

District 6000 News

Rotary



Rotary District 6000, Iowa USA, Dave Cook, Governor / Second Issue, 2024-25 (January-June)

Discover the Magic of Rotary

**Record number honored as Guardians of Integrity
at District 6000 Conference in Ankeny**



"The creation of a thousand
forests is in one acorn."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Gretchen Nollman (24-25) HOPE
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Marie Pipes (26-27) East Polk County
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District 6000 News is published two times a year as a supplement to monthly electronic communications. District 6000 News is mailed to District 6000 Rotarians and friends of District 6000. Archives of the District 6000 News are posted as PDF format at the District website, www.rotary6000.org. We encourage Rotarians to use your copies of District 6000 News both internally and externally as a resource for club newsletters and in any other way possible for the advancement of Rotary. Clubs are invited and encouraged to submit news to the editor at the above email address.

INTERIM EDITOR

The "opportunity" to produce two issues of the District NEWS is a truly a gift, an opportunity to even more fully appreciate the "magic" of District 6000.

It takes collaboration to put these issues together and there are people to thank!!

- I'm thankful to **DG Dave** for continuing this publication one more year to give us all time to transition from Bill Tubb's masterful management and production of the NEWS. Great proofreader too!
- I am especially grateful for the **reporters** who share the amazing work being done by their clubs, projects and committees! It is truly heartwarming. They thoughtfully tell the stories and supply great photos!
- **Carolyn Scharff** has, in addition to all that she does in the district office, provided accurate details to fill in the blanks of information for the NEWS. Her expert proofreading skills are second to none. She reconciles the addresses of every member in the district and others who receive the NEWS. A huge task which she has been doing for years! Most of all, **Carolyn** has been the steady hand for the district keeping everything rolling through 19 district governors! We're truly grateful for her!!

It is a gift to walk in the shoes of someone I so admired for his professionalism and devotion to Rotary...Bill Tubbs. He committed countless hours and effort to make sure this publication reflected well on Rotary and our district. During those 20+ newsletter years, he was the active publisher of the North Scott Press newspaper, attending many events related to his community, Iowa State and Rotary.

There was so much "magic" created by Bill in the more than 75 issues of the NEWS as he told the stories of our District's clubs, the District and Rotary International. His pride in our District was so evident in every issue. For future reference, the District 6000 NEWS is archived on the District website, www.rotary6000.org.

Finally, Bill would have been thrilled with the record number of Guardians of Integrity nominated by clubs this year! Wonderful worthy Guardians abound in this District!

I'm grateful for Rotary and this District!
May it continue to be one of the best in all of Rotary!



Warm regards fellow Rotarians,

Jacqueline Andrew
District 6000 Governor, 2013-14
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Rotary Club of Jefferson

COVER PHOTO: DG Dave and Lisa Cook with Guardians of Integrity honored at District Conference. Photo by Jacque Andrew.

Cover graphic design by Dick Huber, Iowa City AM.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

A Year of Service, a Lifetime of Memories

By DG Dave Cook, Rotary Club of Boone

As the Rotary year comes to an end, Lisa and I find ourselves reflecting on a journey filled with powerful stories, inspiring people and unforgettable moments. Serving as your District Governor has been the honor of a lifetime.

Together, we have traveled more than 10,000 miles as Lisa and I have crisscrossed Iowa to visit 70 clubs, club extensions, and Rotary events across our district. At every stop, we encountered passionate Rotarians bringing Rotary's ideals to life—proof that *The Magic of Rotary* is the people.

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick said, "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 ..." Her message was reinforced time and again as we watched Rotarians doing good at home and abroad.

One vivid example was in August, when we visited Iowa City AM and met firefighters from Guatemala. They were in Iowa to pick up a donated firetruck. It was a moment that highlighted the global reach of Rotary and the difference we can make in communities around the world.

We also marked emotional milestones. In September, we said goodbye to Past District Governor Bill Tubbs. Lisa and I were fortunate to visit North Scott Rotary to witness Bill give a heartfelt invocation at one of his final Rotary meetings. It was a touching reminder of the legacy leaders leave behind.

And while we said goodbye to one devoted leader, we welcomed new ones. September saw the chartering of the Rotaract Club at Iowa State University with 21 new mem-

bers—now grown to 30. Not to be outdone, the Rotaract Club at the University of Iowa also added 25 members this year, a testament to the power of competition.

This year we're also seeing



DG Dave and Lisa Cook

changes in our district's administrative team. As Carolyn Scharff prepares to retire after 18 years of dedicated service as District Administrator, we welcomed Megan Van Kooten to District 6000 in February. Since then, Megan has been working alongside Carolyn to learn her new role and will officially become District Administrator on July 1.

Your generosity continues to inspire. We're on track to exceed our goals for both The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund and PolioPlus. In November we celebrated your generosity at The Magic of Giving Gala held at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. This year we welcomed 15 new Major Donors, three new Bequest Society members, and in April, we celebrated PDG John and Deb Ockenfels joining the Arch Klumph Society, the fourth couple since 2021 to reach this giving milestone in our district.

In January, we added the *District 6000 Endowment for the*

—continued to next page

Inside District 6000 News...

District Governor.....3
District Governor.....4
District Conference.....5
Service Above Self.....6
Guardian of Integrity introduction.....7
Guardian of Integrity photos.....8
Guardian of Integrity photos.....9
Guardian of Integrity bios.....10
Guardian of Integrity bios.....11
Guardian of Integrity bios.....12
District Guardians of Integrity.....13
District Governor-Elect.....14

Nollman selected for 2027-28.....15
District H.E.F.....15
Iowa M.O.S.T.....17
Xicotepec project18
Xicotepec project19
The Rotary Foundation wrap up.....20
Polio Night with the IA Wolves.....21
Rotary Foundation, Polio Giving.....22
Presidents-Elect Training.....23
Club Presidents list.....24
In Memorium.....24
Assistant Governors.....25
Club visits 2025-26.....26
Rotary Leadership graduates list.....27
Clinton Food Summit.....28

CIVITAS receives Governor's award.....29
Mt. Pleasant mighty.....30
Pella collaborates.....31
Marshalltown-Ukrainian connection.....32
Marshalltown-Ukrainian connection.....33
Atlantic serves community.....34
Atlantic serves community.....35
Ankeny provides restful sleep.....36
Meet Megan Van Kooten.....37
Environment focus ideas.....37
Four Way Test for kids.....37
Rotary Youth Exchange Winter Retreat.....38
Mason's Light House.....39
Quilt auction makes thousands.....39
RYLA.....39

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

A Year of Service, a Lifetime of Memories

—continued from previous page

Future thanks to a generous gift from Dennis and Heidi Drager. With your support, it will allow us to increase funding for Community Service Grants in perpetuity – forever! In another step forward, the Board approved an increase in the Community Service Grant cap to \$7,500 beginning in 2025–26, helping clubs support bigger service projects in their communities.

In April, with 237 registered to attend, members gathered in Ankeny for our 2025 district conference, where we truly *Discovered the Magic of Rotary*. We honored a record 29 Guardians of Integrity. We heard inspiring talks—from Larry Lunsford, Vice Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees. Other notable speakers included Rick Kyte who spoke about Finding Your Third Place, Chuck Corrigan provided a virtual tour of the historic Paul and Jean Harris home in Chicago, Shanna Sieck talked about the need to build Mason's Light House - a hospice home for Iowa's sickest kids, and Sharon Bloodworth encouraged us to find fun ways to engage more members. We saw powerful moments—like Deb Ockenfels' "Under the Oaks" quilt which raised a record sum for the Flight to End Polio and PolioPlus.

We also applauded outstanding Rotarians: PDG Jim Patton received the Citation for Meritorious Service, PDG Cal Litwiller the Distinguished Service Award, and Deb Dunkhase Rotary International's Service Above Self Award.

Thank you for giving me the chance to work with you. This year, I've been reminded again and again that Rotary is at its best when we work together, because together we create [*The Magic of Rotary*](#).



Keynote speaker PDG Larry Lunsford, vice chair of The Rotary Foundation board of trustees with the magical "Under the Oaks" quilt made by Deb Ockenfels to benefit The Rotary Foundation Polio Plus effort.

John Maxwell, North Scott, himself a Guardian, left, accepting the District Guardian honor for the late Bill Tubbs to be presented to Linda Tubbs. Nancy Pacha, left, wrote the Guardian tributes, Jacque Andrew produced the Guardian booklet with DG Dave Cook who presented the honor.



Discover the Magic of Rotary District Conference

Photo by Carolyn Scharff

Prior to District Governor Dave Cook taking the stage to open the conference, District Governor Nominee Designee Gretchen Nollman led the assembly in the Four Way Test following the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) flag ceremony. Doug Peterson, at right, introduced the inbound and outbound students participating in RYE.



Photo by Carolyn Scharff

Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service award honor to PDG Cal Litwiler

The Rotary Foundation's highest individual award was awarded to Litwiler (RC of Mt. Pleasant) for his work in effective and far-reaching global grants, leadership as District Rotary Foundation Chair, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator and many years of dedicated service to sharing the work and encouraging support of The Rotary Foundation. Fewer than 50 were selected in the world for this recognition. From left: Larry Lunsford, vice-chair TRF Trustees and keynote speaker, PDG Dennis Drager, DG Dave Cook, presenter PDG Jacque Andrew and Litwiler who made acceptance remarks following the presentation.



TRF Citation for Meritorious Service

PDG Jim Patton, Ames, left, was presented The Rotary Foundation's second highest award by DG Dave Cook. The Citation for Meritorious Service award is given for demonstrated outstanding service to the mission of the Foundation. Patton has made many presentations and raised funds for a large water project in Tanzania and The Rotary Foundation, worked with the District's Global Scholar program and more.. Before moving to District 6000, he served 5970 as District Governor.



DG Sharon Bloodworth, 5950, shared fun and creative ways to engage our members. Her enthusiasm for Rotary was evident as she welcomed Rotarians to Minneapolis for the Rotary International Convention in 2028. It is sure to be fun!

Rick Kyte, right, professor of ethics in leadership at Viterbo University, explained the "third place" in our lives and how Rotary can create that important place of connection and friendship.



Chuck Corrigan, a PDG from 6450, shared unique Paul Harris history and a virtual "tour" of the restored and enlarged Paul and Jean Harris home in Chicago.

Photos by Jacque Andrew

District Conference

Rotary International's highest individual honor—

Service Above Self award to Deb Dunkhase



Deb Dunkhase, Iowa City AM Photo by John Dunkhase

Good Evening Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

By Deb Dunkhase Rotary Club of Iowa City AM

I so wish I could be with you all tonight to accept this incredible honor in person. Unfortunately, my husband had surgery earlier this week so I'm unable to join you today. But I'm beyond grateful that my sister Juley Murphy-Tiernan has graciously stepped in to represent me.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Rotary International and Rotary District 6000 for this incredible honor. To be nominated for this award was a humbling experience in itself, but to actually receive it is beyond words. I am truly touched and deeply honored to be recognized as a Rotarian who strives to embody the true meaning of 'Service Above Self.' This recognition means more to me than I can fully express, and I am filled with immense gratitude for the trust and belief you've placed in me.

I've always believed that service is a fundamental part of life. Growing up on a small farm in southern Iowa, my parents taught my siblings and me the simple, yet profound truth that our purpose in life is to be helpers. From a very young age, I witnessed my dad selflessly stepping in to plant crops for neighbors facing challenges. I saw my mom prepare hundreds of casseroles for those in our community who were sick or struggling.

Even as a child, it was clear to me that we never sat down to our own meal until we knew our neighbors had been taken care of — that their work was done, and food was on

their table. It didn't matter whether our neighbors looked like us or shared our beliefs. What mattered was offering service with no expectations in return. It wasn't just about doing the right thing; it was a way of life, woven deeply into the fabric of who we were as a family, guiding us in every action and every choice.

I am deeply grateful to my parents for showing me, through their actions, the beauty and power of service. Their example taught me that giving of yourself to others is not just a way to make a difference, but the most **meaningful** way to live a life of purpose and connection. I strive to bring Service Above Self into everything I do, in the big moments and the small, every single day.

I've often said that I truly never became a Rotarian until I joined our Iowa MOST medical mission to Guatemala. For me, it's those firsthand experiences of service that give life its deepest meaning. Being able to hold a mother's hand while her child undergoes surgery, playing with children born with cleft birth defects and opening your heart to these beautiful kids who have been ostracized in their communities because of how they look—those moments stay with you forever.

It's in those interactions, in the rawness of shared vulnerability, where I've found the true spirit of service. It's about finding ways to connect with others, not just through words, but through actions that show empathy and understanding. It's being able to offer comfort, even in silence, and extending a hand to someone who might feel invisible to the world around them.

Through these experiences and the meaningful relationships they've brought into my life, I've come to understand that service isn't just an action—it's a way of life.

It's in those authentic moments of connection, where we truly see and are seen, that I've come to realize the power to change the world lies in helping others.

For me, service is the path that not only builds relationships but also transforms our understanding of one another. When we step into someone else's shoes, when we truly see their struggles and their humanity, it challenges our beliefs, shifts our perspectives, and opens our hearts.

Service doesn't just improve individual lives, as becoming a Rotarian has profoundly improved mine. Service Above Self holds the power to heal the divisions in our society, to break down the walls of ego and self-interest, and to create a world where compassion and connection serve as the foundation of a better world where we truly unite for good.

Thank you for this incredible honor. I accept it with profound gratitude—not just for myself, but for all who believe in the quiet strength of service and the unshakable bond of community. Together, we make change possible.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A record number honored—

29 clubs nominated Guardians of Integrity in 2025

Remembering Paul Hellwege

At the time of his death at age 97 on January 28, 2020, Paul E. Hellwege had been a past district governor in District 6000 and its predecessor districts for 55 years, which was more than half of the 105 year existence of Rotary. During those years, the Boone Rotarian provided continuity, consistency and credibility to Rotarians young and old in District 6000 as a friend, mentor, story teller and redoubtable source of the history and traditions of our district.

To honor Paul's many contributions, and to promote the ideals of ethics and integrity which his life exemplified, District 6000 established the Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity Award in 2011. Clubs were invited to nominate a member who has been a member for a minimum of three years and whose life exemplifies the attributes and passion for ethics and integrity in his or her vocation, business and personal life that Paul epitomized.

This award recognized individuals who have made outstanding contributions that fostered 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.

We have been inspired by the examples of 142 outstanding Rotarians who have been nominated by their clubs in the program's first 14 years. Each, in his or her own way, add a shine to the Rotary pins that we wear. They remind us why it is special to be a Rotarian.

The initial goal was to select one Rotarian annually as the District Guardian of Integrity Award recipient. Soon, however, it became apparent that all of our nominees were indeed Guardians of Integrity.

I would like to thank the clubs who nominated the outstanding Rotarians whose brief biographies appear in this folder. The information here is just a snapshot of their many contributions.

Our thanks to Nancy Pacha, Rotary Club of Iowa City AM, who masterfully writes the profiles printed here using detailed material submitted by clubs and to Carolyn Scharff for her assistance in receiving the nominations.

Our wish is that the award can provide a perpetual memory of the life of this one incredible Rotarian—Paul Hellwege—and it will do that when others are inspired to follow his example which is summed up succinctly in Rotary's Four Way Test and the Rotary Code of Conduct.

—By the late PDG Bill Tubbs, District 6000 Vocational Service Committee

Rotary Code of Conduct

As a Rotarian, I will;

1. Exemplify the core value of integrity in all behaviors and activities
2. Use my vocational experience and talents to serve in Rotary
3. Conduct all of my personal, business and professional affairs ethically, encouraging and fostering high ethical standards as an example to others
4. Be fair in all dealings with others and treat them with the respect due to them as fellow human beings
5. Promote recognition and respect for all occupations which are useful to society
6. Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relieve of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community
7. Honor the trust that Rotary and fellow Rotarians provide and not do anything that will bring disfavor or reflect adversely on Rotary or fellow Rotarians
8. Not seek from a fellow Rotarians a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship

Character is doing the right thing even when it costs more than you want to pay.

—Micheal Josephson, *whatwillmatter.com*

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2025 Guardians of Integrity



Glen Rippke



Doug Beech



Steve Wieneke



Mary Macumber-Schmidt



Phil Hauser



Rollie Reznicek



Paul Holmer



Steve Gruba



Beth Saxton



Don Luensmann



Dody Christy



Norma Bettis



Bruce Blankenfeld



Dennis Drager



Todd Kielkopf

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2025 Guardians of Integrity



Ryan Bell



Roger Christian



Briana Hoffman



Sam Harding



Larry Smith



Bob Mueller



Heidi Drager



Rachel Litwiller



Ros Dunblazier



Bob Main



John Maxwell



Jessica McCullen



Brad Goetz



Galen Howsare

Rotary 
District 6000

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2025 Club Guardian of Integrity honorees, 29 in all

Ames Rotarian Glen Rippke is retired from Iowa State University where he was manager of the Grain Quality Research Laboratory. Glen's Rotary passion has been international service as his club's Global Grants chairperson, a position he pursues with "integrity, compassion, enthusiasm and efficiency." His focus in Same, Tanzania has resulted in four trips to help foster healthcare education and initiatives to support ongoing education for children. Empower Tanzania Inc. is an NGO Glen helped found in this place he loves.

Ankeny Rotarian Doug Beech is an attorney for Casey's General Stores. His service to his community and the state has found him co-chairing the Mayor's Task Force for Economic Development and serving on countless state and local boards, councils and committees. In 2023, Doug was honored as the Iowa Grocery Industry Association's Hall of Fame Legislative Leader for his "outstanding commitment and vision." In 2024, he received the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Impact Award. Rotary service spirit!

Ankeny Evening Rotarian Steve Wieneke "is passionate about serving youth." Steve is a former Agricultural Education teacher, FFA Advisor, and Youth Protection Officer, as well as the current Rotary District Rotaract Advisor, RYLA Chair-Elect and member of the District Youth Exchange Committee. He has been the Iowa Rotary dad for inbound exchange students. Steve is also a recent D6000 Governor. Every PDG can attest to the time, service and commitment involved in taking on that role.

Bettendorf Rotarian Mary Macumber-Schmidt is the President of Trinity Health Foundation. In 2022, she was named a Women's Leadership Conference Woman of Influence. In her role as president of Trinity Health Foundation, Mary has helped to improve the lives through her "unwavering commitment to uplifting others." With an open mind, she listens to all voices and values the diverse perspectives they represent. That careful attention supports collaborations and decisions that work toward meaningful solutions.

Boone Rotarian Phil Hauser took over a financial planning business 75 miles from his home after his friend's passing. Seeking to be more involved, he joined Boone Rotary, quickly rising to a board position and later serving as president. Ten years on, Phil's commitment never wavers—he makes the trip for fundraisers, board meetings, and club gatherings, always greeting others with warmth. Phil chooses integrity over convenience, embodying the true spirit of service to his adopted community.

Centerville Rotarian Rollie Reznicek is a pharmacist who provides customers with medications and supports them through their illnesses with empathy, explanations and even personal delivery of medicine if that is needed. He has aided efforts to beautify a local cemetery, to eradicate polio, to construct safe playing places for children, to build houses for Habitat for Humanity, and he has traveled world-wide making friends and building goodwill. He has taught his children that "strangers are friends you haven't met yet."

Clinton Rotarian Paul Holmer is a retired Lutheran minister who has helped to create an even more steadfast connection among members of his club to build community by doing service activity together. Even fundraisers are opportunity for companionable interaction and building friendship. Paul did the same for his parishioners. He created a respite care program for senior citizens and gave them a new community of friends as well as helping family caregivers. Paul embodies "unwavering dedication to serving others."

Corning Rotarian Stephen Gruba is a physician who has lent his expertise, knowledge and passion to projects internationally and locally. In Kenya, there are schools, orphanages and hospitals that he has provided supplies and modernized water systems. In Guadalupe, Ecuador there is improved water filtration procedure. The Corning Public Library sports refreshed paint and landscaping. As a "model every day on how to be a good Rotarian," it is no wonder he was named Corning Rotarian of the Year twice!

Decatur County Rotarian Beth Saxton "is a true model of civic engagement and service." She has been a significant participant in the local communities where she has resided, involving herself in Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Board of Adjustment. Wearing her Rotarian hat, Beth is the District Inbound Youth Exchange coordinator, a position filled with a myriad of detail with local clubs and sticky State Department requirements, all leading youth from around the world to become goodwill ambassadors in their life journeys.

Denison Rotarian Don Luensmann is Crawford County Memorial Hospital Executive Director of Marketing and Development. He brings to his work and to his club the values of Rotary. "Consistent, honest and transparent" is how his nominator chose to describe Don. Always willing to lend a hand, Don is involved in his club's projects and is a mentor for new members as well as a model for all Denison Rotary Club members who look to him as an active listener and one whose word can be trusted.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2025 Club Guardian of Integrity honorees, 29 in all

Des Moines AM Rotarian Dody Christy began her career with Gilcrest Jewett as a receptionist and ended as the CFO of the company. Dody also has offered her support to many organizations -- West Des Moines Human Services, Methodist West Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Meals of the Heartland, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and of course her Rotary club where she served as Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor and participated in the club's initial service trip to China. All this with "integrity as a benchmark."

East Polk County Rotarian Norma Bettis is a spry 90-year-old who had a 35-year career with Farm Equipment Association and then established her own company, Odessey Travel. She drives the 20-mile route to her office six days a week to provide travel assistance to her customers. Her work ethic extends to her Rotary club where she is a key supporter of club projects, a past president and current secretary. At her church, Norma has taught Sunday school for sixty years! She is a "living example" of what is true, noble and admirable.

Grinnell Rotarian Bruce Blankenfeld "has enriched the community and county as a whole." He provides leadership of the Poweshiek County Salvation Army bell ringing yearly, leads the annual Kite's Over Grinnell for Grinnell schools, is a valued member of the Grinnell Historical Museum Society and can be relied upon as a dependable volunteer for his church. He was the innovator of a strategy to increase revenue for his club's fundraiser expanding the proceeds and, at the same time, providing more exposure of Rotary to his community.

HOPE Rotarian Dennis Drager is a retired veterinarian. Although retired, Dennis continues to provide his service for a pet whose owner is unable to pay. Following Hurricane Katrina, he was in Mississippi to care for animals. He has secured Global Grants, traveled internationally and obtained Community Grants. A Past District Governor and past member of RC of Marshalltown, Dennis now is a member of HOPE RC, which furnishes support to the homeless. He quietly gives the gift of his "time, talent and treasure."

Indianola Rotarian Todd Kielkopf is recognized in the "communications industry for his impeccable integrity," setting higher standards for how to conduct oneself in his profession. He is honest with clients, provides them with the information they need and puts them first. Todd served two terms as the president of the Rotary Club of Indianola, working to encourage members to provide service and establishing regard for Indianola Rotary Club in their community.

Iowa City Rotarian Ryan Bell took his wife and children in 2024 to the International Rotary Convention in Singapore, and his entire family caught the Rotary spirit. Ryan and his daughter were stirred to establish an Interact club at Regina HS where Ryan coaches Track and Field and his daughter is a student. As Membership Chair after his year as president, Ryan "immediately escalated the engagement of new members." Under Ryan's guidance, area Rotary clubs have planted 1,100 trees. He provides inspirational leadership.

Iowa City AM Rotarian Roger Christian is a self-professed perfectionist, and whether at Rotary, at church or through his business before he retired, Roger is counted on to do a superlative job. He knows his way around technology. He sets up for Rotary meetings and church on Sundays coming early or the day before to assure no hitches. He has opened his camera shop to international Rotary visitors during closed hours to provide for them, sending them off with "gratitude and affection, warm feelings of Rotary brotherhood."

Iowa City Downtown Rotarian Briana Hoffman has been the force behind projects benefiting people in need as well as the environment, which is to the advantage to all in her community. Briana has spearheaded the funding and installation of solar panel systems at the Free Medical Clinic and the new Domestic Violence Intervention Program housing facility. Her efforts have saved funds that can be spent to provide programs and services, "testament to how one individual's vision and leadership can drive meaningful change."

Jefferson Rotarian Sam Harding has served his community as a board member of the Greene County/Jefferson-Scranton Schools, The Children's Center non-profit child-care provider, Jefferson Parks and Recreation, his church and, notably, his Rotary club. He organizes the Jefferson Bell Tower Festival parade sponsored by his Rotary club and dedicates countless hours to the club's auction raising funds to local and international benefit. His support of his community has spread "education, entertainment, encouragement, empowerment and enlightenment."

Knoxville Rotarian Larry Smith is his Rotary club's Sergeant-at-Arms, an unsung, but vital role that makes a club run smoothly. Larry does the job with serious attention to details. Man of many talents, his skill and ability to fix things make him a go-to person and no problem is beneath Larry. He runs the club raffle and lottery and delivers Meals on Wheels. His charity work includes Habitat for Humanity where he does actual building work and provides financial backing. "He builds goodwill with his volunteer work."

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2025 Guardian of Integrity honorees, 29 in all

Manning Rotarian Robert Mueller is the son of a 1952 Manning Rotary Club charter member and “like father like son, both saw Rotary as a way to serve their community.” Past secretary of the Manning RC and current Sergeant-at-Arms, Bob reliably arrives early to prepare for weekly meetings, and he stays late to wrap things up at the end of each session. He’s the greeter to all he encounters and even leads the singing at meetings to remember birthdays of his fellow club members. Forty-three years of commitment.

Marshalltown Rotarian Heidi Drager was a Rotarian before she was an official Rotarian. Before becoming a Rotarian in 2001, she wrote both Global and District grants. She is a passionate advocate for mental health initiatives and aiding the food insecure and homeless populations. She is a founder of the district RAG for Mental Health and helped to establish the Rotary Club of HOPE, which focuses on needs of the homeless.

Mt. Pleasant Evening Rotarian Rachael Litwiller works to benefit her world through her Rotary volunteerism and her approach as “a doer, a troubleshooter, with undeniable stamina, and a true problem solver.” Throughout time, Rachael is the steadfast fundraiser for her club’s annual barbeque, which raises money for initiatives and organizations in the community and internationally. Her can-do attitude prompts her to be involved hands-on in projects in Iowa and in countries far and wide.

Nevada Rotarian Ros Dunblazier has held many Rotary roles. President, Club Literacy Chair, Foundation Chair and Assistant Governor are a few. She’s led the task of revising the club by-laws, celebrating the 85th anniversary of Nevada RC, prompting the club to become a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club, participating in a Matching Grant in Honduras and helping with an International Special Olympics competition. “Service, integrity, fairness and respect” are words to describe Ros’s Rotary and vocational spirit.

Newton Rotarian Bob Main is a past Rotary president, long-time board member, generous Paul Harris Society participant and has been an Assistant Governor for three years. He retired as manager of the Newton waterworks and has used his skills and knowledge for the last 20 years in Xicotepec with the annual District 6000 humanitarian mission team. He travels to Xicotepec with a planning team in the fall and returns to provide the community with safe drinking water in March. Bob is described as a “stalwart” of Rotary.



North Scott Rotarian John Maxwell has provided yeoman’s work as chair of the North Scott Corn Boil fundraiser for many years. He also chairs the Literacy Committee organizing programs at local schools. He’s served on North Scott school board and is currently chair of the Scott County Board of Supervisors. Through Cinnamon Ridge Dairy Farm, his family farm, John’s expertise benefits NSFFA, Scott County Extension Service and American Jersey Cattle Assn. No wonder John is “a cherished member of the club and community.”

Ottumwa Rotarian Jessica McCullen is a doctor who gives time and attention to her family and her patients, and she serves her community through Rotary volunteerism. As president of her club, Jessica organized service activity at the food bank and with a leadership academy, introducing Rotary to young people. Having provided expanded options for attendance, membership grew during her presidential year. Importantly, Jessica’s assistance brought her club into the digital world. Jessica “lives the Rotary model.”

Tipton Rotarian Brad Goetz owns the business Family Foods where he employs many of the young high school students he meets when he volunteers at the school. His help with set design and working the sound board for drama performances provides him a connection. Not surprisingly, Brad helped prepare upgrades to an older building to create a spot for your people to spend after school hours. His labors crafted a new park pavilion and shelter for the community. Brad’s “actions speak louder than he does.”

West Des Moines Rotarian Galen Howsare is a deacon at his church, secretary/treasurer of his Homeowners Association, treasurer of his Rotary club and has served as Chief Financial Officer in several school districts. At Iowa State University, Galen created a certification program for Iowa school and community college leaders. When the Iowa Assn. of School Boards had financial issues, he helped reestablish stability. He is a champion of child abuse prevention and known by his colleagues in education as “Dr. Integrity.”

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The inaugural District 6000 Guardians of Integrity

Bill Tubbs, North Scott

The Guardian of Integrity award was introduced to District 6000 by PDG Bill Tubbs of Eldridge. As Vocational Service chair, he wanted Rotarians to be honored for their integrity of character in their business and personal lives. All clubs were encouraged to annually identify one member in their midst who demonstrated such an honorable trait. Bill would be thrilled with the record breaking number of Guardians who are recognized this year.



Although he received Rotary International's and The Rotary Foundation's highest honors for his passionate, devoted and inspiring service, he was never nominated as a "Guardian." Why? He was always nominating others from his club!

Ever present at District events, zone institutes, International Conventions, Bill thoroughly and thoughtfully reported Rotary's happenings with professionalism, positivity and amazing photos. As a Rotarian of unwavering integrity, honesty, kindness, trustworthiness, and selfless humanitarian efforts, Bill's life will forever resonate with the many fortunate enough to have known him.

Generous...the one word that described Bill the best and inspires us the most. He freely gave of his time, talent and treasure in every way imaginable to make the world a better place by being in it. Through his vision of generosity and service, we clearly see the MAGIC of Rotary and Rotarians. Thank you, Guardian Bill!!

Carolyn Scharff, Pella



For nearly two decades, Carolyn Scharff has been the backbone of Rotary District 6000, exemplifying the highest values of service, fairness, and integrity. As District Administrator, she has provided steadfast support to 19 District Governors, helping to ensure Rotary's mission thrives across our clubs.

She has played an essential role in organizing key events such as Presidents-Elect Training Seminar, District Assembly, our annual District Conference, and other key initiatives that help empower Rotarians to serve.

With a warm smile and a servant's heart, Carolyn's professionalism has guided countless individuals, ensuring that Rotary remains a beacon in service to others. Whether assisting a club, organizing significant events, or managing district-wide communication, Carolyn has done so with grace, fairness, and a deep commitment to service.



*Thank you,
Carolyn!!*

District Governor caricature created for Carolyn Scharff

As a special gift to Carolyn for her retirement, Lisa Cook worked with an artist from Ukraine, via email of course, to create a "composite of District Governors."

The 19 DGs with whom Carolyn worked are represented by caricatures. See if you can identify who is who!!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT

District Governor-Elect's Outlook for 2025-26 year

As July approaches, the opportunity to serve district Rotarians becomes more humbling with a focus on developing solid relationships with all clubs to assure the district provides support and services as requested.

Rotary starts and ends at the club level. I hope every club will have programs and activities to engage their members (social, educational, projects), carryout activities to add to the quality of life and future enhancement of their communities, participate in district events, while also becoming involved in a global grant project. Another district program a club may choose to utilize is to conduct a Club Planning program. This is an effective means for club members to determine the focus and direction they wish to take.

Cindy and I request each club let us know (ASAP) if they prefer a traditional visit with a presentation at a club program or if they would prefer for us to work with them on a club activity (flip pancakes, omelets, work on other projects). This gives both us and club members a chance to know each other while being part of a team effort. We encourage a club to choose as we will publish the club visit schedule in the District 6000 NEWS.

I am requesting every club to plant at least one tree per member in their community. I have worked with Iowa State University Extension Service to provide information concerning selecting trees, planting trees, and caring for the trees. This information will be accessible on the website.

I am also requesting each club conduct a Mental Health (Wellness) program in their community. The program can be in conjunction with the school district, Chamber of Commerce, another local organization, or an at-large program. The club can select the venue.

We look forward to the opportunity to visit each club as it is a privilege to get to meet so many good Rotarians, listen to the pride each club shares and have fun in the process.



Cindy and DGE Norlan Hinke with RIPE Mário César Martins de Camargo and Denise of Brazil



All Rotarians invited to District gavel passing June 28

The District 6000 annual gavel passing will be held at the Eagle Point Park Lodge in Clinton from 1-4 pm. The official address for the park is: Eagle Point Park Lodge, 4101 N 3rd St, Clinton, IA.

The Eagle Point Park Lodge was the 100 year project of the Clinton Rotary club at a cost of over \$1.4 million to renovate the lodge which was built as a result of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project.

The Rotary District 6000 gavel will be passed from DG Dave Cook of Boone to DGE Norlan Hinke of Clinton.



Front door of Eagle Point Park Lodge

Gretchen Nollman elected District Governor 2027-28

Gretchen Nollman is a member of the Rotary Club of HOPE - Homeless Outreach, Prevention and Education. In her 10 years as a Rotarian she has held multiple leadership roles. She currently serves as treasurer for the Rotary Club of HOPE. She is the District 6000 Learning Facilitator, Community Service Grant Co-Chair, Paul Harris Society Chair and on the Public Image Team. At the regional level, she served as an Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator and Lead Learning Facilitator for Rotary Region 36 (Zone 29 and 25B), working to support and guide Rotarians in strengthening their public image and expanding their knowledge of Rotary.

After college, Gretchen built a diverse career in agriculture, working internationally for over 12 years before spending most of her career in the Midwest. She grew up in larger cities and suburbs, moving frequently. This unique background gave her a fresh perspective in agriculture, allowing her to gain valuable insights.

In June 2023, Gretchen transitioned from agriculture to the nonprofit sector, joining River Bend Food Bank in Davenport, IA. She started as the Food Sourcing Manager, overseeing food purchasing and managing donations from retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers. Recently, she advanced to Director of Operations, where she leads the logistical and operational aspects of food distribution. In this role, she ensures that food reaches those in need efficiently and safely, contributing to the mission of feeding people today and ending hunger tomorrow.

Despite her career shifts, agriculture remains an integral part of her life. Gretchen and her husband Brian and daughter Anna live on a farm in Atalissa, IA, where they manage a 45-head cow/calf operation, producing club calves, replacement heifers, and feeder cattle.



**HUMANITARIAN AND EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Supporting Rotary Service Through
Strategic Stewardship

The Rotary District 6000 Humanitarian and Educational Foundation, Inc. (HEF) plays a vital role in supporting the service mission efforts of Rotary Clubs in District 6000 and beyond. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, HEF provides a secure and efficient channel for receiving, managing, and distributing tax-deductible charitable donations from any source for both domestic and international Rotary-led projects.

HEF proudly manages designated accounts for a wide range of important initiatives, including the long-running medical missions to Guatemala, the Xicotepec Project in Mexico, and the Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot—each of which reflects Rotary's deep commitment to improving health, education, and opportunity around the globe.

By serving as a carefully managed financial repository for tax-deferred contributions for these and many other District 6000 humanitarian efforts, HEF ensures donor intent is honored and compliance with IRS charitable giving requirements is maintained, so that project leaders can focus on making a lasting difference.

To learn how HEF facilitated \$364,000 in project funding for the year ending June 30, 2024—supporting 15 club, district, and international initiatives—and how HEF could assist with your club's next great project, please reach out or consider making a donation:

• **Bill Burress**, HEF President – (563) 579-3082

• **Phil Peterson**, HEF Treasurer – (319) 499-8109

• **Mark Ruggeberg**, HEF Asst Treasurer – (319) 331-0820



Congratulation to the latest RLI graduates

Photos by Steve Wieneke

Front row (left to right) - Kathy Sibbel (Ankeny), Holly Arnold (Decatur County), Vicki Minor (Winterset), Jennifer Chittenden (Des Moines AM) and Kristofer Orth (Ankeny Evening).

Middle row (left to right) – Deanna Jensen-Valliere (North Scott), Abigail Casey (Marshalltown), Cherlyn Hullinger (Decatur County), Amanda McFadden (Iowa City AM), Bonnie Lowry (Marshalltown), Darla Hunzelman (West Des Moines) and Kandy Wittrey-Kern (Marshalltown).

Back row (left to right) – Jeff Magner (Ankeny Evening), Matt Adams (West Des Moines), Bill Daley (Bettendorf), Bill Bruce (Denison), John Culshaw (Iowa City), Cathy McDaniel (Ankeny Evening), Chris Nelson (West Des Moines), Kyle Ahlenstorf (Decatur County) and Mark Roberts (Muscatine). Not pictured is Jennifer Bennett from the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids Downtown (District 5970).

Rotary Leadership Institute rocks!

By PDG Steve Wieneke, Ankeny Evening
District 6000 RLI Coordinator

Over the weekend of April 5-6, 2025, a total of 23 Rotarians and 12 facilitators participated in Rotary Leadership Institute undergraduate courses.

A total of 13 Rotarians participated in 6 classes in Part 1; a total of 19 Rotarians participated in 6 classes in Part 2; and a total of 22 Rotarians participated in 6 classes in Part 3 and completed the entire undergraduate program.

All participants that graduated from the program were presented an RLI completion certificate and lapel pin. Thanks to Shive-Hattery and Chris Nelson for serving as our facility host/sponsor for the weekend.

Facilitators that instructed courses over the weekend included: Mike Ruby (Muscatine), Gretchen Nollman (HOPE), T. Waldmann-Williams (Knoxville), Sarah Simon (Madison County Rotary Evening Club), Todd Wheeler (Des Moines), Marie Pipes (East Polk County), Wayne Steen (Iowa City AM), Jack Bell (Northwest Des Moines), Michell Roseborough (Marshalltown), Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening) and Brenda Wieneke (Ankney Evening, Administrator).

Since Rotarians in District 6000 joined the Rotary Leadership Institute in the Heartland U.S.A. Division in 2012, a total of 77 Rotarians in Rotary District 6000 have completed the three-part undergraduate program. Another 135 Rotarians have registered and attended at least one course. A list of the 77 graduates is also in this issue.

The next RLI course offerings will be held the weekend of September 20, 2025, in the Iowa City area. Registrations will open on May 1, 2025.

To register click on <http://rli-heartland.org/> for the Rotary Leadership Institute. If you have questions, contact Steve Wieneke, Rotary District 6000 RLI Coordinator, at swieneked6k@gmail.com or 515-250-0507.



Chris Nelson, in red shirt, leads discussion during RLI session

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE**Iowa MOST: a prime example of “Unite for Good” message****By Thais Winkleblack, Iowa City***Iowa MOST team member*

I loved seeing that the 2025 – 2026 Rotary International President’s message is a response to the question, “What do People of Action Do?” **Unite for Good.** Rotary District 6000 has supported so many projects over the years; I have been lucky to be involved with one of the core international projects of the district: Iowa Miles of Smiles Team or Iowa MOST.



In January this year, the Iowa MOST team traveled to Huehuetenango, Guatemala to provide cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries and associated medical services for the people living in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. It was the 20th anniversary of the very first Iowa MOST mission.

One thing that strikes me about the presidential motto Unite for Good is that to truly unite, you have to create strong relationships. It is the strong relationship that Rotary District 6000 has with the Rotarians and with the community of Huehuetenango that has led to the success of Iowa MOST. Rotarians such as the late Dr. Bill Olin, Nancy and Gary Pacha, Jim Peterson, Deb Dunkhase, Dr. John Canady, and Dr. Martin Mueller have nurtured relationships over many years. Rotarians who have become more involved in recent years such as Dr. Tom Novack, Mark Ruggeberg and others (including me) continue the important work of uniting through friendship.

This year’s mission was made even better due to the amazing relationships that developed through Rotary when a group of firefighters from Huehuetenango needed help with the logistics of driving a firetruck from Nebraska to Miami so it could be shipped to Guatemala. Many Iowa City Rotarians stepped forward to lend a hand, helping them obtain supplies such as fireproof uniforms, respirators, donated by fire departments in Iowa and Indiana. When the Iowa MOST team arrived in



Dr. John Canady, MOST medical team leader, left and Dr. Estuardo Mendoza, a pediatrician in Huehuetenango.

Huehuetenango, these firefighters wanted to reciprocate and were incredible partners, providing transportation on their bus for the patients and their families who needed to travel between the shelter where they were being housed and the hospital.



Fernando in 2018 with MOST volunteer Nienke Berkhoudt

Speaking of the hospital, the Hospital Especialdades is a key partner in the work that Iowa MOST does by providing a terrific space for surgeries, dental work and other activities of the team. The hospital administration and medical personnel and staff treat us as extended family during the time that we are there. And for the most part, the business of the hospital has to be suspended to make way for our team – so we are incredibly grateful for their support and friendship.



Fernando after his most recent 2025 surgery with dentist Dr. Rita Morales

Like the gears of the Rotary wheel, these partnerships all work together to power the action of Iowa MOST: to provide lifechanging surgeries for the children of Guatemala. There is no better example of that life changing surgery than Fernando.

From the very beginning when his family brought him to the Iowa MOST team many years ago, he became a beloved

child to the whole team. The complexity of his medical situation has made it truly challenging for him but he and his family came back again and again because they trusted our team.

During the Iowa MOST mission this past January, he received a surgery which made a significant improvement to his appearance – and our whole team is filled with such joy to have been able to make a difference in this young man’s life. That is the true gift of Rotary and why we Unite for Good.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

Xicotepec project expands leadership team, 20th trip

By Jim Peterson

Rotary Club of Iowa City AM

Xicotepec Project Team co-chair

The March 2025 trip to Xicotepec, Puebla in Mexico by a District 6000 Rotary project team was an especially rewarding experience for the 27 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and family members who participated in the twentieth such service trip since the Xicotepec Project began in 2001.

Each year, beginning in 2003 (excluding the pandemic years of 2020-22), D6000 project teams have spent spring break week in Xicotepec with the primary goal of helping to carry out humanitarian service projects of the Xicotepec Rotary Club. More than 1,100 U.S. project team members have participated since the Xicotepec Project began, and over half of the participants have been high school or college students.

In addition to their work on humanitarian service projects, project team members have the opportunity to enjoy Mexican food, culture and traditions, learn about the local economy of Xicotepec, meet and spend time with members of Interact, Rotaract, Inner Wheel and Rotary Clubs, interact with local residents in schools, city government, hospitals and businesses and share and discuss their experiences with one another in nightly debriefing sessions.

As in past years, the project team included a number of first-time participants, as well as several veterans of the Xicotepec Project who helped first-timers quickly learn their way around, both geographically and culturally, in order for them to quickly adapt and get the most out of their week in Mexico.

A special aspect of the 2025 trip to Xicotepec was to have **Nancy and PDG Gary Pacha** - who were founders of the Xicotepec Project during Gary's year as DG in 2002-03 - as well as their 13 year-old grandson, **Max Arkema**, as members of this year's project team.

This year's trip to Xicotepec was also especially successful due to an expanded leadership team. Over the past few years, these dedicated Xicotepec Project veterans have devoted their time, thought and efforts in order to ensure that the Project can continue its collaboration with the Xicotepec Rotary Club and the annual spring break trips to Xicotepec for many years to come.

Allie Boge (formerly North Scott Interact member, University of Iowa Rotaract and RC of Iowa City AM, recently moved to Maryland and is currently looking for a Rotary Club to join there) served as the project team leader during the week in Xicotepec, and coordinated numerous aspects of the daily activities of the project team. She was assisted by **Jenny Seylar** of the RC of Iowa City AM, who focused on the experience and well-being of youth team



Mexican and American youth with their respective flags.

Photo by Jim Peterson

members before, during and after their week in Xicotepec. **Bob Main** of the RC of Newton handled group travel arrangements and related logistics and helped ensure that travel went smoothly for the team. U of I Rotaractors **Jasmine Sanasinh** and **Amiritha Kumar**, both Xicotepec veterans, helped gather and organize the legal and health-related documents needed from each participant. **Keith Hobson** of the RC of Nevada serves as the Project's treasurer and keeps track of receipts from participants as well as payments to airlines, hotels, vendors, etc. **Jim Peterson** provided oversight and advice for project leaders and team members and helped the Xicotepec Rotary Club with various planning details of daily activities, meals, lodging and transportation. The commitment of this leadership team to the success of the project and to providing a rewarding and meaningful experience for all project team members was evident throughout their week in Xicotepec.

The Xicotepec Project is open to all D6000 Rotarians, Interactors, Rotaractors, their family members, and any young person under 30 endorsed by a D6000 Rotary Club. Online applications are received from mid-September through mid-November. The all-inclusive costs for the 2025 trip were \$2150 for youth participants and \$2350 for those over 30 years of age. Partial reimbursement of these expenses is available to first-time youth participants through the D6000 Youth Services Fund.

Club presidents and District officers will be notified in September when the application website has opened, as will those on the Xicotepec Project email distribution list. If you would like to be added to the email list or request additional information, please email xicoproj@gmail.com. Information can also be found at <https://xicoproject.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/xicoproj>.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Xicotepec Project are always needed and welcome, and can be made via D6000 HEF at <https://xicoproject.org> or by contacting D6000 HEF treasurer Phil Peterson at ptpeterson33@gmail.com.

2025 marks the 20th Xicotepec service trip



At left, Nancy and PDG Gary Pacha made a return trip to Xicotepec in 2025. They were founders of the Xicotepec Project during Gary's year as DG in 2002-03. Nancy was a high school Spanish teacher and long time Interact Club adviser.

Gary and Nancy Pacha are pictured with Silvia Castillo, whose mother was the founder of the Rotary Club Primary School. Silvia was a teacher there for a number of years and she is now retired and married to a former director of

Photos by Jim Peterson

At right, students warmly welcome the Rotary team to the Lázaro Cárdenas Indigenous Primary School in Santa Cruz Chica.

Attention to the health of the student population is an especially important part of the Xicotepec trip. In the photo below, students wait in line at a preschool for medication to treat/prevent intestinal parasites. Education is also provided on handwashing, wearing shoes, and other preventive measures.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Celebration of District 6000’s support of The Rotary Foundation

By Bill Koellner, Iowa City Downtown
Annual Funds committee

All categories were acquired from The Rotary Foundation database on May 13, 2025.

2024-25 Annual Fund Goal - \$371,452

- TRF contributions as of May 13, 2025 - \$326, 987
- 69% Every Rotarian Every Year (\$100 annually)
Highest percent giving in Zone of EREY
- 23 Clubs achieved Annual Fund goals
- **Paul Harris Society** (\$1000) – 101 members
May 13, 2025 – PHS donors—52
44 donors non-Paul Harris Society
18 first time donors of \$1000 or more

Polio Plus Goal - \$ 105,060

- May 13, 2025 contributions - \$96,374
8 clubs achieved Polio Plus goals
- **Endowment Fund** interest - \$39,348
from (\$2,483,869 invested)
Endowment Contributions - \$69,232
- **Global Grants** Contributions - \$205,180
- **Community Service Grant** District match - \$7,500
increased from \$5,000



Ockenfels are newest Arch Klumph Society members

The newest members of the Arch Klumph Society from District 6000 are PDG John and Deb Ockenfels, Iowa City AM, announced at District Conference. Their official induction will be held at the Zone Institute in Minneapolis this fall. John, at the podium, was the pilot of the around the world “Flight to End Polio”. Deb looks on behind him. The quilts she makes have raised thousands for polio.

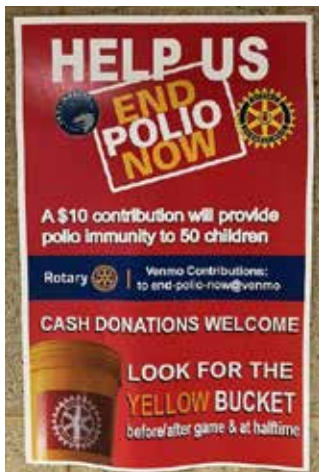
New Major Donors and Bequest Society Members/Level increases in 2024-25

Ric Anderson and Mary K. Anderson	Major Donor Level 1	Marshalltown, IA (2262)
E. Robert Baumann + and Mary Massey Baumann +	Major Donor Level 1	Ames, IA (2229)
Jim R. Black	Major Donor Level 1	Ames, IA (2229)
John H. Fraser	Major Donor Level 1	Iowa City, IA (2252)
H. Stephen Miller	Major Donor Level 1	Ottumwa, IA (2272)
Donald E. Patterson + and Rebecca Patterson	Major Donor Level 1	Washington, IA (2276)
Steve Allen Wieneke and Brenda Marie Wieneke	Major Donor Level 1	Ankeny Evening, IA (225477)
Jack F. Bell	Major Donor Level 2	Northwest Des Moines, IA (2269)
David C. Cook and Lisa B. Cook	Major Donor Level 2	Boone, IA (2234)
Randall V. Hertz and Elizabeth Hertz	Major Donor Level 2	Nevada, IA (2265)
W. Bruce Wirin and Bethany Lane Wirin	Major Donor Level 2	Marshalltown, IA (2262)
Rotary District 6000 Humanitarian and Educational Founda- tion, Inc	Major Donor Level 2	District 6000
Dan Becker and Joann Becker	Major Donor Level 3	Grinnell, IA (2250)
Hy-Vee	Major Donor Level 3	Ames, IA (2229)
John L. Ockenfels and Deborah Ockenfels	Arch Klumph - Trustees Circle	Iowa City A.M., IA (26166)
David C. Cook and Lisa B. Cook	Bequest Society Level 2	Boone, IA (2234)
Dennis D. Drager and Heidi Drager	Bequest Society Level 3	Homeless Outreach, Prevention and Education, IA (81821)
Verne Everett Folkmann	Bequest Society Level 3	Iowa City, IA (2252)

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**2025 Polio Plus Night with the Iowa Wolves a success****By Kelly Peterson, Northwest Des Moines**

The 17th annual Polio Fundraiser with the Iowa Wolves and the Rotary clubs in the Greater Des Moines Area continued this effort to raise money to vaccinate children around the world. The game on Saturday night, February 28, 2024 between the G-League Iowa Wolves and the Osceola Magic provided a mechanism to raise money for Rotary International's Polio Eradication efforts.

The previous fifteen games (2021 game was Covid Cancelled) resulted in over \$160,000 being raised. This year, an additional \$10,000 was raised (including direct donations to RI). With the Gates Foundation 2 for 1 match, approximately \$30,000 was raised; bringing the 16 game total to \$510,000, enough to provide 850,000 immunizations.



This year clubs participating included; Ankeny and Ankeny Evening, Des Moines, East Polk County, Johnston, Perry, Waukee, West Des Moines, West Polk, and the new Rotary Club of Hope (Homeless Outreach, Prevention, and Education). West Polk County maintained possession of the Arnold Trophy, awarded to the club selling the most tickets to the game.

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;
- (6) Support Iowa Wolves and local non-profit agencies by buying and donating tickets (mostly to youth groups).

The process involves the Iowa Wolves selling tickets to Rotary Clubs at a discounted price and then rebating back \$10 per ticket to the selling club. This year, over \$8,650 was raised from the over 865 tickets bought or 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 \$422 and other fans contributed via Venmo another \$65. Other contributions to polio eradication were made by Rotarians to their respective clubs, in lieu of purchasing basketball tickets. The result was that more than \$10,000 was raised as a result of our partnership with the Iowa Wolves.



PDG Steve Wieneke, left, and Marie Pipes, right, received youthful assistance with the yellow polio donations buckets.



Ed Arnold, RC Northwest Des Moines, founder of the polio event, works his way through the crowd for more donations.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Provided by Mark Ruggeberg, Iowa City AM
Annual Funds co-chair, east

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments
District 6000 Clubs July 1, 2024 - May 13, 2025(*)

Members: July 1, 2015-26-17-18-19-20-22-23-24	24-25 Goal	% of Goal	Per capita	Thru 05/13/25	PolioPlus	Other(**)	TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28-24-21-27-22-25)	\$3,000.00	166%	\$199.00	\$4,975.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,975.00
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29-29-32-32-31)	\$601.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ames (224-226-218-206-186-172-167-158-144-135)	\$16,000.00	95%	\$111.14	\$15,130.00	\$14,034.20	\$136,963.31	\$166,127.51
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46-43-40-27)	\$25,000.00	108%	\$959.97	\$26,954.06	\$2,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$33,154.06
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83-101-97-109-78-82)	\$18,500.00	57%	\$128.23	\$10,515.00	\$486.00	\$1,050.00	\$12,051.00
Ankeny Evening (x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-25)	\$3,500.00	111%	\$156.00	\$3,900.00	\$1,670.51	\$0.00	\$5,570.51
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62-59-53-57-56)	\$4,000.00	36%	\$25.48	\$1,427.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,427.00
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100-94-123-118-119)	\$20,000.00	30%	\$50.42	\$6,000.00	\$8,318.30	\$0.00	\$14,318.30
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12-13-13-12-15)	\$1,400.00	5%	\$5.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46-50-59-52-56)	\$7,000.00	405%	\$506.43	\$28,360.00	\$12,317.57	\$6,285.00	\$46,962.57
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73-62-60-54-49)	\$750.00	53%	\$8.16	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Carroll 46-44-43-44-42-26-35-34-30-29)	\$2,601.00	67%	\$60.34	\$1,750.00	\$50.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,850.00
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38-36-34-39-39)	\$1,926.00	99%	\$48.72	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
Charlton (41-41-34-30-39-40-36-32-31-26)	\$3,000.00	87%	\$100.00	\$2,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80-70-77-73-65)	\$8,000.00	29%	\$36.15	\$2,350.00	\$908.57	\$0.00	\$3,258.57
Coralville-North Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22-23-24-25-21)	\$2,000.00	65%	\$61.90	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Corning (34-33-32-32-31-30-27-28-28-28)	\$919.00	100%	\$32.79	\$918.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,918.00
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18-16-16-13-13)	\$1,401.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21-21-13-13)	\$100.00	100%	\$7.69	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30-24-27-28-30)	\$3,500.00	86%	\$100.00	\$3,000.00	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$3,135.00
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94-67-56-52-47)	\$4,500.00	59%	\$56.78	\$2,668.50	\$280.32	\$0.00	\$2,948.82
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28-30-29-26-23)	\$6,000.00	37%	\$95.65	\$2,200.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31-32-31-31-32)	\$2,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227-189-183-171)	\$15,000.00	84%	\$74.09	\$12,670.00	\$260.00	\$3,150.00	\$16,080.00
Des Moines A.M. (170-170-179-189-194-200-209-194-192-186)	\$14,000.00	30%	\$22.85	\$4,250.39	\$328.50	\$0.00	\$4,578.89
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22-23-18-20-16)	\$3,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41-34-32-27-21)	\$1,361.00	60%	\$39.05	\$820.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,070.00
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42-43-44-40-45)	\$2,101.00	93%	\$43.33	\$1,950.00	\$174.18	\$0.00	\$2,124.18
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34-32-33-31-28)	\$5,200.00	58%	\$108.40	\$3,025.00	\$30.00	\$54,600.00	\$57,655.00
Homeless Out. Prev. & Educ. (x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-5)	\$5,000.00	86%	\$855.00	\$4,275.00	\$1,129.38	\$26,848.48	\$32,252.86
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37-32-29-35-31)	\$2,000.00	74%	\$47.74	\$1,480.00	\$713.02	\$1,265.00	\$3,458.02
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271-239-225-215-192)	\$25,000.00	96%	\$125.53	\$24,102.25	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$24,302.25
Iowa City A.M. (66-69-74-71-74-79-75-70-62-61)	\$15,000.00	266%	\$653.89	\$39,887.25	\$20,402.00	\$15,250.00	\$75,539.25
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24-20-22-26-28)	\$9,750.00	108%	\$375.09	\$10,502.50	\$4,084.15	\$1,375.00	\$15,961.65
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36-32-29-27-23)	\$1,701.00	118%	\$86.96	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55-46-40-45-45)	\$5,000.00	60%	\$67.09	\$3,019.00	\$325.00	\$103.50	\$3,447.50
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44-41-45-50-45)	\$13,500.00	27%	\$81.13	\$3,650.65	\$176.00	\$0.00	\$3,826.65
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-38-32-32-31-26)	\$901.00	178%	\$61.54	\$1,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41-37-37-35-36)	\$2,500.00	63%	\$43.75	\$1,575.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,575.00
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26-24-25-29-30)	\$1,200.00	75%	\$30.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34-30-28-32-30)	\$1,500.00	240%	\$80.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,717.27	\$0.00	\$4,117.27
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25-15-12-12)	\$200.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22-20-20-18-15)	\$2,500.00	51%	\$85.58	\$1,283.75	\$788.70	\$0.00	\$2,072.45
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10-9-11-12)	\$601.00	83%	\$41.67	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117-111-129-130-129)	\$7,500.00	267%	\$155.15	\$20,014.50	\$1,700.00	\$2,025.00	\$23,739.50
Mount Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53-44-39-37-33)	\$1,537.00	103%	\$47.88	\$1,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,580.00
Mt. Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15-15-15-16-17)	\$2,500.00	47%	\$69.12	\$1,175.00	\$560.00	\$0.00	\$1,735.00
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62-60-62-56-52)	\$8,000.00	57%	\$87.69	\$4,560.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$4,810.00
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48-56-59-53-56)	\$10,000.00	61%	\$109.29	\$6,120.00	\$2,150.00	\$0.00	\$8,270.00
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38-33-34-32-37)	\$3,500.00	43%	\$40.54	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,675.00	\$6,375.00
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95-91-100-110-109)	\$12,000.00	36%	\$39.08	\$4,260.00	\$1,528.57	\$0.00	\$5,788.57
N West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37-29-29-24-21)	\$12,000.00	118%	\$672.62	\$14,125.00	\$2,765.00	\$0.00	\$16,890.00
Norwalk (x-x-20-24-18-18-17-18-15-14)	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21-17-17-16-15)	\$500.00	40%	\$13.33	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59-49-46-41)	\$150.00	2,135%	\$78.10	\$3,202.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,202.08
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75-75-70-67-63)	\$8,000.00	111%	\$141.27	\$8,900.00	\$563.50	\$0.00	\$9,463.50
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26-27-28-26-27)	\$185.00	1,135%	\$77.78	\$2,100.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22-22-25-24-22)	\$706.00	59%	\$19.09	\$420.00	\$261.00	\$0.00	\$681.00
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23-23-20-22-20)	\$3,700.00	27%	\$50.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41-35-31-33-35)	\$4,500.00	76%	\$97.14	\$3,400.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$4,700.00
Waukegan (58-64-69-64-68-73-69-76-75-69)	\$10,000.00	68%	\$98.00	\$6,762.00	\$3,438.00	\$100.00	\$10,300.00
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23-20-20-18-22)	\$160.00	1,425%	\$103.64	\$2,280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,280.00
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45-38-42-38-35)	\$6,000.00	20%	\$33.57	\$1,175.00	\$2,110.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,285.00
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36-37-42-33-17)	\$12,000.00	17%	\$117.65	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$2,100.00
West Polk County (x-31-18-19-20-24-21-17-18-18)	\$301.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Winterset (25-30-33-29-32-38-48)	\$4,500.00	143%	\$134.02	\$6,433.00	\$3,902.00	\$11,550.00	\$21,885.00
Total (3854-3853-3793-3693-3580-3464-3212-3064-2944)	\$371,452.00	83.69%	\$105.59	\$327,619.93	\$34,656.74	\$270,940.29	\$693,216.96

(*) Interim Report as of May 13, 2025. (**) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants.

District President-Elect training prepares for 25-26

By Norlan Hinke, Clinton
District 6000 Governor-Elect

Club President-Elects (PEs), some Presidents-Elect Nominee (PENs), and Assistant Governors (AGs) met Saturday, March 8 at Newton Des Moines Area Community College campus for the Annual Presidents-Elect Training session. The session began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:00 p.m.



District Governor-Elect Norlan Hinke of Clinton welcomes the PETS attendees.

The morning was opened by District Governor-Elect (DGE) Norlan Hinke welcoming everyone and sharing appreciation for their commitment for the day to Rotary as well as the year to leading their clubs.

There was a video of Rotary International President-Elect Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo of Brazil sharing his message of "Unite for Good" and his focus on membership.

His thoughts on membership are that the resources provided by individual Rotarians are the key to a club's success.

District Governor Nominee Bill Bruce shared a 5-year review of individual club membership and Foundation support, the Club Planning program, and Youth Services.

District Learning Facilitator Gretchen Nollman shared information for How to Look for Specific Questions, PEs responsibilities and assisted PEs to complete their individual club goals for membership, Annual Fund donations, and Polio Plus donations as these goals are required for a club to qualify for a Community Service Grant.

A very interesting AG Panel Discussion took place whereby AGs Jack Bell, Marie Pipes and Mark Ruggeberg shared comments to PEs and PENs concerning AG relationships with Club Presidents as well as issues they anticipate working with them on. These brief comments were followed by questions from the PEs and PENs addressing specific issues with good discussion.

After the break Jennifer Chittenden, Membership Co-Chair shared ideas for club membership growth, retention, engagement and mentoring. Steve Wieneke, Membership Co-Chair, shared information on working with an Extension Club, starting an Extension Club and/or a Cause Based Club such as HOPE, a virtual club focusing on homelessness. Steve also explained the initiation of a Membership Olympics program for the district targeted to let each club accomplish their objectives within the program with monetary awards for those clubs excelling.

Previous to lunch, John Kuhl, Muscatine Rotarian, had an exemplary presentation on the Rotary International Foundation focusing on "Why – Benefits – Rewards – and Individual Considerations."

Governor Dave Cook conducted District 6000's Annual meeting at which Gretchen Nollman, HOPE Rotary Club, was elected District Governor Nominee Designee and Marie Pipes was elected as Director-at-Large to the District Board of Directors. Dave gave a brief report and invited Rotarians to register for the 2025 Annual Conference to be held Saturday, April 12 at the FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Iowa. The agenda includes some very interesting presenters and subjects.

The afternoon session opened with Heidi Drager, District Public Image Chair, giving a very thorough outline of "Who – What – Where – When – Why of Public Image."

The afternoon concluded with Dr. Katharine Yarnell, Executive Director Iowa United Methodist Foundation, sharing a message for "Leadership of Different Generations in Your Community." This led to interesting questions and group discussion from the PEs and PENs.

The day was hopefully beneficial and worth the investment of time as the PEs and PENs were open, attentive and very thorough about sharing thoughts and asking questions. A special "Thank You" to all who attended or participated in any way.



District Governor Nominee Designee, Bill Bruce of Denison was one of the PETS speakers on membership and club planning.

Photos by Jacque Andrew



Photo by Jacque Andrew

District 6000 club presidents, 2025-26

Rylan Vos.....Adel	Jessica Garcia.....Denison	Charlie Yoder.....Mount Pleasant Noon
Wes Aeschliman.....Albia	Tim Lillwitz.....Des Moines	Bitrus Gwamna.....Mt. Pleasant
Jamie CourtneyAmes	Zach BouslogDes Moines A.M.	Mark Roberts.....Muscatine
Michael Tulp.....Ames Morning	Miriam Cody.....East Polk County	Brian Quandt.....Nevada
Brandon Converse.....Ankeny	Dave Reiff.....Fairfield	Wade Sheeler.....Newton
Noel Fiscus.....Ankeny Evening	Tony Fullenkamp.....Fort Madison	Deanna Jensen-ValliereNorth Scott
Michelle Andersen.....Atlantic	Bruce Blankenfeld.....Grinnell	Dianne DowningNorthwest Des Moines
Penelope McGimpsey.....Bettendorf	Heidi Drager.....HOPE	Sheila CramerNorwalk
Vincent Tyson.....Bloomfield	Terry PaulingIndianola	Teresa WoodsOsceola
Sam Byriel.....Boone	Devin van Holsteijn.....Iowa City	Allen FriesenOskaloosa
Tomi Hagan.....Burlington	John McKinstryIowa City A.M.	Shea Greiner.....Ottumwa
Adam Schweers.....Carroll	Peggy Grimmer.....Iowa City Downtown	Andrea BarkerPella
Daniel AllettoCenterville	Jeff Kaczinski.....Iowa Quad-Cities	Lynette GroenenboomPerry
Tracy Taylor.....Chariton	Sam HardingJefferson	Matt McCallTipton
Andrew Green.....Clinton	Bruce YoungJohnston	Amy Schulte.....Washington
Victoria Struzynski-Olson.....Coralville-North Corridor	Matthew BrownKalona	Tom YoungWaukee
Alec Turner.....Corning	Teresa Koltzenburg.....Keokuk	Barry JohnsonWellman
Susan DeVoreCorydon	Jim Pedrick.....Keosauqua	Matt AdamsWest Des Moines
Karla Alford.....Creston	Janis Aldridge-Harris.....Knoxville	Mark SmithWest Liberty
Kelly BroderickDallas Center	Todd Barker.....Lenox	Chad Johnston.....West Polk County
Holly CochranDavenport	Tim Weible.....Manning	Peter LoilerWinterset
John HendersonDecatur County	Ellie Garringer.....Marengo	
	Erin McGregorMarshalltown	

We remember well...

The lives of Rotarians who died in 2024-25, which were provided to the district by clubs and were remembered at District Conference. Each in his or her own way made the world a better place through Rotary. May light perpetual shine upon them.

—Bill Tubbs’ remarks from last year’s memorial listing

Ames Frankee Oleson Tom Walsh, Sr Barbara Woods Donna Cowan-Newbrough	Atlantic Duane Calvin Acker Don Sonntag	Des Moines Chuck Betts Brook Smith	Ashlee Louise Hopkins Dick Kennedy Dorothy Paul Jimmy R. Pinkham Charles Skaugstad	Muscatine Salvatore LoBianco
Ankeny Chuck Stewart	Bettendorf Richard J. Schillig	Fort Madison Martin Graber	Marshalltown Mark Kevin Osmundson Dr. Nancy Wilson Royal Young	North Scott Glen Keppy Bill Tubbs, Governor 2004-05
	Davenport Bill Ashton	Iowa City Myles Braverman Thomas M. Cook John Gross		Pella Orville Dunkin



Assistant District Governors for 2025-26 at AG orientation, March 7 at DMACC, Newton. From left: PDG Mike Ruby, Darrell Limkeman, Jeff Ashcraft, DGE Norlan Hinke, Teresa Horton-Bumgarner, Jack Bell, Park Woodle, John Rodgers, Patrick Olsen, Doug Peterson, PDG Chris Knapp, Wayne Steen, Kim Mulch, PDG Jim Patton, Cherlyn Hullinger, Steve SchraderBachar, Marie Pipes and Chris Bertelson. Not pictured: DGN Bill Bruce. Not present: Tom Lazio, Tom McCoy, Ann Parker, and Tori Riley.

Photos by Jacque Andrew

Assistant District Governors provide support to clubs

By Norlan Hinke, Clinton
District 6000 Governor-Elect

The existing and newly appointed Assistant Governors met Friday evening, March 7 at the Newton campus of the Des Moines Area Community College to prepare for the upcoming Rotary year of service in this role.

District Governor-Elect (DGE) Norlan Hinke opened the session discussing district expectations and sharing goals and areas of focus with the AGs.

The Governor's goals are attached.

The two areas of focus are:

- Each Rotary Club conducts a Mental Wellness program in their community.
- Each Rotary Club plants at least one tree per club member.

The AG Training Session was conducted under the leadership of Mike Ruby, Assistant Governor Coordinator, and Jeff Ashcraft, Associate Assistant Governor Coordinator.

The existing AGs met separately with Mike Ruby while the new AGs met with Jeff Ashcraft for small group sessions. The topics of discussion were "Expectations of AGs to Club Presidents" and "Expectations of Club Presidents to AGs".

District Governor Nominee (DGN) Bill Bruce of Denison presented the "District 6000 3 Year Plan" with discussion to cover the topic.

The balance of the session was spent with AGs rotating between 3 Small Group sessions: District Learning

Facilitator Gretchen Nollman, conducted a session on ClubRunner and the District Website; Jeff Ashcraft, Associate AG Coordinator held a session on AG – Club President Relationships; and Mike Ruby, AG Coordinator held a session on Club Membership.

The evening concluded with group discussion.

A special thank you to all AGs for their participation in the session and especially for their leadership role at the district level.



Jeff Ashcraft, Associate Assistant Governor Coordinator, left, and Mike Ruby, Assistant Governor Coordinator, partner on AG training.



ASSISTANT GOVERNORS

Assistant governors are the connection between the clubs they serve and the district.

The relationships built with club leaders make Rotary stronger. Thank you for your service!

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

DGE Norlan Hinke's Official Club Visit Schedule

8/22	West Liberty	Friday	Noon
8/26	Atlantic	Tuesday	Noon
8/27	Perry	Wed	12:10
8/28	Denison	Thursday	Noon
8/29	Des Moines AM	Friday	7 a.m.
9/3	Knoxville	Wednesday	Noon
9/4	Iowa City	Thursday	Noon
9/8	Davenport	Monday	Noon
9/9	WDM	Tuesday	11:45
9/11	IA Quad Cities	Thursday	7 a.m.
9/12	North Scott	Friday	Noon
9/15	Johnston Board Meeting	Monday	6 p.m.
9/15	West Polk	Monday	Noon
9/16	Johnston	Tuesday	7 am
9/16	Grinnell	Tuesday	6 pm
9/17	Coralville NC	Wednesday	Noon
9/17	Iowa City A.M. ext	Wednesday	5:30 pm
9/18	Keokuk	Thursday	Noon
9/22	Muscatine	Monday	Noon
9/23	Oskaloosa	Tuesday	Noon
9/24	Bettendorf	Wednesday	Noon
9/25	Indianola Foundation Dinner	Friday	5:30 pm
10/6	Creston	Monday	Noon
10/7	Corydon	Tuesday	Noon
10/7	Ankeny Evening	Tuesday	6 p.m.
10/14	Kalona	Tuesday	Noon
10/14	Knoxville Ext.	Tuesday	6:15 pm
10/15	Tipton	Wednesday	Noon
10/16	HOPE (ZOOM)	Thursday	5:30 pm
10/20	Clinton	Monday	Noon
10/21	Bloomfield	Tuesday	Noon
10/27	Carroll	Monday	Noon



Cindy Hinke and DGE Norlan Hinke with the banner of the RI President Elect Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo

10/28	Manning	Tuesday	12 pm
10/29	Nevada	Wednesday	Noon
10/30	Washington	Thursday	Noon
11/3	Davenport Ext	Monday	5:30pm
11/4	Ankeny Noon	Tuesday	1145 am
11/5	Wellman	Wednesday	Noon
11/11	Norwalk	Tuesday	Noon
11/18	Marshalltown	Tuesday	Noon
11/18	Marshalltown Ext.	Tuesday	5:30 pm
11/21	Jefferson Auction	Friday	5:30pm

2026 District 6000 Conference

May 1 and 2, 2026

Hyatt Regency, Coralville

"ROTARY FRIENDS

United in Fellowship and Fun"

LEADERSHIP

District 6000 Rotary Leadership Institute Graduates and Clubs**Matt Adams (West Des Moines)****Jacque Andrew (Jefferson)****Kyle Ahlenstorf (Decatur County)****Juan Arias (Ankeny Evening)****Holly Arnold (Decatur County)****Jack Bell (Northwest Des Moines)****Chris Bertelson (Winterset)****Jody Braverman (Iowa City)****Bill Bruce (Denison)****Abigail Casey (Marshalltown)****Linda Chastain (Decatur County)****Jennifer Chittenden (Des Moines AM)****Dave Cook (Boone)****Bill Corwin (Northwest Des Moines)****John Culshaw (Iowa City)****Peggy Doerge (Iowa City AM)****Dennis Drager (Marshalltown)****Jacquelyn Duke (Ankeny Evening)****Paul Fitzpatrick (Muscatine)****Peggy Geiger (Decatur County)****Terry Geiger (Decatur County)****Sherry Halter (Winterset)****Ron Heideman (Indianola)****Cindy Hinke (Clinton)****Norlan Hinke (Clinton)****Lee Holmes (Waukee)****Cherlyn Hullinger (Decatur County)****Darla Hunzelman (West Des Moines)****Deanne Jensen-Valliare (North Scott)****Richard Job (Ankeny)****Alka Khanolkar (Keokuk)****Kiran Khanolkar (Keokuk)****Chris Knapp (Iowa City AM)****Vernette Knapp (Iowa City AM)****Corinne Lambert (East Polk County)****Elizabeth Loeb (Iowa City AM)****Bonnie Lowry (Marshalltown)****Phyliss Miller (Decatur County)****Vicki Minor (Winterset)****Patty Munguia (Ankeny Evening)****Chris Nelson (West Des Moines)****Elizabeth Nichols (Iowa City AM)****Amy Nicholson (Iowa City AM)****Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty)****Deb Ockenfels (Iowa City AM)****John Ockenfels (Iowa City AM)****Kristofer Orth (Ankeny Evening)****Jim Peterson (Iowa City AM)****Kristin Pike (West Des Moines)****Marie Pipes (East Polk County)****Mark Roberts (Muscatine)****John Rodgers (West Des Moines)****Michelle Roseburrough (Marshalltown)****Mike Ruby (Muscatine)****Steve SchraderBachar (Ankeny)****John Schultz (Iowa City AM)****Rebecca Schultz (Iowa City AM)****Hazel Seaba (Iowa City AM)****Kathy Sibbel (Ankeny)****Sarah Simon (Winterset)****Mary Ellen Stanley (Decatur County)****Wayne Steen (West Liberty)****Judy Trepka (Iowa City AM)****Jeanne Vogel (Decatur County)****T. Waldmann Williams (Knoxville)****Tim Wieble (Manning)****Tom Welchans (Waukee)****Joyce Wheeler (Waukee)****Todd Wheeler (Des Moines)****Brenda Wieneke (Ankeny Evening)****Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening)****Kandy Wittrey-Kern (Marshalltown)****Wendal Yoder (Decatur County)**

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

Clinton club hosts Food Security Summit to tackle local hunger Issues

By Carrie Donaire, Clinton
Club President

The Rotary Club of Clinton, Iowa, hosted a Food Security Summit, Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Clinton Community College Career Advancement Center from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This significant event is part of the 2024-2025 Presidential Project led by Club President Carrie Donaire, focusing on addressing food insecurity throughout Clinton County.

Some outcomes of the event

- We had 60 participants from all over Clinton County, representing food banks, supportive housing entities, community gardens, etc.
- The group discussed many possible solutions for food insecurity, ranging from school programs, to leveraging donation gardens to working with our legislators and local corporations.
- The group also decided to have an ongoing community group. I'm so proud that Rotary Club of Clinton was the convener for this project, and will assist by **hosting the next quarterly meeting (June 10, 2025)**.

Uniting for Change: Local Goals

The Food Security Summit aims to bring together Clinton's social service agencies and county organizations to collaborate on developing sustainable solutions to food insecurity. Key aspects include:

- **Community Planning Session:** Representatives from social agencies and food pantries across Clinton County are invited to participate in a professionally facilitated session to create a forward-focused action plan. This day-long event will focus on fostering collaboration and resource-sharing among local organizations.
- **Role of Rotary Club of Clinton:** Acting as a convener, the Rotary Club will support the effectiveness of existing local programs by fostering stronger partnerships and encouraging a unified approach to addressing food insecurity.
- **Generous Support:** The summit is made possible through funding from the Rotary Foundation, showcasing Rotary's commitment to creating meaningful local change.
- **Awareness Campaign:** As part of the initiative, a video series will showcase the community's collaborative efforts and promote broader awareness and support for addressing hunger in Clinton.

Leadership and Vision

Carrie Donaire, Rotary Club President, brings experience to the project. Having served in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua, where she worked on food security and agricultural initiatives, Carrie's leadership underscores Rotary's ability to address pressing local challenges effectively.

"This summit represents Rotary's commitment to creating lasting change through collaboration," said Donaire. "By uniting local organizations, we aim to influence meaningful progress in the fight against food insecurity in Clinton. It's an issue that is near to my heart, and I'm grateful that my fellow Rotarians and committee members have been so supportive to help me bring this project to fruition."

Facilitator and Key-note Speaker:

Emily Webb is a technology transactions attorney with a commitment to combating food insecurity and enhancing her community's welfare. As the current Chair of the Polk County Hospital Board of Trustees, she has made a significant impact on local nonprofits through her influential leadership. Most notably, Emily spent eight years on the DMARC Food Pantry Network Board, where she became the youngest President in the organization's history. Her unwavering belief in the power of community engagement drives her passionate advocacy for addressing food insecurity, inspiring others to join her mission of making a meaningful difference.



Emily Webb, guest speaker

- **The Food Security Summit Committee** includes Rotarians Alethea Cahoy, Andy Green, Carrie Donaire and Susie Mesecher. Community members on the planning committee are: Michele Cullen, Clinton County Public Health; Regan Michelson, Information Referral and Assistance Services; and Sarah Saionz, Registered Dietician.

- The committee is grateful to the Rotary Club of Clinton, host organization Clinton Community College, Lisa Toppert and the CCC Culinary students, and everyone who has stepped up to plan this important initiative for our community.

For more information, please contact: Rotary Club of Clinton Email: rotaryclubofclintonia@gmail.com

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

\$90,000+ raised to train law enforcement and non-profits—**Civitas Receives Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award****By Tamara Kenworthy***Rotary Club of Des Moines AM, Civitas Co-Chair*

CIVITAS, an initiative of the Greater Des Moines Rotary Multi-Club Committee, received an Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award from Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery (NAHT) on Wednesday January 15, 2025, in the Rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol Building. The award was presented to the Committee by Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer on behalf of the Governor.

Civitas is a committee that is made up of 12 Rotary Clubs in the metro Des Moines area: Ankeny Noon, Ankeny Evening, Des Moines, Des Moines AM, East Polk, Indianola, Johnston, Northwest, Waukee, West Des Moines, West Polk, and Winterset. Three of our committee members also represent Civitas at the District 6000 Prevent Human Trafficking action team meetings: Ron Heidemann, Sarah Simon, and Karl Schilling.

In 2014, Civitas began as an annual event to bring our individual Rotary clubs together once a year for networking and educational speakers on a specific topic facing our communities. This event is also open to the public.

In 2022 we wanted to focus on the topic of human trafficking and decided to stay with the topic for several years. Further, we have evolved Civitas to more proactively find ways throughout the year to have direct impact on this issue in addition to our annual event – from club fundraisers for Dorothy's House and Garden Gate Ranch—to product drives for nonprofits helping survivors—to individual clubs raising awareness with speakers.

We keep learning more each year about the various angles to this issue and additional ways we can help. A year ago, it was brought to our attention that more needs to be done with law enforcement training to better educate our frontline heroes in how to deal with this issue.

In 2024, we financed a two-day training for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy with national trainer, Dan Nash. It was a major success, with over 100 city and county law enforcement professionals from across Iowa, along with prosecutors, survivor advocates, and other related agencies in attendance. Most importantly, their feedback told us that they believe 100% of law enforcement professionals should receive this extensive training, so they are better equipped to understand human trafficking and work to stop the bad actors. So, we have scheduled a second training in October 2025.

We have worked closely with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and the Iowa Department of Public Safety to coordinate these trainings. They have told us while they provide about two hours on this topic at the Academy, it is very basic and limited and it's hard for them to reach all officers. They are thrilled for Rotary Civitas to be working side by side with them.

We are proud to say that **over the last three years from Civitas collectively, as well as via individual Rotary club activities, we have provided over \$90,000 back to the metro area to human trafficking nonprofits and for this law enforcement training.** And we are going to keep doing what we can!



Pictured left to right at the Statehouse are: Representing Civitas: Sarah Simon, Winterset Club; Karl Schilling, Des Moines Club; Curt Gause, East Polk Club; Tamara Kenworthy, Des Moines AM Club; Chris Nelson, West Des Moines Club; Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer; Mike Lewis, Des Moines AM Club; Jim Strauss, Waukee Club; Rich Job, Ankeny Noon Club; Nancy Zwickel, Ankeny Noon Club.

MEMBERSHIP/SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

Small but mighty: Rotary of Mt. Pleasant doing good the “Rotary Way!”

By Bisi Gwamna, Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant

The Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary Club is one of the oldest clubs in the Midwest, having been chartered back in 1921. Over the years, this club has carried out the mission of Rotary International to provide service, promote integrity, and advance understanding, goodwill, and peace, through projects aimed at improving the well-being of fellow humans.

In this its 104th year, under the able leadership of President Donald LeBlanc, the club has added more projects to its list of accomplishments.

At the beginning of the 2024-25 service year, Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary celebrated the Family Literacy Day with the unveiling of a new art mural in the Mount Pleasant Children’s Library. Funded through a **D6000 Grant**, hundreds of dictionaries were distributed to all Grade Four students in Henry County.

The below-20 membership club responded promptly to the needs of communities near and far away: funded new child car seats for the Henry County Health Center; sponsored a diaper collection drive for *Family Connections*, an education service agency for community families; contributed matching funds to the Hurricane Relief in North Carolina, and raised \$1,000 for Polio-Plus.

The club signed seasonal cards to two area nursing homes, club members installed a much nicer signage at the entrance to the East Lake Park, volunteered for “Meals on Wheels,” and donated towels to The Fellowship Cup and \$250 to the community’s Festival of Lights.

In the areas of Disease Prevention, Mt Pleasant Evening



New members of the Mt. Pleasant Club—Fr. Leo LeBlanc, left, and Ms. Julie Schulsthies, right, being welcomed by President Don LeBlanc.

Rotary holds its own in recorded volume of donated blood (45 pints) during the Semi-Annual Blood Drive, which it coordinated with the Noon Club.

With an eye to the future, Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary devotes much time to young people in the community. Members had always participated in one student exchange program or another. In the past service year, the club sponsored two students to attend RYLA, and donated \$500 for a former RYLA student to run in the Chicago Marathon, with the hope of raising funds for her charity.

The club recently resumed the practice of honoring high school students on a monthly basis. They celebrated the most recent in early March with a “High School Student of Character” certificate, a book presented to the student by the club, signed by the student and donated in his honor, to the city library.

Small but Mighty

Though small in number, the Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary waxes strong, with a global attitude edged on by the belief that good things come in small packages, and the knowledge “if you think small, your world will be small.”



Members of the Mt. Pleasant club with some of the results of their “diaper drive.”

Photos by Bisi Gwamna

Pella partnership is beneficial to all...and fun!

By Andrea E. Barker
Rotary Club of Pella

The Rotary Club of Pella has participated in the annual Pella Kerstmarkt (Christmas Market) since its inception in 2022. Club members designed and built a food cart, which was initially set up in a tent, making for a rather chilly fundraiser during the first weekend in December!

This past year, the club was able to borrow a food shed from the Tulip Time festival for service, with the 'rent' being a commitment to paint the shed for its owners. Club members recently delivered on this commitment, in time for Tulip Time in May.

Club members have perfected a recipe for Pannenkoeken, traditional Dutch pancakes that are larger and thinner than American pancakes. These pancakes can be filled with a variety of sweet or savory ingredients. The most popular flavors include ham and Gouda cheese, cinnamon and sugar, almond cherry cheesecake, and cranberry fluff.

This event increases the club's visibility in the community and raises funds to support service projects, such as the annual coat drive and improvements to Rotary Park. Additionally, it offers club members the chance to enjoy fun and fellowship outside of the regular Tuesday noon meetings.



Pella Rotarian Bob Zylstra flipping pannenkoeken



Happy customer with his pannenkoeken Photos by Andrea Barker



Pella club president Kim Mulch making good on a promise!

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

"A new appreciation for the value of Rotary"—

Marshalltown connects Ukraine sister city to Rotary Club nearby

By Carrie Barr, Rotary Club of Marshalltown

"Have you thought of contacting Rotary?"

The suggestion seemed a little far-fetched. But the situation was dire.

It began when Marshalltown's, newest Sister City, Zdolbuniv, Ukraine, sent a packet of 22 children's paintings. They asked if their Marshalltown counterparts could auction the pictures and send the proceeds back. They wrote: "We are united by one common goal – to help our military for a quicker victory and peace."

The paintings were colorful, skillfully done, heart-breaking and hopeful. Everyone who saw them was touched. Their message was clear. War should have no place in the lives of children. But the colors and the hopefulness were unmistakable. These paintings were very special and would need special treatment.

Rotarian Carrie Barr and friend Jolene Jebson, members of the fledgling Marshalltown-Zdolbuniv Sister City Committee, set off to do justice to the children's work. "We felt quite a burden to honor the children's efforts and to make as much money as we possibly could for this struggling town," explained Barr. "We spoke only a few times with the Ukrainians, but we learned that their town, about the size of Marshalltown, had lost over 100 people in the war." Some of the young artists had fathers who were fighting in the war.

Barr and Jebson had never done anything like this but were determined to create an exhibit that was not only visually interesting but also taught fellow Marshalltown residents about their new Sister City.

Finally, the auction night arrived. Curious people began



gathering around pieces of art, chatting and discussing their favorites. Beverages and snacks added to the festive camaraderie in the air. Mayor and fellow Rotarian Joel Greer introduced auctioneer David Clark and Ukrainian interpreter Tanya Fedko, herself a refugee from Ukraine. The bidding began. Hands shot up around the room as bidders, first shyly and then boldly staked their claims on painting after painting.

By the end of the evening, those 22 simple tempera paintings from 6-to-17-year-olds brought in nearly \$12,000. Everyone in the room felt fortunate to have been a part of this heartwarming, somewhat emotional event that would help another town, very much like ours, struggling through a very difficult time on the other side of the world.

But trouble was lurking. In the days before the auction, the Sister City Committee learned that the mayor of their partnership city had been suspended due to apparent embezzlement of \$10,000. What could be done? How were they to get this much-needed funding to the people in need? How would the committee know who to trust in this city on the other side of the globe?

Continued to next page—



SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

Marshalltown connects Ukraine sister city to Rotary Club nearby

Continued from previous page—

“Have you thought of contacting Rotary?” asked a fellow Rotarian and friend of Barr. Using the online Rotary site, Barr was able to locate the Rivne Rotary Club just a few kilometers away. She dashed off a delicately worded request for advice from people she had never met.

The very next evening, Barr was surprised and delighted to receive an elated message from Zdobuniv reporting a visit from the Rivne Rotary Club, “They were wonderful people, and we agreed to collaborate on future projects together. It truly feels like fate brought us together!”

Marshalltown’s Rotary Club



was so impressed with the diligent and efficient work done by the Rivne Rotarians that they not only sent the \$12,000 earned at auction, but added an extra \$500 to the Rivne RC for their help.



“It felt strange to confide in people I’d never met about this touchy situation,” commented Barr. “But Rivne Rotary could not have been more professional, efficient and concerned for their fellow Ukrainians. They were a pleasure to work with. I have a new appreciation for the value of Rotary!”

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

Local school program will benefit from auction proceeds—

Atlantic honors vets, raises \$25,000+ at annual auction



Pictured from left are Jan Snyder, Betty Hickman and Jim Hickman, three of the Veterans honored. Photo by Dolly Bergmann

By Dolly Bergmann
Rotary Club of Atlantic

The Atlantic Rotary Club held its annual Salute to Veterans on Tuesday, November 12th at the Cass County Community Center.

The featured speakers were the veterans themselves. They were asked to introduce themselves and mention the branch of service they were in along with the years they were in the service. They were then asked to mention a special memory from their time in the service.

These memories ranged from scary, being in the hospital from being wounded and almost dying, to meeting their future husband, being the training officer to future General's, to driving trucks a little faster than they should on narrow foreign country roads.

Even with the hard work involved many enjoyed the opportunity to travel the world and be a part of the service to our country.

There were individuals that served over 20 years even over 30 and 35 years. Many were parents to children that have

gone into the service or children of service members. All carrying on a valued family tradition of service to our country.

We salute those who have served.

41st Auction raises \$25,000+

The 41st annual Atlantic Rotary Club Auction was held on November 23rd, 2024. The auction raised over \$25,000. As in the past all the proceeds from the auction will be reinvested into the local community. Associated with the auction is a raffle. The proceeds from this year's raffle will be donated to the Atlantic School Resource Officer Program. "What better thing to support than something that will help our youth and support our community," said David Schwab, president of the Atlantic Rotary Club.



One of the many auction items.



Atlantic club stocks pantries, over 50 attend 105th celebration



Photos by Dolly Bergmann

Atlantic Club's donation to West Central Community Action pantries

Shown are Rotarian Tori Gibson, Emily Warner with West Central, Rotarians Jennifer McEntaffer, Becky Schroeder, Ruth Sears, Bailey Smith, Kathie Hockenberry and Dolly Bergmann and all the items donated.

On December 17th the Atlantic Rotary Club delivered items from the Reverse Advent Calendar Wish List to the West Central office. 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.

Rotary hosted by Atlantic Chamber

The Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors hosted the Atlantic Rotary Club at their weekly meeting on April 10th. Dolly Bergmann presented the Atlantic Rotary Club History program to the ambassadors, updating them on what the club has been doing in the community. Many commented on how interesting and enlightening the program was.



Atlantic celebrates 105 years

The Atlantic Rotary Club celebrated 105 years in the community on April 1, 2025 at the Atlantic Golf and Country Club. There were over 50 members, alumni members and guests present for the event.

The event started the evening with President David Schwab welcoming everyone. The night continued with Rotarian Kennedy Freund singing America the Beautiful. That was followed with Rotarian Michelle Andersen leading the 4-Way Test and the invocation presented by Rotarian Larry Hinman. Following that dinner was held for the members and guests. After dinner special guests District Governor Dave Cook, wife Lisa Cook, Assistant Governor Bill Bruce and his wife Bette were introduced.

Rotarians with over 25 years with the club were recognized. Dolly Bergmann presented a program of History of the Atlantic Rotary Club. The evening concluded with David Schwab thanking everyone for their attendance.

Some of the attendees of the Atlantic 105 celebration are shown in the photo at left.

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT

Ankeny Evening builds 40 beds to provide restful sleep for kids

The Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (Des Moines Area Chapter) to provide required funds to build and distribute 40 single twin sized beds to children in need in the Des Moines metro area.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of and combatting child 'bed lessness'.

The Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening donated \$5,000 from the club and \$5,000 from Rotary District Designated Funds (DDF) along with providing sweat equity labor to build beds and deliver and set up beds.

Members provided sweat equity labor on a total of five dates in 2024. Members worked August 24, Members worked September 3, September 14, October 12, and November 19, 2024.



Three event dates were bed builds that were accomplished at the Sleep in Heavenly Peace warehouse operations building in Des Moines.

Two event dates members delivered and set up beds to families throughout the Des Moines Metro area. A total number of 14 of 28 Rotary members in our club provided sweat equity labor for a total of 128 hours. 40 children benefited from beds that were constructed, delivered, set up and bedding materials were also supplied.

Rotary volunteers sanded, drilled, hammered and branded bed frames. Rotary volunteers loaded pick-up trucks with wooden bed frame materials, mattresses, and bedding materials. Once the teams arrived at homes, volunteers unloaded the trucks, carried all materials into the home, assembled the set-up of single and bunk beds and made up each bed with bedding materials donated.

The Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization and the Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening believe that every child deserves to have a bed of his/her own. According to the National Sleep Foundation, poor sleep for children can lead to behavioral problems, impaired learning and school performance, mood and emotional problems, immune system impairment, and over-eating, potentially leading to obesity and diabetes. This project meets the humanitarian need of restful sleep for children so they can be more productive in their lives. This also fits under Maternal & Child Health as one of the seven areas of focus for Rotary.



Meet Megan Van Kooten!

Megan will become the District 6000 Administrator starting July 1, 2025 and has been working with Carolyn Scharff, longtime DA since February.

Megan is a local resident of Pella, Iowa and grew up in Pella with her husband, John Van Kooten. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University, with years of experience in marketing, while completing her degree. Megan is excited to be a part of the Rotary team and expand her experience.

Megan and John have been married for 13 years and have lived in Johnston and Pella. They have two children; a daughter, Yvaine, who would be turning 10 this year (she passed shortly after birth), and a son, Tristan, who will be eight in May. They have a small dog, a Chiweenie (Chihuahua and Dachshund mix), named Max who is very protective of their son and is a big part of their family and spoiled just as much.

They enjoy spending time with John's family at their family farm and with their nieces and nephews. They are also active members of their church and put their religion as a top priority. They volunteer in the local Historical Village during the yearly Tulip Time Festival every year. They enjoy spending time outdoors together as a family.



Four Way Test for kids at Corning

Nancy Turner, a member of the Corning Rotary club, read the book, "Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure"—Rotary International, to the first graders at Corning Elementary recently.

The story featured the Four Way Test of Rotary, which is similar to Pillars of Character. The students also learned about several of the things Rotary does for our community and how we have to work together for our small town. Everyone decided that the dumplings sounded delicious!

District 6000 Environmental Activities

*By Bill Koellner, Iowa City Downtown
Environment Committee*

Rotary has added "Supporting the Environment" as a new area of focus. Rotary Clubs in District 6000 have implemented planting trees and installing solar panels on non-profit facilities.



In 2024-25 and 2025-26, District Governors have asked Rotary Clubs to plant trees equivalent number

Rotarians in their clubs as a minimum.

For many Clubs, pollinators were planted as were trees using Community Service Grants. Jefferson planted a pollinator garden for educational purposes providing children opportunities for understanding the plants but also the pollinators.

Ideas for 2025-26 for Clubs to implement –

- Program to determine quality of water in your community for drinking (Iowa has 2nd highest cancer rate in U.S. – UIHC states majority from water supply)
- District Governors have asked clubs to plant trees equivalent to the number of Rotarians in the club at a minimum – partner with city, county, school or corporation to increase number of trees. Consider who will maintain (water and trimming) for first 2 years?
- Consider several locations for pollinator plots. Trees and pollinator plants are symbiotic in that they provide residence for pollinators.
- Use State of Iowa DNR recommended trees and shrubs for plants.
- Consider Solar Panels to reduce power consumption for non-profit locations.
- Use Community Service Grants for these activities. (District Foundation Committee increased match from \$5000 to \$7500.)
- Use speakers during Environment Month from DNR, USGS, County Conservation to increase Rotarians knowledge of environment areas

Rotary Youth Exchange Winter Retreat January 3-5, 2025



D6000: Pioneer in Rotary Youth Exchange

By PDG Loring Miller, Decatur County

District 6000 has continued to be a pioneer in the Rotary Youth Exchange process, fulfilling the international dreams of high school age students. In 1962, Rotary Youth Exchange expanded to the United States with seven students from Europe and Scandinavia. District 6000, then known as District 600, participated in that first U.S. exchange by hosting a girl from Sweden. Between 30-40 teenagers to and from this district attend a year of high school in another country and help foster international understanding and world peace.

District 6000's Youth Exchange committee continues to be recognized for our innovative approach to new exchange concepts. We administered the first ever New Generations Exchange in the country of Argentina followed by the first ever New Generations Exchange in the country of Taiwan.

During the 1998-1999 school year, District 6000 hosted the Simon Estes South African Chorus. This event offered medical care, education, and hope to 40 impoverished South African youth funded totally by Rotarians and concerned citizens from this district. In 2000, District 6000 was recognized by the USA/Canada Youth Exchange Network as the "Most Outstanding Youth Exchange District" from their 163 district membership.

Members of the district committee have served on the Rotary International Youth Exchange Committee and as president and committee member of the USA/Canada Network. We are dedicated to developing concepts which will improve the exchange process and maintaining the respect of our exchange partners throughout the world.

**Exchange is not a year
in your life, but
a life in a year.**



Inbound and Outbound students

Outbound Italy Jordyn Hafer (Albia), Inbound Brazil Nicole Fernandes de Souza (Iowa City), Inbound Italy Silvana Espa (Nevada), Inbound Italy Agnese Pappalardo (Boone), Inbound Italy Aurora Petrone (Pella), Inbound Spain Ada Sallares (Ankeny), Outbound Germany Katarina Neville (Grinnell), Outbound Spain Evelyn Forrester (Ankeny), Outbound Sweden Charlotte Wills (Iowa City AM)



District Youth Exchange committee

Beth Saxton, Erin Zondervan, Erin Hansen, Steve Wieneke, Lisa Truong, Doug Peterson, Paul Kalainoff, Rick Stammer, Liz Nichols, Paul Nichols, Susan Herrick, Bob Herrick, Phyllis Miller, Greg Probst, Loring Miller

Photos by Marie Pipes

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Greg Probst, Chair & Student Protection Officer

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greg.probst@rye6000.org

apply@rye6000.org

Chris Knapp, Vice-Chair, Alt. Student Protection Officer

C: 319-621-4977

chrisknapp5012@gmail.com

Inbound Coordinators

Beth Saxton, Taylor Sung, Erin Zondervan, Rick Stammer & Steve Wieneke

inbound@rye6000.org

Outbound Coordinator, Paul Kalainoff

<https://www.rye6000.org/>



Grinnell club donates to first in Iowa pediatric hospice: Mason's Light House

The family of Mason Sieck has launched an effort—through a nonprofit charity—to build the first and only respite care and hospice home for children and their families in Iowa, called Mason's Light House. It will be only the fourth facility of its kind in the United States and is planned for Iowa City.

Mason Sieck, a child from Grinnell, passed away in 2021 at the age of 7. He was diagnosed at age 2 with a rare disease called Gardner's Syndrome—also known as FAP (Familial Adenomatous Polyposis) with Desmoid tumors. This condition causes colon cancer, carries a high risk for many other cancers, and involves both cancerous and non-cancerous soft tissue growths.

When Mason needed palliative care to manage his pain, his family had to travel to Minneapolis, as Iowa did not have a pediatric hospice facility.

To date, land has been secured in Iowa City near the University of Iowa. Supporters have helped move the project forward.

Legislation known as "Mason's Law," which allows for pediatric hospice facilities in Iowa, has been passed.

In addition, the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Palliative Care team has expressed support and enthusiasm for this much-needed facility. Community members have stepped up to assist with land acquisition, design costs, and other startup needs. Grinnell Rotary has contributed \$6,000 toward the campaign to help build Mason's Light House.

For more information or to offer support, go to the non-profit's website: <https://masonslighthouse.org/>

Beautiful quilt raises \$5,000 plus MUCH more

Deb Ockenfels, Iowa City AM, again created a gorgeous quilt using the theme of the DG. This time it featured hand-appliqued oak leaves, acorns and an oak tree motif.

She's here with happy winners of the auction, Lisa and DG Dave Cook.

In addition to the quilt auction, an additional nearly \$10,000 was raised for PolioPlus during the event.



IOWA RYLA 2025

WHAT IS RYLA?

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is an intensive leadership conference designed to assist future leaders in methods of responsible and effective leadership.

Iowa RYLA focuses on developing leadership through the lenses of team, community, and emotional leadership with an emphasis on Rotary's motto: Service Above Self.

RYLA 2025: July 27 - August 1

LEARNING TO BECOME LEADERS, FROM LEADERS.

TEAM LEADS

Our Team Leads are some of Iowa's top up-and-coming leaders. Team Leads are carefully selected through a rigorous interview process to ensure our conferees are getting to work with some of Iowa's best future leaders.

ROTARIANS

Our Rotarians bring their leadership experiences from various Iowa industries to help grow future leaders. Conferees have the opportunity to gain insight from successful leaders in engineering, business, agriculture, education, mental and physical healthcare, non-profits and many other fields.

WHAT TO EXPECT

RYLA is ultimately an opportunity, and it's yours for the taking! During the week, you can expect to...

- Live in the moment
- Identify your strengths
- Connect with other students
- Learn from nationally recognized guest speakers
- Share insights and gain new perspectives relating to leadership
- Gain tools to grow your communication skills
- Expand your comfort zone as a leader in a supportive environment
- Be motivated to take action and make a positive impact on your community
- Learn about how small acts of service can have a huge impact

WHO IS RYLA FOR?

EVERYONE!

RYLA brings together students from across the state who have a desire to develop their leadership skills.

At any given moment, you may find athletes, musicians, authors, and scholars coming together with the common interest of gaining a better understanding of their leadership strengths and building skills to help them make a positive impact on their communities and future endeavors.

ONE WEEK ON THE INCREDIBLE GRINNELL COLLEGE CAMPUS!

ROTARY - PEOPLE OF ACTION

RYLA is offered as a no cost opportunity to our conferees! This is made possible by the generous financial support of Rotary clubs throughout the state of Iowa in Districts 5970 and 6000.

Iowa Rotary clubs' investment in the youth of Iowa continues to make a positive impact on our local and global communities.

To learn more about Rotary and it's global impact, visit www.rotary.org

SCAN ME

Apply to RYLA here! www.iowaryla.org



Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 62
Rock Island, IL

Rotary's goal is a polio-free world!

There were 30 cases in 2022; 12 cases in 2023; 99 in 2024 and 10 year to date in 2025. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries where the wild polio virus is endemic. THIS CLOSE!!!

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: at 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 Rotarians' occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarians 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?

