

# Rotary District 5960 Monday Musings

Notes from District Governor, **Marlene Gargulak**, 2015-2016  
October 4-10, 2015

## Greetings Rotarians,

On 24 October, Rotarians, clubs and districts around the world will come together to fight polio. Register today for [End Polio Now: Make History Today Livestream](#) event to receive a global update on the current status of polio eradication, hear inspiring stories, and performances.

The event will begin [at 18:30pm CDT](#) and will be streamed live at [endpolionow.org](#). I encourage your club/district to have a viewing party for the event, or incorporate it into your existing World Polio Day plans. Invite local government officials and use this opportunity to encourage them to support the global commitment to a polio free world. On World Polio Day, wear your End Polio Now pin and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Resources to help you spread the word about your World Polio Day event can be found on [endpolionow.org](#). The materials include:

- Sample Tweets and Facebook posts
  - Graphics for posting on social media and online
  - Tools to help you reach out to local media
  - Tools to help you engage local political leaders with World Polio Day
- Before or after World Polio Day, consider [sharing your polio story or event photos](#).

If you are unable to watch the event live, consider viewing the recording at your next club meeting and discussing how you can help fulfill Rotary's promise of a polio free world. You can also make an impact on World Polio Day by contributing to PolioPlus. Remember that your contribution will receive full recognition points and – better yet – it will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. [Contribute today](#). We are 99% of the way to a polio-free world – truly, “this close” to eradicating polio forever. Help us get closer by spreading the word about our fight to End Polio Now with our communities and the world.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Foundation Celebration





Celebrate our  
gift to the world

## Saturday, November 7, 2015

[Click Here](#) for registration – Login required (Account name: **future** /Password: **yourhands**)

October 6, 2015: St. Paul Rotary



Carla Hauge Pres and New Member  
Cindy Shiely

**Carla Hauge** is the President of the 156 member St. Paul Rotary. **(A SINGING CLUB.)** The meeting opened with a song (Tiny Bubbles) to send Denny Boom to Hawaii for the winter. Several female Rotarians gave lei's. Cindy Shiely was introduced as the newest member. Mr. Whittaker gave a case of Beer to Cindy and her sponsor. **(Best Practice):** Offer a prize to the sponsor of the new member.

The St. Paul Rotary Club will celebrate its 106<sup>th</sup> birthday in Feb 2016. Needless to say it has lots of history with primary focus on youth. The club is the founder of the Youth leadership program implemented in the 30's or 40's, which has since erupted into a program called RYLA or Rotary Youth Leadership Academy. To celebrate their centennial birthday they purchased a semi-trailer for Feed My Starving Children and subsequently completed six mobile packing events. This Semi-trailer has provided people all over the country the opportunity to help pack food for disasters and undeveloped countries. An Education Endowment Fund, which consists of a \$5000 per year scholarship to a RYLA graduate. Other projects include creating a Walking Tour of the historical sights in downtown St. Paul.



AG Doug Hartford on the Piano



Honoring Denny Boon is Shelly Rucks

**(Best Practice): Great weekly programs.** Here is just a sample of some of the topics and speakers; "Germany and the United States-their relationship 25 years after German reunification; What makes us Stronger as A Community? CEO, Jon McTaggart, American Public Media Group; Destination Medical Center: A Global Destination for Health and Wellness.

**Rotation Day: (Best Practice)** When Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905, meetings were held at the members' place of business – rotating from member company to member company – hence the name "Rotary." For this club, Rotation Day is an event which brings them back to their "roots" and gives them the opportunity to gain new insights into the vocational challenges and business issues which are unique to fellow Rotarians. The club will hold Rotation day on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The St. Paul Rotarians buy 3000 dictionaries to distribute to students in the St. Paul School System. Rotarians distribute one-half and the rest goes into the distribution system of the school. One comment made by a student: "I will use the dictionary and when I grow BIG I will give it away- when I am Super OLD!"

## October 7<sup>th</sup>: **Prior Lake Rotary**

**Joe Dols** is the President of the Prior Lake Rotary club with over 80 members. Their mission is: *“to enhance the quality of life of the Prior Lake area and people throughout the world.”* **(Best Practice)** The club has a belief in fellowship as a means of supporting, engaging and retaining strong members by holding an annual Mystery Trip, Golf Outings, Evening Programs and social Events. They have a weekly **“Rotary Spotlight”** where a member is spotlighted. This week it was Steve Kramer, a Chiropractor. The questions asked were: ***Who was your Sponsor? Why did you join Rotary? What is your vocation? What do you do in your spare time?*** **(Best Practice)**



Pres Joe Dols, DG Marlene and DGN: Kyle Haugen

Two fundraisers support the clubs initiatives: **Lakefront Music Fest** is held the third weekend in July. As a 2-day event it brings in thousands of fans. **Valentine Gala** is an annual event with silent auction, dancing, great food and lots of fellowship.

**(Best Practice)** Committee goals are outlined and defined by this bunch of leaders. The overall club goals are defined and stated including: **1. Improve Attendance at Meetings 2. Increase engagement to involve more members, 3. Improve meeting experience .4. Member manuals with policies and procedures of membership, 5. Greater involvement in District Events 6 Achieve Presidential Citation and 7: Keep it going. (We are a great club**



Vic Noer, Corey Stich, Joe Dols, (with ball) Mary Erickson, DG Marlene, Paul Hofslie, Doug Gesme, Bill Schult, Angela Eifert, Mary Selinske, AG Kyle Haugen. Missing is Paul Perez, Public Image Chair.

**doing great things, let's just “keep the ball rolling.”** Each committee member defines the goals of their committees with action plans within the manual.



Another **(Best Practice)** is the Club Brochure showing one of the main projects: The Prior Lake Rotary Gateway project. Serious FUN!

*You don't want to miss the weekly Wednesday morning meetings. Jack Haugen and his gorilla are standing by to collect happy and sad dollars. Each member is given the stage- front and center to drop money into the gorilla.*

Then of course there is the **FINEMASTER**: The Prior Lake Fine Masters dole out monetary fines to some suspecting and many unsuspecting Rotarians.

October 7, 2015: **Belle Plaine Rotary**

**Diane Skelley** is the President of the Belle Plaine Rotary Club. Her skills will take this Rotary Club to the next level. The club was started in 1970 and has a strong tradition in the community. One of the challenges/opportunities for this club is many people leave the community to work in the Metro area of the Twin Cities. Capturing their interest in Rotary is an opportunity many communities are given.



Pres Diane Skelley

The Belle Plaine Rotary Club holds a Pancake Breakfast in the spring to provide support for the Belle Plaine Food Shelf. Started in 2012, the club supported the opening of the food shelf through a Rotary matching grant to purchase the refrigerator and freezer. Total costs were \$11,200 with the club donating



Sharon Blume, Jim Koonet, and Ashton Pankonin flip pancakes and cook sausages

The Belle Plaine Bull Run was held on October 10 with the support of the club. It is a half marathon and a two person relay marathon. The club works in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce to support this community event.

Other events include Holiday Home Decorating Contest, Road Cleanup, Nativity scene, and a Can trailer to support kids. They sponsor an essay contest for scholarships and request the students to write on : *What makes your family special?*



Diane Skelley and New Member Ryan Laager

**Best Practice:**

At the bottom of the weekly bulletin was a list of Program Ideas:

1. Gretchen Sullwold-Healthy Eating-Weight loss (612-816-7684
2. Barbara Dodson- Farming today-Raising healthy and nutritious food 800-711-0747- Ext222
3. Joanne Rosener: Fast for Hope joanne.rosener@gmail.com

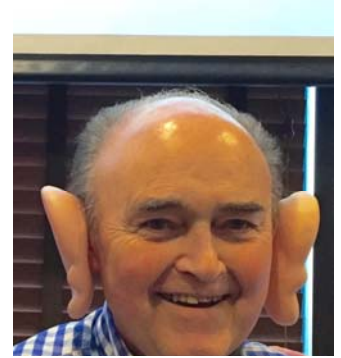
October 8, 2015: **Lakeville Rotary**



DG Marlene and Pres Colleen Ratzlaff LaBeau

**Colleen Ratzlaff LaBeau** is the president of the Lakeville Rotary Club. This club strives for perfection as it achieved the Presidential Citation last year and contributed the most money to the Rotary Foundation in District 5960 for the last Rotary year.

Frank Schoeben dons special effects as he creates a fun time challenging the club with limericks for fines.



Frank Schoeben

**(Best Practice)** The big fundraiser event is the **Taste of Lakeville** held at the Lakeville Arts Center and features great food, beverages, live auction, fun and more fun. The money raised supports the community including giving the Lakeville Public Safety Foundation a check for \$5,300. The sign on the Lakeville Arts Center was collaboration between the Lakeville Rotary and Farmington Rotary Clubs. **(Best Practice)** **(Work with other clubs)**

The club focus's on youth with the **STRIVE (Students taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education)** program, Youth Exchange and Student of the Month.

Internationally they worked on Infrastructural Improvement at three schools in Pintag, Ecuador. The Jose Gabriel Navarro School, Gabriel Noroña School, and Luciano Coral School. You can check out this project on their website at [www.lakevillerotary.org](http://www.lakevillerotary.org)



Some interesting comments made by the Lakeville Rotarians during our leadership meeting included the following ideas: **(Best Practice)**

1. Promote a joint membership orientation program with other local clubs.
2. Have an area wide TRIVIA night
3. Create more public awareness of Rotary in the community because sometimes people don't know where to find us.
4. Send formal invitations to the parents of the Student of the Month with a **“Come and See our Club- Enjoy a Free Breakfast.**
5. Have a District meeting to exchange Best Practices.

## October 8, 2015: **Northfield Rotary Club**

**Russ Halverson** is the President of the Northfield Rotary club. On October 17<sup>th</sup> the club will celebrate 90 year with a party at the Estenson Estate. **(Best Practice)** The club is planning to review the history of the value of Rotary within Northfield MN.

This Northfield Rotary club is the home of our Youth Exchange leaders including Rick Estenson, and Lee and Vicki Dilley. This year the club has 16 outbound students and 3 inbound. **(Best Practice)** It is also the home of Charles Cogan, District PolioPlus Chair.



Pres Russ Halverson, Brett Reese, DG Marlene and Rick Estenson

During the past week the club hosted a Brazil Rotary Friendship Exchange. **(Best Practice)** Rotary Friendship Exchange is one of the best-kept secrets in Rotary. Those who took part in this event were ignited with excitement of the conversation and sharing.

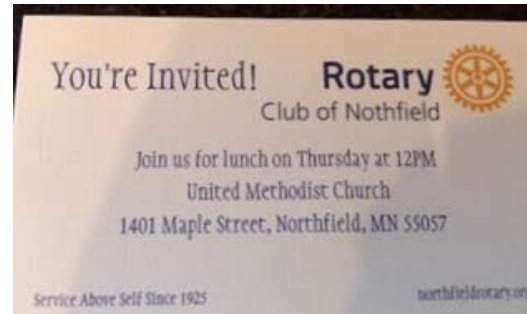
New approach to recruiting new members includes **guest tickets**. Each Rotarian is invited to bring a guest at club expense to

introduce to the club and its good work. **(Best Practice)**

The Northfield Club has used the Rotary Foundation to support local projects including a \$42,515.00 project that will create an outdoor Musical Plaza. After assessing the community, the decision to add a creative play experience to a park will inspire imagination, expression and a multi sensory learning experience.

Fundraising activities include **Car Raffle**, Jesse James Bike Tour and Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. **The Jesse James Bike Tour** is part of Defeat Jesse James Days, a community event that brings many people into the community. The raid is reenacted several times during the weekend. The tour consists of five scenic routes including 100, 60, 45, 30 and 10 miles through the lakes region of Rice County and southern Minnesota. **The Turkey Trot** starts at 9AM and proceeds are used to support Youth Exchange and other Rotary International Projects. Another fellowship and fun event is the **Quiz Bowl**, a fundraiser held at the library. Teams are challenged with Trivia type questions.

Fellowship is not lacking in this club. One idea is to have a Northfield Rotary NCAA Pool as a simple, yet entertaining means of adding to fundraising funds.



Next Week's Visits:

October 14: *Blaine Ham Lake Rotary*  
*North Branch Rotary*

October 15: *Stillwater Rotary*

October 16: *District Grants Sub-Committee meeting*

October 17: *Service Project to harvest Milkweed*

*4:30 Northfield Rotary's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Rick Estenson's*

**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!**