

Rotary District 6000
Iowa USA
Steve Wieneke, Governor



Second Issue
2022-23
(February-June)

District 6000 News



**AFTER THREE-YEAR DELAY, FLIGHT TO
END POLIO WINGS WAY AROUND WORLD**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

A Global Network of Community Volunteers
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 1 (847) 866-3000
Fax: 1 (847) 328-8554

Rotary



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Jennifer Jones, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

DISTRICT 6000 • Iowa USA

www.rotary6000.org

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Steve Wieneke
1709 NE Lowell Court
Ankeny, IA 50021
(515) 250-0507
swieneked6k@gmail.com

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Carolyn Scharff
P.O. Box 122, Pella, IA 50219
(877) 976-8279
dis6000admin@lisco.com

ASSISTANT GOVERNORS

PDG Mike Ruby, Muscatine (coordinator)
Juan Arias (23-24), Ankeny
Jeff Ashcraft (24-25), North Scott
Chris Bertelson (22-23), Winterset
Linda Chastain (22-23), Decatur County
Jennifer Chittenden (23-24), Des Moines AM
Travis Dvorak (23-24), Jefferson
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Matt Olson (24-25), Waukee
James Patton (22-23) Ames
Mark Ruggeberg (24-25), Iowa City Downtown
John Schroeder (24-25), Bloomfield
Park Woodle (22-23), Ames

'DISTRICT 6000 NEWS' EDITOR

Editor: PDG 2004-05 Bill Tubbs
P.O. Box 223, Eldridge, IA 52748
Ph. (563) 579-7402; btubbs@northscottpress.com
Assistant Editor: PDG 2013-14 Jacque Andrew
Ph. (515) 370-8358; jeandrew@netins.net

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EDITOR

'I shall not pass this way again'

"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

— Etienne de Grellet, Quaker missionary, 1772-1855

Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

I was coming down the home stretch editing this issue of *District 6000 News*, when **Kathy Skinner** shared the unthinkable: **Denny**, 76, her husband of 55 years, a **Nevada Rotarian** since 1988, and the **PDG** whose guidance and wisdom made my leap to become DG in 2004-05, possible, passed away May 30 after suffering a fall outside his home on May 21.



Bill Tubbs

We've been friends ever since, both continuing to **"Lend a Hand"** (his year's Presidential theme) for District 6000. He was the numbers guy, the volunteer **district treasurer** and **accountant**; I the wordsmith and editor, but today, I am at a loss for words.

Everybody who knew him had kind things to say about Denny. "He was the epitome of integrity; steady on the rudder," said assistant editor **Jacque Andrew**.

"He brought reason to every occasion," said West Liberty Rotarian **Bill Koellner**.

Denny did not call attention to himself. His service was mostly behind the scenes, but make no mistake, his contributions are longstanding. When it was decided that District 6000 should have a permanent office, he located it at Knoxville (the geographic center of the district) and hired **Jerri Uitermarkt** as district administrator. Today's office is nearby at Pella, with **Carolyn Scharff** as administrator.

Himself a world traveler for humanitarian service, Denny was the "go to" guy for **Rotary Foundation Global Grants** in Africa. When The Rotary Foundation's new grant model was implemented in 2013-14 and required a trusted fiduciary, again, Denny lent a hand.

There is so much more which will be included in the next issue of *District 6000 News*, with a full obituary which is custom for PDGs, but his passing is sobering for this contemporary. We shared a hug and had our picture taken together at the **Carroll District Conference**. All seemed well. "We'll have time to catch up on things later," we said, as we sat at different tables.

"Later," of course, never came. In seven short weeks that picture (at right) was at his funeral.

Fellowship is a **Core Value** of Rotary, so don't delay. Share your kindnesses now – a card, a word of thanks, a hug, a dinner with a friend.

Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.



Bill Tubbs, District Governor 2004-05
Volunteer Editor
District 6000 News

Denny Skinner
District Governor 2003-04
Photo April 15, 2023

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Rotarians imagine and create lasting change

Dear Rotarians and Friends of District 6000,

The Rotary year 2022-2023 has been a truly remarkable and memorable year for District 6000.

As I reflect on all that we have accomplished in the past year I am most proud of how Rotarians throughout our district have been so caring and passionate for doing great works in their local communities and globally to improve the lives of the people we serve.



Steve Wieneke

Brenda and I will cherish the time we have been able to spend visiting with Rotarians and guests at club visits, service projects, anniversary milestone celebrations, fundraising gala events, district regional conferences, district Foundation dinners, Rotary and RLI educational events, and recently the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

Brenda and I are very thankful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to meet and get to know so many inspirational members throughout our district, zone, and internationally.

Brenda and I are very thankful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to meet and get to know so many inspirational members throughout our district, zone, and internationally. It has been an honor and privilege for us to serve you as your Rotary District Governor and First Lady this year.

District Governor initiatives

During this past year, I asked Rotarians and clubs to focus efforts on **expanding our reach** to be more inviting, offer the gift of Rotary membership to prospective members, be more intentional and engage with our current members, encourage members to get involved in club activities, and make sure members feel heard, appreciated, and valued. I would like to sincerely thank the **Rotary District 6000 board of directors, assistant governors, club presidents and officers, district action team chairs** and members that have done so much work this past year. You have made a tremendous positive impact in our district and made my job so much easier.



RI president Jennifer Jones gave each district governor a print, "Imagine One's Dreams," created by her brother, Darren, and challenged them to auction it to raise funds for PolioPlus. DG Steve Wieneke paid for the matching frame and mat, and auctioned at his District Conferences. The high bidder at \$879 was Deb Ockenfels, who received it May 3 at the send-off party for the Flight to End Polio at the Iowa City Airport.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

District Regional Conferences

At the request of many District 6000 Rotarians, we offered three regional district conferences on April 15, 22 and 29. 507 Rotarians and guests registered and 460 actually attended a conference. **Jennifer Jones**, Rotary International president, opened each conference via a recorded message. Rotary Global Scholar, **Jessica Crawford**, joined us via a recorded message from London. **PDG John Ockenfels** (Iowa City AM) updated us about his and **Peter Teahen's** upcoming **Flight to End**

GOVERNOR, continued on page 4

Inside District 6000 News ...

Editor	2
District Governor	3
Melbourne	4
District Conference: Carroll	5
District Conference: Coralville	6
District Conference: West Des Moines	7
'RYLA Magic'	8
Youth Exchange	9
Interact	9
Xicotepet	10-12
Iowa MOST	13

Endowment Fund	14
Rotary Foundation Giving	15
Guardians of Integrity	16-18
Human Trafficking Prevention Award	18
Zone Awards	18
Flight To End Polio	19
Bell and the Gavel	20
Boone County Literacy	20
Arch Klumph Society	21
Club Membership Growth	22
Rose Bowl with Jennifer Jones	22
Rotary Leadership Institute	23
Water and Sanitation Meeting	23
Civitas Meeting	24
Innovative Club Advocate	25
Iowa Wolves, Oskaloosa	25

Ankeny, Corning	26
Jefferson Leadership	27
Atlantic News	28
North Scott to Celebrate 50 Years	29
Bettendorf's "Secret Sauce"	30-31
Des Moines AM Bingo Bash	31
West Des Moines, Clinton	32
Des Moines Educators, Scholars	33
Marshalltown, Adel	34
Tipton Literacy	35
George Washington Carver Day	35
Interact: Marshalltown, West Liberty	36
2023-24 Calendar	37
2023-24 Club Presidents	38
Obituaries	39
News In Brief	40

Message from Melbourne: 'What's next?' in Rotary

GOVERNOR, *continued from p. 3*

Polio. PDG Susan Herrick (Boone) provided us with an update on polio eradication at Boone and West Des Moines. PDG Bill Tubbs gave the polio update at Coralville. I would like to recognize DGN Dave Cook for preparing a fun slide presentation of District 6000 Rotarians in Action that was shown during dinner at all three district conferences. I would also like to thank DGN Dave Cook for preparing the script that was used during In Memoriam.

At the **Carroll Conference** the master of ceremonies was PDG Steve Dakin. The conference committee chairs were PDGs Jim Patton and Steve Dakin. Chris Deal, a previous **Global Ambassadorial Scholar**, presented his Rotary Inspirational Moment. Members and guests enjoyed breakout group educational sessions instead of having a keynote speaker.

Susan Laehn (Jefferson) provided an overview of the Rotary Club of Jefferson's District Community Service Grant, Rotary Outdoor Classroom. At the **Carroll Conference** we had a silent dessert auction which raised \$1,000. All proceeds went to The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus fund.

At the **Coralville Conference** the master of ceremonies was Ryan Bell. The conference committee chairs were Vernetta and Chris Knapp. **Schultz Strings Quartet** performed live entertainment during the social hour. **Jasmine Sanasinh** (University of Iowa Rotaract Club President) provided her Rotary Inspirational Moment. The keynote speaker was **Pat Merryweather-Arges**, RI Director. The title of her presentation was "The Impact of Rotary in Our World, Communities, and Ourselves." **Dr. James Merchant** (Iowa City Noon) provided an overview of the Rotary Club of Iowa City Noon's District Community Service Grant, Rotary Kerber Community Heartsafe Campaign. At the **Coralville Conference** we had silent and dessert auctions. We raised \$5,330 and all proceeds went to The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus fund.

At the **West Des Moines Conference**, the master of ceremonies was PDG Tom Narak. The conference committee chairs were

Tom and Carol Narak. The **CJC Septet** performed live entertainment during the social hour. **Kristofer Orth** (Ankeny Evening) provided his Rotary Inspirational Moment. **Greg Probst** (Iowa City AM) provided comments and recognized **Rotary Youth Exchange** students. We also heard a recorded message from all of the outbound and inbound students. The keynote speaker was **Jay Byers**, CEO/President of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. The title of his presentation was "Think Globally, Act Locally." **Steve Conard** (Adel) provided an overview of the Rotary Club of Adel's District Community Service Grant, 2022-2023 Raccoon Valley Recreational Trail, Centennial Year Project. At the **West Des Moines Conference**, we had silent and dessert auctions. We raised \$6,050 and all proceeds went to the Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus fund.

Deb Ockenfels (Iowa City AM) purchased the Jennifer Jones, "Imagine One's Dream" limited edition print for \$879. The combined total for all silent and dessert auctions and the print is **\$13,259**. All of these proceeds went to the Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus fund. PDG **Jacque Andrew** and **Bill Koellner** presented awards and recognitions. Rotary International's highest individual award, **Service Above Self Award**, was presented to PDG **John Ockenfels**. A **Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World** was presented to PDG **Alka Khanolkar**.

PDG Bill Tubbs recognized **Guardians of Integrity** award recipients at Carroll and Coralville, and PDG **Jacque Andrew** at West Des Moines, 17 in all! **DGE Dennis** and **Heidi Drager** provided an overview of **District Conference 2024** plans.

Rotary International Convention

During the Rotary International Convention held in Melbourne, Australia on May 28-31, Rotary International president **Jennifer Jones**, Rotary International President-Elect **Gordon McNally**, and Rotary International President-Elect nominee **Stephanie Urchick** collectively talked about the importance of continuity of organizational priorities and programs and asked Rotarians and clubs to develop plans for "What's next?" in Rotary.



Down Under with Iowa Rotarians

Rotarians from Districts 6000 and 5970 proudly display the Iowa flag at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, May 27-31, front (l-r): Tim Bernhard (5970), Tomeka Petersen (Iowa City Downtown), Allyson Walter (Ames), Katie Wilford (5970), PDG Steve Dakin (Boone); Row 2: PDG Alka Khanolkar (Keokuk), Connie Connolly (North Scott), Connie Bever (West Des Moines), Vernetta Knapp (Iowa City AM), Amy Marlow (5970), Kris Meyer (5970), DG Don Meyer (5970); Row 3: Brenda Wieneke (Ankeny), Carole Bernhard (5970), Heidi Drager (Marshalltown), DG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny), Lesley Dakin (Boone), Maripili Hassman (5970), PDG Kathy Fahy (5970); Row 4: Andy Fitzgerald (5970), Joe Campion (Bettendorf), Kiran Khanolkar (Keokuk), PDG Chris Knapp (Iowa City AM), Chris Connolly (North Scott), Lisa Cook (Boone), DGN Dave Cook (Boone), Cynthia Adams (5970), Darrell Limkeman (Ottumwa), PDG Jeff Hassman (5970), DGE Dennis Drager (Marshalltown), Bill Frye (5970).

Provided by Chris Connolly

District Conference: Carroll

April 15 at Carrollton Inn. Attendance: 100



Denison Rotarian Bill Bruce led the Memorial Service at the Carroll Conference.



Chris Deal shared about his year as Ambassadorial Scholar in Makera, Uganda.



Susan Laehn presented about her Jefferson Rotary's Outdoor Classroom.



Steve and Lesley Dakin of Boone and Jim and Diane Patton of Ames were co-



District Governor Steve Wieneke and Brenda, of Ankeny, rang the bell to signify the start of the long-awaited conferences.



Rotary Scholar Jessica Crawford presented to all three conferences by video.



Boone President Jamie Rabe (r) accepted the attendance award (members attended times miles traveled) for the 2022 Conference in Coralville.



Instead of a keynote speaker, Rotarians at the Carroll conference broke into small groups to discuss ideas for successful clubs and projects.

Photos by Bill Tubbs



Colors were presented and the National Anthem was sung by Kayla Riesenberg.

District Conference: Coralville

April 22 at Radisson. Attendance: 191



Iowa City AM Rotarian PDG John Ockenfels (c), is District 6000's newest recipient of Rotary International's highest honor, the Service Above Self award, one of only 101 worldwide, (l-r): DG Steve Wieneke, RI Director Pat Merryweather-Arges of Naperville, Ill., John and Deb Ockenfels, and District 6000 Awards Committee co-chairs PDG Jacque Andrew and Bill Koellner.



Iowa City Rotarian Dr. Jim Merchant told about his club's Heartsafe project.



Iowa City West students Mohana Sunkara, Vismitha Vuppala and Krisha Kapoor thank Rotarians for their support of the Iowa Miles Of Smiles Team (M.O.S.T.) cleft lip, cleft palate and cataract repair team to Guatemala.



PDG Alka Khanolkar of Keokuk (c) is the recipient of Rotary's Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, congratulated by DG Steve Wieneke and RI Director and keynote speaker Pat Merryweather-Arges.

Photos by Bill Tubbs



DG Steve and Brenda thank PDG Chris Knapp and Vernetta who were co-chairs for the Coralville conference.



Mark Stanley introduced Jessica Crawford.



The National Anthem was sung by Tejs Gurujas.



Taylor Sung was honored for Youth Exchange support.

District Conference: West Des Moines

April 29 at Hilton Garden Inn. Attendance: 169



Keynote speaker Jay Byers of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, challenged attendees to “think global act local,” a concept which aligns with Rotary. Shortly after the conference, Byers was selected to become the next president of Simpson College, his alma mater.



WDM Conference chairs PDG Tom and Carol Narak, at right, are thanked by DG Steve and Brenda Wieneke, captured by primary WDM conference photographer Mia Nelson, at far left. This photo by Jacque Andrew; others by Mia Nelson



Bettendorf Rotarian Scott Naumann, aka Paul Harris, gave an inspirational, and funny, message at all three conference.



Iowa City AM Rotarian Greg Probst, who chairs D6000 Youth Exchange, shared about the Youth Exchange vision.



Inspirational moment was by Kristofer Orth of the Ankeny Evening Satellite Club, soon to be chartered; he will be president.



Outbound RYE student Tierra Michaud shared her gratitude for the opportunity to spend a year in Italy.



PDG Jim Patton of Ames introduced the Global Scholar, Jessica Crawford's presentation.



DGE Dennis Drager and Heidi invite all to their 2024 conference in Pella, Saturday, April 20, 2024.



Performing the National Anthem at the West Des Moines Conference was “Off the Grid,” an a cappella group from Ankeny Centennial High School.

Photos by Mia Nelson



DG Steve Wieneke shares *District 6000 News*, which he said is unique, and the best in all of Rotary.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

'RYLA magic' coming to Grinnell

By Wayne Steen/West Liberty

District 6000 RYLA Chair

The Iowa RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will start Sunday, July 16 and run through Friday, July, 21 at Grinnell College.

This is a conference for high school students to help build their leadership, team building and interpersonal skills. The students also start lifelong friendships with their conferees at Iowa RYLA!

We talk about Iowa RYLA Magic! It is an amazing process and participants believe in Iowa RYLA Magic by the end of the week.



Patt Englander

This year's conference chair is **Patt Englander** of the Bettendorf Rotary Club. The conference chair-elect is **Zach Fisher**. He will be the conference chair in 2024.

Patt is a graduate of Iowa State University and received her M.B.A. from St. Ambrose University. She spent many years in professional career development in the nonprofit sector. She is passionate about Iowa RYLA because it allows her to give back and share her leadership skills with others.

The head counselors are **Piper Carroll**, a student at Iowa State University, and **Jeremiah Collins**, a student at the University of California at Berkeley. They are two amazing leaders and their goal is to make Iowa RYLA 2023 the best Iowa RYLA ever!

Patt, Zach, Piper and **Jeremiah** have been working very hard since November planning for Iowa RYLA 2023. Approximately 150 high school students from Rotary Districts 5970 and 6000 are expected to attend.

There is no cost to the high school students to attend Iowa RYLA. Rotary clubs in Districts 5970 and 6000 sponsor the high school students. Clubs pay \$500 for each student they send to Iowa RYLA. The cost covers housing and meals, and the rental of various buildings on the Grinnell campus. The students also receive books and other materials for their self improvement.

Rotarian Visit Day

A very important date to mark on your calendar is **Tuesday, July 18**. That day is **Rotarian Visit Day**. All Rotarians are invited to attend Iowa RYLA during the daytime. You can come and see firsthand what Iowa RYLA is about. Please let **Patt Englander, Suellen Kolbet** or **Wayne Steen** know if you will be staying for lunch.

The students are divided up into teams with 10 members. Each team has a team leader and a Rotarian volunteer to help the teams throughout the week.

There are also speakers who come and give presentations throughout the week to the students.

True believers

District Governor **Steve Wieneke** is also a true believer in Iowa RYLA Magic. Three of the students on his team from last year's Iowa RYLA went back to their high schools and started Interact clubs!



Allie Stutting Boge



Dr. Matt Kelly

How RYLA launched careers; changed lives

Iowa RYLA is definitely a life changing experience. **Matt Kelly** did not want to attend Iowa RYLA, but he reluctantly did. By the end of the week he said it had been a life changing experience for him.

After RYLA, Matt went back to West Liberty High School and along with classmate Emma Baker started the West Liberty High School Interact Club. He came back to Iowa RYLA to be a team leader and eventually became a RYLA head counselor.

Today, **Dr. Matt Kelly** just graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He gives a lot of credit to Iowa RYLA for the self confidence he gained.

Allie Stutting Boge, originally from North Scott High School, also gives credit to Iowa RYLA. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa. She has also been a head counselor at Iowa RYLA and now does fundraising at the University of Iowa. She was a member of this year's Xicotepec Project Team.

Allie will be joining the Iowa RYLA board of directors starting July 1, for a three-year term. She will be the first former conferee to join the Iowa RYLA board. She will also be one of the featured speakers at Iowa RYLA 2023.

— Wayne Steen

The Rotarian volunteers for Iowa RYLA 2023 are: **Alan Hermanson, David Kutter, Jane Schlegel, Linda Nudd, Lynn Kuethe, Mark McAndrews, Patrick Engelhaupt, Steve Dakin, Steve Wieneke, Wayne Steen, Kamryn Ryan, Marie Pipes, Betsy Kutter** and **Mike Babcock**.

The Iowa RYLA board wants to thank **David Kutter** of Cedar Rapids. David has been the registrar of Iowa RYLA since it began in the early 1990s. David will be retiring as the registrar at the end of Iowa RYLA 2023. He has been the backbone of Iowa RYLA and we appreciate his dedication and commitment to Iowa RYLA.

Please come and visit us Tuesday, July 18! Come and see what Iowa RYLA Magic is all about!

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Students plan for year abroad

By Greg Probst/Iowa City AM

District 6000 Youth Exchange Chair

We are quickly coming to the end of this Rotary Youth Exchange year. Except for a few going on the USA Tour, we have navigated through this year with very few incidents. Thanks to Beth, our club's RYE Rotarians, and all our RYE volunteers for making this another successful year. And not just any year – the first post-pandemic year.

Current Status: Looking forward to the fall, we will be sending outbound five and receiving six RYE students:

Outbound:

Jasper Countryman, Des Moines AM, to Spain;

Alexa Schuller, Grinnell, to Italy;

Norah Leuwerke, Indianola, to France;

Elsie Lange, Mt. Pleasant, to France;

Tiarra Michaud, Knoxville, to Italy.

Inbound:

We have received five of the six applications and will shortly assign students to the Bettendorf, Decatur County, Des Moines AM, Iowa City, Ankeny and Pella clubs. Thank you to all clubs, particularly Ankeny and Pella, who came through at the last minute and will cover our outbound two-way exchange obligations in addition to a district in Brazil.

RYE Core Team update: To plan for program continuity, broaden our program's opportunities, and lighten the load across our entire team, we have the following designate core team roles:

Inbound Coordinators: Beth Saxton (lead), Sean Saxton, Taylor Sung, Rick Stammer;

NGSE: Catherine Pinter;

Outbound Coordinators: Paul Kalainoff (lead), Erin Hansen;

Training: TBD



At the March 4 District Assembly at Newton, District 6000 Outbound Youth Exchange chair Paul Kalainoff introduced students who will travel abroad for a year of study in 2023-24, clockwise from left: Tiarra Mashaud (Knoxville, to Italy), Elsie Lange (Mount Pleasant, to Spain), Jasper Countryman (Des Moines AM Rotary, Roosevelt High School), to Spain, Alexis Schuller (Grinnell, to Italy), and Norah Leuwerki (Indianola, to France).

Photo by Bill Tubbs

References and Events: Vernetta Knapp

Background Verification: Doug Peterson

Vice-Chair: Chris Knapp

Rotex Lead: TBD

District 6000 Interact looking ahead to great year!

By Wayne Steen/West Liberty

District 6000 Interact Chair

We want to welcome two new Interact clubs to District 6000: **Marshalltown High School Interact** and **Quad Cities Community-Based Interact Club!** We want to congratulate **Bonnie Lowry** for her hard work and dedication to getting the Marshalltown club started, and also to **Patrick Engelhaupt** for getting the Iowa Quad Cities club started. They deserve gold stars!

Marie Pipes worked diligently to ascertain the number of Interact clubs in District 6000 which are still active. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had a significant impact on a number of clubs, causing them to discontinue their operations.

The District 6000 Interact Committee hosted two successful District Conference events.

On April 22 we held a District conference event at the Kirkwood Room in Iowa City. Over 35 people attended. We had students attend from the Iowa City, West Liberty, Marshalltown and the Iowa Quad Cities. We want to thank **Mark Ruggeberg** and **Nancy Pacha** for their outstanding help in organizing the event. **Dr. Paul Daniel** and **Ian Probst** gave excellent presentations on mental health issues. We also heard a heartbreaking story from a mother whose son had committed

suicide. **Jasmine Sanasinh** gave a great presentation on Rotary Opportunities for Youth. Later in the day we prepared birthday bags for low-income families in the Iowa City area. We want to thank the Iowa City Downtown Rotary Club for organizing the birthday bags.

On April 29 we had a District Interact conference in West Des Moines. Again, we had **Dr. Paul Daniel** talk about mental health issues, and **Amy Ratekin** discussed Human Trafficking and Self-Defense. Interact clubs from **West Des Moines Valley** and **Southeast Polk** attended the conference in West Des Moines.

Marie Pipes will soon be sending out a survey to the students who attended the two District Conferences. We will also be doing some brainstorming about how we can help Rotary clubs start or restart Interact clubs. We could also use someone with great technical expertise to join our committee!

We also want to thank **District Governor Steve Wieneke** who was the driving force behind the two Interact District Conferences. His leadership, encouragement and support certainly made a huge impact and difference!

Interact is looking forward to a great year. If your Rotary club is interested in starting or restarting an Interact Club in the coming year please contact **Wayne Steen** or **Marie Pipes**.



The District 6000 Xicotepec 2023 Project Team with teachers and staff at the Rotary Club School in Xicotepec, Mexico.

AFTER 3-YEAR HIATUS DUE TO COVID

Return to Xicotepec, Mexico

By Jim Peterson/Iowa City AM

Xicotepec Project Team Co-Chair

During spring break week in March a D6000 Project Team traveled to Xicotepec (D4185, Puebla, Mexico) for the first time since 2019 to partner with Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and women of Inner Wheel, as well as many other members of the Xicotepec community, in a variety of projects.

The Iowa team of 34 persons arrived in Xicotepec on Saturday, March 11, after a long day of travel – by bus to O'Hare, by air to Mexico City, and from the airport by charter bus to Xicotepec. Upon arrival at the Salón de don Pancho (the name we gave to the place where we ate our meals and conducted meetings; it was named for the owner, don Pancho González) in central Xicotepec, they were welcomed by club members, their families and other friends from Xicotepec who have accompanied and worked with past project teams.

The Salón de don Pancho served as a meeting point throughout the week and was also the place where all meals were served. As usual, the project team was well-fed with delicious Mexican food.

Local groups involved

This year's trip was most notable for the extensive involvement of Xicotepec's institutions and community leaders in the week's activities. Examples include:

University of Iowa Professor of Public Health Paul Gilbert and 10 of his students worked with municipal leaders and staff to assist in the city's effort to reduce family violence, child abuse and related problems. After meeting with the municipal president and several of her senior staff, Paul and his team, along with municipal employees whose responsibilities include addressing the issue of domestic violence, conducted surveys in several colonias (neighborhoods), and organized and analyzed the data they gathered after returning to Iowa.

The results will be used by the municipality of Xicotepec



In front: Jasmine Sanasinh, University of Iowa Rotaract President. Behind her: President-Elect Carlos Garrido, president Nacho Ramírez, Rotaract President Linda Karen Ortega. Next row: Amiritha Kumar, Rotaract secretary, Vanessa and Ana Luz (Carlos' wife and daughter (Carlos and Vanessa met as Rotaractors). In back: PDG Tom Narak (West Des Moines), and Allie (Stutting) Boge, President Iowa City AM Satellite Club.



Katie Wilford, Berenice, Allie Boge, Nacho Ramírez, Alta Medea-Peters, Jim Peterson, Millo Fosado, Steve Wieneke, Deanna Zinno at La Cruz Celestial.



At a secondary school: DG Steve Wieneke, Nacho Ramírez, Allie Boge, Jasimine Sanasinh, Dr. Roque Hernández (with mask, dentist who was in charge of the pasantes). The Xicotepec Project is helping this school to get a new roof of concrete. The current metal roof makes hearing during rainfalls impossible, and classes are often cancelled.

to help determine the best use of human and financial resources in its campaign against domestic violence. **Iowa City AM Rotarian Alta Medea-Peters**, who also represented the SE Iowa non-profit Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP), worked in tandem with Paul and his team as she shared her experience and knowledge with the municipal staff to support the development of their strategies and plans for combating family violence in Xicotepec. Future collaboration by the municipality, Rotary and University of Iowa and DVIP in the area of reducing family violence is under discussion.

U of I College of Dentistry faculty members Amy Lesch and Jennifer Sukalski, along with six dental students, spent their time in Xicotepec working with **Dr. Roque Hernández** and seven dental pasantes (who have completed all the course and clinical work for their dental degree and are in the process of completing a year of service that is required in order to obtain the cedula that will allow them to practice as dentists). Their activities included application of **fluoride** and talks and demonstrations for school children to promote good dental hygiene and proper brushing technique. In the course of the week they visited many schools and provided fluoride treatments to over 1,000 school children. When not attending to children, the U of I students and the Mexican pasantes were able to exchange and compare information about their academic and clinical experiences and to enjoy each other's company during their week together.

Assisting the Mexican/U.S. dental team were six nursing students from the Centro Escolar Francisco Velasco Marañón. The nursing program at this

school has collaborated with the Xicotepec Project since 2007.

Retired professor of Pharmacy and Iowa City Rotarian Chris Catney worked all week with members of the Inner Wheel Club, which has assumed responsibility for the **de-worming project** formerly administered by the U of I College of Pharmacy and its students. Chris' objective was to transfer all of the information and learning that came out of her 13 years of involvement in the de-worming effort to the club, leaving them with the know-how and confidence needed to continue this important

XICOTEPEC, continued on page 12



At the Casa Hogar Victoria Orphanage



DG Steve Wieneke receives banner from Linda Karen Ortega, president of Xicotepec Rotaract Club.



Grateful schoolchildren.

De-worming medications provided for children

XICOTEPEC, *continued*

project. Near the end of the week the Inner Wheel Club put their newly-acquired knowledge and skills to work as they successfully prepared for and carried out a **de-worming** session in a local school. The Xicotepec Project and District 6000 will continue to provide de-worming medication in whatever quantity is needed by the Inner Wheel club.

Xicotepec Rotaract Club

Other work for the 2023 project team included working with the Xicotepec Rotaract Club (the Xicorots) to provide food for a local program in which dogs are captured, sterilized and offered for adoption; helping to construct an **outdoor stage for performances** and events at a secondary school; and preparing a play area for children at a preschool. The team also visited several schools where improvement projects are being carried out with partial funding from The Xicotepec Project. Most of these projects also received funding from parents' groups or other sources.

When time permitted, there were visits by the project team to local points of interest, including the pre-Columbian Xochipila shrine, La Virgen de Guadalupe Monumental, La Cruz Celestial, the site in the village of Tlaxcalantongo where president Venustiano Carranza was assassinated, and the museum that now occupies the house in which his autopsy was performed.

Rotary Club of Xicotepec

This article would not be complete without acknowledging the extensive preparation and planning done by the Rotary Club of Xicotepec. In addition to the delicious food that was enjoyed by all, the transportation to project sites was well-organized, and the schools and project sites visited by the teams were well-prepared to receive the visitors – often with food or a cultural performance for their guests.

On Friday night, a celebration was held at the restaurant La Choya, whose owner, **José Luis Janeiro**, was president of the Xicotepec Rotary Club in 2001-02, the year in which the relationship between the club and District 6000 began. José Luis was introduced to project team members and accepted

thanks for hosting the dinner and fiesta. Each member of the project team received a recognition medal, and was treated to performances of folkloric dancing and Mariachi music. It was an especially meaningful and joyful celebration that ended the week that marked the resumption of The Xicotepec Project after the three year interruption caused by the pandemic.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Xicotepec Project or would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the project, please visit <https://xicoproject.org>. Additional information and photos can be found at <https://facebook.com/xicoproj/>.



DG Steve with President-elect Carlos Garrido (at left) and President Nacho Ramírez

IOWA M.O.S.T. (MILES OF SMILES TEAM)

New life for Guatemalan children

By Deb Dunkhase/Iowa City AM

Iowa Miles of Smiles team leader

Without a doubt, bringing cleft birth defect and cataract surgeries to Guatemala for the past 18 years has dramatically changed the lives of thousands. This District 6000 project is the epitome of our 2023-24 Rotary theme of Creating Hope in the World. Without the annual Iowa MOST mission, countless children would be living lives of isolation, not allowed to attend school because of their cleft birth defects. Others would be living in blindness due to cataracts. Each Iowa MOST mission allows dozens of impoverished Guatemalans to imagine lives of health, raising a family, and contributing to making this world a better place for all of us.



Bresley, before surgery, at age 9 months.

In late January 2023, an Iowa MOST team of 30 medical professionals and volunteers traveled to Guatemala to conduct our 18th cleft lip and palate medical mission in the remote Western Highlands community of Huehuetenango, performing over 35 surgical procedures. Our patients ranged from babies who were receiving their first cleft surgery to teens who are now old friends having surgery every couple of years as their mouths grow and develop.

The excitement felt by our entire team when **Bresley** arrived on screening day was electric! Bresley had her first cleft surgery at 9 months and is now an energetic little girl ready to start school. Without Iowa MOST, Bresley's future would have been much different. No education, no social interactions, only a life bereft of hope for a happy, healthy future.

Cataracts a great addition!

As I sit writing this article on May 20 in a small café in Huehuetenango, the rest of our cataract team is on their way from the U.S. Within the next 24 hours we'll have our surgical rooms set up with over 75 Guatemalans eagerly awaiting their initial screening.



The life of Daniel, 11, blind with a cataract, will be forever changed, thanks to a surgery performed by a team of Iowa Rotarians!

Adding cataract surgeries to Iowa MOST has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've personally had as a Rotarian. The gift of being present as a person who has lived their life without sight regains vision not only brings tears to your eyes, but opens your heart in ways I'd not thought possible.

This handsome young 11-year-old, **Daniel**, is blind in one eye due to a cataract. With your support and that of Rotary District 6000, in a matter of days he will regain his sight. I'm



Bresley, post-surgery (l), with mother and twin, ready to start school.

sure the gratitude I express to you is only a small fraction of what his family feels for this opportunity to change **Daniel's** life from despair to one filled with hope.

Transform good intentions into empowerment

Creating hope in the world doesn't happen without both a commitment to service and the insights gained from developing authentic relationships with the people being served. Our team has learned that it takes more than the desire to help those in need. To transform good intentions into empowerment, Iowa MOST follows five key principles.

In all actions and words, respect and value the people being served and their cultural traditions;

Build trust through authentic relationships;

Do with rather than for;

Ensure feedback and accountability; and

Evaluate every step of the way.

You can join us

You and your Rotary Club can join Iowa MOST in bringing hope to the most vulnerable people of Guatemala.

1. Ask your Rotary club to name Iowa MOST in your annual budget. Funds can be sent to Rotary District 6000 Humanitarian and Education Foundation Inc.;

2. Contribute individually to help support the approximately \$50,000 annual mission expense at <https://iowamost.org/donate-now/>

3. Every year Iowa MOST collects children's books, toothbrushes, fluoride, polar fleece blankets, and other items to take to Guatemala for our outreach programs. Donations are welcome!

Fellow Rotarians be assured that each and every time our Iowa MOST team sees our Guatemalan patients young and old, we'll be sure to give them warm smiles and loving hugs from District 6000 Rotarians knowing that none of the work we do is possible without you.

¡¡Muchísimas Gracias, Amigos Rotarios!!

ENDOWMENT FUND

Make an impact that lasts forever

By Doyle Sanders/Northwest Des Moines

District 6000 Endowment chair

With **ROTARY**, YOU can make an impact that lasts forever!
Let's start with the **IMPACT** that Rotary makes.
Around the world Rotarians work tirelessly:

Fighting Disease
Providing Clean Water
Supporting Education
Saving Mothers and Children
Growing Local Economies
Protecting the Environment
Promoting Peace

Knowing that, it is easy to understand how The Rotary Foundation (TRF) makes Global Grants and IMPACTS people in faraway places. But TRF also IMPACTS us here in Iowa, District 6000, and even in our own communities.

How does The Rotary Foundation IMPACT our own communities?

Your club can request a **Community Grant** for projects in your community and receive a portion of the money that YOU give to TRF. In 2021–2022, the 28 District 6000 Community Grants totaled \$111,252, including \$5,000 to build Community Showers in Bettendorf to provide warm showers and a restroom facility for the homeless, and \$2,500 for the Chariton Grand Street Pocket Park to provide a leisure location in historic downtown by adding benches and flower/planters for visual appeal.

So, The Rotary Foundation not only IMPACTS around the world; it IMPACTS your neighbors and YOU as well.

How do we MAKE an IMPACT?

We do that with gifts to the TWO Rotary Foundation funds, the **Annual Fund** and the **Endowment Fund**. It is easy to understand how we MAKE AN IMPACT with the Annual Fund. The gifts we make today to the Annual Fund are used within three years for our seven primary causes, Community Grants and other Rotary programs.

Through the Endowment Fund, the gift **LASTS FOREVER**.

How does it LAST FOREVER?

The Endowment Fund differs from the Annual Fund in that the money received today is not spent. It is held and invested FOREVER.

If it is invested FOREVER, how does that IMPACT anything?

While the gifts that we MAKE are invested, the FOREVER income from those invested gifts joins the Annual Fund money to support the Rotary projects including projects here in District 6000 and in your own community.

Consider how YOU CAN help.

Say that YOU currently give \$100 per year to TRF as a Sustaining Member. If the Endowment Fund gets an investment return of 5 percent per year and if YOU CAN make a one-time gift of \$2,000, YOU CAN continue, as you are now, to MAKE AN IMPACT of \$100 per year FOREVER to Rotary projects in your community, in District 6000, and around the world. That \$2,000 becomes part of your legacy carrying on what you are doing now. In some years, the return on your investment may not be as much as 5 percent, or it may be more. The point is that YOU CAN do it.

The best part is that **YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT THAT LASTS FOREVER** without any out-of-pocket cost.

YOU simply include The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund in your estate plan.

YOU CAN do that in your will or in the beneficiary designation of your life insurance policy or retirement plan.

YOU CAN MAKE it deferred during the lives of both YOU and your spouse or another loved one so that it does not even affect your direct survivors. And, it literally costs YOU nothing.

How much should be designated for a FOREVER IMPACT?

YOU CAN become a Benefactor by including The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of \$1,000 or more in your estate plan. Benefactors receive wings to wear with their Rotary pin.

YOU CAN join the Bequest Society by including the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of \$10,000 or more in your estate plan.

YOU CAN designate any amount, but you receive special thanks at any Bequest Society level from the \$10,000 Level 1 through Level 6. The right amount is where YOU are comfortable. And of course, YOU CAN change it as your situation changes.

That's how...

ROTARY AND YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT THAT LASTS FOREVER!

Dear Rotarians and Clubs, please check your Foundation giving (at right) and make plans to meet or exceed your goal on or before June 30!



District Rotary Foundation Awards

Rotarians Todd Wheeler (l) of Des Moines and Doyle Sanders (r) of Northwest Des Moines were recipients of District Rotary Foundation Awards, in recognition of service advancing the goals of The Rotary Foundation in District 6000. The awards were presented by District Governor Steve Wieneke at the West Des Moines District Conference.

Photo by Mia Nelson

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments

District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023 (*)

(Members: July 1, 2015-16-17-18-19-20-21-22)	(1) 22-23 Goal	(2) % of Goal	(3) Per capita	(4) Thru 1-8-23	(5) PolioPlus	(6) Other (**)	(7) TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28-24-21-27)	\$ 5,000	9	\$ 16.30	\$ 440	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 440
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29-29-32)	500	120	18.75	600	0	0	600
Ames (224-226-217-206-186-172-167-158)	16,000	97	98.42	15,551	7,985	0	23,536
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46-43-43)	6,000	459	640.84	27,556	1,500	2,000	31,056
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83-101-97-109)	20,000	61	112.06	12,215	2,275	8,300	22,790
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62-59-53)	2,000	94	35.00	1,887	0	0	1,887
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100-94-123)	15,000	125	152.24	18,725	875	0	19,550
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12-13-13)	1,500	87	100.00	1,300	215	0	1,515
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46-50-59)	5,500	286	267.03	15,755	6,785	25,000	47,540
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73-62-60)	2,500	20	8.33	500	100	0	600
Carroll (46-44-43-44-42-26-35-34)	1,000	10	2.94	100	0	0	100
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38-38-34)	3,000	176	155.15	5,275	100	0	5,375
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39-40-36-32)	3,300	97	97.66	3,125	0	0	3,125
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80-70-77)	8,000	90	93.39	7,191	100	0	7,291
Coon Rapids (27-31-34-30-29-28-27-21)	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coralville-N. Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22-23-24)	2,200	55	50.00	1,200	100	0	1,300
Corning (34-33-32-32-31-30-27-28)	1,200	85	36.43	1,020	1,000	0	2,020
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18-16-16)	1,300	8	6.25	100	0	0	100
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21-21-21)	200	50	4.76	100	0	0	100
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30-24-27)	2,700	104	103.70	2,800	160	0	2,960
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94-67-56)	3,000	161	88.43	4,840	2,180	1,150	8,170
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28-30-29)	6,000	35	72.41	2,100	600	0	2,700
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31-32-31)	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227-189)	16,000	110	92.96	17,570	1,778	0	19,348
Des Moines AM (170-170-179-189-194-200-209-194-192)	14,000	40	29.04	5,575	200	20,425	21,000
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22-23-18)	2,000	61	68.06	1,225	952	1,000	3,177
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41-34-32)	2,000	435	27.81	890	200	0	1,090
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42-43-44)	4,700	43	46.02	2,025	214	0	2,240
Greater Des Moines (12-12-11-13-26-17-12-11)	1,000	53	47.73	525	195	500	1,220
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34-32-33)	6,000	82	149.54	4,935	0	0	4,935
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37-32-29)	3,000	70	72.07	2,090	760	0	2,850
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271-239-225)	3,750	795	132.49	29,810	3,551	5,049	38,410
Iowa City AM (66-69-74-71-74-79-75-70)	16,000	105	240.21	16,815	11,057	6,651	34,523
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24-20-22)	3,750	63	107.00	2,354	500	0	2,854
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36-32-29)	2,000	50	34.48	1,000	0	0	1,000
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55-46-40)	5,000	70	87.30	3,492	940	0	4,432
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44-41-45)	6,300	164	229.42	10,324	2,117	0	12,441
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-38-32-32)	1,500	67	31.25	1,000	2,410	0	3,410
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41-37-37)	2,500	148	99.70	3,689	200	0	3,889
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26-24-25)	1,200	83	40.00	1,000	0	0	1,000
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34-30-28)	2,500	89	79.47	2,225	500	0	2,725
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25-25-15)	1,000	10	6.67	100	0	0	100
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22-20-20)	2,000	58	57.50	1,150	0	0	1,150
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10-9)	50	600	33.33	300	118	0	418
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117-111-129)	7,500	110	63.76	8,225	4,635	70,493	83,353
Mt. Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53-44-39)	1,000	154	39.49	1,540	1,000	0	2,540
Mt. Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15-15-15)	1,400	43	40.00	600	520	100	1,120
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62-60-62)	10,000	85	136.69	8,475	525	0	9,000
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48-56-59)	10,000	88	148.91	8,780	3,475	0	12,255
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38-33-34)	3,000	30	26.47	900	2,250	0	3,150
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95-91-100)	12,000	147	176.50	17,650	2,681	3,516	23,847
N'West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37-29-29)	8,000	144	396.36	11,495	4,548	0	16,043
Norwalk (0-0-20-24-18-18-17-18)	500	415	129.69	2,075	0	0	2,075
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21-17-17)	500	100	29.41	500	100	0	600
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59-49-46)	500	100	14.13	650	0	0	650
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75-75-70)	7,500	27	28.57	2,000	1,000	0	3,000
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26-27-28)	3,000	57	60.51	1,700	100	0	1,800
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22-22-25)	900	67	24.00	600	51	500	1,151
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23-23-20)	2,000	0	0.00	0	500	0	500
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41-35-31)	4,300	91	125.81	3,900	450	0	4,350
Waukeg (58-64-69-64-68-73-69-76)	9,000	77	91.12	6,925	1,475	5,100	13,500
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23-20-20)	2,000	154	154.05	3,081	0	0	3,081
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45-38-42)	5,000	87	103.64	4,353	2,400	10,103	16,856
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36-37-42)	13,000	101	313.10	13,150	1,100	0	14,250
West Polk County (31-18-19-20-24-21-17)	500	60	17.65	300	1,537	0	1,837
Winterset (25-30-33-29-30-32)	4,000	166	207.09	6,527	4,430	100	11,057
Total (3,854-3,853-3,793-3,693-3,580-3,464-3,212)	\$ 315,250	105.95	\$ 104.34	\$ 333,999	\$ 82,395		\$ 571,683

(*) Interim Report. (**) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants



George Belitsos
Ames



Todd Eipperle
Ankeny



Dolly Bergmann
Atlantic



Carol Foster
Bettendorf



Cody Bowers
Boone



John Frey
Clinton

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

17 honored as 'Guardians of Integrity'

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

District 6000 Vocational Service Chair

Seventeen Rotarians who were nominated by their clubs were honored by District 6000 as "Guardians of Integrity" the District Conferences at Carroll, Coralville and West Des Moines. This is the 13th year for the awards that were begun in 2011 to recognize individuals who have made contributions that foster the development of integrity.



Paul Hellwege
Boone

The award honors individuals who have made contributions in business, media, academia or government and who have by their actions, writing, policies and public pronouncements strengthened and fostered development of integrity and ethical practices, and who have made sacrifices and/or undertaken risks to uphold Rotary's Core Value of Integrity.

The awards are named after the late **Past District Governor Paul E. Hellwege** of Boone (1954-55) who, at the time of his death in 2010 had been a past district governor for more than half of the 105-year

existence of Rotary, whose life exemplified integrity. These award scripts were prepared by Nancy Pacha:

Ames Rotarian George Belitsos served Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) in Ames for 39 years. He helped grow the agency to 27 locations. The agency and George himself have earned countless awards. George has testified before Congressional committees, been an appointee to the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and chair of the Iowa Commission for the International Year of the Child. The many organizations George serves are too numerous to mention, but one important to Rotary is RAG Against Slavery, which he currently chairs. His "life's demonstration" attests to his commitment and his deep character.

Ankeny Rotarian Todd Eipperle is a Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, currently on assignment in the Middle East, helping to strengthen defense relationships and build partner capacity. After a previous deployment in Afghanistan, Todd received a Bronze Star for heroism and a Purple Heart for having been wounded. At home, Todd offers prodigious fundraising skills as Director of Annual Giving for the Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts, organizer of a walk/bike Rotary event for PolioPlus, and co-chair of Marshall County United Way. Todd is devoted to Boy Scouts and at-risk kids. His life "embodies the Scout law," a person of many virtues.

Atlantic Rotarian Dolly Bergman is "the most well-known volunteer in the Atlantic community" and is "selfless to a fault." A retired telephone company administrator, her time belongs to her family, her community, her church, and fortunately for Rotary, her club and her district. Past president of Atlantic Rotary and current executive secretary, Dolly has worn nearly every hat one could don in a club – chair of the annual auction, Foundation Chair, Public Relations Chair, New Member Orientation Chair, Member Recruitment Chair, RYLA Chair, chair of the 85th and also the 100th club anniversary events. Area clubs appreciated her support and guidance as Assistant District Governor as well.

Bettendorf Rotarian Carol Foster is Chief Administration Officer of the Handicapped Development Center in Davenport. Her working career at HDC the past 30 years has been dedicated to assisting those with special needs toward fuller lives. Carol lends her leadership skills to Rotary, Assumption High School Board, Scott County Housing Authority and Quad City Chapter of American Fundraising Professionals. It is not surprising that area non-profits frequently turn to this dependable citizen for guidance regarding raising funds and organizing operations. Carol is "tireless in her devotion to the community," a faithful servant.

Boone Rotarian Cody Bowers balances community involvement and work with steadfast dedication to both. As the Market President/Relationship Manager in the Commercial Department of US Bank, Cody successfully builds relationships with folks from all walks of life who regard him as a trustworthy guardian of their interests. In the community, he is valued as an active participant on the boards of Habitat for Humanity, Boone County FORCE and Boone County Economic Development. He is also known as Past Co-Chair of Boone County Pufferbelly Days and Past President of Boone County Rotary. Cody's participation "benefits all parties involved."

Clinton Rotarian John Frey is the Camanche City Attorney. Grounded in the rule of law, he has guided the city well and fairly through routine activity and through difficult situations, achieving appropriate and just outcomes. "He establishes the bar of fairness and integrity in the legal profession." John has represented the City of Clinton, as well as sitting on the Clinton City Council, and he has also served with the FBI. As an active Rotarian, John applies the same patience, grace, fairness and dignity he displays in his work. His advice to the Rotary Club of Clinton Charitable Foundation is invaluable and his leadership in club projects is appreciated.



Linda Chastain
Decatur County



Terry Pauling
Indianola



Mark Patton
Iowa City AM



Barb Thomas
Iowa City



Doug Rieder
Jefferson



Larry Brenizer
Mount Pleasant Evening

Decatur County Rotarian Linda Chastain has been a financial advisor and investment counselor in Iowa and also in Texas where she taught business courses and was President of American Business Women's Association in El Paso. She has lent her expertise to many boards. Through church and Rotary, Linda has built relationships world-wide. After disaster there, she participated in church mission trips to the Caribbean countries to help rebuild and repair. She was a valued member of a District 6000 Vocational Training Team in Chile. Our district has benefited from her service as an AG. "Community service is a full-time quest for Linda."

Indianola Rotarian Terry Pauling is a Trustee at his church, an elected member of the Warren County Extension Council, a Chamber of Commerce member and a leader in the real estate industry in his community. He serves as a Rotary representative attending community betterment meetings, and he reports to his club the ways they might play a supportive "role to help others." Terry is described as being masterful at providing fair and impartial assessments. He knows how to navigate thorny issues to reach results through collaboration that will achieve both community and Rotary service goals, which leads to doing the right thing.

Iowa City AM Rotarian Mark Patton's "life of service was chosen with intent." Recently Mark retired as the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity Director. Prior to that, Mark was farm manager at Scattergood School, where he supported and encouraged youth, something he still does as a Big Brother through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Some years ago, Mark founded a non-profit housing group in Muscatine, Iowa and before that, he founded a food pantry in New Hampshire. Mark and his wife live simply, but wherever he has lived, Mark has served his fellow man, offering basic needs for what they lacked. A colleague calls him "the genuine deal."

Iowa City Noon Rotarian Barb Thomas is Executive Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business. She is the humble recipient of much recognition including the Corridor Business Journal's

Women of Influence, the Gazette's HER Women of Achievement Award and numerous publication awards. She is described as a visionary, an organizer, "an absolute dynamo of a human." No project is too big or too small for Barb's attention. Whether she's planting trees for a Rotary project or creating and organizing combined in-person, hybrid and remote events for the Tippie Women's Summit, she is engaged.

Jefferson Rotarian Douglas Rieder is a journalist and sports broadcaster. In particular, he has relished reporting and play calling of youth events, and he always has conducted himself as a positive role model for the athletes. The young people of Jefferson "will long remember his encouragement to be honorable competitors who, above all, played fair on the field and in life." In 2008, Doug received his community's Professional of the Year Award, bestowed for dedication to one's profession. The Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association Media Award was granted to him in 2020. His counsel advising fairness and honesty rings in the ears of the young.

Mt. Pleasant Evening Rotarian Larry Brenizer is a retired industrial arts teacher. The community will tell you about the Building Trades Class that Larry initiated in which students learned to construct a house from start to finish, setting them up with lifetime skills. Naturally, his expertise is enormously valuable to the Henry County Habitat for Humanity Board. In Rotary, Larry is "tireless in his involvement." He has been the club president, helped clean highways, delivered Meals on Wheels, worked the Annual Barbeque fundraiser and he's involved the club in some of his own favorite projects like Old Threshers Reunion and Festival of Lights.

Muscatine Rotarian Sarah Lande served as the first Executive Director for Iowa Sister States, a nonprofit that works to build relationships between Iowa and the world. Her particular interest in China began when she hosted Xi Jinping, now the president of China, in her home in 1985. She continued the friendship through subsequent hosting of Chinese delegations and her visits to China. In 2013, Sarah was given the title of

continued on next page



Sarah Lande
Muscatine



Deb Peterson
North Scott



Erin Zondervan
Pella



Tom George
West Des Moines



Wayne Steen
West Liberty

Guardians of Integrity

continued

Friendship Ambassador by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. A one-woman diplomatic corps, she offers an open door and an open heart. For her efforts, Sarah "stands out for her passion for and her devotion to citizen diplomacy."

North Scott Rotarian Deb Peterson is an accountant, a business owner, an involved church member, a family person and an ardently active participant in Rotary. Deb is described as one "who always gives more of herself than she would ever ask in return." She served as host mother to five Rotary Youth Exchange students from 2001-09, and counselor for 12 additional RYE students from 1999-2018, Deb and her late husband, Dennis, were also long-term members of the District 6000 Youth Exchange Committee, shepherding and nurturing the youth. Additionally, for many years, Deb has been the Executive Secretary of her club, a true blessing to North Scott Rotary.

Pella Rotarian Erin Zondervan is a former Rotary Youth Exchange student who now works for Vermeer and provides her business, her Rotary club and her community with valuable service initiatives and guidance to accomplish goals. Erin's supervisor values her for her creativity, her efficiency and for her ability to organize and motivate her team. Her Rotary club values her for her work ethic, for her ability to craft and manage systems and projects and for her sensitivity carrying out the job of treasurer of her club. Her colleagues of their Pella Cub Scout Pack values her where her guidance "is integral to the moral and ethical development" of young scouts.

West Des Moines Rotarian Tom George, an attorney, served in the U.S. Naval Reserve JAG. In subsequent years, many have benefited from his pro-bono work in which he has always sought positive resolutions for clients. According to a colleague he mentored, "Tom handles people, not just cases." In 1988, Tom was recognized as West Des Moines Citizen of the Year and in the 1970s he helped launch the WDMCS system's Community Education program. For many years, the month of March found Tom in Xicotepec with our district humanitarian team, building relationships through selfless action for new friends. Tom George, caring citizen of the world.

West Liberty Rotarian Wayne Steen lives a life of service with particular emphasis on service to youth through his positions as Youth Director at his church and as District 6000 RYLA Chair and District 6000 Interact Chair. In his local community, Wayne encourages and facilitates West Liberty Interactors to become involved in RYLA and Interact. In the process, he also pushes the young people to aim for academic success and to apply for college scholarships as well as to "integrate service into their educational experience." He is his club's secretary and has helped launch new clubs and satellites with the Member Extension Committee. Energy for service!



PDG Alka Khanolkar (second from left) was among six Iowans honored by Secretary of State Paul Pate (r) for her advocacy for human trafficking prevention. At left, John Chesser with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking. Second from right: Davenport Rotarian Maggie Tinsman, who raised awareness when she was a state senator.

Rotary PDG recognized for human trafficking prevention

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate presented awards on behalf of the **Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking** to outstanding community members combating human trafficking across the state on Jan. 12 at the Iowa Capitol Building.

Six awards were handed out at the event to individuals and businesses leading the fight to end human trafficking across the state. **Alka Khanolkar** of Keokuk, District 6000 DG in 2021-22, was among those honored. Others were **Leland Schipper** of Des Moines, **Tish Young** of Cedar Rapids, **IMT Insurance Company**, **Melody Stone** of Mason City, and **Sister Shirley Fineran** of Sioux City.

"We are honored to have six awardees today that each distinguished themselves in the fight against human trafficking," said Dr. George Belitsos, Ames Rotarian who is board chair of the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking. "These are unsung heroes – people we are putting in the spotlight to show the fight against this horrible crime."

"It was a pleasure to recognize these individuals and businesses for their support combating human trafficking across the state," Secretary Pate said. "I appreciate the work they've done so far and thank them for their service working to put an end to this horrible crime."

District 6000 receives Zone awards

DG Steve Wieneke requested that at each of the three District Conferences, the **ZONE** awards received for the 2021-22 Rotary year when **Alka Khanolkar** was District Governor be announced. The zone with which 6000 is aligned is **Zone 29** which encompasses 17 districts from part of Ontario, Canada to Kansas and upper Michigan to western Nebraska.

District 6000 has long been a leader in support of **The Rotary Foundation**. District 6000 was recognized for the following:

Highest Total Giving: \$1,669,628

Highest Per Capital Total Giving: \$519.81

Highest Percentage of EREY participation: 66.9 percent! Almost 70 percent of our members contribute at least \$100 per year to The Rotary Foundation!

District 6000 was also recognized for membership growth and its public image efforts.

– PDG *Jacque Andrew*



A large crowd of Rotarian friends and well-wishers came to a send-off party for pilots John Ockenfels and Peter Teahan at the Iowa City Airport May 3. Their flight around the world to raise funds for polio departed May 5 from Cedar Rapids. Photos by Bill Tubbs

Flight to End Polio goal: \$1 million

By the time you receive this magazine, Rotarians John Ockenfels and his cousin's husband, Peter Teahan, will be somewhere in southern Asia or Australia in their Cessna T210M Turbo Centurion on their flight around the world to raise funds for PolioPlus.

After three years of delays – two due to Covid and the last because of Russia's war in Ukraine – it was "wheels up" May 5 from the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids. That was two days after a huge send-off celebration on a sun-bathed evening at the Iowa City Airport.

The pilots' **No. 1 goal**, they said, is to, "Return safely to our wives." The **No. 2 goal** is to raise **\$1 million for PolioPlus**. Contributions and pledges before takeoff put them half way toward the goal, and word is spreading. **PDG Alka Khanolkar**, for one, made sure that leaders in her native India are in touch with donors and will roll out the red carpet for our adventurous aviators. They have been invited guests for fellowship and fundraising in many places, including a meeting with the emir of **United Arab Emirates**.

Rotarians worldwide are aware. In a meeting at Rotary World Headquarters in Evanston, Ill., on April 1, **Rotary Foundation trustees** learned of their plans; that they are paying all expenses themselves and donating proceeds to PolioPlus.

A front-page feature by **Diana Nollen** in *The Gazette* of Cedar Rapids on Sunday, April 9, is an example of the publicity which can be expected. (*The Gazette* graciously gave permission to use their photo, which is on the cover. Thank you!)

Follow progress online at www.flighttoendpolio.com. – BT



FLIGHT TO END POLIO

This is the route for the "Flight to End Polio," which departed May 5 from Cedar Rapids. Pilots John Ockenfels and his cousin's husband, Peter Teahan, are paying all expenses themselves and donating proceeds to PolioPlus. They plan to return the last week of July. The itinerary is subject to change due to weather, mechanical, safety or local government issues. The pilots plan to stop for several days between most of the destinations. You can follow the flight and find information for donating to PolioPlus at www.flighttoendpolio.com.



Father Mark Murphy offers a blessing of safety for the pilots at the May 3 send-off party at the Iowa City Airport.



With Rotarian friends as witnesses, the families of Peter and John pose for a photo at the send-off.

Photos by Bill Tubbs

Story of the bell and gavel

Discovery of a treasure, and a promise to pay it forward



During a visit to RI Headquarters on March 31, PDG Steve Dakin discovered a Rotary bell in the RI Board Room with an inscription from Allin Dakin, a distant relative, who was RI Vice President in 1954-55.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

By PDG Steve Dakin/Boone

As a hobby, I started making walnut gavels from trees that I have cut and naturally cured. In what will become a tradition, I plan to gift one of these gavels to each incoming District Governor. **District Governor Steve Wieneke** was the first.

Much to my surprise at an AKS event held at Rotary One, sitting on the Board Room table was a Rotary bell from **Allin Dakin**, RI director 1955-57, and Rotary International vice president 1956-57. Allin Dakin was a member of the Rotary Club of Iowa City Noon. He was also **Dean of Students** at the University of Iowa. Allin and I were distant relatives.

After discovering the Rotary Bell engraved with **Allin Dakin's** name, I knew that one of my gavels needed to be ringing that bell on the board table. **Tom Gump**, a friend of mine and fellow district governor classmate from Edina, Minnesota, is RI President-Nominee **Stephanie Urchick's** aide. We visited her office when we attended the AKS event at Rotary One in Evanston. After learning of my desire to donate a gavel, Tom Gump assisted with the delivery of the gavel to Rotary One in care of Stephanie.

Stephanie has told me she will have a dedication ceremony of the gavel at her first board meeting in July 2024. I know that **Allin Dakin** would be proud that the Dakin name is still part of Rotary, and I am proud that one of my gavels will be ringing Allin's Rotary Bell.



Stephanie Urchick of Pittsburgh, Pa., who is a friend of District 6000, will be RI President in 2024-25. She will convene meetings of the Rotary International Board of Directors with this gavel made by District 6000 PDG Steve Dakin, of Boone.

Photo by Tom Gump

Literacy projects focus on all of Boone County

By Lisa Cook and Lesley Dakin/Boone

Efforts this Rotary year, 2022-2023, have highlighted Boone's literacy focus for the schools in Boone County.

During the summer months a grant was written through **Save the Children** to provide 100 books for the preschool programs in Boone County. It was our goal to have each preschool student end their preschool year having shared 100 books with their family. Each book was bagged up and presented to the preschool teachers in a large tub to be used as their check-out library. We have heard from families that are very happy to have this option, and from teachers who were appreciative to have Boone's Rotary Club as an advocate for literacy and kindergarten readiness.

Through a Rotary Foundation District Community Service Grant, our club provided technology for kindergarten programs in **Ogden, Madrid and Boone**. In **Ogden**, the kindergarten teachers requested resources which can be used for individualized learning on tablets at school. The **Madrid** kindergarten teachers found a need for **Snap Cards** which help early readers learn sight words and phrases. These can be used at school or at home.

Boone teachers requested a math program. Some of our members also helped at STEM night, ensuring parents of kindergarteners knew that this program could also be used at home on their devices.

Our literacy sponsors have continued to provide funds so our club can contribute 12 books each school year for all second graders in Boone County. This program covers schools in **Ogden, Boone, Madrid, United, Sacred Heart and Trinity Lutheran** schools. It is our belief that literacy lovers and success in school go hand-in-hand with reading at home.

We will also continue to distribute books (more than 800 this year) at **Trunk-or-Treat** in Boone. We had a fabulous time this year giving age-appropriate books to infants in strollers all the way to high school tricksters.

This spring, Rotarians met with first graders to share our love of reading and let them know that next fall they would be receiving books from Rotary as second graders. We provided an activity book explaining Rotary's **Four-Way Test** with a note to parents. Our members enjoy being helpful to our early learners and we hope that the community becomes more aware of Rotary's presence in Boone County's communities.

Two join Arch Klumph Society

The weekend of March 31-April 2 was a time for District 6000 to shine at Rotary World Headquarters in Evanston, Ill., with the induction of not one, but two, district Rotarians into The Rotary Foundation's prestigious **Arch Klumph Society Trustee's Circle**, which recognizes cumulative gifts to **The Rotary Foundation** of \$250,000 or more.

The two Rotarian couples were **PDG 2004-05 Bill Tubbs and Linda** (North Scott), and **PDG 2020-21 Steve Dakin and Lesley** (Boone). They were two of 40 couples from 14 countries who had tours of Rotary headquarters, educational sessions about the programs of **The Rotary Foundation**, and meetings with Rotary Foundation trustees and world leaders.

The presence of District 6000 stood out, with 16 Rotarians, spouses and friends of Rotary from the district in attendance, including immediate past and future district governors, **DG Steve and Brenda Wieneke** (Ankeny), **DGE Dennis and Heidi Drager** (Marshalltown), **DGN David and Lisa Cook** (Boone), **DGND Norlan and Cindy Hinke** (Clinton), and **PDGs Alka and Kiran Khanolkar** (Keokuk, and now of Corpus Christi, Texas), **PDG John Ockenfels**, and **PDG Chris and Vernetta Knapp** (Iowa City AM).

Also in attendance to soak up the inspiration were **Sara Somske** and **Deanna Jensen-Valliere**, members of the Rotary Club of North Scott.

The weekend was indeed inspirational. Expect additional AKS commitments from District 6000 Rotarians. Thank you, and congratulations to all!

—BT



District 6000 Rotarians at Rotary World Headquarters March 31, (l-r): DGN David and Lisa Cook (Boone), Lesley and PDG Steve Dakin (Boone), Linda and PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott), PDG Alka Khanolkar (Keokuk), DGND Norlan and Cindy Hinke (Clinton), Heidi and DGE Dennis Drager (Marshalltown), and Brenda and DG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny).

Photos by Rotary International



Etchings of all AKS members are in the 18th Floor gallery at RI Headquarters, Bill and Linda Tubbs (top right), and Steve and Lesley Dakin (bottom, center).



Rotary International photographer Monika Lozinska arranged a photo of Arch Klumph Society inductees from 14 countries at the 18th Floor gallery at RI World Headquarters. Steve and Lesley Dakin, and Bill and Linda Tubbs, are in the lower left.



Rotary International president Jennifer Jones at the Parade of Roses with Indianola Rotarian Blair Lawson.

Imagine! Meeting Jennifer Jones at Parade of Roses

By Blair Lawson/Indianola

My wife, Marilyn, went to the Rose Bowl and the parade in 1986 because Iowa played UCLA with Chuck Long on the team. Since then, she had it on her bucket list to help decorate floats, and especially the Rotary float. We also wanted to take her granddaughter, 17-year-old Trinity, who lives in Folsom, California. She was afraid to go when she was 13 but was ready now.

We contacted district administrator Carolyn Scharff who gave us the name of Waukee Rotarian Sue Rasmussen who gave us the details of how to apply to volunteer on the Rotary float, as Sue had done several times in the past. We made connections with the California Rotarians and got a slot to work on the float on the Saturday before the Monday parade. The \$30 registration got us the yellow t-shirts.

When we showed up at the two-acre warehouse in Irwindale, to our chagrin, the Rotary float was almost finished so we ended up working on some of the other eight floats. Trinity ended up working on the Shrine float with a same-age girl from Reno, Nevada. Both girls had been helped by Shriners – Trinity had scoliosis and has a rod on her spine.

Working together made the two girls feel they are paying the Shriners back. The two may come back and work again on their own. They are old enough to drive themselves.

While taking pictures of the Rotary float, Jennifer Jones came by to look at the float which she would be riding on in the parade. She was nice enough to pose with me in front of it.

We didn't go to the parade but drove back to Folsom and watched it on TV.

It was a great experience for all three of us! For anyone interested, go to: www.rotaryfloat.org There you can see pictures of all Rotary floats from years past.

MEMBERSHIP

Celebrating club growth amid changing landscape

By DGN David Cook/Boone

District 6000 Membership Chair

As we enter the final stretch of this Rotary year, it is an opportune time to acknowledge the successes and growth within Rotary District 6000. Despite the challenges we all face, many clubs have demonstrated their resilience and adaptability by delivering significant membership growth since July 1, 2022. Their achievements serve as inspiring examples of Rotary's ability to thrive amidst change.

Among the 66 clubs in our district, 12 have achieved double-digit membership growth this year. These clubs include the Rotary Club of **Winterset**, which has experienced an impressive 31 percent increase in membership. Similarly, the Rotary Club of **Marengo** has grown 22 percent, followed closely by **Indianola** (21 percent), **Centerville** (15 percent), **Knoxville** (14 percent), and **Iowa City Downtown** (14 percent).

Other clubs achieving double-digit growth include **Jefferson** (13 percent), **East Polk** (12 percent), **West Polk** (11 percent), **North Scott** (10 percent) and **Tipton** (10 percent). These clubs have successfully attracted new members to help serve their communities.

Success of after-hour clubs

One notable factor contributing to the growth of some of these clubs is the implementation of "after work" club extensions. Clubs such as **Winterset** and **Jefferson** have embraced this strategy to grow their clubs. Clubs that offer more than one meeting time to accommodate different work schedules and varying family responsibilities are more likely to grow. That's because after-work **clubs that meet from 5:30 to 6:30** appeal to busy professionals, parents of school-aged children, working moms, and individuals with diverse work schedules.

In addition to the clubs experiencing double-digit growth, other clubs within District 6000 have also grown their membership. They include **Atlantic, Oskaloosa, Johnston, Coralville-North Corridor, Dallas Center, Washington** and **Clinton**. All have seen an increase in their membership numbers, reflecting the dedication and adaptability of Rotarians throughout our district.

While celebrating the achievements of these clubs, it is important to note that overall district membership has experienced a **decline of 32 members** or minus 1 percent since July 1. This modest decline does not overshadow the positive strides made by the clubs experiencing growth. It is through their dedication and innovative approaches that we are reminded of the potential for success within our district.

As we strive for sustainable growth, it is important we continue to build membership parity among men and women. One proven way to build parity is inviting the spouses of current members to join. Additionally, attracting **adults aged 18 to 49** is a top priority for Rotary, as their participation ensures long-term stability, brings fresh perspectives, and strengthens our future leadership ranks.

In the words of **Paul Harris**, "*The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again.*" As we approach the end of another Rotary year, let us celebrate the accomplishments of our clubs that have grown their membership and draw inspiration from their achievements. By adopting effective strategies and embracing the changing landscape, we can build a **vibrant future** for Rotary District 6000 and continue making a positive impact in our communities and beyond.



Thirty-one Rotarians participated in the May 6 Rotary Leadership Institute course at Shive-Hattery, West Des Moines. Row 1 (l-r): Jeff Wagner (Ankeny Evening), Susan Mesecher (Clinton), Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty), Linda Chastain (Decatur County), Michelle Pandian (Indianola), Sherry Halter (Madison County Evening), Mandy Couture (Madison County Evening). Row 2: Robert King (Dallas Center), Deanna Jensen-Valliere (North Scott), Joyce Wheeler (Waukee), Kadie Johannson (Mount Pleasant Noon), Margaret Reese (Iowa City Noon), PDG Loring Miller (Decatur County), DG Steve Wienieke (Ankeny Evening), and Sarah Simon (Madison County Evening). Row 3: DGND Norlan Hinke (Clinton), Lindsey Matthews (Greater Des Moines), Todd Wheeler (Des Moines), Tom Welchans (Waukee), John Rodgers (West Des Moines), Tim Wieble (Manning), Jack Bell (Northwest Des Moines), Bill Corwin (Northwest Des Moines), Tim Leners (Winterset) and Steve SchraderBacher (Ankeny Noon).

Thirty-one participate in Rotary Leadership Institute

Rotarians in District 6000 participated in all three courses of Rotary Leadership Institute May 6. A total of 31 Rotarians were present. Ten Rotarians served as facilitators and support staff. Twenty-one Rotarian participants attended (12 in Part 1, five in Part 2 and four in Part 3). The four Rotarians who completed Part 3 were presented a graduation certificate and RLI lapel pins (at right): DG Steve Wienieke, Sarah Simon (Madison County Evening), Bill Corwin (Northwest Des Moines), Linda Chastain (Decatur County) and Tom Leners (Winterset). The next RLI educational courses to be offered are: Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, in Mount Pleasant, and Saturday, April 13, 2024 in Boone.

Provided by Steve Wienieke



Focus on water, sanitation

A chautauqua-style meeting to discuss a vision for Rotary's Water and Sanitation Action Group (RAGWAS) was convened March 24 at Duck City Bistro, Davenport. The Rotary Foundation staff conceived of the idea of bringing together Rotarians for an evening's conversation focusing on one aspect of Rotary's service. The discussion led to a consensus that, while Rotary clubs have completed many water and hygiene projects across the globe, Rotarians, and the public, need to receive much more information on those projects – and how they improve the lives of the people where they are carried out. Attending were, front (l-r): Carol Earnhardt (Davenport), District 6420 PDG Ruth Lee (Rock Island), and Linda and PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott). Back: Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Officer Rachel Greenhoe, Fred Anderson and S.K. Nanda (Bettendorf), Erica Gwynn, Evanston, IL (program manager, RAGWAS), Brock Earnhardt (Davenport), Dixie and Bill Burress (Davenport), and District 5970 PDG Kathy Fahy, Spirit Lake (Major Gifts Initiative Officer).

Photo by Duck City Bistro

MULTI-CLUB CIVITAS RAISES \$45,000

Focus on Human Trafficking Prevention

By Tamara Kenworthy/Des Moines AM

In 2013, the **Greater Des Moines Rotary Multi-Club Committee** was formed by metro Rotary clubs to bring local Rotarians together as one Rotary once a year for an educational program on a critical community issue.

Ten years later, branded as **Civitas**, this group of Rotary clubs wanted to see what could be done with greater collective impact, and developed a year-long action plan to raise monies for the horrific issue of **human trafficking**.

Throughout the 2022-2023 Rotary year, the 10 metro Des Moines clubs, with their approximately 770 members, individually held fundraisers, collected for product drives, did volunteer activities, and brought in program speakers in support of fighting human trafficking.

Civitas clubs include: **Ankeny, Des Moines, Des Moines AM, East Polk County, Greater Des Moines, Indianola, Johnston, Northwest Des Moines, Waukee and West Des Moines**. We also lined up **proclamation** signings for Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January with city councils in Des Moines, Indianola, and Waukee.

Then, to culminate the year's activities, on May 2, nearly 140 Rotarians and their guests paid \$20 to attend the annual Civitas educational program held at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Des Moines. Prior to the panel of speakers, Civitas announced that collectively from the year-long activities and the May 2 program fees, donations, and sponsorships nearly **\$45,000** was raised

and donated to local non-profits working in the area of human trafficking.

Following this announcement, participants heard from some of Iowa's local heroes fighting this important issue. Our excellent panel of speakers all had powerful presentations and included:

Heather Brown, human trafficking survivor and grants Accountant at YSS;

Matthew Stephenson, director/learning & development, Caseys;

John Jarvey, retired U.S. Chief Federal Court Judge, Southern District of Iowa

Charlotte Kovacs, Victim Witness Specialist, Program Supervisor, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Iowa.



Speakers at Des Moines' Multi-Club Civitas program included (l to r): John Jarvey, Matthew Stephenson, Heather Brown, and Charlotte Kovacs.

Provided by Tamara Kenworthy

While each Rotary club does tremendous "service above self" all year long, metro Des Moines clubs are proud of what they have created to show once a year what can be done when everyone comes together to make a larger impact on a certain issue.

On a broader level, two Civitas committee members – **Ron Heideman**/Indianola and **Karl Schilling**/Des Moines – also actively serve on the Rotary District 6000 Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team. They stay abreast with advocacy and bills being debated at the Iowa Capitol focused on human trafficking and share back with the Civitas team.

MEMBERSHIP

Advocate: Grow Rotary with 'Innovative Clubs'

By PDG Steve Dakin/Boone

On July 1 I will become the ICA (**Innovative Club Advocate**) for Districts 5650 (Nebraska and southwest Iowa), 5970 (northern Iowa) and 6000 (southern Iowa).

The Rotary Club of Ankeny was the first to start a satellite club in District 6000. I was excited by this creative development. Together with **Dave Cook's** leadership and many motivated Rotarians, District 6000 now has 17 "Extensions" (District 6000's term) in operation or in progress.

Zones 25B and 29, as well as RI, have taken notice.

The ultimate goal as the ICA is to **increase membership**. Offering two different times for your Rotary club to meet provides an opportunity for more people to become Rotarians.



PDG Steve Dakin

Another aspect will be to grow Rotary through the creation of **Rotaract clubs** in our communities. Rotaractors are ages 18-30. It is our hope that they would eventually become Rotarians.

Currently, there are only two Rotaract clubs in District 6000. I am asking for your support to increase District 6000's membership through "Extensions" and Rotaract clubs in your communities. If interested, please contact me for programs or conversation. I'd be glad to answer questions or just listen.

On a side note, District 6000 is well-represented in Zone 29. Chris Knapp is Assistant Coordinator for Foundation Team and Gretchen Nollman is Assistant Coordinator for Public Image Team in Districts 5650, 5970, and 6000 also. District 6000 is at the top and having fun together.



Allen Friesen and Paula Falconer plant a tree at the YMCA camp.



YMCA day camp.



New ceiling fans.

OSKALOOSA

YMCA day camp revitalized

By Geneva Knobbe/Oskaloosa
Club President

The Rotary Club of Oskaloosa has just put the finishing touches on our grant project for the year. We teamed up with the local YMCA to revitalize their day camp. It's a cabin on 10 acres by Lake Keomah in Mahaska county.

We got rid of the old rusty flickery lights that liked to buzz and spark and put in brand new LED lights. The cabin had some fans from decades ago that were drooping and meant for a home rather than a large building that we replaced with large industrial fans with lights and remote controls. The cabin

doesn't have air conditioning and the new fans and lights should provide better respite from scorching heat or rainy summer afternoons.

Some other improvements made were making the bathrooms ADA compliant by installing grab bars and widening doorways and putting in new doors. We also put in a water station with a bottle filling feature that should reduce the need for plastic disposable water bottles. We added new emergency exit signs as well. Outside of the cabin we planted five maple trees. Our club helped clean the camp up for spring and hope that the campers are happier than ever!

CENTRAL IOWA CLUBS

14 years, \$150,000 for PolioPlus

By Kelly Peterson/Northwest Des Moines
Club President

Eleven Des Moines-area Rotary clubs came together on Feb. 4 for our annual night with the **Iowa Wolves** fundraiser for the eradication of polio. The ticket sales raised \$7,890 and Rotarian volunteers collected an additional \$1,401.14 in donations from the spectators.

This was the 14th year of the partnership with the Iowa Energy, now the Iowa Wolves, and we have raised slightly over \$150,000. When combined with the Gates Foundation 2 for 1 match, that's \$450,000, which equates to immunization protection for approximately 750,000 children.

The Rotary Club of **Northwest Des Moines** sold 274 tickets, followed closely by **West Polk** Rotary with 249. Although Luka Garza was "not in the house" that night, a good time was had by all for a cause which continues to be a passion and priority for all of Rotary.

Thanks to **Ed Arnold** and his committee for their months of planning and promotion of this event!

The Rotary Clubs of **Ankeny noon** and **satellite, Dallas Center, East Polk, Greater Des Moines, Johnston, Northwest Des Moines, Perry, Des Moines Noon, West Des Moines, West Polk** and **Waukee** participated.

Thanks to all for your support!



Leading the bucket brigade with the Iowa Wolves mascot at the Feb. 4 polio fundraiser game at Wells Fargo Arena were West Polk Rotarian Tim Day, mascot, District Governor Steve Wienieke of Ankeny, and Northwest Des Moines Rotarian Ed Arnold.

Provided by Kelly Peterson



Corning's international outreach

Physically disabled people in Kenya, Africa, if they are lucky, can find some crutches or a dilapidated wheelchair, but most simply crawl in the dirt. After hearing a moving presentation by Gary Moreau of Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia, the Rotary Club of Corning donated \$500 toward building mobility carts that give the handicapped independence and dignity. A lady in central Kenya who had recently lost a leg in an accident was the lucky recipient of one of the carts.

— Club president Stephen Gruba



50 years of Rotary at Ankeny

The Rotary Club of Ankeny celebrated its 50th anniversary at a gala at the FFA Enrichment Center on Jan. 21. Rotarian Tim Cox (above) was emcee. The evening included a proclamation from the Ankeny mayor and District Governor Steve Wieneke reading a certificate from Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. Nate Burnham provided the club history and recognized all past presidents, including 23 in attendance. Steve Schrader Bachar recognized 19 new Paul Harris fellows and 14 that have reached a new level. President Brian Tiernan honored Steve Schrader Bachar for becoming a Benefactor to the Rotary Foundation. Sally Schroeder announced the club's "50 Trees for 50 Years." — Sally Schroeder, 50th Anniversary chair

ANKENY

Auction raises \$144,000

By Jenny Fields/Ankeny

A sold-out crowd of 400 attended the Rotary Club of Ankeny's annual fundraiser, "Raise the Stakes for Community," April 15 at the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC campus. The club was most appreciative of their three major sponsors, **Polk County, Prairie Meadows and Karl's Auto Group.**

This was the club's third casino night and 11th major fundraiser since 2011. The Las Vegas-style gaming tables included black jack, roulette, craps, poker, three-card poker, and let-it-ride. While guests played the tables, they were entertained by the **Brazilian Twins**, who loved to bring a smile to everyone as they roved throughout the crowd playing their violin and ukulele; also caricature artists created hilarious drawings, and a magician created magical moments at guest's tables. Men in tuxedos worked the crowd to sell raffle tickets for a 50/50 drawing and a drawing for a \$500 travel voucher.

After the gaming tables were shut down and everyone had been through the buffet line, the club's fundraiser co-chairs, **Stacey Koeppen and Laura Luetje**, kicked off the program with their own rendition of the "Golden Girls." Then everyone participating in "Heads or Tails" and a dessert auction. There were not enough desserts for every table but there were enough to raise nearly \$5,000.



Co-chairs and "Golden Girls" Stacey Koeppen and Laura Luetje.

"Raise the Stakes for Community"

has been an amazing Rotary and community event the last several years. We are so grateful and thankful for our club and the community stepping up to create one donation, one voice, one community. We truly believe that the four-way test is carried out in the preparation and implementation of the event. We continue to look forward to serving others in the future," said Koeppen and Luetje.

Club members obtained or donated 100 silent and 24 live auction items. Larger items included a ride along with the Ankeny Police Department, a 42-bottle wine cooler, 10-day service trip to South Africa with Blessman International, ISU football game experience, four club seats to a Green Bay Packer game, LASIK eye surgery, Champion Club seats to a Minnesota Twins game, a Riley Moss autographed jersey, four nights in the Bahamas, and more. The auctions items sold for more than \$58,000.

During the live auction, the club featured two non-profit organizations, the **Ankeny Police Foundation** and **Dorothy's House**. After a brief description of the services these organizations provide, guests were asked to consider making a donation. This resulted in \$28,390 to be divided between the two.

By the time the evening was over the event had raised approximately **\$144,000**. After expenses, there will be significant funding to enable the club to continue to make a difference in the community and central Iowa with financial support to numerous charities and service projects. Planning for the next fundraiser in 2024 is already beginning.

JEFFERSON

Leading the way for literacy in Greene County

By **Tori Riley/Boone**

The Rotary Club of Jefferson recently provided books to Greene County children in a pair of projects.

Club members were at **Toddler Fest** Saturday, April 22, in Jefferson, where they read “campfire stories” to children and gave books to every child. Sixty-nine children ages 2-5 selected a new book from a wide variety of favorite children’s titles.

Toddler Fest is a joint event of the six libraries in Greene County. Children enjoy a wide variety of activities as their parents pick up information from various service providers and are encouraged to help their children “Bee Readers.”

The Rotary Club of Jefferson has participated almost every year since it was first held 16 years ago. The books are purchased from **Scholastic Books** through the local school, with funding from the club’s annual charity auction.

The next week, Rotarians delivered a share of the children’s books collected at the District 6000 Conference in Carroll to the **Greene County Christian Action Resource Center**, the local

food pantry.

Volunteers at the food pantry will include a book or two with the food going to families with young children. Food pantry volunteer director **Shirley Haupert** was very pleased to have the books and noted that each month an estimated 50 families with young children use the pantry.



The new Children's Center in Jefferson.

Rotarians lead campaign for new childcare center

By **PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson**

For many years, a **new childcare center** was an identified need of Jefferson and Greene county. In 2020, the Rotary Club of Jefferson stepped up with nearly \$20,000 to help fund the preliminary architectural design to use in the \$2.2-million fundraising campaign.

John Lott, now deceased, former member of the Ames Morning Rotary Club, was the architect throughout the project. **PDG Jacque Andrew**, Jefferson, was president of the board of the non-profit childcare entity, The Children’s Center, and was a leader in the fundraising and design. **Sam Harding** of the Rotary Club of Jefferson, also a board member, served as the “owner’s representative” during the construction phase.

With fundraising complete, construction began in late August, 2021 and the opening day for children was Sept. 26, 2022. The Center was established in 2005 and operated in recent years in a 70-year-old former elementary school. The new facility is designed especially for early childhood care and education and increases capacity by 50 percent addressing the need for more childcare.



Jefferson Rotary club president Susan Laehn reads to youngsters at the play campfire at Toddler Fest, a busy morning hosted by Greene County librarians to encourage parents to help their children “Bee Readers.” Behind Susan is a table full of new books, donated by the club, from which children could choose a book to take home with them.

Provided by Tori Riley



Jefferson Rotarians delivered books donated by D6000 Rotarians to the local food pantry to be included with food distributions to families of young children. Pictured (l-r): Mike Mumma, Tori Riley, club president Susan Laehn and daughter Sophia, food pantry volunteer director Shirley Haupert, and Adam Pedersen.

Provided by Tori Riley

ATLANTIC

Outreach to vets, farmers, seniors, teachers

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic

Club Secretary

The Rotary Club of Atlantic held its annual **Salute to Veterans** on Nov. 11, 2022. Rotarians and veterans enjoyed a luncheon served by the Downtowner Café and were treated to a talk by Retired Lt. Col. Nick Turner, now with the Air National Guard in Des Moines.

The annual **Auction** was Nov. 18, 2022, attended by over 200. This year \$35,395 was raised to be used in the community. Since the start of the auction in 1983, over \$1.25 million has been raised and reinvested into projects in the community.

On Dec. 3, Rotarians and families watched the annual Chamber of Commerce **Lighted Christmas Parade**, then moved to the Venue meeting room to enjoy soup and cinnamon rolls. Santa stopped by to give the youngsters a visit and present them with a book.

New community project

Atlantic Rotary helped with a new community project in December. They assisted West Central Development with their reverse **Advent Calendar**. Rotarians collected and donated over 400 items to West Central Community Action in Atlantic. The donations included laundry detergent, toilet paper, dish soap, household cleaners, paper towels, socks, gloves, deodorant, feminine hygiene products and many additional items. **West Central Community Action** serves all of Cass County and works with all three Cass County school districts. West Central offers a variety of services, primarily for lower-income people, including Head Start early education, Childcare Resource and Referral, the Family Development and Self Sufficiency and Low-income Energy Assistance Program.

Agriculture, scholarships, Earth Day

March brought the annual **Agriculture Appreciation** event. Atlantic FFA members and local individuals involved in agriculture joined Rotarians for lunch and speaker, soil health specialist, **Ruth Blomquist**, with the USDA-NRCS. She explained practices for introducing carbon into the soil such as cover crops which are a long-term investment into soil health.

The Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual **High School Senior Recognition** luncheon on April 18. The event was attended by Atlantic high school seniors in vocal music, band, drama/debate and the top 10 academic students. Teachers introduced each group of students and advised the attendees of the many accomplishments from the past year.

Rotarian Dolly Bergmann introduced the 2023 Atlantic Rotary **scholarship recipients**. Individuals receiving \$1,000 scholarships attending a community college, vocational or technical college were **Logan Tarrell** and **Alexes Reynolds**. The four-year scholarship was awarded to **Dakota Oswalt**. The **Rex Moorman Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to **Jada Jensen**. The scholarships are all \$1,000 each.

The club also celebrated **Earth Day** on April 22 by doing a clean-up of several areas in the community. There was a small group of individuals, but they collected several bags of garbage, filling the Parks and Recreation dumpster.

All teachers recognized

May brings the annual **Teacher Appreciation** event. On May 17, the Rotary club presented teachers of the Atlantic Com-



Scholarship recipients (l-r): Dakota Oswalt, Logan Tarrell, Jada Jensen, and Alexes Reynolds.

Provided by Dolly Bergmann



Rotarians with supplies for West Central Community Action.

Provided by Dolly Bergmann

munity School District each with \$25 of AtlantiCash (many call it chamber bucks). "Instead of rewarding one teacher for a job well done we decided to reward all the teachers for a job well done," said Rotary president **Ruth Sears**. There was a short program from the Rotary members and a taped message from two students, **Charlotte Saluk** and **Kiera Olson**, who talked about how they appreciated their teachers throughout the years. Rotary members also provided a snack. The Rotary club received a lot of positive feedback from the teachers last year when we made the change to acknowledging all the teachers rather than just one, and felt it was the way to continue the event. AtlantiCash also supports the community businesses.



✓ Join Leaders ✓ Exchange Ideas ✓ Take Action



There is joy for Zoey Shell with her custom-make tryke.



Forty members and friends of North Scott Rotary assembled custom-made trykes Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Handicapped Development Center in Davenport.

Photo by Jodi Weever

NORTH SCOTT

Trykes for 70 differently-abled children

I wanted to thank you on behalf of our family and our daughter, Zoey, for donating a tryke and your work with Mississippi Bend Trykes. Your donation has given so much joy to our daughter, who suffers from a muscular disability. This adaptive tryke gives her the ability to ride a bike – which is such a gift to her! I included a photo of Zoey (above) on her tryke so you could see the joy for yourselves! We can't thank you enough.

The Shell Family, Bettendorf

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Club Newsletter Editor

The above testimonial is one of many sent to the Rotary Club of North Scott in appreciation of the club's partnership with **Mississippi Bend Trykes** which has provided custom-designed bicycles and tricycles to 70 differently-abled children since 2019.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, club members – 40 strong and some with their own wrenches – met at the **Handicapped Development Center** in Davenport to assemble the trykes which the club had purchased. Directions were sometimes challenging, but the goal was met and the reward was the joy on the children's faces as they received their trykes.

Assembling trykes was just one of several "hands-on" projects this year. With Covid in the rear-view mirror, **Special Olympics** basketball skills and track and field returned, and Rotarians were there, in January and April.

Rotarians resumed their monthly **Davenport Police Luncheons**, serving food and lending support to officers over the noon hour. They welcomed students at 7:30 a.m. on "**Friendly Fridays**" monthly at North Scott Junior High, and entered classrooms to **read to children** on 20 different dates at three of North Scott's elementary schools.

New member **Michele Darland** inspired a new project of **buying shoes and socks** for 40 children at Davenport's Monroe Elementary, where members helped the children find just the right

fit and watched them skip joyfully back to their classrooms.

In May, president Josie Cochuyt wrapped up two projects:

1. The "**Yin**" panda story and "**Who Am I?**" book developed by Iowa City Rotarian **LaDonna Wicklund** were presented to 95 kindergarten sections in Scott County.

2. The club's District Grant project was completed when Des Moines AM Rotarian **Amy Ratekin** presented her "**Spread Your Wings**" program (**S.A.V.E.: Self-Defense Against Violence and Exploitation**) to 550 seventh- and eight-graders, including teaching hands-on self-defense skills at the North Scott YMCA.

At the annual **Youth Day**, scholarships totaling **\$19,000** were awarded to 10 graduating seniors and two second-career non-traditional students at Scott Community College. Junior high **Interact** students' service was recognized by their Rotary adviser, **Jan Touney**.

At the annual **Rotary Foundation Day**, 31 members were recognized as new- or next-level Paul Harris Fellows.

At the annual **Community Needs Day**, the recipients of grants received their checks and told about their projects. Grants totaling **\$30,000** were awarded to: **Friends of Walnut Grove Pioneer Village, MV Workforce Development, North Scott Junior High Band, North Scott High School Service Club, YWCA of the Quad Cities, Genesis Foodplex, Fostering Crossroads, Student-built airplane, Project 15:12, and Genesis Health.**

One **\$15,000 Impact Grant** is yet to be awarded.

Engagement of members added up to **membership growth** to 113, an all-time high. Nineteen members attended **District Conference** at Coralville.

In June, seven members will visit the **Imbabaze Centre for Women and Children** in Kisoro, Uganda, where 54 children are sponsored by Rotarians.

Other activities include volunteering at the **Moonlight Chase, John Deere Classic** and **Ragbrai beer tent**.

The big **50th anniversary Auction Party** will be Nov. 17 at **Rhythm City Casino**.

Come join us!



BETTENDORF

'Secret sauce' for membership, service

By Diana Schoberg

Rotary magazine, February 2023

Brian Goerdt is pretty good at figuring out how things work. A computer consultant, he's built his business on managing complex projects and streamlining business needs. So when he was 2021-22 president-elect of the Rotary Club of Bettendorf, Iowa, he wanted to analyze what factors helped the club succeed.

He calls what he found the "secret sauce" of membership growth. It has, he says, three ingredients:

1. *Invite people to join.*
2. *Connect with them.*
3. *And engage them in projects that serve the community.*

'A tasty proposition'

That secret sauce must be making Rotary membership in Bettendorf a tasty proposition. The club increased in size by 29 members in 2021-22, leading District 6000 in membership growth while expanding the number of women and younger members in its ranks. At one meeting where six members were inducted, the new Rotarians each gave brief comments about why they joined. "The way that people articulated it, it was almost like we were filling this need they had," says club member Ann Kappeler. "They wanted somewhere they could do something and make a difference, and they saw Rotary as that opportunity."

The club capitalized on the hunger of many people, stoked by the pandemic, to volunteer in their communities. "They want to get active," says 2021-22 Club President Larry Thein. "They want to be a part of something." Thein launched several initiatives aimed at drawing in these new members, including holding a competition to challenge members to invite people and having people celebrate their birthdays by bringing in a new member. And a satellite club is in formation, meeting twice a month. "We're a club that does serious things, but we don't take ourselves too seriously. We have a lot of fun," Thein says. "We're a dynamic group of people. When people get a touch of that, it draws them in."

The key to continuity

The Rotary Club of Bettendorf has a five-year succession plan for the role of club president. "It's the way we move our club forward and keep our tenacity," says Larry Thein, 2021-22 president. A future president sits on the club's board "learning the ropes," Thein says. "Then



The Rotary Club of Bettendorf, Iowa, whose members include (from left) Brian Goerdt, Ann Kappeler, Larry Thein (seated), and Joe Campion, created a blanket drive for homeless people that went viral. The club capitalized on the desire to volunteer that many people felt because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by Jill C. Maybanks

every year you get a little more responsibility." After three years as a board member, the fourth year is the year as president-elect, and the fifth year is the year as club president. The person spends one more year on the board as past president to ensure continuity.

Brian Goerdt, the current club president, cites several advantages of the long timeline. For one, if a club leader moves away, the club doesn't have to scramble to fill the position because other people are already on a leadership track. And being on the board for that long helps club leaders better understand what's been done in the past and what that means for the future. "You know the club, you've been part of the discussion," he says. "You get to see how it all works, and through that, you learn the values of the club."

But the efforts don't stop there. The club makes a point to ensure new members don't just sit in the back. Mentors contact new members to help them figure out how they can get involved. And, once people join, they are encouraged

to invite their friends. It has a snowball effect. "The best time to invite somebody is when you're excited about joining," Goerdt says.

Quad Cities

Bettendorf is one of the Quad Cities, a group of communities (five, in fact, despite the name) that straddle the Illinois-Iowa border. The location at the confluence of the Mississippi and Rock rivers has long made the area a vibrant cultural and commercial center. For generations, it was home to thousands of members of the Meskwaki and Sauk tribes. Riverboat traffic brought urban growth, as boats would have to pull ashore before navigating rapids in the area. The region's biggest employer, tractor manufacturer John Deere, was set up in Moline, Illinois, another of the Quad Cities, to take advantage of river access.

Today, driving through Bettendorf's tidy neighborhoods, one might not realize there are unmet needs in the city.

continued on next page

BETTENDORF/*continued*

That's what Thein thought before he joined the club in 2015. But about six months later, he volunteered to deliver holiday food baskets. At one delivery to a home in a particularly swanky neighborhood, he saw cardboard on the windows and no soliciting signs in the yard as he arrived. When he and his son carried the turkey to the door, the parents and children began crying, and he heard one of them say, "We get to eat today." "It changed my life," he says. "I really decided to see what Rotary was about."

The club backs the community in other ways, such as giving dictionaries to fourth graders, awarding scholarships, and supporting the public library. It holds an annual Lobsterfest that last year netted \$100,000 to bolster its efforts. In a meeting in 2021 to come up with a big project, club member Joe Champion threw out an unusual idea to try to help the area's homeless people: an acre of warmth. The club figured an acre of blankets would be about 800 of them. "If you spend 365 days a year outside, you can imagine how many blankets one person will go through," Thein says. In Iowa's rain, mud, and slush, blankets won't last very long.

Blankets went viral

The project went viral, says Kappeler. For its second year, the club partnered with a local television station and ran newspaper ads to get the word out. It created a QR code that people could scan to donate \$8 toward a new blanket. The effort in 2021 was such a success that the club was aiming for 3,000 blankets in 2022. "It's brought a lot of energy to our club," Kappeler says.

Having recruited so many new members last year, the club's focus is on keeping that momentum going — and making sure the new members find enough value in Rotary membership to stay. As president, Goerdt is looking to further develop the satellite club, increase member involvement in club committees, and create additional regular social activities, such as the 5:01 club, an after-work gathering.

Having identified the secret sauce to membership growth, Goerdt set to work on pinpointing the formula for membership retention. He says new members stay if they are part of a community, find meaning, and make an impact. "If we can't get them engaged," he says, "everyone has a limited amount of time."

This story originally appeared in the February 2023 issue of Rotary magazine and is published with permission.

DES MOINES AM

Bingo Bash raises \$40,000 for Des Moines-area charities

By Tamara Kenworthy/Des Moines AM

The Rotary Club of Des Moines AM Foundation is focused on growing its Foundation, and more importantly, the dollars it donates back into the local community. Thus, in 2022 a signature fundraising event was created to help do just this.

The **Bingo Bash** — a one-day family-friendly bingo event — was developed and held the last Saturday of February 2022 and 2023 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. From 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., three 2-1/2-hour bingo sessions were held with a wide variety of bingo games played. Game packets were \$20 for 20 games per session. Many bingo aficionados played several cards per game and stayed the entire day. To entice attendees to attend, and stay longer, each bingo game prize was \$100 (split if multiple winners).

Year-over-year success has been exciting to watch, as we grew the event from a peak of 250 at any one time in 2022 to 370 at any one time in 2023. In addition, we more aggressively solicited sponsorships from member and non-member companies in the second year to see net proceeds grow from \$15,000 to over \$40,000.

Net proceeds are donated back into the local community, and in 2023, the Foundation selected three metro Des Moines charities to be recipients of the Bingo Bash:

Dorothy's House — www.dorothyshouse.org A safe place for survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, and prostitution to discover their healing journeys through the practice of life.

Ellipsis — www.ellipsis-iowa.org Central Iowa's critical safety net for kids and families in need.

Food Bank of Iowa — www.foodbankiowa.org Committed to creating a hunger-free Iowa!

Audacious goals

The Des Moines AM Foundation has big, audacious goals for this signature



The Bingo Bash is a family-friendly event — adults and kids alike had a great time!

fundraising event, and we can't wait to continue to grow the event, expand into larger venues, and donate even larger sums of money back to local nonprofits.

The founding Bingo Bash leadership team includes past DMAM presidents **John Bouslog**, **Tamara Kenworthy** and **Chris Korte**, long-term club treasurer **Mark Schaul**, and club administrator **Bev McLinden**.

In 2023, a few club members were added to the leadership team: **Jeff Block**, **Kristin Boldt** and **Zach Bouslog**, as well as 2022-2023 club president **Tom Cavanaugh**.

It takes a village to put on an event like this, and it's a really fun event for members to volunteer at and engage with Rotary. A win-win from every angle!

Our Core Values

**Fun and Fellowship
Service**

Leadership Development

**Integrity
Diversity**

Rotary 



Volunteers assisting with the bicycle giveaway included (l-r): Jacob Nastruz CFUM, and WDM Bike Committee Rotarians: Brian Benson, Steve Brase, Fred Maharry, Carol Narak, Bob Goldhammer, Galen Howsare, Tom George and Tom Narak.

WEST DES MOINES

65 bicycles given to metro children

By PDG Tom Narak/West Des Moines

In conjunction with the April 29 District Conference, members of the Rotary Club of West Des Moines sponsored a bike giveaway at **Children and Families Urban Movement (CFUM)** in Des Moines.

The club asked for gently used bikes to be donated from people in the metro area. After a few months of collecting, repairing, and cleaning the bikes, 65 bikes were given to the children and families throughout the neighborhood. We also donated some tricycles, small scooters, and other child playthings. We had to start early due to rain, but in a short while we had a very successful bike event. We are currently collecting bikes again in order to donate bikes for more children.



This project has been ongoing for many years. Bikes have been given to school children in West Des Moines as well

as through various social service agencies throughout metro Des Moines. **Bike locks** are purchased by the club and **helmets** have been donated by the West Des Moines EMTs and a local hospital. Thanks to **Bike World** and the **Des Moines Bike Collective** for their help.

The bike committee has done a wonderful job this year!

Wear your Rotary pin with pride!



At the Coralville District Conference, District Governor Steve Wieneke (l) recognized the Rotary Club of Clinton as an All-Paul Harris Fellows club. Congratulations, Clinton!

CLINTON

District 6000's newest All-Paul Harris Fellows Club

By Jill O'Neill/Clinton

Club Public Image Chair

The Rotary Club of Clinton has had several exciting months! We are SO PROUD of our fellow Rotarian, **John Frey**, who was gifted the **Guardian of Integrity Award** at the Rotary District 6000 Conference. John has been a Rotarian for almost 40 years and served as club president in 2007-2008. He has maintained a vital role within our Foundation.

John is pictured below with his family who surprised him at the Coralville District Conference! John, thank you for all that you do for our club and our community! We are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing and dedicated person in our midst!

Additionally, the Rotary Club of Clinton received an award for **100 Percent Paul Harris Fellow** participation. All of our club's members have achieved the **Paul Harris Fellow** level of giving to The Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to the club, and to all the members whose generosity continues to set an example.

A special thanks to Paul Harris chair **Andy Ferguson** for coordinating all of the points and getting the records submitted. It was a HUGE honor for our club and we are so grateful to our members and District 6000.

Finally, we have started planning for our **Annual Boo Bash Fundraiser**! This spooky and special fundraiser is held annually around Halloween and helps us fund projects within the community. Look forward to more information about our Boo Bash in the future!



John Frey's family congratulates him as a recipient of the Paul Harris Guardian of Integrity Award.

DES MOINES



Honored educators (l-r): Lynn Andlauer (Cowles Montesorri); Sarah Flores (Morris Elementary); Ruby Herrera (Roosevelt High School); Natalie Niemeyer-Lorenz (East High School); and Angela Leeper (Brubaker Elementary).

Twenty years of honoring public school educators

By Kitte Morehouse/Des Moines

Club Executive Director

The Rotary Club of Des Moines (RCDM), through the RCDM Foundation, honored five educators from Des Moines public schools. Each educator is given a \$1,000 stipend for their classroom, and a traveling plaque with their name and the names of previous recipients, that stays in their school for a year. The educators will also be featured on a billboard displayed throughout Des Moines, co-sponsored by Lamar Advertising.

This year's recipients are pictured above.

The **Educator of the Year** awards has been given out for over 20 years, and over 85 educators have been recognized throughout the years. The winners are chosen by the Rotary Club Awards Committee. Public school teachers are nominated by school principals through an application process.



Des Moines Rotarians served two dates at the Hope Café. The two groups served 114 dinners on April 3, and 86 lunches on April 7 – AND demonstrated to the men's shelter residents and community meal guests that people in central Iowa care about our neighbors who are homeless, hungry and hurting. The April 7 group is pictured (l-r): Eric Obergfell, Sue Woody, Bob Vedral, Kathy Coady, Stella Vicanovic, Al Gross.



Scholarship recipients (l-r): Students from Daniela Pintor-Mendoza (Hoover), Maria Santos-Gamez (Lincoln), Genesis Duarte-Perez (North), Lucy Swauger (Virtual), and Lauren Hall (Roosevelt). Our East High School student Christina Hernandez had to leave early for a performance at her school play.

\$48,000 scholarships in 2023; \$900,000 since 1983

By Kitte Morehouse/Des Moines

Club Executive Director

The Rotary Club of Des Moines (RCDM), through the RCDM Foundation, awarded six Des Moines Public School High School seniors a four-year \$8,000 total scholarship.

The students are pictured above.

The Rotary Club of Des Moines has awarded nearly \$900,000 in scholarships to 230 students since this program's inception over 40 years ago.



The Des Moines Public Library held its Día del Niño event on Saturday, April 29, at Union Park in Des Moines. Rotarians helped at this outdoor education and community building event. Over 600 people attended. Pictured are Día del Niño volunteers (l-r): Josh Braby, Jason Stuyvesant, Paul Johnson, Sue Woody, Bob Vedral, Hal Chase, Karl Schilling, Katie Cownie (The children belong to Josh Braby and Katie Cownie).

MARSHALLTOWN

Weighted lap blankets put preschoolers at ease

By Bonnie Lowry/Marshalltown

District 6000 Education Committee

Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self."

A recent service project for the Rotary Club of Marshalltown was to purchase weighted lap blankets for preschool classrooms in the Marshalltown Community School District.

Basic Education and Literacy is one of the seven Areas of Focus of Rotary. We know that for children to be successful in school, they need a solid foundation. The Rotary Club of Marshalltown has purchased two weighted lap blankets for each preschool classroom in the Marshalltown Community School District. The purpose of the weighted lap blanket is to provide "deep pressure therapy" or "proprioception" sensory input to help our youngest learners focus.

This year our preschool-aged children are entering school after working through a period of isolation due to Covid. Some of them are anxious about going to school and have a difficult time sitting still, lacking the ability to focus on learning. Kandy Wittry, a pediatric occupational therapist with Central Rivers Area Education Agency, and a Rotarian, has the opportunity to work with preschool-aged children on a regular basis.

As an occupational therapist, she is aware of evidence-based research that has found "deep pressure input" can help the brain to release pleasure transmitting chemicals like dopamine and reduce the release of cortisol which is a stress hormone. The weighted lap blankets are used to provide that "deep pressure input" to reduce the physiological signs of stress and anxiety, which allows our children to focus and learn at their maximum capacity.

With the recent increase of children entering preschools displaying a lack of self-regulation skills, anxiety, and poor social emotional skills the need for additional resources to



Representatives of the Rotary Club of Marshalltown presented weighted lap blankets to Ms. Wentzien's preschool classroom at Anson Elementary.

address these concerns is needed. The weighted lap blankets could potentially help any child showing signs of anxiety, sensory issues, or behaviors. As the research indicates, there are specific guidelines, time limits, and weight recommendations for their use to maximize the benefits of these blankets. As a school-based OT, Kandy will continue to support, recommend, guide, and monitor the use the weighted lap blanket within the school setting.

ADEL



Centennial year begins

The Rotary Club of Adel will celebrate 100 years in May 2024. This is our club's 100-year project. Steve Conard reported on this project and our Rotary grant at the District 6000 meeting in West Des Moines recently.

Provided by Tim Ennis



Past District Governor Tom Narak and Carol present on the annual Xicotepec Project Team's week in Mexico at the Rotary Club of Adel. That's Carol and Tom, at left, with club president-elect Tim Ennis and Shirley McAdon.



Chalk the Walk

On May 10, the Rotary Club of Tipton partnered with Cedar County Extension Service to host a "Chalk the Walk" for Mental Health Awareness Month. Community members chalked sidewalks along one block of Cedar Street in Tipton. Encouraging words and messages covered the sidewalk, reminding everyone that we all matter and we are all important. Afterwards participants enjoyed cookies, juice and water provided by Tipton Rotary Club.

Provided by Laurie Brandenburg



Retired World Food Prize president Ken Quinn, rallied leaders to declare Feb. 1 as George Washington Carver Day in Iowa. Quinn spoke at the dedication with a bust of Carver behind.

Photo by Jacque Andrew

Feb. 1 to honor humanitarian

By PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

Assistant Editor, District 6000 News

District 6000 was represented by **DG Steve Wieneke** and others at the inaugural **George Washington Carver Day** observance at Iowa State University on Feb. 1, 2023. The state of Iowa has designated Feb. 1 of each year to honor Carver's legacy.

Ambassador **Ken Quinn**, pictured, rallied many groups in Iowa including Rotary District 6000 to support the idea of the annual recognition, enacted by the Iowa Legislature. Carver was born into slavery, educated at **Simpson College** and **Iowa State University**, and became a world famous agriculturist and global humanitarian.

A special program was held at the Memorial Union in honor of the first **George Washington Carver Day** in Iowa. Carver's influence was woven into the program from his writings, to the food served, even the flowers were a reflection of his research and interests.

Speakers reflected his significant impact on agriculture and human rights. For more information: <https://www.cals.iastate.edu/george-washington-carver-day>.

TIPTON

Rotarians implement \$10,000 literacy project

By Laurie Brandenburg/Tipton

Club President

The Rotary Club of Tipton was awarded a \$10,000 **Early Learning Community Project** grant from **Save The Children** for family/community related early literacy promotion. The club worked with the Tipton Elementary School and held two different **Family Literacy Nights** for students pre-K through fourth grade.

For both events, students needed to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. In February, a **Camp Read A Lot** event was held, starting with a free pulled-pork sandwich meal for the families, then time for participating in over 10 different camp sites within the elementary school. These sites included reading in a tent, reading by a campfire, making camp themed puppets, visiting with a local conversationalist, fish ponds, games, and other activities. Each student received a backpack with two new books, notebooks, pens, stickers, games and a packet of home reading activities.

In May, a **Literacy Luau** was held on the lawn of the elementary school. Again, a free meal of grilled burgers and hotdogs was provided. After eating, the families could go to different activities along the beach, including puppets, coconut bowling, making badges, fish ponds, reading on the beach, pool noodle word building, hula hoops and other activities. Each student received a backpack with four new books, work books, stickers, other small games and a summer home literacy packet.

Around 200 attended each event, with Rotary members, Interact members, teachers and school administrators volunteering to make each night a great success.



Beds for children

Volunteers from Tipton and Cedar County made quick work building 30 beds for children in need on Jan. 22, 2023.

More than 50 people took part in "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" community bed build sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tipton and Tipton High School Interact. Volunteers built the beds (head and foot boards, side rails, etc.) that are delivered and set up for children who do not have a bed in Cedar and Jones counties. Many Tipton Rotary members helped at the bed build, as well as Rotarian Lisa Mosier and her husband Scott, who donated the use of their building. Tipton Rotary Rotarians are not only involved in building the beds, but are the main volunteers for delivering and setting them up. Cedar County.

Provided by Laurie Brandenburg

MARSHALLTOWN

RYLA sparks enthusiasm for Interact

By Quinn Weidenaar/Marshalltown

In July of 2022, **Quinn Weidenaar**, **Denise Montealegre** and **Kaisa Stanley** attended the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference (RYLA)**. They were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Marshalltown. They quickly showed interest in the Rotary program and were intrigued by the idea of starting an Interact club at Marshalltown High School.

In this picture, they were sitting in a meeting with **Dennis Drager** and other students from RYLA, debriefing their experiences at the conference. This is where they decided to start the club, picked out their roles, and made a game plan of who they needed to talk to after RYLA.

When they got back from RYLA, they recruited students from Marshalltown to join the club, they found a club sponsor, got in contact with administration at MHS and the Rotary Club of Marshalltown, and got the club off the ground.

Quinn, **Denise** and **Kaisa** discussed and appointed **Ella Phomvisay** as the treasurer and **Ally Fisher** as their **media manager**. They were careful to assign these roles to students at MHS that would carry on the club after they left.

After the club was approved by MHS administration, it quickly started gaining club members. Today, the club has 63 members. Most of the members are active and involved in **Interact** and many other school activities. The club is made up of **22 seniors**, **13 juniors**, **10 sophomores** and **18 freshmen**. They continue to recruit new members who are enthusiastic about service.

After overcoming many adversities, the club held its first meeting during the enrichment period at MHS on Nov. 1. The officers introduced themselves and the club started planning for the projects that they wanted to accomplish throughout the remainder of the year.

Since their start in November, the **Interact** club has made a great impact on their community. Several members from the club volunteered at the **Rotary Christmas party** by serving hors d'oeuvres and taking coats for Rotary members. They rang bells at HyVee to raise money for the **Salvation Army** on December 15-16.

The club made personalized Valentine's Day cards for the **Willows Retirement Home** in Marshalltown on Feb. 6. They held two **hot chocolate sales** on Dec. 21 and Feb. 14. Many Interactors volunteered and helped us raise \$350 to donate to a charity of the club's choice. In March, they held a **canned food drive** at MHS for their local food pantries along with the Rotary Club of Marshalltown. They accepted donations for a week



Elle Phomvisay, Quinn Weidenaar, Kaisa Stanley and Denise Montealegre lead Marshalltown Interact.

Provided by Bonnie Lowry

and filled five boxes to the brim! They served at several other events hosted by the Rotary Club of Marshalltown.

Many MHS Interact members served meals at the **Marshalltown House of Compassion** with the Rotary Club of Marshalltown on Dec. 8, Feb. 9 and April 13. The club helped organize, collect donations for, and package meals at the **Meals From Heartland** meal packaging during April. They had a very successful year and followed Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

The Interact club at MHS also held an officer election for the 2023-2024 school year. They elected **Ella Phomvisay** as president, **Isaac Benscoter** as vice president, **Ava Lucas** as secretary, **Zoe Weidenaar** as the treasurer, and **Ally Fisher** as their media manager again. These candidates are all very involved at MHS. Ella and Ava will attend the RYLA conference in 2023.

This year the club decided to have a **MVI: Most Valued Interactor**. The MVI is the most involved member of Interact for the 2022-2023 school year. They decided to give out this award to encourage participation in service events and regular meetings. The first MVI is **Isaac Benscoter**! He has only been in Interact for a few months, but has been an involved member. He is also an enthusiastic member of Interact and has helped recruit many members and bring excitement to our club. Isaac was presented with the MVI award at the **Celebration of Achievement** with the Rotary Club of Marshalltown on May 10.

The Interact club would like to extend its gratitude for the participation and support from the Rotary Club of Marshalltown, Marshalltown Community School District, their club sponsor **Brad Weidenaar**, their club liaison **Bonnie Lowry**, and the Interact members.



Cleanup time!

Saturday, May 13 was beautification time around West Liberty with Rotary and Interact. The Interact students from West Liberty School District and club members of the Rotary Club of West Liberty teamed up to do some cleanup in spots that are kept up by Rotary every year, as well as beautification/planting of flowers at Ron de Voo Park Great time that only took a short two hours due to many hands make work faster!

Provided by Gretchen Nollman

DGE Dennis Drager's Official Club Visits

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DENNIS DRAGER AND HEIDI'S OFFICIAL CLUB VISITS AND OTHER DATES IN 2023-24.

July 3 (M)..... **Marengo** (special)
 July 6 (Th)..... **Winterset** (noon)
 July 7 (F)..... **Northwest Des Moines** (noon)
 July 10 (M)..... **Jefferson** (noon)
 July 11 (Tu)..... **Osceola** (noon)
 July 12 (W)..... **Centerville** (noon)
 July 13 (Th)..... **Decatur County** (noon)
 July 14 (F)..... **Chariton** (noon)
 July 16-21..... Iowa RYLA at Grinnell College
 July 24 (M)..... **Burlington** (noon)
 July 25 (Tu)..... **Keosauqua** (noon)
 July 26 (W)..... **Bloomfield** (7 AM)
 July 26 (W)..... **Mt. Pleasant Noon** (noon)
 July 27 (Th)..... **Denison** (noon)
 July 31 (M)..... **Creston** (noon)
 Aug. 1 (Tu)..... **Newton** (noon)
 Aug. 1 (Tu)..... **Grinnell** (6 PM)
 Aug. 2 (W)..... **Wellman** (noon)
 Aug. 4 (F)..... **Fairfield** (noon)
 Aug. 7 (M)..... **Corning** (noon)
 Aug. 8 (Tu)..... **Atlantic** (noon)
 Aug. 9 (W)..... **Perry** (noon)
 Aug. 10 (Th)..... **Waukee** (7 AM)
 Aug. 10 (Th)..... **Coon Rapids** (12:05 PM)
 Aug. 11 (F)..... **Albia** (noon)
 Aug. 14 (M)..... **Davenport** (noon)
 Aug. 28: (M)..... **Carroll** (noon)
 Aug. 29 (Tu)..... **Johnston** (7 AM)
 Aug. 29 (Tu)..... **Ankeny Evening** (6 PM)
 Aug. 30 (W)..... **Knoxville** (noon)
 Aug. 31 (Th)..... **Des Moines AM** (special)
 Sept. 5 (Tu)..... **Norwalk** (noon)
 Sept. 6 (W)..... **Bettendorf** (noon)
 Sept. 6 (W)..... **Iowa City AM Evening Extension** (6 PM)
 Sept. 7 (Th)..... **Iowa City** (noon)
 Sept. 7 (Th)..... **West Liberty** (5:30 PM)
 Sept. 8 (F)..... **North Scott** (noon)
 Sept. 11 (M)..... **Muscatine** (noon)
 Sept. 12 (Tu)..... **Pella** (noon)
 Sept. 13 (W)..... **East Polk County** (7 AM)
 Sept. 13 (W)..... **Nevada** (noon)
 Sept. 14 (Th)..... **Des Moines** (noon)
 Sept. 15 (F)..... **Indianola** (noon)
 Sept. 18 (M)..... **Clinton** (noon)



DG 2023-24 Dennis Drager and Heidi will convey RI President Gordon McNally's theme, "Rotary Creates Hope," during their club visits.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

Sept. 19 (Tu)..... **Ankeny** (noon)
 Sept. 19 (Tu)..... **Boone Evening Extension** (5:30 PM)
 Sept. 20 (W)..... **Boone** (noon)
 Sept. 21 (Th)..... District Budget & Finance, and Board Meetings, Pella, 10 AM
 Sept. 21 (Th)..... **Nevada Evening Extension** (5:30 PM)
 Sept. 24 (Su)..... **Iowa Quad-Cities** (7 AM)
 Sept. 25 (M)..... **Iowa City Downtown** (noon)
 Sept. 26 (Tu)..... **Iowa City AM** (7 PM)
 Sept. 26 (Tu)..... **Kalona** (noon)
 Sept. 27 (W)..... **Coralville N. Corridor** (noon)
 Sept. 28 (Th)..... **Washington** (noon)
 Oct. 3 (Tu)..... **Marshalltown** (noon)
 Oct. 3 (Tu)..... **Marshalltown Evening Extension** (5:30 PM)
 Oct. 4 (W)..... **Greater Des Moines** (5:30 PM)

Oct. 9 (M)..... **Lenox** (noon)
 Oct. 10 (Tu)..... **Ames Morning** (7 AM)
 Oct. 11 (W)..... **Adel** (12:05 PM)
 Oct. 14 (Sa)..... Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), Mt. Pleasant, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
 Oct. 16 (M)..... **Ottumwa** (12:10 PM)
 Oct. 16 (M)..... **Mt. Pleasant** (6 PM)
 Oct. 17 (Tu)..... **Fort Madison** (noon)
 Oct. 19-22..... Zones 29 and 25B Institute Chicago and Evanston
 Oct. 23 (M)..... **West Polk County** (noon)
 Oct. 24 (Tu)..... **Dallas Center** (noon)
 Oct. 24 (Tu)..... World Polio Day
 Oct. 31 (Tu)..... **Manning** (12:05 PM)
 Nov. 2 (Th)..... **Keokuk** (noon)
 Nov. 6 (M)..... **Ames** (noon)
 Nov. 7 (Tu)..... **Oskaloosa** (noon)
 Nov. 14 (Tu)..... **West Des Moines** (11:45 AM)
 Nov. 17 (F)..... **Tipton Auction**
 Nov. 21 (Tu)..... **Corydon** (noon)
 Dec. 14 (Th)..... District Budget & Finance, and Board Meetings, Pella, 10 AM
 Jan. 5-7..... Rotary Youth Exchange Winter Retreat
 Jan. 7-11..... International Assembly Orlando, FL (Dave Cook)
 Feb. 17 (Sa)..... Grant Management Seminar at West Des Moines, 8:30-11:30 AM
 Feb. 22 (Th)..... District Budget & Finance, and Board Meetings, Online, 10 AM
 Feb. 23 (F)..... HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROTARY!
 Feb. 24 (Sa)..... Grant Management Seminar at West Liberty, 8:30-11:30 AM
 March 1 (F)..... AG Education (evening) at DMACC, Newton
 March 2 (Sa)..... President-Elect Orientation at DMACC, Newton (8:30 AM-5:00 PM)
 March, TBA..... President-Elect Orientation
 March TBA..... District Education Assembly
 March 16-24..... Project Team to Xicotepec, Mexico
 April 13 (Sa)..... Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) at Boone, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
 April 20 (Sa)..... District Celebration at Pella Opera House
 May 9 (Th)..... District Budget & Finance, and Board Meetings, Pella, 10 AM
 May 25-29..... Rotary International Convention in Singapore



Presenters at the March 4 District Assembly at DMACC in Newton included (l-r): Marie Pipes of East Polk County (Interact), Mark Ruggeberg of Iowa City Downtown (Iowa MOST), Jasmine Sanasinh of Iowa City ("Rotary Moment" about Interact to RYLA to Rotaract to Xicotepec and more), and Claudia Schabel of Des Moines (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).

Photo by Bill Tubbs



The North Central President-Elect Training Seminar (NCPETS) which was to have been in person in March 2023 was switched to digital due to Covid. These incoming club presidents met DGE Dennis Drager in person at PE Orientation March 3 and attended District Assembly, March 4 at Newton.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

District 6000 club presidents, 2023-24

Adel.....Timothy Ennis
Albia.....Brian Carter
Ames.....Mason Adams
Ames Morning Charles Gilarski
Ankeny..... Steve Schrader
Atlantic..... Graydon Schmidt
Bettendorf..... Joe Campion
Bloomfield..... Helen Schroeder
Boone..... Lisa B. Cook
Burlington..... Gary Mansheim
Carroll..... Adam Schweers
Centerville.....Erin Thomas
Chariton.....Lori Johnson
Clinton.....Braydon Roberts
Coon Rapids Gavin Cretsinger
Coralville North Corridor..... Royce Phillips
Corning.....Cena Danielson
Corydon.....Matthew Clayton
Creston.....Maddie Gillam
Dallas CenterRobert King
Davenport.....Michael Hamann
Decatur CountyWendal Yoder

Denison.....JJ Johnson III
Des Moines.....Becky Greenwald
Des Moines AM.....Emily Adreon
East Polk County Christopher Schonride
Fairfield John Loin
Fort Madison.....TBA
Greater Des Moines Tyler Phelps
Grinnell.....Scott Michael Beach
Indianola Steve Rose
Iowa CityMargaret Reese
Iowa City AM.....Theresa Burns
Iowa City Downtown.....James Phelps
Iowa Quad Cities John Gere
Jefferson.....Travis Dvorak
Johnston.....Debra S. Bishop
Kalona.....Matthew Brown
Keokuk.....Teresa Koltzenburg
Keosauqua Bill Shewmaker
Knoxville.....Jake Hughes
LenoxDaniel Carruthers
ManningTim Weible
Marengo.....Patrick Fleming

Marshalltown.....Linda Havelka
Mount Pleasant Noon Kadie Johannson
Mt. Pleasant..... Kathleen Schmidt Estrada
Muscatine Megan Francis
Nevada Christa Skaggs
Newton Jamie Grout
North Scott.....Tracy Lindaman
Northwest Des Moines Jack Bell
NorwalkGreg Wellington
Osceola.....Teresa Woods
Oskaloosa.....Taylor Thompson
Ottumwa Thomas Xavier Lazio
PellaRobert Maurer
PerryLynne Hanna
TiptonChris Scholz
Washington.....Sue Basten
WaukeeEric Ryan
WellmanMark Schneider
West Des Moines.....John Rodgers
West Liberty.....Kenneth Brooks
West Polk CountyBrian Buethe
WintersetAlex Wright



Presenters at the March 4 District Assembly included Newton Rotarian Bob Main (I), who has made 28 trips to Xicotepec, Mexico since 2003, and a panel of club presidents (above), facilitated by Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty), at left (l-r): Bonnie Lowry (Marshalltown), Tyler Phelps (Greater Des Moines), Chris Bertelsen (Winterset), Ryan Bell (Iowa City) and Marie Pipes (East Polk County). Photo by Bill Tubbs

OBITUARIES



Gary Anderson



Gerald Klonglan



Janice Wilson

District 6000 News observes the passing of three Rotarians who provided leadership in District 6000:

Knoxville Rotarian Gary Anderson, 76, died Nov. 21, 2022, at the Comfort House in Pella. A native of Neenah, Wisc., he received a bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Wisconsin. On June 8, 1968 Gary was united in marriage to Mary Schanke. They moved to Knoxville in 1974 where Gary was employed at the new 3M plant, from which he retired in 2003. He was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Knoxville and served on the District 6000 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee many years. In 2018, he was the recipient of the District 6000 Guardian of Integrity Award.

Ames Rotarian Gerald Klonglan, 86, died March 17. Gerald graduated from Fernald (Iowa) High School in 1954 and went on to earn BS, MS, and PhD degrees from Iowa State University, focusing on rural sociology. He married Eileen Becvar of Colo on June 29, 1960. They resided in Ames 63 years. He was a nationally recognized sociologist and advocate for Iowa State's global involvement and diversity programs. He authored multiple Rotary Foundation Global Grants for projects in Tanzania, for which he received The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service in 2022.

Iowa City AM Rotarian Janice Wilson, 93, died April 4 at Oaknoll Retirement Home in Iowa City. She was a graduate of Elmhurst College and St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. She served on the board of the Visiting Nurse As-

sociation, Riverside Theatre, and as a deacon and elder at First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City. She was a member of Athens Historical Society, Hancher Guild, P.E.O. Chapter JF. With her late husband, District Governor Herb Wilson (2001-02), she had traveled widely with Rotary and was a member of The Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society Circle. She was the recipient of the Guardian of Integrity Award in 2002. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 8, 2023, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City.

We remember well ...

The lives of Rotarians who died in 2022-23, which were provided to the district upon an invitation from the district office, were remembered in a picture display at the District Conferences. Some names have since been added. We remember these dearly departed. Each in his or her own way made the world a better place, through Rotary.

May light perpetual shine upon them. – BT

Ames

Don Borchering
Gerald Klonglan
Fredrick E. Miller
Norman H. Rudi
Clifford Smith

Ankeny

Michael Lydon

Bettendorf

George Coin
John Sherrick

Carroll

Robert Christensen

Coralville--N Corridor

Judy Jane (Hannah)
Meyer

Davenport

A. Gregory Gutsell Jr.

Decatur County

Jeanne Vogel

Des Moines AM

Eric Kunkel

East Polk County

Michael Horton
Carl B.F. Eilmann

Indianola

Charles Kerr

Iowa City AM

Janice Wilson

Iowa City Downtown

Robert Hardy
Michael J. Klug

Jefferson

Karen Voge-Perkins

Keokuk

Edward Kiedaisch

Knoxville

Gary Anderson
Michael Lane
Steven D. Mott

Marshalltown

David D. Wilson

Mt. Pleasant

Michael C. Fitzpatrick

Nevada

Paymond Lee Kassel

Newton

Jack Maples

Northwest Des Moines

Jenifer Mercer-
Klimowski

Ottumwa

Gene Carlson

Pella

Bob Verdoorn

Tipton

Gordon Esbeck

West Liberty

Thomas Brooke
Jim Conrey

Ass't. Governors '23-'24

Team Leader: PDG Mike Ruby, Muscatine

Juan Arias, Ankeny

Jeff Ashcraft, Norh Scott

Chris Bertelson, Winterset

Jennifer Chittenden, Des Moines

Susan Davis, Marengo

Travis Dvorak, Jefferson

Ann Frost, Pella

Norlan Hinke, Clinton

Teresa Horton-Bumgarner, Tipton

Chris Knapp, Iowa City AM

Bob Main, Newton

Gretchen Nollman, West Liberty

Matt Olson, Waukee

James Patton, Ames

Mark Ruggeberg, Iowa City Downtown

John Schroeder, Bloomfield

Park Woodie, Ames



Grant Management Seminars

Grant Management Seminars were conducted by the District Rotary Foundation leadership team (above) in West Liberty and West Des Moines, attended by 92 from 50 clubs, in person and online, to educate about Foundation programs. Leaders, (l-r): DG Steve Wieneke, DGE Dennis Drager, DGN David Cook, district educator Gretchen Nollman, DGND Norlan Hinke, and Todd Wheeler.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



Rotary's goal is a polio-free world! There were 12 cases of polio in 2021 and 30 in 2022. Thus far in 2023 there are just three cases, one in Pakistan and two in Afghanistan, the most recent on May 12 and months with no reported cases.

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NEWS NOTES

GAVEL PASSING

The gavel passing from **DG Steve Wieneke** to 2023-24 **District Governor Dennis Drager** will be Sunday, June 25, at Norris House, 411 Jerome St., Marshalltown, from 2-4 p.m. A short program will take place at 3 p.m. Rotarians and guests are invited. There is no cost, but you are asked to register at www.rotary6000.org, or email to dis6000admin@Lisco.com.

ROTARY NIGHT AT THE IOWA CUBS

Rotary District 6000 hosted a night of fun and fellowship with the **Iowa Cubs** at Principal Park on June 13. In addition to watching a baseball game, members will be contributing \$5 per ticket to go towards The Rotary Foundation **PolioPlus** fund.

ANNUAL MEETING

Actions at Annual Meeting held March 4 at Newton, approved the 2023-24 budget with no change in dues, elected **Norlan Hinke** of Clinton as District Governor 2025-26, and elected board of directors **Bill Bruce** (Denison), **Marie Pipes** (East Polk County) and **Megan Franklin** (Des Moines AM).

POLIOPLUS SOCIETY

Membership in the **District 6000 PolioPlus Society** grew this year, from **58 to 106 Rotarians** pledging \$100 or more annually to **PolioPlus**. Watch for names in a future issue. A membership form is at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7kp3cc>, or contact **PDG Susan Herrick**, susanpcps47@gmail.com, or 515-298-1536.

AWARDS

The Rotary Club of **Boone** was recognized at the April 2023 district conferences for having the highest percentage of members attending the April 2022 All Iowa Conference. The Rotary Club of **Iowa City AM** had the highest percentage (50 percent) of members attend the April 2023 district conferences. The one lucky winner of the \$200, "Night on the Town" prize that the District Governor awarded was given to **Alta Medea**.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Summary of DEI related activities in 2022-23:
Held a virtual DEI Summit for District 6000 in February 2023. Presented in two District club meetings.
Presented at the District Assembly in March 2023.
Currently helping a club develop its own DEI action plan.
Planning for a DEI Summit in the Fall of 2023.

– *Claudia Schabel*

HATS OFF TO WINTERSET!

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of **Winterset** on successfully raising \$1 million in six months to build an **inclusive playground!**

FOUR-WAY TEST

Dennis Drager is planning a **Four-Way Test speech contest** district-wide with local contests. Winners compete regionally and the final 4-6 will present at District Conference April 20 at Pella.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Submit news of your Rotary club's activities by Sept. 15, 2023, for the next issue of *District 6000 News* to volunteer editor PDG Bill Tubbs at btubbs@northscotttpress.com. Send text in the body of the email, or attached a Word document, and free-standing, print-resolution .jpg images.



Opportunities!

Your sponsorships with paid ads will underwrite the cost of our two-times-a-year magazine and present your message to 3,300 Rotary leaders and decision makers. Prices: \$250 (1/8-page); \$400 (1/4-page); \$750 (1/2-page); and \$1,250 (full page), payable to District 6000. Color included. Design services available. Contact Editor Bill Tubbs: btubbs@northscotttpress.com.