming (Pull-Tabs): A New Era of Community Funding

- Despite the uncertainty of the pandemic years, 2021 became a breakthrough moment. Excelsior Morning Rotary expanded its charitable gaming to **The Narrows**, adding a second successful site, followed soon by a third at **The North Coop**.
- The payoff came quickly! In **June 2021**, the club announced its first major milestone — donating **\$75,000** from gaming proceeds back into the community. Those funds supported local nonprofits, youth programs, and international service projects.
- During the FY24-25 Rotary year, almost **\$300,000** was donated to local organizations through our club's Gaming efforts.

Play Local, Give Back Local.



Maynards
EXCELSIOR

685 Excelsior Blvd, Excelsior, MN

Pull-Tabs: 12 PM – 7 PM Daily

E-Tabs: Available during all bar hours!

Thank you to Maynards, one of our charitable gaming partners!

Excelsior Morning
Rotary



Charitable Gaming (Pull-Tabs): A New Era of Community Funding

Today, charitable gaming remains a cornerstone of our fundraising portfolio, providing reliable support for grants and initiatives while embodying Rotary's blend of entrepreneurship and service.

For every dollar that is spent on pull-tabs or e-pull-tabs by patrons of these three establishments: **(rough numbers)**

- 84% gets paid out in winnings
- 8% goes to the State
- 4% covers our operating expenses, and
- 4% is retained by our club as net profit



Charitable Gaming (Pull-Tabs): A New Era of Community Funding



Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award

Joyce Gustafson, better known as “Gus” or “Miss Gus”, was a career music teacher at Minnetonka Public Schools and Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church from 1969 until her untimely passing in 1999. She was an influential and highly respected colleague, helping with curriculum, the Minnetonka Teachers Association, and staff development, including the somewhat talented group known as “Staff Infection”.

Joyce brought her sense of humor and leadership to staff and administration as a true professional. She taught elementary for more than 20 years before moving to Minnetonka Middle School West.

She was first and foremost the champion of the kids, bringing out the best in everyone she influenced. She understood the needs of middle school kids, finding, encouraging and fostering the hidden qualities in students and colleagues alike.

MINNETONKA SUN SAILOR JUNE 28, 2000
MHS teacher receives first Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award

Mary Skoy has taught at MHS for 32 years

By Colleen Timmer
Sun Newspapers

In her 30 years of teaching music for the Minnetonka School District Joyce Gustafson touched many lives.

“Joyce had a tremendous influence on students in the schools and community,” Assistant Superintendent Mike Lovett said. “She had a special ability to really develop confidence in kids.”

Gustafson was not only connected to students and staff at the School District but to many people in the community on many levels. According to Lovett, she was involved with the Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM), directed community choirs and a children’s choir at the church she attended.

“Joyce had a confidence that would allow her to get people involved,” Lovett said.

“Miss Gus,” as she was fondly known, taught music for the Minnetonka School District until the spring of 1999. According to Lovett, she worked until several weeks before her death, when she lost a five-year battle with cancer.

In an effort to keep her spirit and commitment to students alive a special recognition award was created in her name. The award is sponsored by the Lake Minnetonka/Excelsior Rotary Club.

Slated now to become an annual event, Rotary Club member Michael Jorgensen said this year marked the first year the Joyce “Gus” Gustafson Memorial Award was given.

According to Jorgensen, part of the rotary’s function is to work for community good and vocational service.

“Rotary members agreed this would be a great thing to do,” he said.

Gustafson had touched his life personally, strongly encouraging his daughter when she was one of her students.

“She was an unusual person in the School District. She encouraged and inspired kids,” Jorgensen said. “Kids loved her.”

AWARD: To Page 13A

Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award

Established in 1999, the annual Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award, given by the Excelsior Morning Rotary Club, recognizes other teachers who clearly exhibit the same traits as Gus. Each year's recipient embodies Rotary's spirit of selfless contribution and receives a \$1,000 scholarship to direct toward a charitable cause or educational endeavor.

We are blessed in the Minnetonka Public School District to have many, many educators who know how to bring out the best and give all students the same opportunities to grow and learn.

Congratulations to the past award winners:

2025 - Paula Erbisch, School Counselor, MMW
2024 - Anna Bjork, Multilingual Learners Teacher, MME
2023 - Emily Westlund, School Office Assistant, Groveland Elementary
2022 - James Malewig, MMW, Teacher
2021 - Ali Alowonle, Clear Springs Elementary, Teacher
2020 - Jeff Renlund, Excelsior Elementary Physical Education Teacher
2019 - Angie Kallman (posthumously), MME math teacher
2018 - Amber Larsen, District-wide Special Education Teacher
2017 - Tim Felty, Minnetonka High School, Spanish Teacher
2016 - Margaret Gaumond, Minnetonka High School
2015 - Tom Condon, Minnetonka Middle School West, Teacher
2014 - Jerry McNeal, Scenic Heights
2013 - Mary Beth Wiig, Minnetonka High School, Guidance Counselor
2012 - Anne Redfern, Groveland Elementary, Reading Specialist
2011 - Bev Ginther, Interim Director of Teaching and Learning
2010 - Jerry Bartow, MME, Language Arts teacher
2009 - Delette Lemon, Clear Springs Elementary, Special Education Teacher
2008 - Rachel Polanski, Deephaven Elementary, Kindergarten Teacher
2007 - Melanie (Casiday) Mzingo, Minnewashta Elementary, Art Teacher
2006 - Jan Nelson, MHS, Art Teacher
2005 - Randy Nelson, MHS, Work Experience Teacher
2004 - Colleen Faber, Scenic Heights, Social Worker
2003 - Jim Moon, MHS, Technology Education Teacher
2002 - Kathy Kirkegaard, Minnewashta, Music Teacher
2001 - Allie Cronk, Clear Springs, Physical Education Teacher
2000 - Mary Skoy, MHS, Language Arts Teacher

The McGlasson Family Award for Leadership in Community Service

The McGlasson Family Award (previously Ross McGlasson Award) is a distinguished and unique Award of Excellence for **lifetime community leadership**. This award promotes and recognizes strong volunteer leadership, community involvement, and support of youth-oriented activities and services in the South Lake Minnetonka Area.

Award Criteria: The degree to which their services and actions have made a lasting or meaningful contribution has an impact on the Lake Minnetonka community.

- The length and degree of their services.
- The extent to which their services or actions might be considered above and beyond the call of duty
- The extent to which their action would be recognized and valued by their peers and community leaders

The award, given by the Excelsior Morning Rotary Club, is a \$1,000 donation to the winner's charity of choice.



Past Winners:

- 2025 Pam Langseth
- 2024 Donald Drayer
- 2023 Dennis Peterson
- 2022 Anne Fenger
- 2020 Charlie Kanan
- 2018 Nick Ruehl
- 2017 Frank Kuzma
- 2016 Tom Stevens
- 2015 Ron Kamps

Rotary Foundation Giving



- Rotary's work is powered by generosity — and our Club's giving record tells a story of sustained commitment.
- By the Club's 20th anniversary, total contributions to the **Rotary Foundation** exceeded **\$230,450**, including **\$14,000 toward PolioPlus**, much of it raised through member "sweat equity." Approximately **50 donors** contributed to these totals, producing nearly **40 Paul Harris Fellows**, along with Paul Harris Society and Benefactor members.
- By the 30th anniversary, combined contributions, grants, and leveraged funds brought the Club's **total impact to more than \$900,000** — a milestone representing decades of steady generosity.
- Each dollar has gone farther than we could have imagined — reaching from Excelsior to Africa, from Maynard's to the mountains of Guatemala.



Paul Harris Fellow

Paul Harris Society



Cumulative \$1000
Donated

\$1000 Committed
every year

Community Partners

From the beginning, the Excelsior Morning Rotary Club has been involved financially and in service with our local community. Here are some of our most important partnerships.

- **Minnetonka Public School District** - We have many Minnetonka Public Schools staff in our membership. Club members have been mentors for Minnetonka Schools students through VANTAGE and now STRIVE. We also sponsor an Interact Club.
- **City of Excelsior** - We have organized events to benefit the City of Excelsior and local business, including Concerts in the Commons, Burgers & Bingo by the Bay, and the Rotary Golf Tournament.
- **ICA Food Shelf** - Food Dash and other financial support
- **South Lake Minnetonka Chamber of Commerce** - Many members have volunteered at Chamber events.
- **American Legion** - The Legion has supported both BBB and Concerts in the Commons by donating beverages. This helps us to give more money back to the Community.



As a Club, we have many things of which to be proud! Get involved in the many opportunities for volunteering and leadership.

Here's to the next 30 years!

APPENDIX

Youth Exchange: Inbound Students

	Student Name	Sex	Country	Year 
1	Nagy, Diana		Hungary	1997-98
2	Mitre, Ekaterina		Russia	1998-99
3	Cobo, Ender			1999-00
4	Masquelier, Pauline		Belgium	2000-01
5	Vallejo, Santiago		Ecuador	2000-01
6	Alderete Rojas, Paola (Amalia)		Paraguay	2003-04
7	Coelho, Lucas	M	Brazil	2011-12
8	Elgatami, Fabiola Devina	F	Indonesia	2013-14
9	Vieira, Matheus Milagres	M	Brazil	2013-14
10	Carvalho Matta, Júlia	F	Brazil	2014-15
11	Valtanen, Vikke	M	Finland	2014-15
12	Choi, Eunwoo	M	South Korea	2015-16
13	Rokstad, Nanna	F	Denmark	2015-16
14	Espadas Gimenez, Cristina	F	Spain	2016-17
15	Ma, Yi-Hsiang (Mark)	M	Taiwan	2016-17
16	Perez Lozano, Daniel (Dani)	M	Spain	2017-18
17	Geerdsen, Laura	F	Denmark	2018-19
18	Ce, Pedro	M	Brazil	2019-20
19	Gupta, Sanskar	M	India	2022-23

	Student Name	Sex	Country	Year
20	Eugene Choi	M	Japan	2024-25
21	Rocco Geest	M	Germany	2025-26
22	Jordan Kagama	F	Sudan	2026-27

Youth Exchange: Outbound Students

Touhey, Andrea		1997-98	5950	Argentina
Rocca, Jacob		1998-99	5950	Japan
Allebach, Amanda		1999-00	5950	Austria
Alhquist, Tracy Ann		2000-01	5950	Chile
Knoll, Linda		2000-01	5950	Argentina
Lang, Lindsey Starr		2000-01	5950	Italy
Sood, Sheena	F	2001-02	5950	
Williams, Ryan	M	2001-02	5950	
Carlson, Suzanne	F	2002-03	5950	Germany
Oberstar, Anne	F	2002-03	5950	France
Weiss, Jennifer	F	2004-05	5950	
Fuhr, Grace	F	2005-06	5950	
Flavin, Scott	M	2006-07	5950	Japan
Kraft, Winona	F	2007-08	5950	
DePaolis, Matt	M	2008-09	5950	France
Glenn, Kyle	M	2008-09	5950	Germany
Tetzlaff, Tara	F	2008-09	5950	Brazil
LaPointe, Alyssa	F	2009-10	5950	France
Stratman, Hannah	F	2009-10	5950	South Korea
De Los Rios Boulton, Rafael	M	2010-11	5950	France
Hanske, James	M	2010-11	5950	Taiwan
Hanson, Sadie	F	2010-11	5950	France
Kraft, Christian	M	2010-11	5950	Brazil

24	Kvam, Eric	M	2010-11	5950	South Korea
25	Byrne, Brendan	M	2012-13	5950	Japan
26	Hanson, Gunnar	M	2012-13	5950	Finland
27	Noyed, Katharine	F	2012-13	5950	Denmark
28	Johnson, Hunter	M	2013-14	5950	Paraguay
29	Kriegel, Ashlyn	F	2013-14	5950	Spain
30	Manning, Sarah	F	2013-14	5950	Belgium
31	Huminski, Emily	F	2014-15	5950	Chile
32	Segal, Ruby	F	2014-15	5950	Belgium
33	Schenkel, Anika	F	2015-16	5950	Colombia
34	Turnquist, Alaina	F	2015-16	5950	Chile
35	Hotvet, Gretta	F	2016-17	5950	Finland
36	Johnson, Taylor	F	2016-17	5950	Taiwan
37	Beauchamp, Maren	F	2017-18	5950	Italy
38	Carlson, Julian	M	2022-23	5950	Belgium

39	Luella Goll	F	2024-25	Belgium
40	Abigail Goll	F	2024-25	Italy
41	Madelyn Clough	F	2025-26	Brazil
42	Naomi Mul-Patton	F	2026-27	Taiwan