

# Rotary District 5960 Monday Musings

Notes from District Governor, **Marlene Gargulak**, 2015-2016  
Sept 27-October 3, 2015

## Greetings Rotarians,



**October** has arrived. It is the end of the first quarter of our journey together. The ducks and geese know it is time to move and are heading in the right direction before the cold winter sets upon them. How about you? Where are you in the journey with your club and community? Hopefully you have placed your goals front and center to your members. If you have not put them into Rotary Club Central, please do it today. Your members can check the site or even better share them on a monthly

basis.

October is **Economic and Community Development** month. What does this mean? When you hear the term “community development,” what do you see and think? You might think it means fixing up run-down neighborhoods, renovating substandard housing or building a community center. This might have been the old way of thinking, however today community development may mean lots more. It might mean giving people the opportunity to determine their own needs, to create sustainable long-range goals that impact lives in the long run. In my opinion it is about creating policies that work to build community.

In processing the idea of community, it occurs to me that breaking down our prejudices and barriers to productive and creative living is crucial in developing community. It is about helping poor people build skills and confidence, work experience, and security for their families. It might mean supporting a local business, or inviting a struggling business to join you for a conversation about what works in being successful. You are the leaders!

**Rotary members can make the world different by honoring some basic economic and community development techniques. Have a conversation in your club about what role you might take in your local community. Stop by a new business in your community.**

Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. We can promote economic and community development and reduce poverty in underserved communities through training, well-paying jobs, and access to financial management institutions. Let’s develop projects that work to strengthen entrepreneurs and leaders.

Your membership and contributions begin the process.

### **This week's visits:**

September 28, 2015: **Austin Rotary**



AG Scott Anderson, DG Marlene, YE Akara Maruta,  
Pres Paul Baessler

**Paul Baessler** is the President of the 80 member Austin Rotary club. A banker by profession he brings leadership and organization to the club with an enthusiastic demeanor. *“The mission of the Rotary Club of Austin is to ethically serve our local and global communities while providing challenges and opportunities for service and self-improvement for our members.” (Best Practice*

The meeting was opened with a song: **You are my**

Austin Minnesota is a diverse community with over 56 different cultures, and 60% of the students in the school system use free or reduced lunch. Each year 100 new students are enrolled in the school system. The Rotary Club of Austin partners with other organizations within the community to support literacy and diversity, **(Best Practice)**

During the past year the Austin Rotary provided dollars to build a **“Reading Oasis”** in the lobby of the Mower County Health and Human Services. Designed to provide children with an opportunity to access books, this project includes beanbags, and shelves for storage with books up to third grade reading level. The basic idea is to bring reading to the place parents and children visit and provide the parent’s insight and encouragement to have their children read.



The Austin Rotarians aren’t just all about service and meetings. With an active calendar of monthly social and networking events, ranging from the Annual Family Picnic on Lake Austin to Wine Tastings, from After-Work Networking Happy Hours to Bowling Nights, to more celebratory occasions such as the festive Holiday Dinner, fellowship is not lacking.

Austin rotary member, Kathy Stutzman has written grants for international projects and expresses a deep appreciation for their confidence and support as she represents them in her work with **“Street Girls”** in Ghana. Her comment found on the Austin Website is descriptive of this club who: *“say yes, let’s try this, let’s give, let’s support, let’s make a difference.” (Best Practice)* She continues with: *“Sponsoring this kind of grant starts with a “YES” and the Austin Rotary Club has said yes over and over again and I am so proud to be just one of the many people both impacted and empowered to act as a result of that support.”*

September 29, 2015: **Rochester Risers Rotary**

**Elaine Case** is the President of the Rochester Risers Rotary and tells me she drank the Rotary Kool-Aid when attending the International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (**Best Practice**) Elaine served the District last year as Public Image chair.



Here are RISERS goals: (**Best Practice**)

**1. Do more good work in the world:**

- Grow Membership
- Be Rotarians and support Rotary; Polio Plus, Foundation, Fast for Hope

**2. Restructure our meetings and assess results**

**3. Add/Reinforce some additional structure for value**

- Lay out Annual schedule including RI priorities, District Events, 3-club events, and club assemblies.
- Review and update by-laws
- Set Specific committee goals/plans
- Proactive and deliberate plan for our funds
- Review/Consider Presidential Citation Guidelines

**4. Continue strong communications with board and members**

**5. Be a good leader to sustain and move the club forward**

**6. Change “invocations” to ‘reflections to recognize need for inclusive language, encourage diversity and be welcoming to new members.**

Under the leadership of Elaine, *who has the greatest gift of organizing*, is a chart specifying action steps, with the owner and date for completion. (**Best Practice**) She requests each committee to give a five-minute report to the club on a regular basis with exception of the finance status, which will be given on a quarterly basis.

The Annual Programs Outline provides guidance including topics for the month (RI Topics) with specific mention of which committee is responsible for such.

One of the most exciting **literacy** (**Best Practice**) projects includes “**MY BOOK DAY**” They include 5, with hopes of increasing to 10 schools. First graders are given a choice of a book. On MY BOOK DAY, the students are bused to the library to receive the book, which has their name imprinted on the inside. At the event celebrity readers (Mayor, firefighters, police, sports figures, nurses etc.) will read and interact with the students. Another possibility of moving Rotary Forward in Rochester is the leadership’s idea of determining GAPS in the community or understanding the “Key issues of the community”. The idea will be to bring all service organizations together to determine: What is missing? Where are they falling short? (**Best Practice**)

Young member McKinsey Goodenberger choreographed a new and exciting fundraiser. It was called **TRIVIA NIGHT**. Held at the Moose club, it was a Rocking Success for the



President Elaine Case



Elaine installed New Member Jason Wagner. Sponsor is Jeff Warfield. *Congratulations!*

first time. (Best Practice)

## September 29, 2015: New Brighton/Mounds View Rotary



Pres Dana, DG Marlene, AG Judy

It was **APPLE PIE** day at the New Brighton/Mounds View Rotary Club. **Dana Rebelein** is the President, and receives support through a new structure created by Margaret Johnson, PP. (**Best Practice**) The club membership is divided into monthly program committees with the responsibility of setting up the meeting venue, including placing all the flags, greeters, programs, invocation, introduce speaker and take down, etc.

*The president does not do all the work.*

At a recent club assembly the members were requested to determine **BEST PRACTICES** of their club. Here are a few examples of the findings:

*“Strong Speakers, International Programs, support for ECHO & Niger, Involvement in community events: Egg Hunt, Spina Bifida picnic, trees give-away, Communications about members by caring club. (Announcements about medical concerns of members and their families)”*

Committee Reports are printed and distributed to members. (**BEST PRACTICE**) **Ask each committee to give a quarterly report, and state their goals. For example: International Service Committee reported the following:** 1. We are the Sponsor club for a District Grant to provide latrines and hand washing stations for schoolchildren in Madaoua, Niger. 2. Prepare and give a presentation at the District 5960 Foundation Event in November. 3. Review and present requests for support of other International Projects being sponsored by other Rotary clubs and organizations. 4; if sufficient funds allow us to proceed with our second “District Grant proposal” work with ECHO to complete application. 5. Identify/suggest international related program speakers. **The Membership committee reported:** Developing alternative membership categories to attract members who are unable to join because of work/family situations; investigating attracting new and younger members through social media.

The club is given an opportunity to do a unique fundraising with a chef. Chef George Serra will donate time and materials to prepare gourmet appetizers for 40-50 people if the club finds the venue and sells tickets etc.

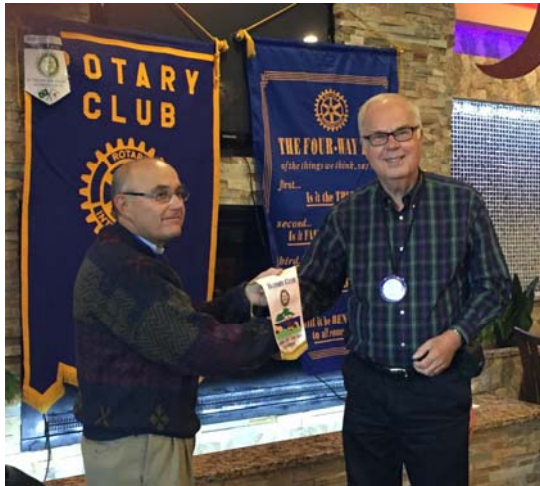
(Best Practice) *Solicit community specialists to help you fundraise for a specific cause.*

Member Mary Ann Bawden created a beautiful table display to welcome us. On the table were some delicious homemade pies from her kitchen, and the real treat was ice cream to top off the pie. Notice the butterfly tablecloth.



Judy Rolow, AG and Mary Ann Bawden display apple pie and fall theme.

September 30, 2015: **Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary**



in California

**Bob Tholkes** is the president of the Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary Club. One of their goals is to be a MODEL club and a vehicle for communication for South Anoka County. Each week the **Rotempary** is published and distributed to the membership. The publication highlights future speakers, last week's presentation and lists the names of those members who were absent. In the membership category, members are listed as Paul Harris and past leaders are recognized. **(Best Practice)** Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary has active committees. The Community Service committee reported work that includes bell ringing, leaf raking, library collaboration, looking into sponsoring a

Fridley Park, and developing a policy for providing funds to service groups. **(Best Practice)** These items seem to fit the Economic and Community Development theme for the month. **(If you don't have a Community Service Committee, NOW might be the time to develop one in your club.)**

**(Best Practice)** During a recent meeting the club held an assembly to discuss Public Image. Led by Scott Bardell the result included: Collaboration with other groups, attending public events in rotary regalia, guesting at meetings of other local groups, (especially with those of a different demographic profile than ours), creating a club presence on social media and improving its presence in print media, improving the website, engaging in visible activities (Health Fairs and "Welcome Wagon" and using the STRIVE program as a source of publicity. The clubs Centennial Project included a sign at the Fridley High School with the Rotary logo below.



A FUN Social event is The Annual Pig Roast picnic. This means a whole pig is roasted. The event was held in August and included barbecue and trimmings along with plenty of beverages. IT WAS REAL! A New Orleans Style band played.



The club has a Youth exchange student from Brazil, Carlos Rios Moreira; He was greeted at the airport by a large group of Rotarians with Welcome Signs. **(Best Practice)** Following his meeting the host family a large picnic was held in his honor.

September 30, 2015: **Winona Rotary**

**Terry Klonecki**, President of the Winona Rotary Club is a talented leader with a lot of support from club members. During a recent Strategic Planning Session designed to create and study areas of FOCUS for the club, they changed their vision to a Proposed Vision: (“*Committed to the continual development of our global community for current and future generations through compassion and service.*”) This statement is challenged by the question: *What do we need to do in the next three years to make this vision a reality?* Included in this session was a review of the membership to establish Club Diversity, identifying classifications, age and gender of the club. Strategies were identified with a Champion assigned and team members identified. Each strategy created Success Indicators, and dates for presentation to the club on the project. **(Best Practice)**



Pres Terry Klonecki

The Winona Rotary Club’s major fundraiser is “**RIDE TO RIDGES**” *With four courses to choose from, Ride The Ridges features something for everyone. And yes - each route provides you with at least one*



*opportunity to put things in perspective. That is, climb 600 vertical feet to enjoy the breathtaking vista that is the Upper Mississippi River Valley.*

Literacy is tackled in this club through four different programs. **(Best Practice)** **Rotary Reader** is a program where members go to classrooms once a month to read to or with children. The reader takes three books provided by Rotary and leaves them with the classroom. Another is **BOOKS FOR BABIES** done in coordination with the Community Health Nurses who make home visits with mothers of infants. Another is “**Reader in the Mall**” where Rotarians read to a gathered group of children and leave books for them. To date this club has distributed 12,200 books, 13 Rotarians have adopted one or more classes, 250 books per year are given to infants with a total of 3400 books to date. **(WOW)**

Some comments about programs: **(Best Practice)** Some of the best programs are given

by members. Seek out good speakers from within your club.

October 1, 2015: **Rochester Rotary**



PE Stacey VandenHeuvel, Pres Bill and DG Marlene

**"Rochester Rotary - A Local Service Club with a Global Impact - Offering Leadership and Support to our Community and Beyond"**

**Bill Wiktor**, president has an ARMY to direct the Rochester Club. Size has advantage, including an **(Best Practice)** executive secretary (Elizabeth Karsell) to orchestrate the meetings. Prior to the meeting the leadership team met. The question was asked **Why Rotary?** Here are some interesting answers:

**Alison:** My father was in Rotary and the District Governor.

**Bari:** Attracted to Rotary by what Rotary does in this town. She has discovered **"You are a member of Rotary if you attend meetings. You are a Rotarian when you do service."**

**Lois:** Joined Rotary after working for Rotary. **Paul:** "Best Service Club in the City" Joined for networking-Staying for friendship." **Stacey:** "Rotary is 4-H for BIG People. **Josef:** Joined Rotary because of its credibility.

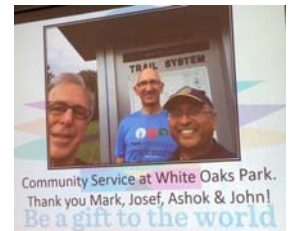
**Heather:** Joined for leadership opportunities **Bill:** Left the "Blue ZOO" at IBM and "it is a hoot" and "I love it"

The Rotary Club of Rochester 2015-16 Club Progress to Goals		
CATEGORY	2015-16 GOALS	As of September 1
Membership (Began Rotary year with 215)	200	185 ↑
Attendance at Thursday Meetings	100%	46% ↑
Rotary Foundation - Annual Program Fund	\$10,000	\$750 (8% of goal)
Rotary Club of Rochester Foundation	780	\$100
Polio Plus (from Auction proceeds and individual contributions)	\$2,500	\$0 (0% of goal)
District 5960 Fast for Hope Project (from Auction proceeds)	\$1,000	\$0 (0% of goal)
Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)	100%	3%

The general meeting opened with playing **"ON WISCONSIN"**, in my honor. *Thank you Bill.* Before long it diverted into Minnesota's anthem. Elizabeth has the weekly goal sheet on the screen along with several other announcements. **(Best Practice) Share goals and progress!**

Some of the club's activities include:

1. Rochester Rotary Golf Outing.
2. Hosting the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Greater Rochester, with a 2 ½ month discussion and debate of several project possibilities. The result was to place 40 Mini Libraries throughout the City of Rochester. At the end, then Rotary president, Paul presented the Chamber and group with a plaque recognizing their leadership on literacy issues. **(Best Practice)**
3. The Adopt-a-Park Program is a great community service activity that gives the citizens of Rochester the opportunity to participate in helping to keep the parks clean and looking good.
4. The Kwik Trip Gift Card Program allows the Rotary Club of Rochester to keep 10% of the face value of each card. Script cards are available at the weekly club meetings.
5. Support for the Ronald McDonald House. (Save your hotel unopened shampoos, etc. to donate to this house)
6. Cooperate in the Holiday Classic Rotary Basketball event. (If you have seen the gym at the Rochester Civic Center, it has the Rotary wheel embedded in the center of the floor.
7. Promote Foundation giving by presenting Paul Harris Fellows at the meetings. Today Heather Holmes was given a Paul Harris Fellow award for her contributions. The award was from an anonymous giver. PDG Karel Wiegel



received pins for her gifts. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION!**

Next week's visits and schedule:

*Tuesday, October 6: St. Paul*

*Wednesday: October 7: Prior Lake Rotary  
Belle Plaine Rotary*

*Thursday, October 8: Lakeville Rotary  
Northfield Rotary*

**We are challenged by this theme: it is a call to action, a directive of service, an order to follow, a course to lay down, and a quest to pursue!**



**Join me during this exciting Rotary year to honor our journey together. Our time is short; it is fleeting already. We have just NINE MONTHS to respond to this challenge.  
This is our Time!**