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Denver Mile High Rotary

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Rotary



Rotary Club of  
Denver Mile High

Service Above Self



*Denver Mile High Rotary where commitment and service rise above the mountain tops*

## President's Column:

May 3, 2016

As most of you know, **Denver Mile High Rotary** is this year's recipient of the **Paul Harris Award for Excellence**. This award is presented annually by the District 5450 Governor at the District Conference. This award, which has been presented to 19 clubs in our District since its inception in 1984, recognizes overall Rotary excellence by a District club. This is the second time that DMHR has received this award – the last time being 1995-96. Of the 65 clubs in our District, only one (Denver SE) has received this award more than twice. This award places us in an elite group of Rotarians who demonstrate by their actions the concept of "Service above Self". As Dan Himelspace remarked, "We play above our weight class".

Several of you have inquired as to why DMHR received this prestigious award this year. I think this is a question that deserves some consideration. While celebrating the recognition we have been given, let's plan on how we can become even better!

First, there is perhaps the easiest criteria to measure, membership numbers. Rotary measures membership numbers based on the July 1 to June 30 Rotary year. We entered the 2015 -16 year with 43 members and we are currently at 51 with another membership application in hand. We stand to achieve 20% growth in membership – year on year. Very few clubs achieve anything over a 10% annual growth in membership and we rank highly among our peers on these criteria.

The problem with membership numbers is that I believe they need to be taken in context. We were the 23rd largest of the 65 district clubs in terms of size coming into the current year. We stand to move up perhaps a half dozen places based on our current membership numbers. We are a mid-sized club. For comparison, the two largest clubs in our District are Boulder and Denver 31. Each has a membership slightly in excess of 250 individuals. Our club members have told us that they believe our optimal club size is 80 or less. We value our fellowship and don't want to lose the sense of family that we enjoy. We want to have the critical mass that enables us to take on any challenge we desire while preserving the "everybody knows everybody" feel we enjoy! PE Melanie has set a membership goal of 60 for next year.

The more subtle issue that follows membership numbers is the impact and contribution that those members make to the Club, the District and Rotary International. I am pleased to report that the generosity of our members has not gone unnoticed. We have exceeded this year's club goals for donations to both the Rotary International Foundation as well as Polio Plus. We rank second in donation per member to the Polio Plus Fund among all the clubs of our district. We rank fifth among clubs for donation to the Rotary Foundation with an average of \$230.58 per member thru the first 10 months of the year. For comparison, the District average is \$105.57 per member.

Bob Kemp  
President Denver  
Mile High Rotary  
2015-2016

Although the District doesn't track donation to our own DMHR Foundation, we appear to be doing acceptably well. Please bear in mind that donations to our club foundation this year provide the base funding for our charitable projects next year. The level of funding available to our service projects next year will be based largely on donations that are made to our Club Foundation before June 30th.

Another criteria that was a priority for the District this year was adoption of the new Rotary branding in our club communications and social media. After audit by the District, we were given high marks for our new website and updated Facebook presence. I think that it's safe to say that both Melanie and I regard our club communications and social media outreach as an ongoing priority.

The last and perhaps most elusive set of criteria that can be used to measure club effectiveness are in the arena of membership engagement and service. Our club is widely recognized as one of the premier clubs in our District for World Community Service. We have made and will continue to make enhancements to our Local Community Service efforts. People join Rotary because of a desire to give back. We want to provide each member with the chance to provide service to our community. If we aren't already doing the things you believe need to be done, tell us! Finally – consider the number of DMHR members who serve as District or Zone officers.

Although there are a number of great clubs in our District we can hold our own with any of them. We should be proud of our accomplishments. Having said all this – now it's time to get back to work and redouble our efforts to make our club the best it can be!



## Denver Mile High Rotary Upcoming Programs

**May 4th** - For over 100 years The National Western Stock Show and Rodeo have been an integral part of Colorado's history, economy, and culture. Our guest speaker will be Keith Fessenden. As the Historian and Archivist for the National Western, Keith will share some of the stories and legends from the National Western's past and perhaps give us some insight into the exciting plans to revitalize the National Western's site along I-70.

**May 11th** - Most of us who live along the Front Range are familiar with the wonderful work of 9Health Fair. The annual series of health fairs encourages health awareness and provides people with tools they need to take responsibility for their own health. They provide free and low cost health awareness and educational screenings to thousands of Coloradans each year. Jim Goodard, CEO of the 9Health Fair, will be our guest speaker. He will talk with us about the work they do and the incredible volunteer effort required to make the 9Health Fair such a success.

**May 18th** - Sydney Beal from the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame (CWHF) will be our guest speaker. CWHF's mission is to inspire by celebrating and sharing the enduring contributions of Colorado's extraordinary women. To achieve this, the Hall educates the people of Colorado about the stories of the women who shaped our state and the nation's history with courage, leadership, intelligence, compassion, and creativity. Their talents, skills, struggles, and contributions form a legacy that the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame is dedicated to protecting. The women inducted into the Hall come from diverse backgrounds, from pioneers to politicians, educators to entrepreneurs, and have made a major impact on the lives of others and helped to elevate the status of women in our state, our nation, and around the world.

- Here are some creative ways to use it your King Soopers Card:
- Buy it as a gift: College kids, newlyweds and new parents appreciate groceries!
- Use it to buy supplies for special events; like bbq, mini dinners or fundraisers.
- Purchase two, one for you and your spouse so that you always have it handy.
- Leave it in your car next to your re-usable bags, so you can grab both on the way out!

Every little bit adds up to funds that our club can use to treat guests or have events.

Thanks for your support!

Contact Sarah Hite at [schite2000@yahoo.com](mailto:schite2000@yahoo.com) or Heidi Restarits at [Heidi.rr@gmail.com](mailto:Heidi.rr@gmail.com)



## **Weekly Inspirators, Greeters & Hosts**

**May 4th-**

**Inspiration** - Tony Vaida

**Greeters** - Terry Tomsick and Ann Tull

**Host** - Bruce Ward

**Rotary Minute** - Sonny Wiegand

**May 11th-**

**Inspiration** - Diane Wilson

**Greeters** - Chris Wong and Paul Anderson

**Host** - Michele Ashby

**Rotary Minute** - Pat Gorman Barry

**May 18th-**

**Inspiration** - Kurt Bartley

**Greeters** - Brandon Blankenship and Elizabeth Daigle

**Host** - Preston Dickey

**Rotary Minute** - Debra Flick

**May 25th-**

**Inspiration** - Kevin Galloway

**Greeters** - Kim Gardner and Melanie Gentz

**Host** - Tom Giordano

**Rotary Minute** - Tom Gregory





## Continental Breakfast

The continental breakfast will be served every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

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### Denver Mile High Rotary Calendar

**May 26th** - Denver Mile High Rotary Club Happy Hour at Alpine Dog Brewery.

**May 28th - June 1st** - International Convention - Seoul, Korea

**July 9th** - Denver Mile High Rafting Trip

### Rotary Bike Ride

We will meet at 10am on May 7th at REI by the bike stands near Starbucks - 1416 Platte St, Denver, CO for a fun Rotary Fellowship ride to kick off the year!

Ride South on the Platte Trail 13.5 miles to 2990 Brewery Lane, Littleton CO, - Farm House at Breckenridge Brewery - accessible right off the trail. Arriving around 11:15/11:30. Others can join for some fellowship, before riding back to REI. - 27 miles total.

Ride south 8.5 miles on the Platte - at River Point turn left over bridge crossing the Platte.

Continue riding South 5 Miles to the Reynolds Landing Sign. To the Left is Breckenridge Brewery. Ride toward the Farmhouse. We will hand out for about an hour.

If you don't want to ride, plan to meet us at the Breckenridge Brewery at 11:30 - 12:30. We will bike back about 1:30/1pm to REI.



Tickets can be purchased [here](#).



# CEC Interact Club Update

The CEC Interact Club is working on the following events:

Car Show and Community Carnival on May 14th

Three students will be volunteering at Cowell Elementary Students are working on individual community projects. Thirst project to raise funding for water.

## **CEC Interactors Teach "Be BrainWise with Food" at Cowell Elementary School.**

A successful collaboration with DMHR, Cowell Elementary School's Fit Fun program and CEC's Interact Club will be a model for future projects that reinforce the children's use of thinking skills. Led by Cowell social worker Abbe Montoya, CEC teacher Stacey Hervey, CEC school nurse Tess Callinicos, and Pat Gorman Barry, the high school students presented lessons to 4th and 5th graders on how use thinking skills when making decisions on food. Rotarians Terry Tomsick and Elizabeth Daigle supported CEC students/Interactors Brynn, Marcalino, Daniel and T. The rapt attention of the children says it all, and the teens are looking forward to their next presentation, either on "Be BrainWise with Money" or "Be BrainWise with Safety." The project is the result of a request from Abbe asking DMHR to help her get the BrainWise program into schools in Villa Park, starting with Cowell. CEC administrators are thrilled to have the high school students working with children in the nearby elementary school.



## RI President Visits Denver Mile High Sponsored Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe

RI President Ravi Ravindran visited Harare Zimbabwe on March 4 through March 6. As is normal with a visit by the RI President, there were a number of different activities scheduled during his time in Harare. On Saturday morning, the President arrived to see a jubilant mood, traditional dancers and community folk, gathered around Mufakose hall, which had become the symbol of hope for many a household.

The Rotary Club of Highlands in partnership with Rotary Club of Denver Mile High participated in a 3H Grant and subsequent Global Grant which saw the empowerment of 6000 women and youth in the Mufakose and surrounding communities. These women and youth received training in Business and Computer Skills that ultimately benefited 250,000 people in their communities. Listening to their stories was moving, hearing from people very much like us who struggle to make ends meet. Coming from illiteracy to computer literacy, poverty to self sustenance—theirs was a story of hope.

One participant spoke of how the project which ran for over 4 years was Funded by the Rotary Foundation to the tune of \$ 400,000 and had allowed him to begin a business which is now registered. During his training he acquired computer skills and can now fully utilize the computers donated to the community.

President Ravi commended the project and said "I will go and tell my colleagues at The Rotary Foundation, how well the money was used here. This is a Model Project that we would like to see replicated around the world." He also advised the audience that this was the project which brought recognition to PDG Stella Dongo as one of six Rotary Global Women of Action; that award was presented at the United Nations in November 2015.

The Mayor of Harare, His Worship Councillor Ben Manyenyeni graced the occasion. He remarked that the partnership between Rotary and the City of Harare should continue to grow in fighting poverty and bringing a better quality of life to the vulnerable in the community in the quest to achieve the vision of Harare being a World Class City by 2025.

Before he departed, President Ravi said: **"I am realizing how Zimbabweans have overlooked the situation that they are in and found ways to do marvelous works in their community. "**





# Rotary Club Rafting Trip

Please join us on Saturday morning, July 9th to raft down Clear Creek to raise money to support the Colorado based non-profit Warriors on Cataract. To date, a group of 31 Rotarians, family, friends and INTERACT students have signed up for this adventure. Please make your checks payable to the Denver Mile High Rotary FOUNDATION, and give them directly to Geoff Noble. He will collect the payments and forward the checks to the Foundation Treasurer. You will receive a receipt that will identify what portion of your payment qualifies as a charitable contribution. If your plans change, and you would like to join us, there are still seats available. Half-day rafting trips for Beginner (\$47), Intermediate (\$57), or Advanced rafters(\$67) are still available. Included in your payment is a \$5,00 contribution directly to Warriors on Cataract. If rafting is not your thing, please consider joining this group for lunch at a local restaurant in Idaho Springs. (Lunch details are still being negotiated.) We are hoping that the restaurant owner will rebate a portion of what we spend for lunch to directly support Warriors on Cataract. If you have any questions, please contact Rotarian Geoff Noble at [gtnoble@comcast.net](mailto:gtnoble@comcast.net) or by phone at (303) 669-5281  
Thank you for your support.



## A Note About Make-Ups:

Did you know that if you miss a regular weekly meeting you can make-up the missed meeting by engaging in another rotary activity within two weeks before or after the scheduled meeting? Lots of different activities can be counted as a makeup - for example, volunteering at Harrington Elementary, attending a Rotary bike ride, or attending a different Rotary meeting. If you miss a meeting and have a makeup to report, please email it to Kim Gardner, the Club Secretary, so that she can get it in the system. You can reach her at [KimKGardner@gmail.com](mailto:KimKGardner@gmail.com).



# Denver Mile High Rotary Sponsors

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