

Loring Miller, Service Above Self, 2019-20

A typical highlight of District Conference is the presentation of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation awards. This year, because of the virtual meetings of clubs due to COVID-19, the presentation of RI's highest individual honor, the Service Above Self award presentation was made at the Decatur County Club to PDG Loring Miller via Zoom on June 11.



The announcement was made by District Awards Chair Bill Koellner and co-chair Jacque Andrew who said that RI receives about 350 nominations per year, no more than one may be nominated per district. This year just 143 Rotarians were chosen to receive the award which recognizes those who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary.

"Recipients reflect Rotary's 'Four-Way Test,'" Koellner said, "and they must be an inspiration to others, and have exemplary ethical and moral character." Koellner enumerated PDG Miller's extensive leadership in his community and state, Rotary club, many levels of Rotary Youth Exchange leadership, district and Rotary International, and invited DG Erna Morain to present the award.

Excerpts from PDG Loring's nomination submitted by DG Erna:

Personal biography overview:

"More than a man of endless ideas, Loring breathes life into them with dedicated and continued service to his club, Rotary district, community, state, and the world! No challenge or problem is too large for him to conquer with his leadership skills to rally teams to join him in seeking solutions through service. As a PDG, his wide range of interests from youth exchange to polio to TRF have been the beneficiaries along with scouting, community theater, highway history preservation, among countless others.

Rotary Service Activities:

A commitment to youth led him to 25 years of service on District Youth Exchange comm introducing him to the world of Rotary beyond community borders; 10 years as chair. He was pres. of the USA/Canada YE Network (NAYEN) and in 2010-11 was pres. of So Central RYE (SCRYE). He spoke at five RI YE pre-convention workshops. Introduced "Tour USA" for RYE students to see the rest of the nation. He and his wife hosted five RYE students. Founder of RotaKids in Iowa elementary schools. Was co-chair of RYLA program serving two districts in Iowa. Served the world's children as Polio NID volunteers in India & Nigeria; helped build a school in Mexico & an orphanage in China. Received RI Intl. Service Award for a Polio-Free World. Initiated cataract surgery project in India and provided technology to a medical facility in Brazil. Coordinated the year-long home stays & education of 40 South African youth in Iowa & their statewide choral performances with opera singer Simon Estes as District project.

Describe how this candidate embodies Service Above Self

As a 3rd generation Rotarian, Loring followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps seeing their efforts to contribute to the common good of the community and put Service Above Self. This concept

was woven into his nature. Whether as business owner in Leon, as a parent or as a volunteer in Rotary or elsewhere, he chooses to serve no matter what. His impact in scouting, Youth Exchange, RYLA and in the innovative elementary school “RotaKids” will be felt for generations to come as these youth experienced an exemplary model of Service Above Self. His generosity of resources shines brightly in his support of The Rotary Foundation as a Paul Harris Society, Major Donor and Bequest Society member as an inspiration to others to support the Foundation. Loring’s service has been recognized by others with the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame award, Governor’s Volunteer Award and the Leon Outstanding Citizen award. Finally, as another from Leon said, “Loring’s mark on Decatur County is everywhere you look.”