

Rotary District 6000
Iowa USA
Dennis Drager, Governor

Rotary



Second Issue
2023-24
(January-June)



District 6000 News



**XICOTEPEC PROJECT ENTERS THIRD
DECADE; HONORS TOM NARAK**

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DGE DAVE COOK

A new \$1 million challenge for District 6000 Rotarians

Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

There will not be another issue of *District 6000 News* before Nov. 15, so your editor (Bill Tubbs) is giving his space to **DGE Dave Cook** to promote a big event he is planning on that date. He says the "**Magic of Giving Gala**" promises to be a night to remember.



DGE Dave Cook

In Dave's words: District 6000 is thrilled to announce the upcoming **Magic of Giving Gala**, set to take place at the prestigious **World Food Prize Hall of Laureates** in downtown Des Moines on Friday, Nov. 15. This highly anticipated event aims to inspire generosity during District 6000's **Magic of Giving** legacy campaign, which continues through March 28, 2025.

The **World Food Prize Hall of Laureates**, an architectural masterpiece, offers a stunning backdrop for this special evening. Known for celebrating the spirit of giving and honoring those who have made significant contributions to addressing global hunger, the venue is the perfect setting for the **Magic of Giving Gala**.

Tickets for the event are available at \$125 per person, with limited seating. Rotarians and supporters are encouraged to secure their spots early by visiting rotary6000.org.

Magic of Giving Gala

This gala is the first **legacy event** hosted by District 6000

since 2017, when then **District Governor Chris Knapp** and his team successfully raised \$1 million in gifts and future commitments to **The Rotary Foundation**. Building on their success, District 6000 has set a goal to **raise another \$1 million** in future commitments during the **Magic of Giving** campaign, which spans the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025.

I have tremendous confidence in the willingness and generosity of Rotarians in our district to help us reach this important milestone. **District 6000** has historically been among the most generous in supporting our **Foundation**, and I believe we will see that again this year as Rotarians step forward to support the **Magic of Giving** campaign."

Attendees can look forward to exciting news in the coming weeks about the **Rotary International leadership** who will be joining the event. This special announcement will undoubtedly add to the evening's significance and appeal.

The Rotary Foundation has launched a global initiative to grow **Rotary's Endowment to \$2.025 billion by 2025**. District 6000's **Magic of Giving** campaign is an integral part of this worldwide effort.

Stay tuned for updates on this landmark event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit rotary6000.org. If you are interested in serving on the **Magic of Giving planning team**, please contact **Heidi Drager** (heidi.drager.d6000@gmail.com). To discuss a potential gift to **The Rotary Foundation** in conjunction with the **Magic of Giving** legacy campaign, contact **Steve Dakin** (steve@retiredfun.net).

Dave Cook, District Governor 2024-25
For the Editor, District 6000 News

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Serving you was 'a phenomenal experience'

Hello Rotary Friends,

It has been an honor serving **District 6000** as your Governor. It has been a phenomenal experience to meet so many Rotarians and see how each of you **CREATE HOPE in the WORLD**.

We are proud to be a part of a district with so many Rotarians that embody Rotary's vision that **TOGETHER** we see a world where **PEOPLE** unite and take action to **CREATE** lasting **CHANGE** in our local communities and across the world.



Dennis Drager

As we approach the gavel passing where I will proudly step aside and offer my full support to our incoming Governor, **Dave Cook**, my thoughts are on the connections I have made through this journey. **Heidi and I** now have friends from across our district and around the world that we would never have met without Rotary. I encourage any Rotarian to look

outside their own club and visit other clubs. The people that you will meet will change your life. Visit another club across town, across the state or on your next vacation. You will not be disappointed.

Thank you to all of District 6000 Rotarians, **Carolyn Scharff**, who keeps us headed in the right direction, our wonderful **Assistant Governors**, the dedicated **Board of Directors** and **Budget and Finance Committee** members for your help and support this year. I am proud to be a District 6000 Rotarian among so many great people. Thank you,

– DG Dennis and Heidi Drager

Reflections from Singapore

This year's **Rotary International Convention** was held in **Singapore** the last week of May. **International President Gordan McNally** hosted more than 14,000 people at the **Marina Bay Sands Expo Center**. The opening ceremony, **Sharing Connections with the World**, included the flag ceremony, entertainment from **He Xin Lion** and **Dragon Arts Troupe** and **Calum Scott**. There was also a discussion on peace with **Mrs. Graca Machel**, an African stateswoman with decades of professional and public advocacy work in Mozambique for women and children's rights.

The four-day convention offered opportunities to hear from leaders around the world in all of the areas of focus. One of the highlights for those attending from Iowa (Districts 6000 and 5970) was the opportunity to see our own **PDG**



AKS recognition

District Governor Dennis Drager and Heidi, and PDG Steve Dakin and Lesley, were recognized at the April 20 District Celebration at the Pella Opera House, for achieving Arch Klumpf status with cumulative gifts of \$250,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

John Ockenfels and **Peter Teahen** share about their trip around the world in the **Flight to End Polio** (see p. 26).

The week was filled with fellowship and creating connections with friends, new and old, from around the world.

Next year, consider attending the **Convention in Calgary**...not nearly as far to travel and the experience and excitement of attending a Rotary International Convention is lifechanging. It is impossible to join thousands of Rotarians from around the world without knowing that we do **CREATE HOPE in the WORLD** through the **MAGIC of ROTARY!**

– Heidi Drager



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IMAGES FROM DISTRICT CELEBRATION, APRIL 20, PELLA



With DGE Dave Cook at right, Rotary Youth Exchange students, inbound and outbound, join Rotaractors and Rotary Club of Xicotepec, Mexico, president Carlos Garrido before the parade of flags which opened the April 20 District Celebration. Names of Inbound and Outbound students are on page 22.

Photos by Bill Tubbs



Auctioneer Naura Heiman Godar of Des Moines in action.



DG Dennis Drager (c) and Xicotepec project leader Jim Peterson (r) present special recognition to Xicotepec Rotary president Carlos Garrido.,



Freddie Almazan (l), of Chicago, suffered a gunshot wound to the head at age 12 and speaks about finding "Beauty in the Broken Pieces." He is with Nancy and PDG Gary Pacha.

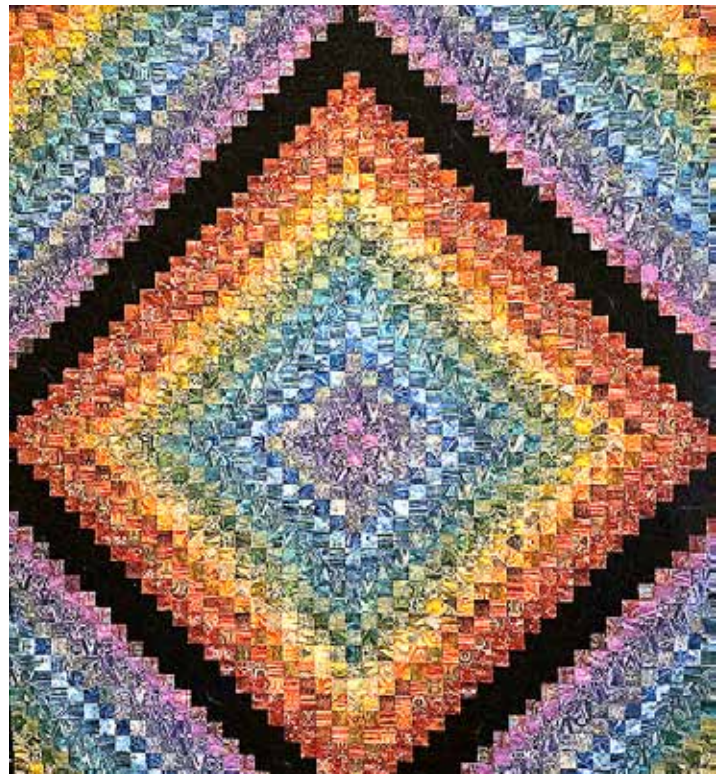


Public defender Matthew Sheeley of Des Moines (c) shared the heartbreaking story of human trafficking victim Pieper Lewis. District 6000 Human Trafficking prevention chair George Belitsos of Ames is at right and Heidi Drager is at left.

IMAGES FROM DISTRICT CELEBRATION, APRIL 20, PELLA



These high school girls, the Pella Dutchesses, provided entertainment of Dutch song and dance at Saturday evening's banquet.



Deb Ockenfels of Iowa City AM stitched this beautiful quilt which was sold at auction to DG Dennis Drager for \$4,000.



PDG Chris Knapp of Iowa City AM was presented the Citation for Meritorious Service, which is second highest honor bestowed by The Rotary Foundation. Presenting were PDG Steve Dakin (l), District Rotary Foundation Chair, and District Governor Dennis Drager.



Kathy and Blake Collingsworth of Lincoln, Neb., shared the compelling message of water safety with the "Josh the Otter" program. Drowning, they said, is the No. 1 cause of death for children under 14. Learn more: www.JoshtheOtter.org.



Carol Narak, second from right, widow of PDG Tom Narak, namesake of the Four-Way Test speech contest, was honored by DG Dennis Drager. Four-Way Test speeches were given by, (l-r): Juliette Genin, Eva Lubben and Ojas Sharma (see pp. 10-11).

IMAGES FROM DISTRICT CELEBRATION, APRIL 20, PELLA



The day began with District Governor Dennis Drager, in a meaningful and thoughtful way presenting this image and acknowledging that we are on the traditional land of the Meskwaki, Sauk and Sioux people.

Photos by Bill Tubbs



On behalf of the Rotary Club of Clinton, DGN Norlan Hinke and Cindy accepted the attendance award from PDG Steve Wieneke (I) for most attendance times miles traveled at last year's District Conferences.



Advocates for the homeless in central Iowa, Marty Findley and Joe Stevens, shared compelling stories of their work. Stevens founded JOPPA, committed to creating communities of unconditional love, support and hope. More: www.JOPPA.org.



The tech team of district educator Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty) and president-elect Greg Schaapveld (North Scott) kept the program moving smoothly.



Welcoming Rotarians with a smile at District Celebration were (l-r): Carolyn Scharff (district administrator), Deb Ockenfels (Iowa City AM) and Marie Pipes (East Polk County).

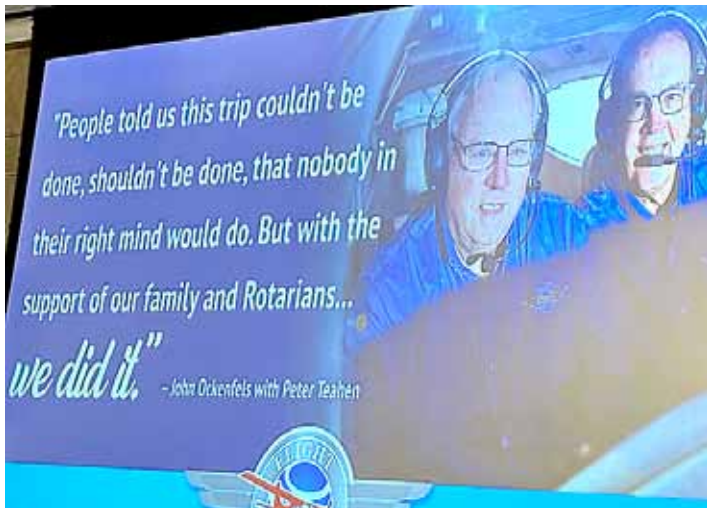
IMAGES FROM DISTRICT CELEBRATION, APRIL 20, PELLA



District Governor Dennis and Heidi's family shared the celebration, (l-r): Jessica Drager, Heidi Drager, Caitlin Drager, 11, Vivienne Drager, 5, Dennis Drager, and Jason Drager.



District 6000 emcee and "jester," Bettendorf Rotarian Scott Naumann, pulled a chicken from his hip pocket in one of a dozen or more costumes he donned throughout the day, including a Paul Harris impersonation.



Keynote speakers for Saturday evening's banquet were PDG John Ockenfels and Peter Teahen, about the Flight to End Polio. John and Peter also presented at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore to a warm reception (see p. 26).



The Dragers (r) thank District Celebration co-chairs PDG Chris Knapp and Vernetta for a job well done.

NOTES

AWARDS

District Governor Dennis Drager recognized Rotarians who "always say YES!": **PDG Jacque Andrew** (Jefferson), **PDG Steve Dakin** (Boone), **PDG Chris and Vernetta Knapp** (Iowa City AM), **PDG Erna Morain** (Waukee), **Scott Naumann** (Bettendorf), **Marie Pipes** (East Polk County), **Mark Ruggeberg** (Iowa City Downtown), **Jennifer Chittenden** (Des Moines AM), **Bill Koellner** (West Liberty), **PDG Loring Miller** (Decatur County), **PDG Tom and Carol Narak** (West Des Moines), **Gretchen Nollman** (West Liberty), **PDG Mike Ruby** (Muscatine), and **Larry Thein** (Bettendorf).

Rotaractor of the Year was **Viviana Ramirez** of Iowa City.

Action teams recognized by Governor Drager were: **PolioPlus**, **Iowa MOST**, **Rotary Action Team Against Human Trafficking**, **District 6000 Chapter of the AG on Mental Health Initiatives**, **RAG4Clubfoot**, **Xicotepec**.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sixty-eight, including 43 presidents-elect, attended the Annual Meeting Feb. 17 at DMACC, Newton. Actions taken:

District bylaws were updated and approved. The new ones can be seen at District website.

Budget for 2024-25 which had been sent to participants before the meeting was approved with dues remaining \$35.

The nomination of Bill Bruce of the Rotary Club of Denison for District Governor 2026-27 was approved.

Allison Walter of the Rotary Club of Ames was elected director at large for the Board of Directors.

Rotaract takes root at Iowa State

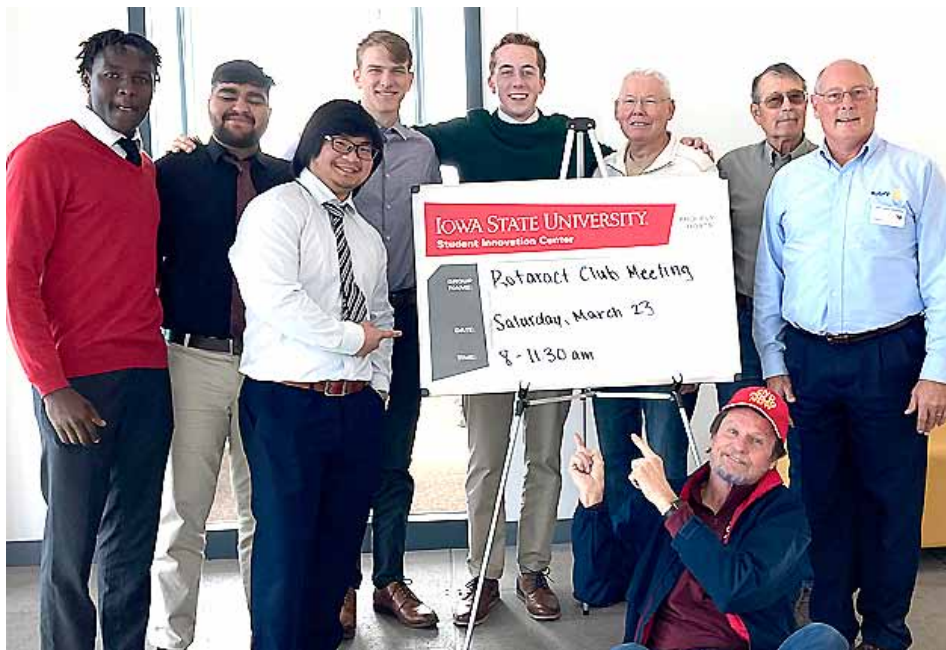
By PDG Steve Wieneke/Ankeny

Rotaract Adviser

On May 9, 2024 the **Rotaract Club at Iowa State University** forwarded its official Rotaract club application to Rotary International to become recognized as a new Rotaract Club in Rotary District 6000. Prior to this, the Rotaract club officers created and submitted the club's constitution and operations manual which was approved by the Iowa State University Student Organization Review Board (SORB), so they are now officially recognized as a student organization.

The Rotaract Club officers, members, and advisors have met at ISU on three occasions this spring to begin developing the framework and business practices of how they plan to operate in the future. Most of the officers and a few members attended the Rotary District 6000 Celebration in Pella on April 20.

Approximately 20 students have signed up to serve as an officer or member of the new Rotaract club. The club is awaiting approval of their charter at RI. The Rotaract Club at Iowa State University is planning to conduct its official charter and celebration ceremony in September 2024.



The Rotaract Club at Iowa State University Officer Team and Rotarian Advisors, (l-r): Arop Ojeke (vice president), Adeel Butt (secretary), Vinh Khang Tran (public relations), Justin James Irby (treasurer), Gage Haines (president), Kent Frankenfeld (immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Ames), Al Hermanson (past president of the Rotary Club of Ames Morning), PDG Steve Wieneke and PDG Steve Dakin (on the floor).

Bill Bruce elected District Governor 2026-27

Bill Bruce of the Rotary Club of Denison was recommended by the Nominating Committee last November to serve as District Governor in 2026-27. The nomination became official at the Feb. 17 Annual Meeting at Newton.

Bill has been a Rotarian over 20 years. His first membership was Chariton, Iowa (1988-97). Next was Elroy, Wis., (1999), Morris, Ill. (1999-2010), then Denison (2012 to present). He served as president of the Rotary Club of Denison in 2017-18 and 2021-23.

Bill writes, "My Rotary resume begins with career choice. Prior to serving as CEO of several hospitals, I was mentored by a Rotarian and CEO of the hospital I was employed at in the early 1980s. It was obvious to me that my CEO demonstrated more than just "hospital operations" in his leadership style; he was a Rotarian. His leadership made a lasting impact as I moved ahead in various hospitals serving as CEO. I retired from my career in healthcare leadership in 2019.

"I was born in Des Moines with my preschool childhood in Des Moines followed by public school (Ballard Community) in Cambridge, just north of Des Moines. I attended Iowa State University (bachelor's degree) and the University of Iowa (master's degree). I served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1971 to 1975.

"I always enjoy a round of golf (with a consistently high handicap). I do my best to stay connected with all things "digital" but do admit I have a periodic challenge with PICNIC errors (Problem in the Chair, Not in Computer.).

"My bride Bette and I met and were married in the 1980s."



Bill Bruce of the Rotary Club of Denison has been elected District Governor for 2026-27. His wife, Bette, had one son and enjoy time with their grandson.

Contributed photo

JOSHUA NGUYEN

Scholar will pursue degree at Oxford

By PDG Jim Patton/Ames

District 6000 Scholars Chair

Joshua Nguyen, a 2023 graduate of **Yale University**, has been granted the Rotary District 6000 **Global Scholarship** for 2024-25. Joshua is an alum of **Dowling Catholic High School** of West Des Moines. He will pursue a master of science degree in Digital Health at the **University of Oxford** in Oxford, England. His interest in health care equity will guide his studies at Oxford, where he plans to delve into leveraging digital health innovations to serve marginalized populations. His academic year will begin in October, 2024.

Joshua has been working in New York this past year but plans to be in Iowa in July. If any club would like to support his scholarship at Oxford, arrange a possible club program or keep informed about his progress in England: contact **Jim Patton** @ jlpattton.rotary@gmail.com or text 712-830-3736.

Below are excerpts of Yale University professor, **Dr. Keith A. Choate, M.D.'s**, recommendation:

I have the distinct honor of recommending **Joshua Nguyen** for the master of science degree in the Applied Digital Health course at the **University of Oxford**. During his two years as an undergraduate researcher in my lab and throughout his thesis completion, I have had the opportunity to closely observe and engage with him, understanding his dedication to academic inquiry and his passionate commitment to meaningful causes.

At Yale, Joshua's academic journey was nothing short of outstanding. He not only graduated Summa Cum Laude with distinction but also earned a notable place in Phi Beta Kappa and was recognized as a **U.S. Rhodes Scholar finalist**.

This was achieved alongside his pursuit of one of Yale's most challenging majors: Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. Beyond academics, Joshua played a pivotal role in my research group, where we employ molecular genetic tools to delve into rare skin conditions. At its heart, this work is powered by clinical insights and Joshua has been involved in the full arc of discovery: from seeing affected patients in my genetic disorders clinic, to exome and genome sequencing, and biochemical investigation of identified mutations.

Right from the start, Joshua seamlessly integrated into our research program, showing incredible productivity. His meticulousness, coupled with an openness to guidance, ensured he mastered even the most intricate experimental protocols. Joshua's research focused on unveiling the genetic mechanisms behind primary lymphedema, a rare condition affecting 1 in 100,000 individuals.

In his senior thesis, he identified a potential pathway through which GJC2 missense mutations may contribute to lymphedema, laying a foundational stone for future research initiatives. His written thesis was later awarded the **Edgar J. Boell Prize** at graduation, distinguishing it as one of the top 10 senior thesis in his department.

Beyond the research itself, Joshua's eloquence during scientific presentations and discussions has also garnered widespread admiration. He has been honored as one of 19 Science, Technology, and Research Scholars Fellows at Yale – a distinction that comes with two years of funded research and the showcasing of his work to peers, faculty, and prospective students. Additionally, he is among 50 Dean's Research Fellows, an honor bestowing a fully funded summer research project and the esteemed opportunity to address an audience of scientists at a major annual event.

These accolades, awarded in recognition of his work in our



Joshua Nguyen will be a Rotary Foundation Global Scholar in Oxford, England, sponsored by District 6000.

lab, stand as a testament to Joshua's intellectual and academic distinction. I am confident that Joshua will not only excel in his pursuit of a master of science in Applied Digital Health but also establish new standards in the digital health field.

When you first meet Joshua, you will instantly appreciate that he is exceptionally warm and whip-smart, but as you dig deeper, you will discover that he is also a musician and avid advocate. He excels in many fronts – an attribute that distinguishes him.

At Yale, Joshua has dedicated countless hours in diverse clinical settings, notably offering his support to patients and staff in the intensive care unit at the Yale New Haven Hospital. His dedication and commendations from the healthcare staff propelled him to be selected as one of the first eight patient care coordinators for our free clinic dedicated to uninsured and underprivileged patients.

DISTRICT 6000 FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Creating hope in the world through social media using the Rotary Four-Way Test

Has someone ever made you feel small? Like you were worthless and nothing you could do could possibly make you fit in with the crowd? Every day, people experience despair and will beat themselves up about not being perfect, especially teenagers. As a teenager, I know what it is like to try to find who you are as a person and the type of reputation you want to create. It is easy to get caught up in the addictiveness of social media and trends. Society has put a lot of pressure on people to have and do so many things in this world. Social media can create negativity; however, if we use Rotary's Four-Way Test and use **truth, fairness, goodwill, and friendship** in our online interactions, we can create hope in the world.

The first question we should ask ourselves when we think, say, or do something on social media is, **Is it the truth?** Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have come to be known for their misinformed posts found in their "News Feed." These often lead to controversies between two political parties, and fluctuate people's opinions of one another dramatically. These fake news posts can make the parties gain a negative attitude rather than an open mindset about things. If we see these and know they are not true, we can simply ignore them and before we fall into those patterns of fake news, we can stop to ask ourselves if what we are posting is the truth.

On the other hand, TikTok has algorithms that put you on different "sides" of TikTok which form your feed based on your specific interests. This has given people a place to feel comfortable sharing personal experiences and asking questions that have been frowned upon in our society for decades. As the narrative begins to shift, rather than feeling small, different, and worthless, teenagers are able to feel comfortable and confident making it easier to find themselves. Posting on a platform where people will relate to their struggles or uniqueness is all because people are posting real and true content.

The next question we should ask ourselves is if the information we are posting is **fair to all concerned**. Our society holds a lot of discrimination, but at the end of the day, it all comes down to if what we are doing is just. To better understand this, think about if what you are saying on social media is what you want to be known for, and what you stand for. Being honest about who you are and what you say to others and knowing that in the end, you are posting this content for the greater good. Some of the most heartwarming stories we have seen fall during COVID-19 when everyone was quarantined at home. Many people were alone or struggling with this big change. People began to use social media and its resources to connect with others more. Small acts of joy and kindness kept building until people's feeds were flooded with heartwarming posts about kids writing notes to send to their elderly neighbors, a grandpa on a video call with his grandson singing a song together, or simply people just sharing funny videos about what their family is doing. We have all seen social media used for the greater good, but some of

that has gone away again. Taking a minute to think about how we could use social media for the greater good can help flood our feeds with positivity again.

The third question we should be asking ourselves is if we are building **goodwill and better friendships**. When we first think of friendships we often think of the connection we build with others; however, before we can build a strong relationship with others we have to be true to ourselves and be our own friend. Creating this authenticity then helps us to be a good friend to others. Oftentimes, the influencers we follow use paid partnerships to advertise products and make more money from them. Current fashion trends, beauty standards, and endorsements of luxury items begin to look like the key to happiness and success when in reality, those influencers may never use those products again. However, influencers who post about their daily routines and aren't afraid to share their imperfections or disagreements make their content more authentic and relatable for viewers. Creating hope through the small things they think, say, and do allows us as viewers to build confidence and positivity. The best thing to do is to find accounts that you can connect with, that are going to help grow and motivate you.

The last question of the Four-Way Test asks if it is **beneficial to all concerned**. Human nature forces us to judge something within seconds of seeing it. Though what we see may be an honest and true opinion to us, it doesn't make it true to others. Unnecessary comments have gotten out of hand because of how much time people spend using social media apps and their underlying jealousy of others. Comments on people's posts include uncomfortable words like: "Don't you think you've posted enough of these?" "Is that an old picture or did you lose a little weight?" These comments are unnecessary and rude. They make people feel scared to post themselves and make them second-guess everything they do when they have done no harm. Thinking about whether the things we comment on, are comments we would want someone to say to us is an important way to know if we should really be saying that to others.

Social media holds a lot of power in today's society to shape our perceptions. Though we see countless amounts of bad and unhealthy content, we can start to change the narrative by looking at what we post through the lens of Rotary's Four-Way Test. Asking ourselves if what we are posting and commenting on is **true, fair, creates friendships, or is beneficial to all concerned** will automatically eliminate the things that make individuals feel small and worthless. Though nothing is going to change overnight, the little bit of hope we can provide through social media could be seen by someone who really needed that reminder for themselves that day. One simple post of encouragement might be what it takes for someone to gain that hope they need. And, if we all participate in the Four-Way Test, we can use social media to spread hope, worldwide.

– Eva Lubben, North Scott



Eva Lubben

DISTRICT 6000 FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Four-Way Test lets us see things from another's point of view, walk in their shoes

It's a beautiful day outside, so let's go on a walk together. Imagine we're stepping out into the glory of a day so perfect it seems like the world itself is inviting us to explore, to discover, and to connect. Now imagine that we're walking along a trail that weaves through a beautiful forest where the air is alive with the rustling of the leaves and the distant chirping of birds. Now, as we draw parallels between the beauty of our surroundings and the potential within each of us, let us explore these possibilities through the lens of hope. And let's guide that by the timeless wisdom of the **Four-Way Test**.

However, if we truly want to embrace this journey, we must consider a principle that intersects beautifully with our guide: putting ourselves in others' shoes, an approach that not only meets but enriches the **Four-Way Test**.

Is it the truth? When we strive to see the world from another's perspective, we accept a truth that is larger than our individual experiences. This truth acknowledges that our shared humanity is a mosaic of diverse stories, challenges, and dreams.

According to the **United Nations**, over 700 million people still live in extreme poverty worldwide. That's a sobering truth, and if we could each lend them a shoe – preferably the left one – we might just start walking in circles, but we'd also begin to understand their journey. Remembering the wise words of Harper Lee's **"To Kill a Mockingbird"**: *"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."* Just make sure you have their permission first; climbing into someone's skin uninvited is kind of weird.

Is it fair to all concerned? Fairness becomes more than just a concept when we attempt to walk in another's shoes. This approach ensures that fairness isn't just an abstract concept but a lived principle that guides our interactions with people and decisions. It prompts us to create opportunities that uplift all, fostering a sense of hope that a fair world is not just possible but within reach. As a study by the **World Bank** pointed out, equitable access to resources significantly reduces poverty. So, if life were a shoe store, fairness would mean everyone could at least get a decent pair of sneakers.

Does it build goodwill and better friendships? Empathy, it's our very nature. Empathy is all about understanding and sharing the feelings of others, even if their taste in music or movies makes you question their sanity. **Nelson Mandela's** friendship with his jailer is a powerful example. Mandela's journey from

prisoner to president is a testament to the transformative power of empathy and understanding.

After spending 27 years in prison, **Mandela** could have emerged with a heart hardened by bitterness. Instead, he chose reconciliation over revenge, understanding over conflict. He famously said, "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner." From this, Mandela took an ideal world and made it a profound reality.

Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Viewing the world from another's perspective encourages us to act in ways that are beneficial for everyone. Imagine if we all decided to swap shoes for a day. Yes, we'd stumble around, stepping on each other's toes (hopefully not literally), but we'd gain invaluable insights into each other's lives. Honestly I believe that former president **Barack Obama** really summarized what I want to get at here, he emphasized that *"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

This powerful reminder serves as a beacon, guiding us to be active in creating hope and positive change. By embracing empathy, understanding, and putting ourselves in others' shoes, we don't just dream of a better world – we become the architects of it. Through our actions, big and small, we forge a path towards a future, a future that creates ripples of hope, not just within our community but to all corners of the globe.

So, let us walk together, side by side, toward the apex where every dawn brings us closer to a world of understanding, fairness, and laughter. Because at the end of the day, it's not just about the shoes we wear but the steps we take together that truly matter.

Thank you.

– Ojas Sharma, West Des Moines



Ojas Sharma



Honor Society

Juliette Genin (left), Rotary Club of Iowa City AM Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Student from France, also presented her Four-Way Test speech at the District Celebration in Pella. Iowa City AM Rotarians were proud that she was inducted into The National Honor Society at City High School in Iowa City. "The Rotary Club of Iowa City AM is so very proud that an Exchange Student made the National Honor Society," said Vernet Knapp.

Submitted by Vernet Knapp



Allyson Walters Ames



Richard Job Ankeny



Fred Anderson Bettendorf



Matt Elthon Boone



Phyllis Miller Decatur County



Lyle Simpson Des Moines AM

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

11 honored as ‘Guardians of Integrity’

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

District 6000 Vocational Service Chair

Eleven Rotarians who were nominated by their clubs were honored by District 6000 as “Guardians of Integrity” at the District Conference at Pella. This is the 14th year for the awards that were begun in 2011 to recognize individuals who have made contributions that foster the development of integrity.

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.



Paul Hellwege Boone

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 Allyson Walter reveals leadership with integrity in Rotary, in business, and in her community. She has played multiple Rotary leadership roles in her club, the district and even held the chief position in an international Rotary fellowship. As a business owner, she has afforded ISU students internships and provided business opportunities for 50 retailers. When Ames Main Street Cultural District Board President, she led the process to articulate the position of a director to the benefit of her beloved town. “Involved. Dedicated. Progressive.”

Ankeny Rotarian Richard Job has used his Mechanical Engineering background to the benefit of the industry, agriculture and his country. His “smart solutions” have led to innovation in designing tow tractors for the U.S. Navy’s aircraft carriers and to the development of an agricultural machine cab to protect farmers. Due to his expertise, he has represented the United States Technical Advisory Group in the International Standards Organization. In retirement, Rich mentors high school students and has helped to organize Robotics teams, a gift to the next generation.

Bettendorf Rotarian Fred Anderson is a “quiet advocate for what is right, true and just.” Testimony to this is his painstaking

attention to details in the weekly newsletter after each Rotary meeting that he faithfully compiles to document the history of his club as well as to report to members who were unable to be present. His dedication to accurate reporting is notable. Equally important is his devotion the next generation. Fred has become a dependable grandfather figure to first-graders at Bettendorf schools where he reliably shows up to read with them. Fred served on the Ecumenical Housing Development Group Board for a decade and is an Air Force veteran from Vietnam.

Boone Rotarian Matt Elthon goes above and beyond what is asked. As a buyer for Fareway Grocery Stores, Matt left his office and extended his work day during Covid and a recent snow storm situation when extra help was essential in the warehouse. As a member of the school board of the Boone Community Schools, he represents community members’ concerns and is the “thoughtful and intentional” voice when there are challenging questions to consider. Active in his church and in the lives and activities of his children, Matt can be relied on by all.

Decatur County Rotarian Phyllis Miller has positively influenced the lives of others in her own community and throughout the world. As a Rotary volunteer distributing polio vaccine in India or laboring to build a school in Mexico or an orphanage in China or teaching about technology use at a medical facility in an Amazon village, her mark is there. A host mother to Rotary Youth Exchange students and a 19-year member of the Rotary District Youth Exchange Committee, she’s inspired future generations and has “generated peace and understanding.”

Des Moines AM Rotarian Lyle Simpson has a storied career as a highly regarded lawyer who has been elected by his peers to serve his profession in many capacities. His zeal to champion “a lifelong passion to fairness” was made concrete when he pioneered as an advocate for mental health services in Polk County and throughout Iowa in past times when his viewpoint was not accepted by all. His caring and humanist approach toward his fellow man is reflected in two books and numerous articles he has authored.

Iowa City AM Rotarian Chris Knapp is “incredibly, joyfully dedicated and hardworking” as he shoulders responsibility after responsibility for Rotary. A Past District Governor, he

continued on next page



John Culshaw
Iowa City



**Iowa City AM
Chris Knapp**



Chris Durlam
Jefferson



Jan Touney
North Scott



Bob Kaldenberg
Winterset

continues to serve as an Assistant Governor because there is a need. He is the District Advisor of the Service to Youth Committee, the Vice Chair of the Youth Exchange Committee and he leads the south/central zone of RYE. He just completed a five-year term as District Foundation Chair so he has more time to devote to his job of treasurer of his club. No end to his dedication.

Iowa City Rotarian John Culshaw “embodies Service Above Self every day.” In addition to his position as Librarian of the University of Iowa Library, one of the largest library systems in the U.S., John has established a scholarship program for library employees, built partnership with UI’s Center for the Book and Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and is a Director on many professional boards. What John has done to promote DEI within his club is innovative and inspiring to the point that other area clubs have reached out and asked for his help as a resource.

Jefferson Rotarian Chris Durlam “exemplifies Service Above Self.” He does active duty for his Rotary club with support for the annual Jefferson auction, planting and maintaining trees for the Rotary Outdoor Classroom, and developing the local Dog Park. His committed community support and assistance to local farmers distinguishes him. Chris provides

his vocation’s electrician skills to Habitat for Humanity. He mentors and offers internships for industrial education students and shows up in minutes when farmers have desperate need during harvest.

North Scott Rotarian Jan Touney modeled fairness and courtesy as editor of daily newspapers in Decatur, Ill., and Davenport. She brought the same ethic to her Rotary club as mentor to Interact students, awakening them to needs in their own community and at her club’s projects in Kisoro, Uganda, showing the youth what extreme poverty looks like and how to show compassion to others’ situations.. She organized her club’s Four-Way Test speech contest, contributes to her club’s weekly newsletter, and edits a monthly newsletter for her church.

Winterset Rotarian Robert Kaldenberg is a past educator. He continues to teach those around him to be “better citizens and community members,” modeling for others to learn. He has raised funds for wheelchairs in South America, built blue bird houses for the city, promoted the local skate park, encouraged reading programs for preschoolers, maintained the Rotary maze, supported Rotary Youth Exchange and revitalized the Winterset Cross County Program. In retirement, he assists his peers with health insurance needs with kind

GREATER DES MOINES AREA CLUBS

Civitas will host trafficking training Sept. 24-25

By **Ron Heideman/Indianola**
Civitas Co-Chair

Civitas has been working on our educational program for 2023-24 and we have exciting news! Civitas is an initiative of the Des Moines Metro Rotary Multi-Club Committee. For the third year, our theme will be Prevention of Human Trafficking.

In coordination with **Sgt. Brady Carney**, director of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, we facilitated a **Human Trafficking Roundtable** in December 2023. It included law enforcement, human trafficking nonprofits, a teacher, Civitas representatives, Paul Pate (Iowa Secretary of State), and others. The participants will help design our September 2024 Event.

Des Moines metro area law enforcement officers will be invited to attend training on Sept. 24-25 designed to help officers identify human trafficking. We will also be inviting social workers, hospital staff, trafficking nonprofits, and others working in the field to the training.

The training will be led by **Dan Nash**. Sgt Nash is the co-founder of the **Human Trafficking Training Center** and a retired Missouri State Trooper. He spent 27 years investigating narcotic/vice crimes, violent crime, and human trafficking. Dan was the sergeant of the **Human Trafficking Unit** and the enforcement

supervisor of the **Missouri Attorney General’s Office Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force**. Dan has instructed human trafficking training in numerous states for law enforcement, victim advocates, casinos, firefighters, hospitals, and nationwide non-profits.

Rotarians and the public will be invited to attend our Civitas Evening Event on Sept. 24. This event will be similar to previous Civitas events. **Sgt. Nash** will be the keynote speaker. He will be joined by others identified by the **Human Trafficking Roundtable**. Please add this to your calendar and plan to attend. We’ll have more information in the summer of 2024.

Secondly, all Rotary clubs in District 6000 are encouraged to register their clubs with the Secretary of State’s IBAT program (Iowa Businesses Against Human Trafficking, <https://ibat.iowa.gov/>). It’s easy to register and there is no charge.

January was **Human Trafficking Prevention Month**. Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds had a proclamation signing and Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Awards ceremony on Jan. 11 at the Iowa State Capitol Building Rotunda.

Rotary clubs are encouraged to work with their local mayor to issue an Anti-Trafficking Proclamation. Learn more about Iowa’s fight against human trafficking at: www.iowaaha.org.

Ames' African water projects get boost from Hy-Vee

By Glen Rippke/Ames

On Feb. 5, Scott Smith, external relations director for Hy-Vee, Inc., presented the Rotary Club of Ames with a \$100,000 check to go toward our fifth **Water and Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) Global Grant** project in **Tanzania** in east Africa. We greatly appreciate their continued generous support of these important projects.

Each Tanzanian village that has received a new sustainable water system has enjoyed immediate and long-lasting benefits to all social and economic segments of the population through:

1. **Improved hygiene** and sanitation;
2. **Increased community** and social development;
3. **Economic empowerment** for women, men and youth;
4. **Academic progress** for primary and secondary school students;
5. **Improved food** security.

Funds from within Rotary for each water system are provided by Rotary clubs, Rotary districts, and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Funding also comes from corporate sponsors such as Hy-Vee, churches, and interested groups and individuals.

Hy-Vee has been a major corporate sponsor on each of the four WASH global grants. The first site to receive a new water system was the village of **Kigogo**, 2014-2015, followed by **Masandare**, 2016-2017, **Mhezi I**, 2018-2019, and **Mhezi II**, 2020-2021.

The water system sites include developing the water source, a water treatment facility, a water storage structure, and a piping system to distribution points throughout each village. The total budget for the first four water systems was over \$1,050,000.

Since 2014, the international host sponsor, the **Rotary Club**

of Same, Tanzania, has partnered with the **Rotary Club of Ames** on each of the four WASH projects.

We are currently working on our fifth WASH Global Grant for the **Tanzania** village of **Menamu**, with a budget of more than \$400,000. Hy-Vee's recent \$100,000 gift is a vital contribution to this project.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Hy-Vee, Inc. for their continued support for providing clean water to those most in need. To learn more about our global grant projects, contact **Glen Rippke**, glenrippke@gmail.com, or **Dave Fox**, d.m.fox1942@gmail.com.



L-R, Scott Smith of HvVee, David Fox & Glen Rippke of the Rotary Club of Ames.



Level 2 Major Donor

District Governor Dennis and Heidi Drager (I) presented Major Donor Level 2 recognition to Chris and Laura Bertelson at the Rotary Club of Winterset meeting on Feb. 22. At right is PDG Jacquie Andrew. Chris presented a very clever program about the flow of \$\$ through the Foundation.

Provided by Jacquie Andrew



Grant Management Seminar

Presenters at Feb. 24 Rotary Foundation Grant Management Seminar at West Liberty were Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty, district trainer), Todd Wheeler (Des Moines, Community Grants), and Doug Flournoy (Fairfield, Global Grants). A Grant Management Seminar was also held in conjunction with the March 30 District Assembly, attended by 82. Photo by Bill Tubbs



Club leaders, check your progress on page 15, and make plans to meet or exceed your goals on or before June 30!

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments

District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2023 - June 19, 2024 (*)

(Members: July 1, 2015-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23)	(1) 23-24 Goal	(2) % of Goal	(3) Per capita	(4) Thru 6-19-24	(5) PolioPlus	(6) Other (**)	(7) TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28-24-21-27-22)	\$ 4,500	121	\$ 247.50	\$ 5,445	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 5,645
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29-29-32-32)	750	0	0	0	30	0	30
Ames (224-226-217-206-186-172-167-158-144)	16,000	115	127.76	18,400	12,924	700	32,024
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46-43-43-40)	6,000	385	576.90	23,076	2,264	0	25,340
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83-101, 97-109-78)	18,000	98	227.12	17,715	11,110	55	28,880
Ankeny Evening (new - 0)	5,000	82	-	4,079	2,921	0	7,000
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62- 59-53-57)	4,000	48	33.40	1,904	90	0	1,994
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100-94-123-118)	20,000	72	121.61	14,350	5,870	0	20,220
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12-13-12)	1,500	7	8.33	100	6,305	0	6,405
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46- 50-59-52)	6,000	273	315.28	16,384	9,884	14,372	40,650
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73-62-60-54)	500	135	12.50	675	300	100	1,075
Carroll (46-44-43-44-42-26-35-34-30)	150	1,733	86.67	2,600	150	0	2,750
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38-38-34-39)	3,500	109	98.08	3,825	210	0	4,035
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39-40-36-32-31)	3,000	101	97.58	3,025	615	0	3,640
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80-70-77-73)	8,000	102	111.96	2,091	0	0	10,264
Coon Rapids (27-31-34-30-29-28-27-21-21)	1,000	0	0	0	80	0	80
Coralville-N. Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22-23-24-25)	3,000	47	56.00	1,400	256	0	1,656
Corning (34-33-32-32-31-30-27-28-28)	1,000	92	32.79	918	1,030	0	1,948
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18-16-16-13)	1,000	140	107.69	1,400	30	0	1,430
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21-21-13)	200	50	7.69	100	0	0	100
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30-24-27-28)	3,000	0	0	0	135	0	135
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94-67-56-52)	6,500	55	69.23	3,600	2,250	0	5,850
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28-30-29-26)	6,000	73	169.23	4,400	1,000	100	5,500
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31-32-31-31)	2,000	0	0	0	0	27	27
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227-189-183)	16,500	98	87.98	16,100	3,194	0	19,294
Des Moines AM (170-170-179-189-194-200-209-194-192)	14,000	99	72.45	13,910	200	15,225	29,335
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22-23-18-20)	2,000	0	0	0	255	0	255
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41-34-32-27)	1,000	136	50.37	1,360	300	0	1,660
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42-43-44-40)	4,000	53	52.50	2,100	569	0	2,669
Greater Des Moines (12-12-11-13-26-17-12-11-8)	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34-32-33-31)	5,500	66	116.94	3,625	420	0	4,045
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37-32-29-35)	3,000	224	192.00	6,720	1,186	120	8,026
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271-239-225-215)	35,000	69	112.60	24,210	7,493	100	31,302
Iowa City AM (66-69-74-71-74-79-75-70-62)	12,500	106	213.96	13,265	134,505	100	147,870
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24-20-22-26)	3,750	99	143.27	3,725	1,495	0	5,220
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36-32-29-27)	2,000	85	62.96	1,700	456	0	2,156
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55-46-40-45)	5,000	207	230.40	10,368	2,319	0	12,687
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44-41-45-50)	9,000	74	133.06	6,653	1,120	500	8,273
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-38-32-32-31)	1,500	60	29.03	900	2,363	0	3,263
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41-37-37-35)	2,500	172	122.86	4,300	60	0	4,360
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26-24-25-29)	1,200	100	41.36	1,200	200	0	1,400
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34-30-28-32)	500	445	69.53	2,225	3,316	0	5,541
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25-25-15-12)	12	1,200	0	0	170	0	170
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22-20-20-18)	1,200	83	55.56	1,000	250	0	1,250
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10-9-11)	100	600	54.55	600	240	0	840
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117-111-129-130)	7,500	129	74.65	9,704	37,695	60,900	108,229
Mt. Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53-44-39-37)	2,000	77	41.51	1,536	290	0	1,826
Mt. Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15-15-15-16)	1,000	40	25.00	400	615	6,300	7,315
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62-60-62-56)	6,000	126	135.18	7,570	99	50,160	57,529
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48-56-59-53)	10,500	93	183.96	9,750	1,945	10,000	21,695
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38-33-34-32)	2,000	45	28.13	900	1,765	0	2,665
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95-91-100-110)	12,000	126	137.50	15,125	2,186	3,000	20,311
N'West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37-29-29-24)	10,000	153	638.54	15,325	3,630	0	18,955
Norwalk (0-0-20-24-18-18-17-18-15)	500	250	83.33	1,250	180	0	1,430
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21-17-17-16)	500	100	31.25	500	100	0	600
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59-49-46-41)	4,000	22	21.22	870	90	0	960
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75-75-70-67)	7,500	27	30.60	2,050	1,100	0	3,150
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26-27-28-26)	3,500	89	119.62	3,110	310	0	3,420
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22-22-25-24)	1,000	71	29.38	705	554	0	1,259
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23-23-20-22)	3,600	108	172.91	3,804	1,235	0	5,039
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41-35-31-33)	4,000	114	137.88	4,560	2,395	0	6,945
Waukee (58-64-69-64-68-73-69-76-75)	9,000	169	202.40	15,180	2,582	100	17,862
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23-20-20-18)	2,000	95	105.11	1,892	350	0	2,242
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45-38-42-38)	5,550	36	52.89	2,010	3,019	57,150	62,179
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36-37-42-33)	10,000	121	365.15	12,050	2,880	0	14,930
West Polk County (X-31-18-19-20-24-21-17-18)	1,000	0	0	0	1,630	0	1,630
Winterset (25-30-33-29-30-32-38)	4,000	249	262.29	9,967	5,928	0	15,895
Total (3,854-3,853-3,793-3,693-3,580-3,464-3,212-3,064)	\$ 348,700	101.41	\$ 115.42	\$ 353,634	\$ 309,579	\$203,784	\$ 886,997

(*) Interim Report as of June 19, 2024. (**) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants

Tom Narak remembered well in Xicotepec

By Jiim Peterson/Iowa City

District 6000 Xicotepec Project Team Leader

The 2024 project team visit to Xicotepec was, as usual, one of fellowship, hard work and celebration of visits past and present, but with an added bittersweet dimension that arose from the many honors paid to **DG Tom Narak** – who passed away last December – by those in Xicotepec who knew him and his contributions to their schools, their children and their community.

Each year after Tom's first trip to Xicotepec in 2007 as a member of that year's District 6000 project team he, along with his wife **Carol** (both West Des Moines Rotarians), helped plan and coordinate the project team trip that occurs each March during spring break. The planning for the 2024 trip was well underway when Tom died suddenly and unexpectedly while visiting their daughter Jill and her family in Alabama.

The news of Tom's death was received with great sadness by many in Xicotepec. Rotarians there made arrangements for a Catholic mass to be celebrated on the evening of his death, and the municipal president, **Lupita Vargas**, published an expression of sympathy and loss on the municipal government's social media sites.

Tom's contributions to Xicotepec are far too many to be listed here, but he was well known by local students, parents and teachers for the many school uniforms that were provided by him and **Carol** for students from poor families. They also paid for surgeries and medical care for children, donated loads of school supplies to schools, bought shoes for children in orphanages and made sure that the nuns and the dogs at the Francisco Velasco Marañón school had enough to eat. Over the years their generosity has benefited innumerable Xicotepecanos.

Among the 33 team members who traveled to Xicotepec in March were **Carol** and their son **Tom Narak Jr.**, and they witnessed heartfelt homages and accepted a variety of gifts, expressions of sympathy and recognitions of **Tom** during their week there. The memorial event at the Rotary Club School on Friday was a particularly evocative and touching tribute to **Tom**.

In addition to honoring **Tom**, project team members carried out a variety of projects in the course of the week. A group of 10 students of **Public Health** from the **University of Iowa** worked with their professor, **Paul Gilbert**, school and municipal staff and other project team members to prepare and conduct presen-



Volunteers at the Telesecundaria Mexico School, front, (l-r): Tom Narak, Jr, Deanna Zinno (formerly Ankeny Rotarian, now living in Buffalo, NY, Carol Narak, Viviana Ramirez (IC Area Rotaractor), Kayla Gutshall (IC Area Rotaractor), Ricardo Huidobro (Director of the Escuela Telesecundaria México, where the picture was taken), Alta Medea-Peters (Iowa City AM Rotarian), Teresa González (wife of Xicotepec Rotarian Millo Fosado), Amiritha Kumar (Iowa City Area Rotaract President), Allie Boge (Iowa City AM Rotarian); back: Luis Arturo Arroyo (Xicotepec Rotarian), Carlos Gómez-Tello (Xicotepec Rotarian), Ariel (Xicotepec Rotaractor), Phil Peterson (partially hidden), a visiting Rotaractor in pink vest, María José Garrido (president, Xicotepec Rotaract Club), (woman behind, unknown), the five kids in orange shirts are students at the secondary school where the photo was taken. Jim Peterson is behind them. DG Dennis Drager is at right,

Photos provided by Jim Peterson



Volunteers rehab a bus stop built by Xicotepec Rotarians, front, (l-r): María José Garrido (president, Xicotepec Rotaract), el Güero (Xicotepec Rotarian), Katie Wilford (RC of Linn County, D5970), Erin Chen (Iowa City West HS Interactor), Amiritha Kumar (IC Area Rotaractor), Sally Hartman (not a Rotarian, friend of RC of IC Rotarian Chris Catney), Jenny Seylar (Iowa City A.M. Rotarian); back: Jim Peterson (team leader), Phil Peterson, Amy Nicholson (all Iowa City AM Rotarians), Jasmine Sanasinh, Viviana Ramirez, Kayla Gutshall (all IC Area Rotaractors), Gianna Zinno, Deanna Zinno, Juan Rosado, Norah Kauper (both Iowa City City HS Interactors).

tations on domestic violence in schools. A secondary school in the village of **Nactanca Grande** was painted; mothers of students prepared a feast for all who helped. A bus stop – one of seven that have been built by the **Xicotepec Rotary Club** – was cleaned up and repainted.

At a secondary school the project team was able to see the completed stage for performances that was worked on by the previous year's project team and to begin excavation in preparation for con-

struction of a retaining wall behind the stage. At the **CAM special education school**, team members poured concrete to help construct a new storage room. **Iowa City Rotaractors** joined **Xicotepec Rotaractors** in a ceremony to initiate construction of a new bus stop at the **Universidad Tecnológica de Xicotepec de Juárez**.

As has been the case in recent years, the Iowa project team enjoyed the

XICOTEPEC, continued on page 17A

'XICOTEPEC NICE'

Learning love from our Mexican neighbors

By Kayla Gutshall

Xicotepec Project Team member

Xicotepec. They call it the "City of Magic," and I must say that's true. I had no expectations when coming to this town, I had never been to Mexico, let alone even heard of Xicotepec. But, while I was there, eating, dancing, painting, and celebrating the life of **Tom Narak**, I realized I'd be leaving a part of my heart in this town.

I knew I had come on this trip to serve the Xicotepec community, to help out this quaint town, to build a lasting impact that would be appreciated by everyone in it, but I didn't know that while I was serving them, they'd be serving me, too. And no, they didn't serve me in the traditional meaning of service. The people of Xicotepec served me in a deeper way than I thought possible: they showed me what it means to love deeply, to appreciate every little thing you have and you have worked for, to treat everyone as family, and to care so deeply that your heart is overflowing with joy.

I learned on this trip that the world is full of so many beautiful people with beautiful souls, you just have to be brave enough to say yes to any opportunity life gives you and go out and meet them. I think it's so easy these days to be weighed down by all the turmoil that grapples our everyday lives, it's so easy to lose faith in humanity, to lose hope that the world will ever have peace. But, Xicotepec showed me that peace still exists, and it's as in full bloom as ever.

The people of this city care about one another in a way that puts "Iowa nice" to shame. They love so raw and so genuinely that you relearn what it means to be truly loved, and you bring that back to Iowa with you. You bring back the peace they filled you with and you hope to provide that same feeling to someone else, to provide someone else with a whole new outlook on life. An outlook on life that opens their minds to the world, allows them to see there's so much more to this life than their own problems, and we really are all here for some purpose that is far greater than any of our individual ones. We're all interconnected in a way that gives life meaning.

It's that meaning that I'm still trying to carry out stateside, and no, I don't think I've figured it out yet. I'm still learning how to bring "Xicotepec nice" to "Iowa nice," how to fulfill that part of my heart I left in Mexico, how to bring parts of my Xicotepec family to my Iowa family, how to truly explain to people how amazing this trip was because no matter how hard I try it always falls short.

So, until I figure out how to bring all of Xicotepec to Iowa, this is my love letter to the City of Magic. Thank you for fulfilling my heart in more ways than I ever thought possible. Take care of each other until we meet again. And, know that I'll always carry you with me no matter how far apart we may be.

2024 Xicotepec Project Team

XICOTEPEC, continued from page 16A

companionship and support of all of the Xicotepec Rotary "Family" – not only Rotarians, but also members of the **Inner Wheel Club, Rotaract Club, Interact Club** and other local citizens who have participated in past years and who look forward each spring to the opportunity to join in the effort to improve their community.

The application period for the 2025 trip to Xicotepec will open in September. Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and their family members are welcome to apply. For information, send email to xicoproj@gmail.com.



Xicotepec team members (l-r): Team leader Jim Peterson, Iowa City AM; Carlos Garrido (president Rotary Club of Xicotepec 2023-24); Katie Wilford (D5970 Rotarian, Rotary Club of Linn County), Kayla Gutshall; Jasmine Sanasinh (Iowa City Area Rotaractor); and Alta Medea (Rotary Club of Iowa City AM).



Xicotepec Rotarians held a memorial service for PDG Tom Narak at the Rotary School honoring Tom's wife, Carol Narak.

Rotary In Memoriam Thomas C. Narak

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2018-19

Thomas "Tom" Charles Narak, age 74, of West Des Moines, passed away unexpectedly on December 18, 2023. Beloved by his family and friends, Tom was a loving husband, father and grandfather who lived a life of service to others, and was known throughout his life for his warm, giving nature, kindness and sense of humor.

Tom is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carol, their three children and their spouses, Tom Jr. and Marie, Jill and Kenny, Susie and Colette, their six grandchildren, Destinee, PJ, Victoria, Owen, Charlie and Jack, and their great granddaughter Callie.

The son of Raymond and Marian Narak, Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 19, 1949. Tom's lifelong love for dogs began during his childhood in Chicago with a standard poodle named Pierre, and Ricky, the family's collie, who helped a young Tom deliver newspapers. Hunting dogs and family pets were a constant in Tom's life as he and Carol raised their family, including Chopper the Chinese Shar-Pei and most recently German Short-haired Pointer Jake, who was named for "Joliet" Jake Blues, from one of his favorite movies "The Blues Brothers." The joy Tom expressed when talking about his dogs was infectious to anyone listening.

Education was deeply important to Tom. In 1970, he earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in physical education from Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa, where he and Carol met and fell in love. While working as a teacher and raising his family with Carol, Tom also earned a master's in education from Northwest Missouri State University and an education specialist degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1989, Tom was awarded a doctorate in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Over the course of his 41-year career as an educator and school administrator, Tom served as a science teacher at Westwood Community Schools in Sloan, Iowa; principal and athletic director at Exira High School in Exira, Iowa; principal and county superintendent at Schuyler Grade School in Schuyler, Colfax County, Nebraska; superintendent for Alta Community Schools in Alta, Iowa; superintendent for the Indianola School District in Indianola, Iowa; and superintendent of schools in West Des Moines, Iowa. He retired in 2011 but continued supporting efforts to improve public education in Iowa.

One of the achievements Tom was most proud of during his career was assisting in the effort to pass SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) funding in Iowa in 2008. That funding has provided students across the state with access to quality school buildings that have helped prepare them for 21st-century careers.

As an advocate for children and education, Tom made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of students, their

families and their communities. Tom continued his life of service through his work with Rotary International and helped improve the lives of countless others around the world.

With the exception of his time in Alta where he was involved in Kiwanis Club, Tom was an active member of Rotary International since 1979. As Rotary District 6000 Governor from 2018 to 2019, his priorities were the prevention of child abuse, eradication of polio, and improving literacy rates for children.

Tom and his family hosted numerous exchange students through Rotary at their West Des Moines home.

In 2007, Tom and Carol began working on various Rotary projects in Xicotepec, Mexico. They quickly fell in love with the area and the people. It was not unusual for Tom to go above and beyond the scope of a project during his trips to Mexico.

In addition to Tom's work with Rotary, he served on the boards of Morningside University, the United Way of Central Iowa and the Iowa High School Speech Association. He also served as Government Relations Director for the School Administrators of Iowa. In 2010, Tom was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame for his commitment and dedication to the speech and theater students of Iowa.

Tom loved his family, children and dogs. His service to others provided him with joy. Stories about fishing trips comfort his family through laughter. He was an avid pheasant hunter who shared those adventures with family and friends. Tom was an early adopter of electronic gadgets and enjoyed watching television and cooking meat with his smoker. Tom and Carol shared many adventures traveling the country and the world. As a Chicagoan living in Iowa, he remained a Bears, Bulls and Cubs fan throughout his life. Tom knew no strangers. His positive presence filled any space he entered. He will be deeply missed.

The family is grateful to the doctors, aides and nurses at Huntsville Hospital in Alabama who provided care for Tom at the end of his life. The family would also like to acknowledge in-laws John and Marsha Dahl and dear friends Michael and Barbara Owsianiak and Greg Ender for the love and friendship they shared with Tom during his life.

In remembrance of Tom, charitable donations may be made in any amount to The Rotary Foundation, the Xicotepec Project, or to a charity of your choice that is focused on improving the lives of children. Bicycles in need of repair can also be donated to the Rotary Club of West Des Moines. The bikes are repaired and donated to school students in the West Des Moines area.

A celebration of life was held in West Des Moines at West Des Moines Valley High School's Staplin Performing Arts Center on Jan. 6, 2024. Burial will be at Resthaven Cemetery at a later date.



Past District Governor Tom Narak



Leaders of organizations in the Quad Cities who provide services to others received grants totaling \$80,378 from the Rotary Club of Bettendorf on Jan. 10. President Joe Champion said, "In another couple days we will announce about \$57,000 more."

BETTENDORF

Grants to 32 organizations total \$80,378

By Carol Foster/Bettendorf

The Rotary Club of Bettendorf distributed grants to 32 charities at their celebratory meeting on Jan. 10, 2024 at the Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf.

Funds raised throughout the year, primarily from the club's annual LobsterFest, are used, in part, to support non-profit organizations that provide basic human services, serve youth or meet local community needs. Over \$80,000 was distributed to the charities, which represents the largest amount given out and to the largest number of organizations in a year for the Bettendorf club.

"We are so pleased to be able to assist these very deserving charities that do so

much good for our community and make the Quad Cities a better place for everyone," said **Joe Champion**, Bettendorf Rotary's president.

The Grants Committee reviewed 75 applications. After assessing each application, the committee finalized their list of organizations. The grants:

- All Saints Lutheran Food Pantry.** "Food Pantry/Clothing Closet": \$3,000.
- Asbury Ecumenical Garden Ministry.** "Ecumenical Garden Ministry": \$3,000
- Argrow's House of Healing & Hope.** "Residential Security System": \$2,000
- Autistic and Loved, LLC.** "Sensory Friendly Events": \$3,000
- Bridges Cities Church.** "Night to Shine Prom": \$3,000
- CASI.** "Adult Day Services Program Chairs": \$3,000
- Children's Therapy Center of the Quad**

- Cities.** "Therapy Services": \$2,000
- Civil Air Patrol.** "Uniform Purchase Support": \$800
- Common Chord.** "Acoustic Music Clubs": \$2,500
- Every Child.** "Prevention Services": \$1,000
- Family Resources, Inc.** "Enrichment Activities for At-Risk Youth": \$3,000
- Figge Art Museum.** "Art Kits for Homelessness": \$1,200
- First Tee.** "Program Supplies": \$3,000
- Hand in Hand.** "Tools not Toys Kits": \$3,000
- Empowering Abilities (Formerly Handicapped Development Center).** "Dignity and Accessibility": \$3,000
- Heart of Hope Ministries.** "Eliminating Hunger": \$3,000
- Hope at the BRICK House.** "Reading Materials": \$1,000
- Humble Dwellings.** "Furnishing Homes for Refugees": \$3,000
- Humility Homes and Services, Inc.** "Identification for Independence": \$3,000

- ILIA Center for Independent Living.** "Devices for Blind and Low Vision": \$2,000
- Junior League of the Quad Cities.** "Spring Hygiene Drive": \$2,000
- MLK Center.** "MYP and Boxing Club": \$2,500
- NAMI.** "Youth Mental Health Outreach": \$2,000
- Pregnancy Resources.** "Thrive by Five": \$3,000
- Project Now.** "Head Start Nutrition Lessons": \$2,178
- Putnam Museum.** "Community Access Fund ": \$2,700
- Safer Foundation.** "Youth Empowerment Program": \$2,500
- Salvation Army.** "Food Pantry": \$3,000
- St. Anthony Church Hispanic Food Pantry.** "Keep Me Warm": \$3,000
- YWCA.** "Empowerment Center Renovation": \$3,000
- Younglife.** "Camping Creates Hope": \$3,000
- Zion Lutheran Church.** "Emergency Food Pantry": \$3,000

We remember well ...

The lives of Rotarians who died in 2023-24, which were provided to the district upon an invitation from the district office, were remembered in a picture display at the District

Adel
Bill Kimber

Ames
DG 2006-07 Del Bluhm

Ankeny
DG 2010-11 Gary Welch

Atlantic
Robert Cambli

Carroll
Wayne T. Harmening
Dennis Molitar

Clinton
Francis "Francie" Hill
Alan Lorenz

Decatur County
Mary Ruth Horn

Denison
Thomas A. Gustafson
Janine Keim

Des Moines
Russ Johnson
Bill Northey

Iowa City
John D. Schneider
Chet Woodman

Iowa Quad Cities
Mike Boyd

Johnston
Deb Bishop

Keokuk
Ed Kiedaisch

Knoxville
Bill Goff

Marshalltown
Larry Raymon

Nevada
DG 2003-4 Dennis
Skinner

North Scott
Carolyn Scheibe
Warren Hodge

West Des Moines
DG 2005-06 Corliss
Klaassen
DG 2018-19 Tom Narak

Celebration. 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*

IOWA CITY ROTARY CLUBS

Tree planting earns recognition from DNR

By Vicki Struzynski Olson

Iowa City area Rotary clubs of District 6000 was named Outstanding Community Organization by the **Iowa Urban Tree Council**, during the 33rd Annual Urban Forestry Awards Ceremony on April 4, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny.

The four clubs have helped to plant over 1,000 trees and donated tens of thousands of dollars to community projects in Iowa City and surrounding communities the past six years. Rotary club-initiated efforts within each community have assisted and helped to reforest areas impacted by the 2020 derecho and emerald ash borer.

The four Rotary clubs involved include: **Coralville North Corridor, Iowa City, Iowa City AM and Iowa City Downtown**. They worked together Oct. 28 and April 20 on large-scale planting projects. The clubs have a successful history of working together and have created a 501 (c) (3) District 6000 HEFT R.E.E. Fund to accept donations to support future projects. Please contact **Phil Petersen** at ptpeter-son33@gmail.com with any questions or to make a donation.

The clubs invite multiple youth to join their efforts on planting days. Their continued efforts have sparked interest in tree plantings throughout the surrounding communities.

"Iowa City area Rotary clubs of District 6000 is an outstanding example of Iowa's community organizations, by enhancing our forest resources," said Emma Hanigan, Urban Forestry coordinator with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "The work of the Rotary clubs will benefit the Iowa City area for years to come."



Iowa City Rotary clubs received the "Outstanding Community Organization" award from the Iowa Urban Tree Council April 4 at Ankeny, (l-r): Jeff Goerndt, DNR State Forester, Juli Seydell Johnson, Iowa City Director of Parks and Recreation, Vicki Struzynski, Geoff Mouming, Tyler Baird, Iowa City Parks and Forestry, Kayla Lyon, Iowa DNR Director, and Zac Hall, Iowa Urban Tree Council President.

Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.



Tree planting in October.

Photo Vicki Struzynski Olson.

Visits to 74 clubs and club extensions start July 8

By Dave Cook/Boone

District 6000 District Governor 2024-25



DGE David Cook

As the incoming District Governor for Rotary District 6000, I am excited to embark on a journey of connection and inspiration with our clubs. Starting in July, my wife Lisa and I will begin our visits to **74 Rotary clubs and club extensions**, spreading Rotary International's theme for this year: "The Magic of Rotary."

Throughout the first 20 weeks of the new Rotary year, we will average four club visits per week, emphasizing our message: "Together We Create the Magic of Rotary."

Our journey begins on July 8 with the Rotary Club of Lenox, marking the start of an incredible adventure filled with community, service, and fellowship.

Our busiest week will be Aug. 19 through Aug. 23, when we

will visit seven clubs in just five days in eastern Iowa. That week promises to be a whirlwind of activity, showcasing the dedication and spirit of our members in that region.

Each visit will be an opportunity to witness the unique contributions of our clubs and to share how, collectively, we can create magic through our service projects and community efforts. From small towns to larger communities, the common thread will be the extraordinary impact of Rotary.

Our final visit just before Thanksgiving will be the Rotary Club of Marengo on Nov. 19. As we look ahead to the next few months, I am confident that the experiences and stories we gather will fuel our passion for service and strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

Lisa and I look forward to meeting each of you, celebrating your successes, and working together to create lasting change. We anticipate the upcoming year will be truly magical.

A calendar of club visits for 2024-25 is on page 31.

NORTH SCOTT

Club's legacy project: Rotary Band Shell

North Scott Rotary president **Tracy Lindaman** welcomed ideas of members early in her year at a **Club Assembly** on how the club should commemorate its **first 50 years (1973-2023)**. The result favored a legacy project, which would be a **community band shell** close to the club's **Rotary Inspiration Play Zone** at **Sheridan Meadows Park** in **Eldridge**.

525 attended the Nov. 17 Auction at **Rhythm City Casino** in **Davenport**, which **raised at net of \$104,567**, after expenses, for service projects. The board set aside \$50,000 for the band shell while continuing to support other projects (including \$9,000 for the club's international project, the **Imbabaze Centre for Women & Children in Kisoro, Uganda**. See "Children at the Gate," *District 6000 News*, December 2023). The \$50,000 was matched by the club's last active charter member, **Bill Tubbs** and his wife, **Linda**, and **\$100,000 was pledged** to the city for the bandshell.

Fundraising will continue. When completed, the **Rotary Band Shell** will provide an outdoor venue for the many performing arts groups of the greater North Scott community.

An additional \$30,000 was awarded in grants, including a \$15,000 **Impact Grant to Empowering Abilities** (formerly Handicapped Development Center), to build a new outdoor activity zone at its **Pine Street residential location**. Other grants:

\$2,000 to Edward White Elementary in **Eldridge** for a new therapy dog.

\$3,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley to provide furniture and supplies for a Rotary room which will be used as a resource for mentoring young people.

\$2,500 to King's Harvest Ministries, for kitchen equipment and accessories.

\$5,000 to Hope at the Brickhouse for furniture for a new addition.

\$2,500 to the Eldridge Volunteer Fire Department, for five Automated External Defibrillator replacements.

\$2,000 from the club's School Shop fund will directed to Soles for Children.

Pay It Forward

For her District Community Grant project, president **Tracy Lindaman** adapted "Pay It Forward," a project she and her husband, **Dr. Matt Lindaman**, began after the loss of their son, **Jack**, to spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neuromuscular condition, at age 6 in February 2010. That project went statewide thanks to the Iowa Realtors' Association and continues to this day, its aim to show young people the benefits of performing kind acts for others.



Tracy Lindaman

Fourth-graders were given a "Pay It Forward" Rotary T-shirt and asked to write letters of encouragement to the beneficiaries of "goodie bags" assembled by the students with help from Rotarians. In all, 30 Rotarians and 20 high school service club members worked with 310 students at one or more of six schools. The recipients were: **Veterans Outreach Center** (Alan Shepard, Long Grove), **Empowering Abilities**, formerly Handicapped Development Center (Ed White, Eldridge), **Ronald McDonald House** (Neil Armstrong, Park View), **first responders** (John Glenn, Donahue), **Quad-City Animal Welfare Center** (Virgil Grissom, Princeton), and **May Day** baskets for senior citizens at **Ridgecrest Retirement Center** (Fillmore Elementary, Davenport).

At each location, representatives of the beneficiaries were present and explained the value of their service to the students. At **John Glenn**, for example, this included EMTs, firefighters, police and Sheriff Tim Lane. Members of the North Scott High School service club provided support, as well.



Gabby Lievens and Isabel Cortez at Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Park View think about letters they will write to families at the Ronald McDonald House, in North Scott Rotary's "Pay It Forward" project.

Photo by Bill Tubbs.

Youth Day and scholarships

The club presented scholarships valued at \$21,600 and recognized youth at the **30th annual Youth Day**, attended by 92, May 19 at the Steeplegate Inn, Davenport, continuing a tradition that began in 1995.

Program for the day was **Eva Lubben** presenting the **Four-Way Test speech** which won First Place in the District 6000 Four-Way Test speech contest. **President Tracy Lindaman** presented Eva's coach, **Stacie Kintigh**, with a Paul Harris Fellow award, named for the founder of Rotary, for helping organize the local Four-Way Test and driving Eva to Pella for the District Celebration the weekend of "Beauty and the Beast."

Receiving \$2,000 academic scholarships were **Georgia Brunk-en**, **Kira DeCastecker**, **Nolan Engelbrecht**, **Carter Harms**, **Riley McCoy** and **Luke Simmons**. **Anna Sophia Council** was the recipient of the \$2,000 **Dorothy White Performing Art Scholarship**, named in honor of the late Dorothy White, who was pianist at Rotary meetings from 1985 until her death in 2013 at age 97.

Logan Fluegel was the recipient of the \$1,000 **Keith Mattke Vocational Scholarship**, named in honor of longtime Rotarian and vocational educator, Keith Mattke. **Soren Hundertmark** was the recipient of the \$2,000 **Dennis Peterson** academic scholarship, named for the former club executive secretary, Dennis Peterson. Recipients of \$1,300 **Carolyn Scheibe** academic scholarships were **Kaycee Newman** and **Katherine Van Ness**. **Carolyn Scheibe**, who passed away in April, was a Rotarian and former director of the Eldridge-North Scott Chamber of Commerce.

Lysa Hegland from Scott Community College introduced the recipients of the two \$1,000 **William F. and Linda Z. Tubbs Rotary Scholarships for Non-Traditional Students** at SCC, **Mana Kpade**, a pharmacy student from **Benin**, and **Ahoefa Agbemadon**, a nursing student from **Togo**.

Two students, **Mason Schaack** and **Madison Andrews** – who will represent North Scott Rotary at the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** conference at Grinnell College this summer, were introduced, and NSHS Student Service Club member **Mia Gomez** thanked Rotary for allowing her to attend meetings the past two years with **Isabel Ordaz**.

Join the campaign to End Polio Now

By PDG Susan Herrick/Boone
and PDG John Ockenfels/Iowa City AM

District 6000 PolioPlus Chairs

In 1988 there was a new case of polio every 15 minutes in the world. In 2023 there were 12 cases of polio in the world. In 2024 by the first week in May there are four cases of polio – two in **Pakistan** and two in **Afghanistan**, the only two countries where polio is still endemic.

Rotary International can take much of the credit for this dramatic shift in the impact of this crippling virus. It has been six weeks since there has been a report of a wild polio virus case in the world. But there are still environmental samples being taken and they report that there were two samples reported in Afghanistan, one in Niger, two in Nigeria, and three in Yemen. That tells us that the **Wild Polio Virus** is still an immediate threat to the world. And that giving those lifesaving drops to children around the world is still a priority.

It is too early to relax and congratulate ourselves for defeating the **Wild Polio Virus**. But as individual Rotarians, we may not

grasp the fact that there is something that each of us can do. As a Rotarian and supporter of polio eradication as our No. 1 priority, you can participate in the "Countdown to History" as a member of the **PolioPlus Society**.

By committing to making an annual donation to the PolioPlus Fund of The Rotary Foundation a minimum of \$100 per year until polio is declared eradicated, you can help us ensure that we will keep our promise to the children of the world that they will never have to fear this crippling killer again. And remember that each of the dollars contributed to the PolioPlus Society counts toward your Paul Harris recognition points.

One hundred twenty-seven of your fellow Rotarians in District 6000 have already joined the **PolioPlus Society**. We have set a goal to have 200 PPS members by the end of this Rotary year. Won't you join us in keeping our promise?



Members of the District 6000 PolioPlus Society

These Rotarians who give \$100 or more annually to PolioPlus are members of the new D6000 PolioPlus Society:

Jeff Anderson
Jacque Andrew
James Andrew
Usha R. Balakrishnan
Chris Bertelson
Tom Brooke
Roger Christian
Tony Conn
Dave Cook
Lisa Cook
Steve Dakin
Dennis Drager
Heidi Drager
Jacquelyn Duke
Joan Garrity
Curt Gause
Alan Hermanson
Norlan Hinke
Susan Herrick
Alka Khanolkar
Kiran Khanolkar
Corliss Klaassen

Jeanne Klaassen
Chris Knapp
Vernette Knapp
Bill Koellner
Bonnie Lowry
Patrick Lowry
Bob Main
Loring Miller
Phyllis Miller
Jade Ann McCoy
Ruth McCoy
Thomas R. McCoy
William D. Morain
Carol Narak
Tom Narak
Amy Nicholson
Gretchen Nollman
Deborah Ockenfels
John Ockenfels
Gary Pacha
Nancy Pacha
Douglas Peterson
Marie Pipes
Greg Probst
Mark Rugeberg
Carolyn Scharff
Helen H. Schroeder

John D. Schroeder
Wayne Steen
Bill Tubbs
Linda Tubbs
T Waldmann-Williams
Brenda Wieneke
Steve Wieneke
Park Woodle
Peggy Geiger
Terry Geiger
Helen Schroeder
John Schroeder
Robert W. Benson
Karin Franklin
Neil Fell
Steve Schrader Bacher
Shirley McAdon
Roland Reeznich
Brian Adamec
Elizabeth Belding
Peggy Doerge
Elizabeth Nichols
Lori Stanley
Mark Stanley
Margaret Winkler
Matthew Corwin
Jenny Seylar

Judy Trepka
Liz Loeb
Nancy Stensvaag
James Grisolano
Bruce Long
Allyson L. Walter
William W. Corwin
Robert Camblin
Michael Mumma
Galen Howsare
Emmi Miller
John Gere
Patricia Timmons
Sally Schroeder
Kristofer Orth
Josie Cochuyt
Susan Davis
Paul Horak
Robert Huber
Mark Patton
Emily Patton
Carolyn Levine
Andrew Green
Alta Medea
Ken Noble
Teresa Horton Bumgarner
Joyce Wheeler

Todd Wheeler
Becky Greenwald
Juan Arias
Linda Chastain
Robert Camblin
Charles Gilarski
John Rodgers
Rich Job
Susan Davis
Mark Martin
Kevin Brooks
Sharlene Dunlap
Theresa Mary Burns
Doyle Sanders
John Waldron
Bruce Young
Robert Ritson
Gary Mansheim
Galen Howsare
Dianne Downing
Jack Bell
Marv Johnson
Roberta Yoder
Joe H. Kobes
Wade E. Sheeler

Interact news

By Marie Pipes/East Polk
District 6000 Interact Co-Chair

The **District Interact Team** worked with approximately 20 students at the **District Celebration in Pella**. Students included those from **Interact, RYE, and Rotaract**. It was a successful day with the opportunity to talk with **Freddie Almazan** after he spoke and then put together approximately **100 blessing bags** after listening to **Marty** and **Joe** from **Joppa** speak. Some of the bags went back to Marshalltown and approximately 80 were delivered to **Joppa** in Des Moines. **Joppa** was very appreciative! Leftover supplies went to Iowa State for their student store for those in need.

Wear your Rotary pin with pride!

Youth Exchange

Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students in 2024-25: **Jadyn Hallgren** (Ottumwa, to Spain), **Rieslynn Goetzinger** (Grinnell, to Sweden), **Genevieve Messer** (Fairfield, to Spain), **Hanna Jensen** (Bettendorf, to Italy), **Ellie Heiar** (Iowa City AM, to Italy).

Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students in 2024-25: **Ada Sallares Calahorrano** (Ankeny, Spain), **Javier Salamanca Miguel** (Waukee, Spain), **Frans Wilhelm Svensson** (Decatur County, Sweden), **Agnese Pappalardo** (Boone, Italy), **Nicole Fernandes de Souza** (Iowa City AM, Brazil), **Silvana Espa** (Nevada, Italy), **Aurora Petrone** (Pella, Italy), **Sofia Antonia Munoz** (North Scott, Chile).

Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students in 2023-24: **Elena Polverini**, Italy (Decatur County); **Leticia Vendrametto**, Brazil (Pella); **Juliette Genin**, France (Iowa City); **Juan Toledano Roma**, Spain (Des Moines); **Sofia Aberturas**, Spain (Ankeny); **Dafne Sapia**, Italy (Bettendorf).

Iowa Wolves 16 years: \$477,000 raised for PolioPlus

By Ed Arnold/Northwest Des Moines

Iowa Wolves fundraiser chair

The 16th annual polio fundraiser with the Iowa Wolves and the Rotary clubs in the greater Des Moines area resumed this effort Friday night, Feb. 23, to raise money to vaccinate children around the world.

The game between the G-League Iowa Wolves and the Rio Valley Vipers provided a mechanism to raise money for Rotary International's polio eradication effort.

The previous 14 games (2021 game was Covid cancelled) resulted in over \$150,000 being raised. This year, an additional \$9,000 was raised (not including direct donations to RI). With the Gates Foundation 2 for 1 match, approximately \$27,000 was raised; bringing the 15 game total to \$477,000, enough to provide 795,000 immunizations.

Clubs participating this year were: **Ankeny and Ankeny Evening, Des Moines, East Polk County, Johnston, Perry, Waukee, West Des Moines, Marshalltown and West Polk County**. **West Polk County Rotary** regained possession the **Arnold Trophy**, awarded to the club selling the most tickets to the game.

The Simon Sez halftime show was an energetic and entertaining show pitting adults versus kids in the classic game of "Simon Says." It was fun to see the young and young-at-heart compete and have fun, especially **Huck Skram**. Huck is the son of **Brook Skram** of Johnston Rotary fame.

Traditionally, Polio Night with the Iowa Wolves (formerly the Iowa Energy) has (had) six objectives: 1. Help eradicate polio worldwide; 2. Promote the Rotary brand; 3. Get non-Rotarian money into the eradication effort; 4. Provide a social opportunity for Rotarians; 5. Provide an opportunity for local clubs to work together on a common goal; and 6. Support Iowa Wolves and local non-profit agencies by buying and donating tickets (mostly to youth groups).

The Iowa Wolves sell tickets to Rotary clubs at a discounted price and then rebate back \$10 per ticket to the selling club. This year, over \$7,330 was raised from the over 733 tickets bought and sold by the clubs. In addition, money was collected by Rotary volunteers at the game by encouraging fans to place their contributions in the yellow buckets. Ed Arnold made an appeal before the game emphasizing the past successes achieved by the eradication efforts. The yellow buckets collected an additional \$1,157 and other fans contributed \$130 via Venmo. Other contributions to polio eradication were made by Rotarians to their clubs, in lieu of purchasing basketball tickets. The result was that considerably more than \$9,000 was raised as a result of our partnership with the Iowa Wolves. In an intense, exciting back and forth game, the Wolves ended up winning 117-114.

Club participation was encouraged by **Ed Arnold, Alex Barker** (Iowa Wolves Marketing VP), and **Jori Niemen** (Iowa Wolves Group Sales) who visited most of the clubs. A Committee met four times to plan: **Dr. Jeff Stickel** and **Becky Greenwald** (Des Moines), **Steve Wieneke** (Ankeny Evening), **Marie Pipes** and **Betty Bartram** (East Polk County), **Adam Bunge** (West Polk), **Tom Welchans** (Waukee), **William W. Corwin, William D. Corwin, Jack Bell, Wendy Kriegshauser** (Northwest), **John Rodgers** (West Des Moines), **Brook Skram** (Johnston), and **Alex Barker and Jori Nieman** (Iowa Wolves).

Special thanks to the **Southeast Polk Interactors** and **Gabe Young** and **Betty Bartram** from **East Polk Rotary** who provided energetic Rotary volunteers collecting donations at the game. Other volunteers included: **William D. Corwin, Wendy Kriegshauser, Mark McAndrews, Jack Bell** and **Ed Arnold** (Northwest). Thanks to all who volunteered, contributed or otherwise made this event a success.



DG Dennis Drager and DG spouse Heidi Drager with "End Polio Now" balloon.



Betty Bartram (East Polk) with SE Polk Interactors Daniel Strum and Chase Reed, and Ed Arnold (Northwest Rotary).



Guests watching the Kentucky Derby at the Rotary Clubs of Ankeny "Rotary Runs for the Roses" fundraiser at the FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC campus, Ankeny.

'Rotary Runs for the Roses' raises \$114,000 at Ankeny

By Nate Burnham/Ankeny

The Rotary Clubs of Ankeny and Ankeny Evening joined forces to host Ankeny's 13th major fundraiser since 2011. The event was May 4 at the FFA Enrichment Center on the Des Moines Area Community College campus, and attracted 350 guests. Since it was being held the same day as the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby, the theme was "Rotary Runs For the Roses."

The fun began at 4:30 p.m. in the atrium with social time including complimentary wine, beer, specialty drinks, and the opportunity to watch live racing on a 10' by 17' big screen including the big race, the **Kentucky Derby**.

Guests had the opportunity to participate in a "Win, Place and Show" raffle by purchasing tickets to place in one of 20 buckets representing one of the horses in the race.

After the race, one ticket was drawn from each of the buckets representing the horses that finished first, second and third. The holder of the ticket drawn from the "Win" bucket received \$500, the "Place" winning ticket won \$250, and the ticket drawn from the "Show" bucket was awarded \$100.

Guests also had the opportunity to purchase "Mystery Bags" and have their picture taken in front of a themed banner by a professional photographer and instantly receive a free print.

After the big race, dinner was available at several feeding stations in the main ballroom while everyone was treated to a PowerPoint and video showing the many activities and service projects

of the Ankeny Rotary clubs.

Most of the guests were dressed in typical "Derby" attire, including many fancy ladies' hats than one could count. The program began with the awarding of prizes to the "Best Ladies Hat," "Best Dressed Gentlemen," and the "Best Themed Couple," then everyone participated in a game of "Heads or Tails."

The live auction followed and featured a police ride-a-long, free lasik eye surgery, St. Louis Cardinals and Green Bay Packer's tickets, two trips to South Africa, a bourbon trail experience, three nights in Port Charlotte, ISU football game experience, a week in a cabin in Teton Valley, seven-day walleye fishing trip, a week in a Dominican Republic home, and more.

A highlight of the evening was the donations for our two featured non-profit organizations, the Ankeny Service Center and Will Keep's "Starts Right Here," which raised a total of \$30,000 to be split between the two organizations.

Before the evening had ended, over \$114,000 had been raised from the auctions, sponsorships, Mystery bags, and ticket sales. The clubs were most appreciative of their major sponsors, Polk County, Guaranteed Rate, and DSM Advantage.

The only disappointment was that Ankeny's Albaugh Family Stables' entry in the Kentucky Derby, Catching Freedom, didn't win. Still, a fourth-place finish was something to cheer about.

The Ankeny Rotary Clubs plan to hold their next fundraiser, another "Rotary Runs for the Roses," on May 3, 2025.



Best Themed Couple: Al and Merron Hart.



Best Dressed Gentleman, Nate Burnham (l) with emcee Tim Cox.



The Rotary Club of Nevada is raising funds to renovate the Camelot Theater.



Volunteer Ryan who served the Bourbon and Rotarian caterer Evie Peterson at work.

NEVADA

Fundraiser aim: Renovate Camelot Theater

By Christa Skaggs/Nevada

Saturday, May 4, the Rotary Club of Nevada transformed its historic Camelot Theater into Churchill Downs for their Kentucky Derby FUNdraiser to raise funds for their matching grant. They were raising funds to help upgrade technological equipment to improve the operation of computers, lighting, and sound. The funds will also purchase a new movie screen.

The Camelot Theater, constructed in 1928, in classic revival style, has been serving the community for close to a century and is now in need of renovations. The theater is an integral part of the ongoing revitalization efforts to make downtown Nevada a thriving destination. As one of the few remaining atmospheric theaters in Iowa, the Camelot Theater features illuminated star constellations on the ceiling and architectural elements salvaged from demolished theaters around the state.

The renovation project for the theater includes multiple phases with the current focus on completing the upper floor apartments by summer 2024. These apartments will serve as a revenue source to support the ongoing maintenance of the historical theater. Future plans include renovation of the auditorium, lobby, bistro, and rooftop bar.



PDG Denny Skinner

'Skinner Memorial Poker Run'

On Saturday, June 8, the Rotary Club of Nevada hosted the "Skinner Memorial Poker Run." Check-in started at 9 a.m. at the Nevada Fieldhouse. The ride started in Nevada and went to Boone, Luther, Polk City, Slater and ended at Cubbies on Main in Nevada where prizes were awarded and specials were served.

The funds will be used for the dock we had built at Rotary Pond in Nevada in memory of Denny Skinner. If you would like more details, please email Christa Skaggs at hr@21stcenturyrehab.com.



The June 9 "Skinner Memorial Poker Run" raised funds for the dock the Rotary Club of Nevada had built at Rotary Pond in Nevada in memory of Nevada Rotarian, PDG Denny Skinner.

Flight to End Polio a big hit at Singapore

By Lisa Cook/Boone

The Rotary International Convention was held in Singapore from May 25-29, 2024. District 6000 was well represented. The highlight was when our own **PDG John Ockenfels** took to the main stage with **Peter Teahen** to tell the story of the Flight to End Polio.

The general session on Tuesday ended with the pair sharing their inspirational story. John and Peter shared their amazing journey of flying around the world for Polio.

The Flight to End Polio was featured on that day as well as in **RI President Gordon McInally's** closing speech on Wednesday.

John and Peter's message that they don't **HOPE** Polio will be eradicated but **BELIEVE** was the perfect way to end the general session.

They had all 14,000 Rotarians in the audience chanting "We Believe"!

John and Peter will spread the word at 100 more speaking engagements.



PDG John Ockenfels (Iowa City AM) and Rotary co-pilot Peter Teahen's message about their Flight to End Polio received top billing at the Singapore convention.

ADEL

Vending machine sparks interest in literacy, reading

By Shirley McAdon/Adel

The Rotary Club of Adel has long been a supporter of literacy programs in the Adel DeSoto Minburn Schools. The club's newest project at Meadow View Elementary School in Adel is to provide funding for a new vending machine just for books to encourage students to read more. It started last year with a \$1,000 donation to the project, in partnership with others, to bring the vending machine to the school. Then it has continued with annual donations of \$600 to help stock the machine with books appropriate for grades 3-5.

"Students can earn vending machine coins for various academic, leadership, and character achievement throughout the year," principal **Jodi Banse** remarked.

The machine doesn't accept money, only the coins earned by students that allows them to choose a book as a reward. Students are excited about choosing their own books to keep! The book vending machine is a fun way to celebrate reading through its colorful LED lights that light up when the coin is inserted and when it then talks to the student, offering words of encouragement!

Families and others in the community are involved, too, because they can donate new or lightly used books to be placed in the vending machine. With Rotary continuing to provide funds, Meadow View has been able to buy new paperback books from educational vendors at reduced costs. The Rotary logo will be placed on the book vending machine in recognition of the club's support.

Principal Banse wrote: "One of the aspects I appreciate the most is how excited the kids get for other kids who achieve their goals. Celebrating others is very apparent and is amazing. We've had some new move-in students from disadvantaged homes who have achieved some goals to receive a book. One particular student mentioned that it's the first book they have of their own."



Shirley McAdon (l) and Marie Hansen (c) with Principal Jodi Banse with the booking vending machine at Adel-DeSoto-Minburn schools.

The Rotary Club of Adel plans to continue its efforts to support literacy at Meadow View and to possibly expand it to the ADM 5th and 6th grades with another book vending machine in the coming year. Other Rotary clubs may want to consider exploring supporting book vending machines in their school districts.

Come see the magic of RYLA, July 18, at Grinnell

By Zachary Fisher/District 5970

2024 Iowa RYLA Chair

District 5970 and 6000 Rotarians are invited to **Rotarian Visit Day** at Iowa RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference, July 14-19 on the **Grinnell College's** campus in Grinnell. Rotarian Visit Day is scheduled for Thursday, July 18.

Visit day will be start at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Rotarians may attend the entire event, or come and go as they need. The theme for the day is **Community Leadership**.

A panel of three RYLA alumni in different stages of their careers and lives will convene at 8:30 a.m. **Ella Newell** attended RYLA in 2012 in the early years of Iowa RYLA (held at Wartburg that year!). **Mitch Winterlin** is a student at the University of Iowa and recently served as the Student Body president. **Jeremiah Collins** served as a head counselor and is currently studying psychology at the University of California Berkeley.

A "Team Lead Word of Focus" speech will be at 9:15 a.m. A Word of Focus is a reflective message centered around a singular word that relates to the theme of the day.

"Team Time Activities" will be from 9:30-11:45 a.m. You will have the opportunity to be paired with a team to observe (and possibly participate) in several team building activities.

Lunch is from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Lunch is \$12 in our dining center. Dine and mingle with our teams, conferees, and fellow Rotarians! The dining center offers a range of food options, including accommodated meals for common dietary restrictions.

"Team Lead Word of Focus" begins at 12:45 p.m., "Team Time Activity" is from 1-2 p.m., and a **Visiting Rotarian Q&A Session** will be from 2-3 p.m. Back by popular demand, you will have an opportunity to debrief the day and ask questions about all things RYLA.

New to Iowa RYLA this year, we will be implementing our "RYLA Shark Tank" project, combining elements from the hit TV shows "Shark Tank" and "The Amazing Race," teams will be working together to create a service project that addresses one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus. During your visit, you will be able to sit in on five service project pitches. These service project ideas will also be available for Rotary clubs to explore and consider using in their clubs!

If you plan to visit, please send an email to zfisher@tetrojans.org with the name of your club, the number of Rotarians in your party, and your planned arrival time by Tuesday, July 9. Upon your arrival at the Harris Center on campus, we will have someone waiting to greet you. During your visit, we will match you up with a team to make the most of your time.



The Iowa Miles Of Smiles Team (M.O.S.T.) completed its 19th annual medical mission of cleft lip, cleft palate and cataract repairs to Guatemala this spring. Watch for a report in the next issue of District 6000 News.



Creston Rotarians collect and donate clothes, (l-r): Deron Stender, Wayne Hanson, John Van Nostrand, Linda Landers, Maddie Gillam, Wayne Pantini, and Karla Alford.

CRESTON

Rotarians rally for clothing donations

By Maddi Gillam/Creston

At the 2023 President-Elect Training Seminar held in Newton, Rotarians were encouraged to implement a new community project during their upcoming terms. One of those projects mentioned was scheduled clothing donations. The concept was simple – arrange for your club to donate clothing items together as often as you'd like.

The Rotary Club of Creston is small, but I knew we were capable of having a great impact on our community. With high hopes and aspirations, I brought the idea back to my club and scheduled our first donation to the local rerun for Oct. 16, 2023. Our club took this idea and ran with it. We donated 215 pounds of clothing in just one day! But we didn't stop there.

Over the course of a year, I am proud to report that the Creston Rotary Club donated 417 pounds of clothing to our local Rectory Rerun Thrift Shop. This project has been a fun one to watch grow. We donated, knowing our efforts were directly leaving a positive impact on our community.

I am proud to be a member of a club that not only commits to put Service Above Self in words, but follows it up with action. We hope to continue this tradition of giving back to our community in the coming years. Who knows – maybe next year we can double that number!

ATLANTIC

Salute to veterans, Advent, ag, seniors, teachers

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic

District 6000 Vocational Chair

On Nov. 7, the Rotary Club of Atlantic hosted its annual **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon** with guest speaker **Ben Bartholomew**.



Ben Bartholomew

Cass County Deputy Bartholomew spoke about his service with the Marine Corp. His life story some would say wasn't the easiest. He was brought up around a lot of drugs and abuse. The military provided the structure he was looking for. He spoke of his time in the military, and the opportunities it provided for him.

Today Ben is with the Cass County Sheriff's Office and works as an investigator and drone pilot. He is also involved with the Civil Air Patrol.

Auction

The **annual auction** raised nearly \$40,000 Nov. 18, on the 40th year of the event. The club has raised nearly \$1.3 million in those 40 years. One of the highest bids was \$2,500 for a hunting package for up to six people, which includes a heated pit blind, one and a half days of hunting, and dinner and drinks before and after.

Funds from the auction have gone to a variety of different causes, including the building of the community center, providing scholarships for Atlantic High School seniors, assisting with reading programs for the preschool, and the Dolly Parton Imagination reading program at the Library. Other donations have been to the Cass County Hospital Foundation, the American Cancer Society Festival of Trees, the Atlantic Community School Teacher Appreciation and Veteran Appreciation. Donations have been made to The Nishna Valley YMCA Partnership with Youth, the Shop with a Cop program, the ARISE Food Box program and so much more.

Advent Calendar

In December Atlantic Rotary again participated in the West Central reverse **Advent Calendar**. Items are donated to West Central to help stock their toiletries pantry and clothing closet. **West Central Community Action** serves all of Cass County and works with all three Cass County school districts.

Salute to Ag

In March the Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual **Salute to Ag** event. The event was attended by Rotarians, community members involved in agriculture, and Atlantic High School FFA members. The Cass County Cattleman grilled ribeye steak sandwiches for the attendees.

Coleen Babe and Clayton Saeugling, members of the Cass County Cattleman presented the program. They explained how the group promotes beef products and how they volunteer in the community. Grilling at events is just one of the many ways they promote beef.

Senior Recognition

The Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual **High School Senior Recognition** luncheon on April 16. The event was attended by Atlantic High School Seniors in band, vocal music, drama/debate, art and the top 10 academic students. Teachers introduced each group of students and advised the attendees of the many accomplishments of the past year.

Rotarian **Dolly Bergmann** introduced the 2024 Atlantic Rotary Club Scholarship recipients. Individuals receiving scholar-



Emily McDermott with West Central Development with Rotarians Dolly Bergmann and Ruth Sears and items donated.

ships attending a Community College, Vocational or Technical College were Riley Wood and Parker Brock. The four-year university or college scholarship was awarded to Dawsen Sorensen. The Rex Moorman Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Claire Pellett. The scholarships are \$1,000 each.

Parker Brock and Claire Pellett were unable to attend the luncheon but joined Rotary at lunch the following week.

Teacher Appreciation

On May 15 the club held its annual **Teacher Appreciation** event. This event has changed some over the years but has become one that recognizes all the teachers in the Atlantic School Community School District. **Ruth Sears**, past president of the Atlantic Rotary Club, thanked the teachers for what they do for the students. All the teachers were then given \$25 of AtlantiCash (chamber dollars) as a thank you, to be spent in Atlantic.

The smiles on the teachers faces tell you how much this event is appreciated.



Claire Pellett



Parker Brock



Riley Wood



Dawsen Sorensen



Participants and facilitators at the April 13 Rotary Leadership Institute at Boone, front, (l-r): Chris Knapp, Vernetta Knapp, Gretchen Nollman, Kristofer Orth, Kathy Sibbel, Dennis Drager, Phyllis Miller. Row 2: Terry Pauling, Loring Miller, Dave Cook, Sarah Simon, Katy Downes, Sherry Halter, Chuck Gilarski, Tammi Christ, Cherlyn Hullinger, Cindy Hinke, Steve Wieneke. Back: Steve Dakin, Steve SchraderBachar, John Rodgers, Tim Trudeau, Jeff Magner, Norlan Hinke, Wendal Yoder and Marie Pipes.

Eighteen participate in Rotary Leadership Institute training

By PDG Steve Wieneke/Ankeny Evening

District 6000 RLI Chair

Eighteen Rotarians in Rotary District 6000 participated in a full day of learning on April 13 at the **Rotary Leadership Institute** (RLI) educational courses conducted at the Grace Community Church in Boone. Eleven additional Rotarians served as facilitators and administration support staff.

Eighteen Rotarian participants attended (six in part 1, six in part 2 and six in part 3). The six Rotarians who completed part 3 were presented undergraduate graduation certificates and RLI lapel pins for completing the 24 hours of learning.

These Rotarians included: **DGE Dave Cook** (Boone), **DG Dennis**

Drager (Marshalltown), **DGN Norlan Hinke** (Clinton), **Gretchen Nollman** (West Liberty), **John Rodgers** (West Des Moines) and **Steve SchraderBachar** (Ankeny Noon).

Rotary Leadership Institute is not just learning about Rotary. It's facilitated learning structure provides participants with the opportunity to learn how to become and enhance your personal leadership skills that can be applied in all aspects of your everyday life.

The next RLI educational courses to be offered will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, at the First Christian Church in Coralville. Registration is open and available to all members. Register at rli-heartland.org.



Part 3, six graduates, (l-r): Steve SchraderBachar (Ankeny Noon), PDG Steve Wieneke (Rotary District RLI Coordinator), DGE Dave Cook (Boone), Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty), DG Dennis Drager (Marshalltown), John Rodgers (West Des Moines) and DGN Norlan Hinke (Clinton).



Facilitators, front (l-r): Phyllis Miller (Decatur County), Vernetta Knapp (Iowa City AM), Marie Pipes (East Polk County), Patty Munguia (Ankeny Evening). Back: T. Waldmann-Williams (Knoxville), Sarah Simon (Madison County Rotary Evening), Steve Dakin (Boone), Wayne Steen (West Liberty), Loring Miller (Decatur County), Chris Knapp (Iowa City AM), Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening) and Juan Arias (Ankeny Evening).



Part 2 Participants, (l-r): Jeff Magner (Ankeny Evening), Sherry Halter (Madison County Rotary Evening), Chuck Gilarski (Ames AM), Wendal Yoder (Decatur County), Kristofer Orth (Ankeny Evening) and Cindy Hinke (Clinton).



Part 1, (l-r): Tim Trudeau (Boone), Katy Downes (Madison County Evening), Tammi Christ (Ankeny Evening), Kathy Sibbel (Ankeny Noon), Cherlyn Hullinger (Decatur County), Terry Pauling (Indianola).



The Presidents-Elect Orientation for District 6000 was Feb. 16-17 at the DMAC Conference Center in Newton. These incoming club presidents met DGE David Cook in person.

Photo by Tori Riley

District 6000 club presidents, 2024-25

Adel..... Amanda Schwantes	Decatur County Cherlyn Hullinger	Marengo Ellie Garringer
Albia..... Laura Teno	Denison..... Joe Ferguson	Marshalltown..... Julie Hitchins
Ames..... Katy Crawford McMahon	Des Moines..... Kevin Kacere	Mount Pleasant Noon Kadie Johannson
Ames Morning Jean Sheets	Des Moines AM..... Mathew Coen	Mt. Pleasant..... Don LeBlanc
Ankeny..... Kent Patterson	East Polk County Adam Kline	Muscatine Mike Wedell
Ankeny Evening..... Brenda Wieneke	Fairfield John Loin	Nevada Craig Welter
Atlantic David Schwab	Fort Madison..... Abby Eaves	Newton Lonnie Portner
Bettendorf..... Michael Ingleby	Greater Des Moines Heidi Drager	North Scott..... Greg Schaapveld
Bloomfield..... John Stookesberry	Grinnell Frank Schults	Northwest Des Moines Tim Olejniczak
Boone..... Lisa Nerem	Indianola Todd Kielkopf	Norwalk Kris Kunze
Burlington Joanna Schneden	Iowa City Tara Minetos	Osceola..... Teresa Woods
Carroll..... Adam Schweers	Iowa City AM..... Vernetta Knapp	Oskaloosa..... Allen Friesen
Centerville..... Kris Laurson	Iowa City Downtown..... Sandy Pickup	Ottumwa Scott Hallgren
Chariton..... Brian Sims	Iowa Quad Cities Tom Lincea	Pella Kim Mulch
Clinton..... Carrie Donaire	Jefferson..... Jonathan Law	Perry Kevin Vidergar
Coon Rapids Gavin Cretsinger	Johnston..... Pam Kucera	Tipton Laura Twing
Coralville North Corridor Keith Jones	Kalona..... Bowen Yoder	Washington..... Matthew Greiner
Corning..... Katrina Ogburn	Keokuk..... Leah Carroll	Waukee..... Tom Welchans
Corydon..... Susie DeVore	Keosauqua William Shewmaker	Wellman James Palmer
Creston..... John Van Nostrand	Knoxville..... Sara Roberts	West Des Moines..... Kenn Yu
Dallas Center Al Lorenzen	Lenox Tim Maxa	West Liberty..... Jacob Burroughs
Davenport..... Dana Nelson Holstein	Manning Tim Weible	West Polk County Kay Day
		Winterset Vicki Minor



Assistant District Governors

Assistant District Governors for 2024-25 at AG Orientation Feb. 16-17 at DMACC, Newton, Row 1 (l-r): Tori Riley, Paul Horak, Chris Bertelson, PDG Chris Knapp; Row 2: Gretchen Nollman; Row 3: DGN Norlan Hinke, John Waldron, Marie Pipes, DGND Bill Bruce; Row 4: Steve SchraderBachar, AG Coordinator PDG Mike Ruby, Jeff Ashcraft; Row 5: Jack Bell, Bob Main, Tom McCoy; Row 6: Mark Ruggeberg, John Schroeder, DGE Dave Cook; Row 7: PDG Jim Patton. AGs not present: Teresa Horton-Bumgarner, Darrell Limkeman, Park Woodle.

Photo Provided by Tori Riley

DGE David Cook's Official Club Visits

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID COOK AND LISA's OFFICIAL CLUB VISITS IN 2024-25.

July: Maternal and Child Health Month

- July 8 (M)..... **Lenox** (noon)
- July 9 (Tu).....**Bloomfield** (noon)
- July 10 (W).....**Boone** (noon)
- July 15 (M).....**Davenport** (noon)
- July 16 (Tu)**Marshalltown Evening** (5:30 PM)
- July 17 (W).....**East Polk** (7 AM)
- July 18 (Th).....**Winterset** (noon)
- July 22 (M).....**Carroll** (noon)
- July 23 (Tu).....**West Des Moines** (noon)
- July 24 (W)..... **Coralville-N. Corridor** (noon)
- July 26 (F).....**Chariton** (noon)
- July 29 (M).....**Muscatine** (noon)
- July 30 (Tu).....**Ames Morning** (7 AM)
- July 31 (W).....**Perry** (noon)

August: Membership and New Club Development Month

- Aug. 1 (Th).....**Denison** (noon)
- Aug. 5 (M).....**Creston** (noon)
- Aug. 5 (M).....**Boone Evening** (5:30 PM)
- Aug. 6 (Tu).....**Osceola** (noon)
- Aug. 7 (W).....**Nevada** (noon)
- Aug. 13 (Tu).....**Newton** (noon)
- Aug. 13 (Tu).....**Ankeny Evening** (6 PM)
- Aug. 15 (Th).....**Des Moines** (noon)
- Aug. 15 (Th).....**Nevada Evening** (5:30 PM)
- Aug. 19 (M).....**Clinton** (noon)
- Aug. 20 (Tu).....**Iowa City AM** (7 AM)
- Aug. 21 (W).....**Bettendorf** (noon)
- Aug. 22 (Th).....**Iowa Quad Cities** (7 AM)
- Aug. 22 (Th).....**Iowa City** (noon)
- Aug. 23 (F).....**North Scott** (noon)
- Aug. 27 (Tu).....**Marshalltown** (noon)
- Aug. 29 (Th).....**Washington** (noon)
- Aug. 29 (Th).....**West Liberty** (5:30 M)
- Aug. 30 (F)..... **West Liberty Noon** (noon)

September: Basic Education and Literacy Month

- Sept. 3 (Tu).....**Johnston** (7 AM)
- Sept. 3 (Tu).....**Dallas Center** (noon)



Lisa Cook and DG 2024-25 Dave Cook of the Rotary Club of Boone will convey RI President Stephanie Urchick's theme, "The Magic of Rotary," during their club visits.

Photo by Tory Riley

- Sept. 10 (Tu)..... **Oskaloosa** (noon)
- Sept. 10 (Tu).....**Grinnell** (6 PM)
- Sept. 11 (W).....**Knoxville** (noon)
- Sept. 11 (W)..... **Knoxville Evening** (6 PM)
- Sept. 12 (Th).....**Coon Rapids** (noon)
- Sept. 16 (M).....**Burlington** (noon)
- Sept. 16 (M).....**Mount Pleasant** (6 PM)
- Sept. 17 (Tu).....**Fort Madison** (noon)
- Sept. 18 (W).....**Wellman** (noon)
- Sept. 20 (F).....**Des Moines AM** (7 AM)
- Sept. 20 (F).....**Northwest Des Moines** (noon)
- Sept. 23 (M).....**Jefferson** (noon)
- Sept. 24 (Tu).....**Ankeny** (noon)
- Sept. 26 (Th).....**Decatur County** (noon)
- Sept. 26 (Th).....**Winterset Evening** (5:30 PM)
- Sept. 30 (M).....**Ames** (noon)

October: Economic and Community Development Month

- Oct. 1 (Tu).....**Keosauqua** (noon)
- Oct. 2 (W).....**Centerville** (noon)
- Oct. 7 (M).....**Iowa City Downtown** (noon)
- Oct. 8 (Tu).....**Manning** (noon)
- Oct. 8 (Tu).....**Jefferson Evening** (5:30 PM)
- Oct. 9 (W).....**Adel** (noon)
- Oct. 14 (M).....**Corning** (noon)
- Oct. 15 (Tu).....**Atlantic** (noon)
- Oct. 15 (Tu).....**West Des Moines Evening** (5:30 PM)
- Oct. 17 (Th).....**Waukee** (7 AM)
- Oct. 18 (F).....**Indianola** (noon)
- Oct. 21 (M).....**Ottumwa** (noon)
- Oct. 22 (Tu).....**Corydon** (noon)
- Oct. 24 (Th).....**Albia** (noon)
- Oct. 29 (M).....**Pella** (noon)
- Oct. 30 (Tu).....**Mount Pleasant Noon** (noon)

November: The Rotary Foundation and PolioPlus Awareness Month

- Nov. 6 (W).....**Tipton** (noon)
- Nov. 7 (Th).....**Keokuk** (noon)
- Nov. 8 (F).....**Fairfield** (noon)
- Nov. 11 (M).....**West Polk County** (noon)
- Nov. 12 (Tu).....**Norwalk** (noon)
- Nov. 19 (Tu).....**Marengo** (noon)

Mark your calendars: Save these important dates

- July 14-19.....**Iowa RYLA Conference** at Grinnell College
- Aug. 31..... Deadline: District Dues Annual Payment from Clubs
- Sept. 5-8 **Rotary Zone Institute** San Antonio, TX
- Sept. 19.....District Budget & Finance Committee and Board meetings at Pella
- Sept. 28.....**Rotary Leadership Institute** at Coralville First Christian Church
- Oct. 20..... Deadline: District Governor 2027-28 Nominations
- Oct. 24.....**World Polio Day**
- Nov. 15.....**Magic of Giving Gala**, at World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, Des Moines
- Nov. 21District Budget & Finance Committee and Board meetings at Pella
- Dec. 15.....Clubs verify membership is current with RI for accurate invoice

- in January
- Dec. 31 Deadline: Club presidents for 2025-26 must be finalized and District notified
- Feb. 15..... Deadline: Paul E. Hellwege **Guardian of Integrity Award** Nominations
- Feb. 20.....District Budget & Finance Committee and Board meetings at Pella
- Feb. 22..... **Grant Management Seminar**, West Liberty Community Center, West Liberty
- March 7.....**Assistant Governor Orientation**, DMACC Conference Center, Newton
- March 8..... **President-Elect Training Seminar** and President-Nominees, District 6000 **Annual Meeting** at DMACC Conference Center, Newton
- March 16-23 District 6000 **Project Team Trip to Xicotepc, Mexico**

- March 29..... Grant Management Seminar, DMACC in Newton
- April 11 **Magic of Giving Donor Recognition**, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny
- April 12 District 6000 **District Conference** at FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny
- May 1: Deadline: Clubs report incoming officers to District Office and Rotary International
- May 15 District Budget & Finance Committee and Board meetings at Pella
- June 1..... Club goals for 2025-26 must be entered into Rotary Club Central
- June 1..... **Community Service Grant** Applications Due
- June 15..... Clubs verify membership is current with RI for accurate invoice in July
- June 21-25 **Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada**



Rotary's goal is a polio-free world! There were 12 cases of polio in 2021, 30 in 2022, 12 in 2023, 11 thus far in 2024: five in Pakistan and six in Afghanistan, the only remaining countries where the wild polio virus is endemic.

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YOU create the Magic of Rotary!

By DG 2024-25 Dave Cook/Boone

Imagine a world where every small act of kindness has the power to create lasting change. This vision is embodied in Rotary International's 2024-25 theme, "**The Magic of Rotary.**" Rotary International **President-Elect Stephanie Urchick** reminds us, "We are not going to grow membership, end polio, or bring peace to the world by waving a wand... It's up to you. **You create the magic** with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted."

The true magic of Rotary lies in the principle of **Service Above Self**. It is through our commitment to putting others first that we make a significant difference. The **Magic of Rotary** is about our values, the relationships we build, and the impactful work we do together.



Rotary's magic is evident in many areas, including our ongoing efforts to eradicate polio, ensure access to clean water, and foster environmental stewardship. These projects highlight the extraordinary outcomes of

working together towards common goals and showcasing the profound difference we can make when we prioritize **Service Above Self**.

Paul Harris famously said, "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves." This sentiment underscores the immense potential we hold as Rotarians. By embodying **Service Above Self**, we can create lasting, positive change.

As Rotarians, our dedication to service reveals the true magic of our organization. By focusing on others' needs, we create lasting change. Each project we undertake enhances this magic. Working together, we bring Rotary's real magic to life through our commitment to service.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test (of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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