



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

New Richmond
Rotary



A Message from Our Club President

As I look back at my first year as president, I think of what others have said in the past – it will fly by - and did it ever! Now I am privileged as I will have another year to lead as president.

2021-2022 has been a year of carefully transitioning out of virtual and hybrid meetings and back to face-to-face gatherings. While the pandemic in some ways still lingers on, we have enjoyed meeting together once again and have a new appreciation of being able to share a lunch as a group.

New Richmond is growing at a record pace and being a longstanding club with deep roots, preserves its history and small-town culture. New blood is needed to grow the club, and we have a rich source to tap into with growing businesses, additional non-profits and expanding public services. Our focus this next year will be on membership recruitment. With our members connected to so many in our community, we will work to extend an invitation of membership to others drawn to community service.

We are fortunate to have Amy Lund on board this year as executive secretary and helping in so many ways. As a longtime resident with strong communication skills, we are lucky to have her keeping us moving forward.

Following is a recap of the past year showing the active club we are. While some presenters and club visits were from community members we knew from the past, we also worked to shed light on some new and engaging groups in and around our community. Scary Park in its second year clearly will take its place as an annual fundraiser shared with Kiwanis, and the Rose Sale continues to hit the mark even with the supply of roses being in question. New opportunities are coming to New Richmond that will offer our club more to build on.

As I reflect on the good that our club brings to New Richmond, I see a community going forward that has so many interesting people and topics to get to know and enjoy. Join us in continuing our traditions into the future. 2022-2023 will bring us the opportunity to make an impact locally and around the world with another Panama trip being planned this fall. Get involved and appreciate what we will achieve in the months and years ahead!

Thank you for allowing me to be part of a great club and an awesome community.

Respectfully,

Alan Kiecker

Club President 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

WHO WE ARE

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Rotary was established in 1905 by a Chicago attorney named Paul Harris so that professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful friendships, and give back to their communities. Rotary’s name came from the group’s early practice of rotating meeting locations among the offices of its members. Historically, Rotary played an integral role in the creation of the United Nations and has been the driving force behind the near worldwide eradication of polio. The Rotary Club of New Richmond was established in 1987 and is one of more than 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

2022-2023 Board:

Al Kiecker, Steph Schleicher, Jesse Kvitek,
Dan Heffron, Jessica Keopple, Jo Wrich

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Amy Lund

ROTARIANS: Rotary Members: Active

*Designates Paul Harris Fellowship

Brian Anderson, Duana Bremer, Mike Derrick
Shawn Doyle, Doug Hatch, Dan Heffron*, Jacob Hutchins, Kyle Hinrichs,
Sue Johnson*, Jessica Keopple, Al Kiecker*, Jesse Kvitek*, Tyson Lybeck*,
Heather McAbee*, Melanie Rowe, Lacey Sandow with Jennifer Knopse,
Steph Schleicher, Patty Schachtner, Ron Siler*, Steve Skoglund, Natalie Spaeth,
Jackie Waalen, Noah Wiedenfeld, Jo Wrich*, Brian Young*

Honorary Rotary Members: Carol DeYoung*, Mike Montello*

Directors:

Club & Membership - Jo Wrich & Jesse Kvitek

Community Service - Steph Schleicher

International - Dan Heffron & Jo Wrich

Vocational - Jesse Kvitek (Interim)

Rotary Foundation - Mike Derrick

Fine Master - Tyson Lybeck



OUR IMPACT IN NEW RICHMOND

Rotarians once again maintained a **flower garden at Mary Park** and cleaned up trash as **Adopt A Highway** on Wall Street.





Other local speakers included Colleen Davis of The Centre, Patty Schachtner, Chief Medical Examiner of Saint Croix County, and Bjorn Nesvold representing Operation Help.



The Club **donated children's books** to the **Friday Memorial Library** in honor of each of our guest speakers throughout the year.

STRIVE with Mike Montello

All senior students at New Richmond High School participate in our annual STRIVE scholarship program, which features powerful guest speakers from the community each month recognizes seniors who have met all criteria (senior year GPA is 0.5 points higher than their cumulative GPA prior to senior year, no Fs or discipline issues, maintained a 90% attendance rate in their classes, and fulfilled their empowerment hours requirement). The Rotary Club of New Richmond has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to date. We want to wish a special thank you to Mike Montello and Shannon Bartlett for making this program possible!



2022 STRIVE Scholarship Recipients

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Grace Dunn | \$1,200 |
| Alina Rewald | \$650 |
| Grant Conlin | \$625 |
| Noah Hughes | \$550 |
| Sydney Nolan. | \$525 |
| Caleb Wolf | \$525 |
| Julian Perez-Figueroa | \$500 |
| Joe Nelson | \$400 |

Essay Winners

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Bailee Higgins | \$500 |
| Hattie Harold | \$500 |
| Kaisa Engstrom | \$500 |

Congratulations, Class of 20222!

SMALL GRANTS = BIG IMPACT

The Rotary Club of New Richmond was proud to contribute over \$6,000 to support many great projects and causes. The Club awarded grants to the Will's Playground Project, Limitless Cycling helping local seniors enjoy the outdoors, & Friends of St Croix Wetlands District supporting building informational kiosks on the nature trails, as well as other local non-profits that help support the New Richmond community.

Rotary Club of New Richmond donated to the following non-profit organizations:

Theresa DeYoung, Will's Playground

Limitless Cycling for equipment to support New Richmond senior citizens,

Friends of St Croix Wetlands District

First Lutheran Church for school supply giveaway



2nd Annual Scary Park in 2021

In partnership with Kiwanis



THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHOW (RIGHT), AND HIS GANG (BELOW).



Scary Park is a Haunted drive thru event held at New Richmond's Mary Park. This event was free to the public and local businesses or organizations designed and staffed their own scare station.

BUILDING ON THE WILD SUCCESS OF SCARY PARK 2020, THE 2ND ANNUAL EVENT WAS EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER WITH HAYRIDES AND MORE PARTICIPANTS. WE RECEIVED AN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY AND ARE WORKING HARD TO COORDINATE THIS YEAR'S EVENT.



Middle School Essay Contest

The Rotary Club of New Richmond sponsored its annual essay contest for local students in grades 6-8. The top three students in each grade and their families were invited to attend lunch and to read their essays at Northwood Technical College. Congratulations to Ancel Peterson, Dean Tate, Rohun Francis, Allie Harold, Isaiah Hamdorf, Laydon Munoz, Addison Shoquist, Emersen Wissink, and Jamie Yeager on your award-winning essays! They each received a certificate and cash prize.



Special thanks to Patrick Olson, New Richmond Middle School principal for hosting and coordinating the 2022 Essay Contest.

NETWORKING

While the Rotary Club of New Richmond does a lot of service projects throughout the year, Rotary also presents a lot of **fun social opportunities to network** and get to know local business professionals in the community. This year we visited New Richmond High School's SOAR Farm.



HOW TO SUPPORT US

Outside of becoming a Rotarian yourself or sponsoring an employee to become a Rotarian, you can support the Rotary Club of New Richmond in the following ways:



Financially: We encourage you to support our fundraising activities which provide the funds needed to make an impact in our community through our various activities and events. Consider purchasing a dozen (or more) roses in November during our annual rose sale, and watch for some new fundraising events ahead in the year ahead. The Rotary Club of New Richmond is a tax exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations can be locally made to support the Club's activities, or to the Rotary Foundation, which is one of the highest rated charities in the world and serves as an endowment fund for Rotary's education and humanitarian efforts across the globe.

Volunteer: You do not have to be a Rotarian to get involved with one of our projects. If you hear about a project or event that interests you, please join us. Many hands make light work. Have a special talent in graphic design or website management? We could use your skill set! There are countless ways to get involved. Rotarian or not, it is all about making a difference!



Like Us on Facebook: Really? Yes! Social media is a great tool for our Club to tell the community about what we are up to. Follow our Club's Facebook page, share our photos, and help us spread the word about the impact that Rotary is making in the New Richmond community. A simple "share" or "like" might just help us gain another supporter, volunteer, or a future Rotarian.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There is no secret handshake, secret meetings, or rituals. **Becoming a Rotarian is about serving others and making a positive impact.**

New Richmond
Rotary



Rotarians are a diverse group of professionals who share your passion to give back. Membership is open to all people. Want to check us out? Browse our website (<https://rotarynewrichmond.com>) and view our Club's Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/NRRotary>). Talk to a current Rotarian and ask them about their experience. We encourage you to attend one of our meetings or events and see if we are a good fit for one another. For more information about membership options for you or your employees, or to learn about upcoming meeting or event dates, please contact the Rotary Club of New Richmond at nrrotary@hotmail.com. Thank you!

The Rotary Club of New Richmond has multiple options for membership including categories: Prospective, Traditional, Family, Corporate, Honorary, and Retiree. We will also be continuing to conduct virtual meetings using Zoom and adding monthly social events and outings. These changes will provide greater flexibility for current and potential members, and it means that it is an exciting time to join! Contact us for more information!