

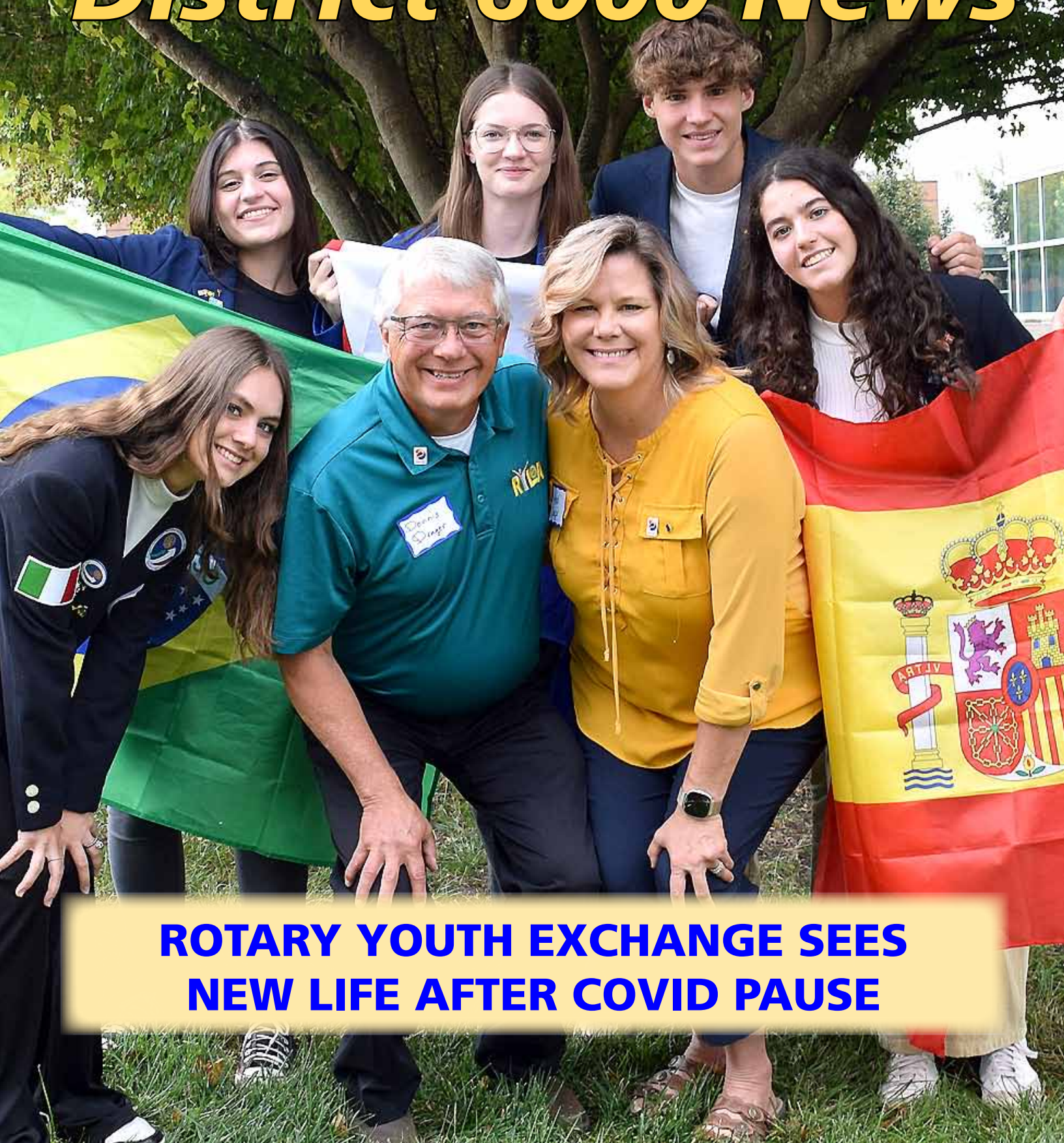
Rotary District 6000
Iowa USA
Dennis Drager, Governor

Rotary



First Issue
2023-24
(July-December)

District 6000 News



**ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE SEES
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DISTRICT 6000 • Iowa USA

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EDITOR

'Causes to care about and friends to cherish'

Each of us has become who we are today, partly because of our experiences in Rotary. I would probably not know most of you if I hadn't joined Rotary. You've enriched my life – given me causes to care about, opportunities to learn, chances to serve and friends to cherish.

– Becky Bray

Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

The above testimonial was part of a three-minute message from Scott County ISU Extension Education Director Becky Bray at the 50th Anniversary meeting of my club,

North Scott, on Oct. 13. Becky was one of four speakers that day who honored the past, celebrated the present, and embraced the future. Her words touched each of Rotary's **Core Values** of **Fellowship, Leadership, Integrity, Diversity** and **Service**. Excerpts:



Bill Tubbs

"Rotary **makes a difference**. In our community. In the world. And in **each of our hearts!** ...

"We often talk about **Rotary being our family**. Why is that important to us? Well, families offer love, security, fun times, respect and a lifetime of memories. **We have all that in Rotary**. But let's be honest – families also disagree at times. We have a bit of that in Rotary, too! It's how we make our best decisions.

"We look forward to our **Friday lunches**, our **service projects**, our **social time**, our **fundraising**. We especially look forward to our sergeants and are anxious to see who they will pick on, how funny they will be and of course, how much money they will raise for our causes ...

"One of the things I appreciate about Rotary is that we can all find **projects that meet our skills and interests** ... Projects not only give us an opportunity for service, but they become the way that we strengthen our relationships! Never hesitate to get involved ... I'm glad to be part of a group that cares about its members ..."



Becky Bray

In her **Birthday Party** message, Becky summed up what we hope would be the experience of every Rotarian, but sometimes it isn't. **D6000 past membership co-chair DGE Dave Cook** reports that clubs in our district, whose July 1 membership is 3,094, **lost 2,300 members in the last five years**. Retention is an issue worldwide. Rotary International, whose membership is 1.2 million, **LOST 1.2 million members in the last 10 years**.

We can reduce the loss if each of us does our part to **make members feel welcome and valued**. If each member finds "*causes to care about, opportunities to learn, chances to serve, and friends to cherish*" in Rotary, our retention issue will be solved, and our ranks will increase to **Create Hope in the World**.

The need is underscored by the fact that this issue of *District 6000 News* on pages 34-37 contains obituaries of FOUR of our great Past District Governors: **Dennis Skinner, Dellwyn Bluhm, Gary Welch, and Corliss Klaassen**.

We honor their legacy by working to ensure Rotary's future.

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

DISTRICT GOVERNOR**Together, Rotarians Create Hope in the World****Hello Rotary Friends,**

Our Rotary theme this year is **CREATE HOPE in the WORLD**. I was lucky enough to sit in a room with all of the District Governors-Elect from across the globe when the theme was announced by then **President-Elect Gordan McNally**. He spoke of how "Rotary helps create the conditions for **PEACE, OPPORTUNITY** and a **FUTURE** worth living." I think that line sums up Rotary very well. When I consider the theme centered around **HOPE** and the vibrant colors from around the **WORLD** I am inspired to do more and share our stories so that one day we can rejoice in the knowledge that we contributed to a more peaceful world.

**Dennis Drager**

We are a part of a **global network of change makers**. We have 1,200,000 Rotarian friends around the world who volunteer 47 million hours each year. As Rotarians we have opportunities to participate in projects anywhere we want to go, working in any area of focus that is important to us. During the theme announcement **President McNally** stated, "This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world...one newly created **HOPE** at a time."



During my club visits I have had the great privilege of visiting projects and learning about the communities that our clubs call home. Let me tell you, we have some really cool places in Iowa, and I would encourage you to visit other Rotary clubs and ask for a tour of the community. We are all very proud of the work our Rotary clubs have done and welcome the opportunity to share with our Rotary friends. You can download the **Rotary Club Locator App** to find meetings anywhere in the world. In fact, a few months ago I was traveling in Ireland and reached out to the **Rotary Club of Belfast West** and joined the members for lunch. We had a wonderful time and I now have new friends in Ireland.

Our focus this year is service. I believe that everyone can find an area of service that will fulfill their passion. I also believe that service projects that are meaningful to our members is the way that we will engage people within our clubs. Finally,



Leadership of District 6000 passed from Steve Wieneke to Dennis Drager at the June 24 change meeting at Norris Mansion in Marshalltown. The DGs are pictured with their wives and Rotary partners, Brenda and Heidi.

Photo by Jacque Andrew.

I believe that all of our areas of focus feed into **PEACE** and our service to the world, especially through youth, is how we will ultimately create a peaceful world. I encourage you to take a look at some of the opportunities to be involved with projects that are supported by our district. Each year we have a district team that visits **Xicotepec, Mexico** to work on projects to benefit the youth of their community including providing clean water in their schools, working with the youth in the schools and other projects within their communities. You can support our **Club Foot team** that trains doctors

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RI president focuses on mental health

GOVERNOR, *continued from page 3*

around the world to provide non-surgical life-changing medical care for those afflicted by clubfoot. Or consider having your club support the District 6000 **Miles for Smiles Team** as they provide medical services in countries that don't have the same resources that we are privileged to have here in the USA. Consider joining a district team that supports your passion, I am certain we can find an area that speaks to you.

Another focus of our RI President Gordan McNally is **mental health**. He is passionate about mental health because his brother committed suicide, just as I have lost family and friends to suicide. How have you been touched by mental illness? **President McNally** is using his position and experience to work on breaking stigma and reducing suicide. He is a proponent of self-care and stated, "by helping ourselves we help others." We must change the trajectory on mental health and give people the power to get help when they need it. "Reaching out for help is not a weakness, it is BRAVE." We have created a **District 6000 Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives** to help find solutions. If this is an area of expertise or passion for you, please considering joining our chapter.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to think outside of your Rotary club and your immediate community. As I mentioned, visit other clubs. Get involved in an international project, or simply help another club with a service project. Meet and engage with other Rotarians and you will make new friends around the world and that is how we will **CREATE HOPE (and PEACE) in the WORLD**.

About the Norris House

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

The **Norris House**, where the gavel passing was held, was built in 1908 and has been held in the same family since a few years after it was built. The family that owns it is the Norris family. They owned Lennox for many years.

The house is an exact copy of a shipper's home on the east coast. The family that built the house was out east visiting and fell in love with the design and got the plans from them. The basement houses a full woodworking space and Mr. Norris built the cabinets in the kitchen and hallway.



The historic Norris House.

The attic is where many parties and dances were held over the years and the family hosted block parties on the lawn with bands playing from the porch. The family that owned the house on Jerome were cousins with the *Times Republican* Norris family.



The historic Pella Opera House in downtown Pella will be home to the District 6000 "Celebration" (District Conference) on Saturday, April 20.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

District Celebration April 20 at Pella

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

Our **District 6000 Celebration** will be held on April 20, 2024, at the Pella Opera house in Pella. This year's event will be packed with lots of activities, some great speakers and some fantastic entertainment.

Pella is the home of our district office and the geographical center of District 6000. We are planning to include **Interact** and **Rotary Youth Exchange** throughout the celebration. A big part of the day will be the culmination of our District **Four-Way Test speech contest** with a few of our participants presenting their finished product on stage at the Pella Opera House.

Please save the date and plan to come join us in celebrating all of the awesome things our clubs do in Rotary Service.

Watch for details of NEW Four-Way Test Speech Contest

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

The **District 6000 Four-Way Test Speech Contest** is a new event this year. We are hosting a district-wide high school speech contest on what the **Four-Way Test** means to them.

We ask that each club will host a contest within their local high schools and sponsor the winner to a regional competition. The winners of the regional competitions will be invited to present their winning speech at the **Pella Opera House** during our **District Celebration** on April 20, 2024.

Please join us for what is going to be a great event.

Putting Rotary's Four-Way Test into action

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

I would like to talk with you about a powerful tool that has the potential to transform and shape our interactions with others. It is a compass that can guide us in making decisions that are **honest, fair, and beneficial to all**. I am, of course, referring to the **Four-Way Test**, a profound philosophy rooted in **truth, fairness, goodwill, and friendship**.

The **Four-Way Test** was created by **Herb Taylor** as a measuring stick of ethics. Interestingly, before launching the concept at his business, he placed a notecard on his desk to test himself. He quickly became frustrated and almost threw it out because of so many untruths that crossed his desk.

The **Four-Way Test** begins with the simple but important phrase, "**Of the things we think, say or do.**"

Of the many thoughts, words, and actions that occupy our minds and shape our lives, it is essential to recognize the profound impact they have on our overall well-being and the world around us. Every thought we have, every word we say, and every action we undertake holds the potential to shape our reality and influence the lives of those we encounter.

Visualize thoughts as the seeds of our intentions and beliefs. They possess an incredible power to shape our perception of the world. They are the building blocks of our emotions, attitudes, and ultimately, our actions. Whether positive or negative, our thoughts have the ability to create a ripple effect, influencing our mood, behavior, and interactions with others. By cultivating a mindful awareness of our thoughts, we can harness their potential to manifest positive outcomes.

The words we choose to express ourselves hold immense significance. They possess the power to inspire, uplift, and connect us with others. Our words can be a source of comfort, encouragement, and motivation, or they can inflict wounds that linger long after they are spoken. By choosing our words carefully, we can foster understanding, empathy, and unity, creating a world where communication can **CREATE HOPE**.

Actions are the driving force behind our impact on the world. **Every action we take has the potential to create an effect that extends far beyond our immediate surroundings.** Whether it is a simple act of kindness, a charitable endeavor, or a commitment to sustainable living, our actions shape the world we inhabit and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

In essence, **our thoughts, words, and our actions** are the tools we use to navigate our existence and leave our mark on the world. By recognizing the profound influence of these elements, we can strive to align them with our values, aspirations, and the greater good, creating a life of purpose, fulfillment, and positive impact. As we consider the questions of the **Four-Way Test**, we must be aware of our thoughts, our words and our actions.

Truth! Truth is not just a mere collection of facts. **Truth is the foundation upon which trust is built**, and without trust, our relationships crumble. Oscar Wilde said, "*The truth is rarely pure and never simple.*" Consider your personal political views, your religion, your family life. All of the perspectives that mold and shape you. You and I may have many similar experiences. Maybe we grew up in a small Iowa town, or drive the same make of car. But, do we have the same truth? Because we have different experiences and perspectives, our truths may not be the same. In a world inundated with misinformation, embracing truth becomes all the more critical. By asking ourselves, "**Is it the truth?**" we ensure that our words and actions are rooted in honesty, allowing us to establish a strong and authentic bond with others.

Is it fair to all concerned? Fairness is a principle that resonates

within all of us. It is the pursuit of justice, impartiality, and equity. Fairness requires us to examine our choices through an objective lens and assess their impact on others. **Fairness and equality aren't the same thing.** While equality of opportunity is a cornerstone of fairness, it rarely exists. Living in America provides opportunities denied to so many in the world. Creating equality of opportunity is about raising opportunity for those with little or none. Rotary service is largely about raising opportunities for those at the bottom, through projects aligned with-in Rotary's seven **Areas of Focus**, such as polio eradication, literacy projects, or providing clean water in an African village.

Beyond truth and fairness lies goodwill – the genuine desire to do good and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Goodwill encompasses **empathy, kindness, and compassion**. It is the driving force behind acts of service and the cultivation of a harmonious society. **Think of integrity as the father of goodwill and reputation as its mother.** As Warren Buffett noted, it takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. Unlike your other assets, goodwill cannot be insured. The only way to retain it is to keep building it. **How do we build goodwill? The answer is the Rotary motto: Service Above Self.** With goodwill in our hearts, we can ask ourselves, "**Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**," ensuring that our actions are not driven by self-interest alone but also by a genuine concern for the well-being of others.

Lastly, **friendship** is a precious bond that connects us as human beings. **It is built upon trust, shared experiences, and mutual respect.** Friendship enriches our lives and fosters a sense of belonging and unity. By contemplating the question, "**Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**," we recognize that our choices should not only serve our personal interests but also contribute positively to the lives of those around us. Through friendship, we forge stronger communities and inspire one another to reach greater heights.

The Four-Way Test serves as a guide in both personal and professional settings. It encourages us to pause and reflect on the impact of our choices. By incorporating **truth, fairness, goodwill, and friendship** into our decision-making process, we can build a world where trust thrives, justice prevails, kindness abounds, and meaningful connections are formed.

A little more about **Herb Taylor**. He obviously didn't throw the test into the trash can. Through his strong leadership and the application of the **Four-Way Test** he was able to correct the problems that plagued his company. He learned an interesting fact. He found that "*you cannot constantly apply the Four-Way Test to all your relations within business without getting into the habit of doing it in your home, social and community life. You thus become a better parent, a better friend and a better citizen.*"

This year our primary focus is **SERVICE**. It is my belief that within Rotary you can find something that will spark your passion for service. Through service we can engage our members and strengthen our Rotary clubs. There are so many great and worthy projects, all I ask is that you look around and choose something that you care about. It is our hope that you will use this message to find ways to **CREATE HOPE** in your community, within District 6000 and across the world. Thank you for all you do in service thru Rotary.

I would like to share one of my favorite quotes, which is: "**Service is the rent you pay for your room on earth.**" And finally, it is my belief that we have a humanitarian obligation to help those in need without judgment or agenda. Thank you for your attention. Please continue to serve in your Rotary clubs.

AWARDS, RECOGNITION

Jim Peterson presented Distinguished Service Award

By PDG **Jacque Andrew/Jefferson**

Assistant Editor, District 6000 News

At the regular meeting of the Iowa City AM on Tuesday, July 11, long-time member **Jim Peterson** was presented The Rotary Foundation's **Distinguished Service Award**, the Foundation's highest individual recognition.

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recognizes significant and dedicated service by a Rotarian to promote Foundation programs and advance its goal of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world.

A highly competitive award, only 24 were selected in all of Rotary to receive this honor from 49 nominations with each of the 535 districts potentially able to nominate.

Jim is the seventh from District 6000 to receive the award: **Bill Tubbs** (North Scott, 2022); **Corliss Klaassen** (Chariton, 2021); **Brock Earnhardt** (Davenport, 2020); **Herb Wilson+** (Iowa City AM, 2011); **Don Goering** (Ames, 2007) and **Paul Hellwege** (+Boone, 1997). (+ denotes deceased)

DG Steve Wieneke who nominated Peterson, and District Awards committee co-chair **Bill Koellner**, presented the award at Jim's club meeting as notification from TRF was received after the District Conference. Following are excerpts from the DSA nomination and award presentation.

"Jim has exemplified himself over many years in several areas of service to **The Rotary Foundation**, the consummate example of dedication and resourcefulness for TRF's mission of "doing good in the world." Not only has he served on the **Global Grants Committee** since its inception, his valuable insight has promoted success in many grants initiated by the district.

"Jim was among the initiators in 2002 of a service project between our district and **Xicotepec, Mexico** which involved **Interactors, Rotaractors**, other **college students** and Rotarians making an annual trip to the community to work on projects, building **schools and libraries, playgrounds, dental and health screenings**. Jim taught a university class on service learning mentoring past project participants as they presented at classes, project specific forums and district conferences.

"To further aid humanitarian work, he has attended many project fairs in **Central/South America** to determine needs and develop relationships. In addition, this Rotarian has great compassion for disadvantaged people all over the world.

"Having served seven years on the **World Community Service Grant Committee**, Jim was integral in the adoption of the new grants model under **"Future Vision."** During many **District Grant Management Seminars**, he offered valuable, insightful and understandable education on the "how to's" of writing successful grants with world partners. His experience in grants on multiple continents resonated with district Rotarians seeking to "do good in the world."

A frequent presenter at district **Foundation** events, he shared his passion for project fairs and forming alliances with Rotarians throughout the world to help advance projects. Always willing to travel to the sites of potential grants to solidify details and Rotary relationships, our nominee followed up

on approved grants as they progressed. These experiences were inspiring to district Rotarians and gave them hope as they pursued humanitarian projects.

Not just a grant writer, our nominee was also effective as a **fundraiser** as well. Instrumental in raising funds for a large water project in **Tanzania**, Jim's efforts have also been successful in numerous Central American projects. Able to tell the story of the projects with solid facts as well as passion, he raised university support for student participation as well as help from Rotarians and other donors. Utilizing knowledge acquired over years of global grants, Jim was fluent in explaining the flow of donations through **The Rotary Foundation** to ultimate use in grants that improved so many lives.

Also fluent in Spanish, Jim has been the official TRF contact person for six grants with total budgets of more than \$556,000 with 124,000 beneficiaries. Three grants for water and sanitation needs – wells, pumps/distribution of water and latrines and maintenance in **Guatemala, Nicaragua** and **Paraguay**. VTTs accounted for three grants. Orthopedists in **Bolivia, Brazil** and **Colombia** received advanced training and practice and teaching of the **Ponseti method**, a low-cost, low-tech, non-surgical, highly effective treatment for **correcting clubfoot deformity**.

Jim is a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Paul Harris Society, and he and his wife Beth are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society.



Jim Peterson

'SUPER STAR PERFORMERS'

Below are the individual Rotary District 6000 leaders who were recognized by **2022-23 District Governor Steve Wieneke** as **Super Star Performers** during 2022-2023. PDG Wieneke personally recognized each of these members during club visits in June-August 2023.

Chris Knapp, Assistant Governor (Iowa City AM), **Jeff Ashcraft**, Assistant Governor (North Scott), **Linda Chastain**, Assistant Governor (Decatur County), **John Schroeder**, Assistant Governor (Bloomfield), **Gretchen Nollman**, Assistant Governor, District Educator, Public Image, Community Service Grants Action Team (West Liberty), **Mark Ruggeberg**, Assistant Governor (Iowa City Downtown), **Brock Earnhardt**, Global Grants Action Team Chair (Davenport), **Norlan Hinke**, Rotary District 6000 Foundation Chair (Clinton), **Jim Patton**, Assistant Governor (Ames Noon), **Bill Bruce**, Rotary Club of Denison, Club President, **Ryan Bell**, Rotary Club of Iowa City Noon, Club President, **Tyler Phelps**, Rotary Club of Greater Des Moines, Club President, **Sarah Simon**, Rotary Club of Madison County Evening Chair, **Josie Cochuyt**, Rotary Club of North Scott, Club President, **Bonnie Lowry**, Rotary Club of Marshalltown Extension Club Chair and Interact Club Liaison (Marshalltown), **Scott Naumann**, Public Image Action Team Chair (Bettendorf), **Susan Laehn**, Rotary Club of Jefferson, Club President, **Dave Cook**, District 6000 Growing Rotary Action Team Chair (Boone), **Dr. George Belitsos**, Prevention of Human Trafficking Action Team Chair (Ames Noon), **Chris Bertelson**, Assistant Governor (Winterset), **William "Bill" Koellner**, Rotary District 6000 Annual Funds and Awards Action Team (West Liberty), **Bill Tubbs**, Rotary District 6000 Vocational Service and Newsletter Action Team Chairs (North Scott).

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

Ten clubs in District 6000 submitted applications and were recipients of the **Rotary International Club Citation** for completion of activities in all **Avenues of Service** during 2022-2023:

Ames Noon, Ankeny, Bloomfield, Indianola, North Scott, Ottumwa, Tipton, Washington, West Liberty, Winterset.



Rotary Leadership Institute participants, front (l-r): Kathleen Estrada (Mt. Pleasant), Marie Pipes (East Polk County), Judy Trepka (Iowa City AM) and Cindy Hinke. Middle row: Karin Franklin (Iowa City AM), PDG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening), Wendal Yoder (Decatur County), AG Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty), AG Mark Ruggeberg (Iowa City Downtown) and PDG Mike Ruby (Muscatine). Back: Wayne Steen (West Liberty), Steve SchraderBacher (Ankeny Noon), Jack Bell (Northwest Des Moines), Tom Welchens (Waukee), Tim Weible (Manning), DGN Norlan Hinke (Clinton) and PDG Loring Miller (Decatur County).

Twenty-one participate in RLI training

By PDG Steve Wieneke/Ankeny Evening
District 6000 RLI Coordinator

Twenty-one Rotarians participated in the Oct. 14 **Rotary Leadership Institute** educational courses conducted at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant.

Rotarians in District 6000 participated in all three courses of Rotary Leadership Institution Oct. 14. A total of 21 Rotarians attended a full day of training. Eight Rotarians served as facilitators and support staff.

Thirteen Rotarian participants attended (five in part 1, five in part 2 and three in part 3). The three Rotarians who completed part 3 were presented graduation certificates and RLI lapel pins for completing the total 24 hours of instruction.

These Rotarians included: **Jack Bell** (Northwest Des Moines), **Tim Weible** (Manning) and **Tom Welchens** (Waukee). The next RLI educational courses to be offered will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024, in Boone. Registration is open and available to all members.



PDG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening), Rotary District Coordinator for RLI, with graduates: Jack Bell (Northwest Des Moines); Tom Welchens (Waukee) and Tim Weible (Manning).

Save the dates for District 6000 activities

Assistant Governor Orientation, at Newton DMACC Campus, Friday, Feb. 16, 6-9 p.m. Required for all 2024-25 AGs. Register at www.rotary6000.org.

President-Elect Orientation, at Newton DMACC Campus, Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Required for Presidents-Elect and AGs. Extension chairpersons and Presidents-Nominee encouraged to attend. Register at Rotary6000.org.

NCPETS Virtual and In-Person PE Training, Feb. 23 and 24. NCPETS is a multi-district hybrid training opportunity for PEs, club extension chairs and presidents-nominee. Training will be available virtually and in-person near Minneapolis. Register at northcentralpets.org.

Grant Management Seminar, West Liberty Community Center and hybrid, Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m. to noon. Rotary International requires at least one club member attend a Grant Management Seminar annually to be eligible for a Foundation

grant. The club member attending should be the person who will write the grant and final report. D6000 is helping clubs meet this requirement by offering a hybrid format. Register at Rotary6000.org.

District Assembly and Grant Management Seminar, Newton DMACC Campus on Saturday, March 30. District Assembly is an opportunity for Rotarians to gather and be motivated, inspired and learn about new ideas to bring back to their club. This year's District Assembly will also include at Grant Management Seminar hybrid for those who want to qualify their club to submit a Foundation grant.

District Rotary Foundation Gala, Friday evening, April 19 at Pella. District Celebration (District Conference), Pella Opera House, Saturday, April 20.

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), at Boone on April 13 and at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 24, 2024. Register at rli-heartland.org.

XICOTEPEC, MEXICO

Project team plans for March 9-16, 2024 trip

By Jim Peterson/Iowa City AM

District 6000 Vocational Chair

Since late August, the D6000 Xicotepec Project Team has been busy preparing for the March 2024 trip to Xicotepec, Mexico. Some of these preparations include:

Presentations to Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs.

Meetings with University of Iowa faculty members who will teach the related service-learning course.

Preparation and testing of the application and payments websites

Organizing a fall planning trip to Xicotepec

Coordinating and communicating with Rotarians and others in Xicotepec

During the last full week of October, a group of Rotarians, along with a University of Iowa faculty member, spent four busy days studying potential projects and visiting project sites as a first step in programming activities for the project team that will be in Xicotepec from **March 9-16, 2024**.

Members of the October planning team, all of whom have made previous visits to Xicotepec, are:

PDG Tom Narak (RC of West Des Moines)

Carol Narak (RC of West Des Moines)

Bob Main (RC of Newton)

Chris Catney (RC of Iowa City)

Alta Medea (RC of Iowa City A.M.)

Jim Peterson (RC of Iowa City A.M.)

Nichole Nidey (University of Iowa College of Public Health)

Typically, the **Rotary Club of Xicotepec** has received a number of written requests, or *peticiones*, from community groups or institutions such as schools, school parents' groups, universities, the local Red Cross chapter, firefighters and others. Each *petición* explains a need, requests support from the Xicotepec Rotary Club to fulfill the need, and specifies what contributions – financial and/or in-kind – the requesting group will make.

After **Xicotepec Rotarians** and the D6000 planning team have reviewed the *peticiones*, site visits will be made to gather ad-



Since 2003, children have welcomed Iowa Rotarians and their partners to Xicotepec, Mexico.

ditional information, talk to the persons or group making the request, verify details, take photos, etc. The Xicotepec Rotary Club may also have its own project ideas to present to the planning team.

At the regular meeting of the **Xicotepec Rotary Club** on Thursday evening, the previous four days' visits and activities are reviewed, and the "short list" of potential projects is agreed on. Also agreed on are a list of subsequent action items such as obtaining or verifying the budget for each project, obtaining bids from contractors, etc.

Reviewing projects

After returning to Iowa, the planning team will produce a brief report that includes input from each team member. In the following two to three months, the planning team and the Xicotepec Rotarians will jointly make a final choice of projects to be undertaken during the visit of the project team in March.

Applicants for the project team will be notified of acceptance in December, and information on team members will be provided for the **Xicotepec Rotary Club** so that they can plan and arrange for food, lodging, transportation, tools, building materials and any other needs that the D6000 project team may have in order to carry out their projects.

The Xicotepec Rotarians will also communicate or arrange meetings with municipal officials, school staff, parents' groups and others.

In addition to coordinating with the **Xicotepec Rotary Club**, activities with or involvement of **Xicotepec Rotaractors, Interactors, InnerWheel** members and others during the week of March 9-16 will be planned.

How you can show support

The application website for the March 2024 trip, and a document which provides extensive details about the trip, can be found at <https://xicoproject.org/apply>.

The application period ended on Nov. 12. D6000 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, Junior Rotarians or other youth endorsed by a D6000 Rotary club were eligible to apply. The project team was limited to 50 members.

The **Xicotepec Project** does not receive funds from District 6000 nor from Rotary International; it is funded by its participants and by donations. Tax-free contributions can be made at <https://xicoproject.org/donate>.



Nadia, with her back to the camera, and Rosalía, in black glasses, continue the deworming project which was introduced by Rotarians and conducted by the University of Iowa.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Twenty-seven District 6000 clubs receive District Rotary Foundation grants for community projects

By Gretchen Nollman/West Liberty

Co-Chair, District 6000 Community Grants Committee

Twenty-seven Rotary clubs were awarded District 6000 Rotary Foundation Community Grants.

The requests were scored individually by each committee member with the aggregate scores assimilated and discussed in-depth prior to the final decisions. They were rated using this criteria:

Benefit to others, up to 30 points; subdivided up to 20 points based on Community Benefit; and 10 points based on underserved/disadvantaged;

Rotary's Public Image, up to 20 points;

Club Engagement, up to 20 points;

Club Support of Annual TRF (Foundation), up to 30 points.

Additional to the scoring metrics, all clubs were reviewed on entering of goals for Membership, Annual Giving to Polio and The Rotary Foundation as part of the new requirements for applying for district grants

The 2023-2024 District 6000 Community Grants:

Ames Morning: Small Talk for Lifelong Success. Program supports language and literacy development for children ages 0-5. **\$5,000.**

Northwest Des Moines: Coats for Kids. Purchase of 650 coats for local area children in the Urbandale area. **\$4,600.**

Iowa City AM: Open Heartland Welcome Baskets. Baskets including a gift card to a local Mexican grocery, blankets and towels to support the local Latinx community. **\$2,500.**

West Liberty: Solar Trail Lighting Continuation. Installation of solar lighting on a community trail. **\$4,500.**

North Scott: Pay It Forward with North Scott Rotary. Partnership with 10 sixth-grade classes in the North Scott School District to "Pay It Forward." **\$5,000.**

Nevada: Camelot Theater Foundation. Purchase of equipment for movies and live entertainment in a historic theater. **\$5,000.**

Muscatine: Inclusive Playground Equipment. Installation of inclusive playground equipment at a pocket park. **\$3,625.**

Winterset: Keeping the Beat (Publicly Accessible AEDs). Purchase of four AED units in protective, highly visible cases. **\$5,000.**

Boone: The Social-Emotional Library. Offer library and other resources to the new Ledges Elementary School. **\$750.**

West Des Moines: Winter Coats for Veterans. Purchase of 118 gloves, coats and hats to benefit the Polk County Office of Veterans Affairs. **\$2,500.**

Tipton: Picnic Tables and Benches for Tipton Rotary Pavilion. Pur-

chase of four 8-foot benches with back, and two 4-foot diameter Rotary Wheel signs for the Rotary Pavilion in the Tipton City Park. **\$5,000.**

Coralville-North Corridor: The Dictionary Project. Purchase of 750 Student Dictionaries to support 20 schools for fourth-grade children. **\$5,000.**

Ankeny: High Trestle Trail Respite Items. Installation of two wheelchair accessible park tables on the High Trestle Trail, as well as a water station. **\$5,000.**

Jefferson: Rotary Centennial Dog Park Benches. Installation of five park benches in dog park. **\$1,864.**

East Polk County: Caring Hands Deer Fencing for Garden. Installation of heavy duty fence to protect garden from deer and other animals at Caring Hands Outreach in Altoona. **\$1,684.**

Chariton: Grand Lane Pocket Park. Enhancement to pocket park for the public to enjoy public art and placemaking in a cozy atmosphere. **\$2,900.**

Iowa City AM: NAMI Building Repairs. Partner with NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness for building repairs for local chapter. **\$2,500.**

Ottumwa: Security Cameras on Wabash Pedestrian Bridge. Installation of two security cameras along the Wabash Pedestrian Bridge on the Ottumwa Trails System. **\$4,300.**

Marshalltown: Gas Stoves for House of Compassion. Purchase two gas stoves for House of Compassion. **\$2,500.**

Iowa Quad Cities: Challenger Little League Support. Purchase of food and drinks for approximately 150 student athletes with mental and physical challenges, and their families, as well as access to several amusement rides. **\$3,000.**

Mount Pleasant Noon: Discovery Center Evolution. Purchase of materials for evolving needs to Discovery Center for an upcoming Rotary Family Day at the Center. **\$1,066.**

Oskaloosa: Indoor Sports Complex Project. Purchase of sports equipment for Oskaloosa Sports Complex. **\$2,699.**

Knoxville: Eagle Scout Project: 4 Trees at Middle School. Installation of four trees at a newly-built school. **\$321.**

Centerville: North Park Pickleball Course Project. Surfacing and painting of three pickleball courts at North Park. **\$5,000.**

Kalona: Public Library Foundation Fundraiser. Purchase of supplies for a community breakfast that funds Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Washington County. **\$700.**

Des Moines AM: Garden Gate Ranch. Installation of a furnace/AC Unit, paint inside of cottage for victims of human trafficking. **\$3,600**

TOTAL OF FUNDS AWARDED: \$85,240.

Rotary Youth Exchange looking to grow after Covid

Here are the names of the Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students in the photo on the cover by Jacque Andrew, with District Governor Dennis Drager and Heidi, and their countries and host clubs, from left: **Elena Polverini**, Italy (Decatur County); **Leticia Vendrametto**, Brazil (Pella); **Juliette Genin**, France (Iowa City); **Juan Toledano Roma**, Spain (Des Moines); and **Sofia Aberturas**, Spain (Ankeny). Not pictured was **Dafne Sapia**, Italy (Bettendorf). The photo was taken at the **Fall Youth Exchange**

training on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Ankeny. The RYE **Winter Retreat** will be Jan. 6-7 at the Christian Conference Center at Newton.

Youth Exchange, which sent and received 15-20 students annually in District 6000 for many years, is rebounding after Covid. Clubs wishing to participate in this program which creates goodwill between nations, one student at a time, should contact **Greg Probst**, 319-331-5987, or Greg.probst@rye6000.org; or **Paul Kalainoff**, 563-570-7907, or kalainoff@gmail.com.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Solidarity for Ukrainian citizens

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.
 — Mark Twain, "Innocents Abroad"

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Reprinted from Oct. 25 North Scott Press

I am happy with my routine here in the local community, but from time to time need to step away and see the world from a new perspective. Rotary has most frequently provided the path, and so it was last weekend. I didn't go far – just Evanston and Chicago – but once there, the world came to me and 300 others at the Rotary Zones 25B and 29 Institute.

Attendees were from five continents. The highlight was an evening at the **Ukrainian Cultural Center**, west of the downtown loop, where we experienced multi-cultural solidarity for Ukraine and its oppressed citizens. Their resilience and determination in saving their lives and homeland against Russian assault seems almost beyond belief, but over and again messengers who have been there report how absolutely important it is for them to know we have their backs.

Eldridge ambulance

Support comes in many ways. **Chris Manson**, the employee of OSF Healthcare in Peoria, whom I wrote about last year, has continued his quest for vehicles – ambulances, fire trucks and SUVs. The effort which began when his 7-year-old daughter, Lily, saw TV news of Russia invading Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and said, "Dad, we should do something," is now the 501.C.3 organization, **U.S. Ambulances for Ukraine**.

Manson's talk at North Scott Rotary in October 2022 resulted in three of the 67 vehicles he has thus far procured and delivered to the front lines. One was Medic EMS ambulance No. 14, previously in service at Eldridge. Medic CEO **Linda Fredericksen** made it happen, and spread word for the other two.

Manson has made six trips to the war zone and procured funds for nine shipments of 52 ambulances, eight fire trucks, six SUVs and one other. They are collected at Baltimore and shipped to Hamburg, then Poland, and convoyed across the border into Ukraine. The most recent convoy had 22 vehicles.

Rotary International paid \$100,000 to ship 10 ambulances and one fire engine in January. That shipment included the one from Eldridge which was then painted camou and is now moving 20 persons to safety every day in the Cherkasy region on the central plains of Ukraine. (Other shipping sponsors are the Rockefeller Foundation, American Hospital Association, and Direct Relief.)

The work continues. "We're always looking for SUVs, ambulances, or fire engines. Send it if it works, it runs, even if it's old," said Manson. If you know of one, please call him at 309-922-7046, or email: Christopher.M.Manson@osfhealthcare.org.

Our support makes a difference

We should be proud that our Eldridge ambulance is doing good in the world, but this war is far from over. **Serhiy Koldov, Ukrainian Consul General**, said Putin's armies, in violation of international law, have destroyed \$2.5 billion of Ukraine's



A tall Peace Pole with "May Peace Prevail On Earth" inscribed in Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian and English was dedicated at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago at the Zones 25B and 29 Institute Oct. 21, (l-r): RI Vice President Pat Merryweather-Arges, the director of the Cultural Center, RI President-Elect Stephanie Urchick, and RI President 2021-22, Mark Maloney.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

medical infrastructure. One in 10 hospitals has been damaged, and 84 have been hit multiple times. "Every ambulance and fire engine saves lives," he added.

They're also targeting libraries and schools, said **Margo Hewko**, the wife of Rotary International general secretary, John Hewko, whose family is from Ukraine.

Elaine Hernandez, a Rotarian from Texas, recently returned from eight months in Ukraine where she was a specialist in an emergency feeding program for internationally displaced persons. She spoke of the people's resilience, optimism and hope.

Ukrainians are educated and appreciative, but the continued assaults are taking a toll, said **Dr. Zaher Sahloul**, of Syria, who represents **MedGlobal**, a humanitarian charitable NGO. "They look good on the outside, but are traumatized inside."

Ninety percent of Ukrainians will need mental health services, said **Dr. Olga Maihutiak** of **UMANA**, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, based in Chicago. She just returned after three weeks in Ukraine, where UMANA delivered 240,000 pounds of medical supplies and \$500,000 of modern surgical equipment. "I convey how grateful the people are for your support," she said.

Help from many places

Ukraine's neighbor, **Lithuania** – like Ukraine, a former Soviet republic – has thus far welcomed 80,000 refugees and given \$80 million, said **Sigrida Muleviciene, the Lithuanian General Consul**. Her country, she said, is housing refugees at schools and bomb shelters, "and Lithuanians in Chicago are sending support."

German Rotarians have contributed 30 million Euros for relief projects with Ukrainian Rotary clubs, said **Mark Maloney**, who was RI president in 2019-20 and was actively involved when Rotary established a **Disaster Response Fund** for Ukraine.

The goal, he said, was \$500,000 to \$1 million, but Rotarians

UKRAINE, continued on next page

Ukraine: Rotarians world-wide have given \$75 million

UKRAINE, *continued*

blew past the goal and gave \$15.3 million. A second **Disaster Response Fund** was recently opened.

Including club-direct projects, Maloney estimates Rotarians world-wide have given \$75 million. "Rotary has solidarity with Ukrainian citizens," he declared.

I saw this for myself at the 2022 **Rotary International Convention in Houston** when 11,000 members from most of Rotary's 200 countries gave a sustained standing ovation when Ukraine's flag was presented at the opening ceremony.

Since the start of the war, Rotary membership in Ukraine has grown from 850 to 1,150 and clubs are active in their service, the former RI president said.

For Ukrainians seeking refuge, Nebraska Rotarian **Barb Bartle** worked with a travel agent who rented 200 hotel rooms in neighboring Warsaw, Poland, for 10 months. Nebraska

Rotarians raised \$150,000 for supplies for orphans, she said. Bartles said a healthcare worker in Poland, when thanked, said:

"What else can we do? These are our brothers and sisters!"

Amen! Hospitality was also the message of **Kari McDonough**, of **Welcome US**, a Washington, D.C.-based group, whose mission is "to inspire, mobilize, and empower Americans to welcome and support those seeking refuge here and help them thrive" (welcome.us).

Thus far, she said, over 161,000 Ukrainians have arrived in U.S. under sponsorship programs.

Ceremonies at the Cultural Center concluded with the dedication of a tall **"Peace Pole"** with **"May Peace Prevail On Earth"** inscribed in Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian and English. Then people from many nations joined hands singing, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Twain was right: Travel – connecting with new perspectives – is fatal to prejudice.



Newcomer Integration Community & Exchange

'Iowa Nice' provides homes, jobs for Ukrainian refugees

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Editor, District 6000 News

For clubs or individuals wishing to support Ukrainian refugees in Iowa, Iowa Quad Cities Rotarian **Angela Boelens**, of DeWitt, a faculty member at Augustana College in Rock Island, founded **Iowa Nice (www.ianice.org)**, which has settled 15 Ukrainian families thus far – and more coming soon.

"All have new homes and happiness in Iowa. All have employment and are on track for self-sufficiency within 120 days of their arrival. They love this area," she said. "We have been able to get them to self-sufficiency. We provide ways to help, by navigating red tape with housing, cars, doctors, English language, and finances."

Iowa Nice is all volunteer and funds are raised with no government help.

In the coming weeks, Angela said, Iowa Nice will be announcing a four-part training series for other communities to begin programs like Iowa Nice. Some training is needed to be a sponsor – the people who fill out the I-24 documents and provide financial and technical expertise. What's needed, Angela said, "is time investment and a heart to be a sponsor."

Anyone wishing to help, or wanting information, may contact Angela at 563-299-7956, or aboelens@ianice.org. The website is **www.ianice.org**. (See the Iowa Nice ad on page 40)



Angela Boelens

Adel Rotary, District 6000 HEF continue aid to Ukraine

By Shirley McAdon/Adel

The Rotary Club of Adel first sent aid to Ukraine in 2022, as outlined in the article in the July-December 2022 issue of *District 6000 News*. In 2014, a group of Ukrainians had visited Iowa as part of an educational exchange program coordinated by **Iowa Resource for International Service (IRIS)** through our club member **Del Christensen**. One of the participants was **Oleg Gural**, who had recently joined the **Rotary Club of Lviv**. A bond of friendship was formed.

Eight years later, Adel Rotarians learned of the war and Del reached out to Oleg with this question, "How can we help?" The need for medical supplies in Lviv and supplies for refugees passing through Lviv on their way to Poland and other nearby countries was acute. Adel quickly raised \$6,500 to help those tired, hungry and distressed refugees and to provide medical care for them and those staying on, through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Lviv and other Rotary clubs in the area.

In September, an additional \$4,500 was sent to the Rotary Club of Lviv from a \$1,000 donation from the **Rotary Club of Adel**

and \$3,500 from the **District 6000 Humanitarian and Educational Foundation (HEF) Disaster Relief fund** designated for Ukraine. The funds will be used to restock ambulance and medical supplies, plus provide for the clothing and food needs of families who have fled Eastern Ukraine and are housed in Lviv temporarily.

The Rotary Club of Adel remains pleased to be an early supporter of these efforts and to continue to support relief with the help of District 6000. The bonds of friendship only grow stronger through connections and fellowship that underpin that friendship that Rotary fosters.



Members of the Rotary Club of Lviv delivered medical supplies, food and clothing from Iowa to refugee camps in 2022.

Create Hope by engaging homeless

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown
District Governor

During a recent visit to Chicago, a handful of District 6000 Rotarians had an opportunity to hear from **Cyndi Bunch**. Her story is the basis for the movie **5000 Blankets**, and it is a story about compassion and human connection. It is about her experiences when her husband suffered a significant mental crisis and disappeared into the homeless community, and how her young son pointed them down a path to aid and connected with people that need some warmth in their lives. Her son asked a remarkably simple question during a frigid winter night. He asked if his dad and the homeless people are warm?

That question led Cyndi down a path that resulted in a movie about her experience with **mental health** and **homelessness**. It is an inspirational movie which I highly recommend.

A 5-year-old speaks

Heidi and I had a similar experience with our oldest granddaughter, **Caitlin**, when she was about 5 years old. We were driving through downtown Des Moines. While stopped at a stoplight we noticed a person holding a sign asking for help. As many of us do, we ignored him and waited for the light to change. Just as the light switched to green Caitlin asked, "What is he doing there?" With a quick glance over at Heidi, I answered that he is asking for help. Then as we are rounding the corner, Caitlin asked "Why didn't we help?"

Again, Heidi and I looked to each other for inspiration on the best answer for this very tough question. We realized we did not have a good answer. Why do we ignore people asking for help? We should be helping anyone in any way that we are able. That is a part of being a **Rotarian**. It is a part of being a **humanitarian**. We should not make assumptions about what led to a person's need for help. We should be ready to aid all human beings whenever we are called upon to do so.

Homelessness

Homelessness is a stark reality in many communities, and it often comes with feelings of isolation and marginalization for those experiencing it. In Iowa there are more than **2,000 people that are homeless**. Many are young people that aged out of foster care. They may be people that have made bad decisions, or life has been unfair to them. Regardless of the circumstances that lead a person to live in a tent, in a car or

depend on a bed in a shelter, we are Rotarians with a call to action to help.

My experience with **Caitlin** asking that tough question led me to recognize a need to shift our perspective on homeless people. We need to recognize their humanity and realize they have a life story, dreams, and aspirations just like you and me.

My expectation for every District 6000 Rotarian is to **treat every person that you encounter with respect and dignity**, just as you would expect for yourself. A simple "Hello" or "How are you

today?" can go a long way. **Make eye contact** and **engage**. These are powerful ways you can connect with someone that may be struggling. **Empathy** is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Consider how you would feel if no one looked at you or spoke with you. If everyone overtly avoided you? Imagine how debilitating that would be to your mental health. Remember to make eye contact and to ask for their name, that shows you see them as an individual.



What should you do if you suspect someone is contemplating suicide?
The National Institute of Mental Health offers five action steps for helping someone in emotional pain:

- 1 Ask them directly, "Are you thinking about suicide?"
- 2 Keep them safe by reducing their access to potentially lethal items or places.
- 3 Be there. Listen to their feelings and acknowledge what they are saying.
- 4 Help them connect to a suicide crisis line or to someone they trust.
- 5 Stay connected, follow up, and keep in touch after a crisis.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in the U.S. by calling or texting 988 or going to 988lifeline.org. If you are outside the U.S., visit findahelpline.com to get connected with a service in your country.

Blessing bag or meal to share

Whenever possible, offer your assistance. If you have a blessing bag or a meal to share, do so without judgment or an agenda. Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in their day. During that recent visit to Chicago a group of us ate lunch at a popular pizza place. We had way more food than we could eat. We asked that the extra be packaged in individual cartons and passed out slices to the homeless people that we encountered on our walk back to the hotel. Look for ways that you can take the abundance in your life to share with those who need more.

While we always want to be friendly, we need to respect personal boundaries. Some

homeless individuals may prefer to keep to themselves, and that is okay. Always prioritize their comfort and well-being. Building human connections with homeless individuals is a two-way street. While your kindness and compassion can make a significant difference in their lives, you will find that **these connections enrich your own life as well**. In reaching out to those in need, we reinforce the shared values of compassion, empathy, and the belief that every individual deserves respect and dignity, regardless of their circumstances.

I ask that each Rotarian within District 6000 **be intentional in their interactions with those less fortunate**. Please consider working with a mental health and/or homeless outreach organization. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our district this year as we **CREATE HOPE** as Rotarians and humanitarians.



The Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening Charter Night was July 11 at Magee's Irish Pub.

Provided by Steve Wieneke

Ankeny Evening club receives charter

By PDG Steve Wieneke/Ankeny Evening

The **Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening**, had our charter approved by Rotary International. We had 30 charter members on our official "Charter Date" of July 1, 2023.

The board of directors for the **Rotary Club of Ankeny** approved a motion to provide support for chartering a satellite club at their meeting on Oct. 14, 2012. The first meeting was held on Oct. 23, 2012, at **Wig & Pen** with six prospective members and three noon members present. The first three members, **Kristofer Orth**, **Amanda Rosman**, and **Steve Wieneke** were inducted

into the club on Nov. 20, 2012.

Kristofer Orth was chosen to be the club's president-elect, a position he filled for over five years until July 1, 2018, when **Steve Wieneke** became president-elect. It is only fitting that **Kristofer** be the club's "Charter President" for the 2023-2024 year.

The new club hosted a **Charter Night at Magee's Irish Pub** on July 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a short program at 6:15 p.m. Special guests present were **DG Dennis Drager** and **Heidi**, **DGE Dave Cook**, **DGN Norlan Hinke** and **Cindy**, and **PDG Steve Dakin**. Each charter member was presented with a special charter pin.

'Companion Club' model has roots in District 6000

By DGE Dave Cook/Boone

District 6000 Membership Co-Chair

Rotary International is launching a new club format: **Service Companion Clubs**, inspired by the success of similar initiatives in **District 6000** and beyond.

These clubs are designed to accommodate the busy schedules of working parents, educators, retailers, and healthcare professionals, among others.

Regardless of the name – **service companion clubs**, **club extensions**, or **satellites** – the objective remains consistent: expanding service and engagement. Within District 6000, these initiatives are most commonly known as club extensions.

Effective format

The burgeoning popularity of after-work club extensions is a testament to their effectiveness. Many of those in club extensions relish the opportunity to serve their community while also accommodating their family and professional responsibilities. Not surprising, the **peak hour for these clubs is between 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, a slot that allows members to attend after work and still be home in time for dinner and evening activities. Another appealing feature is the cost-saving aspect, as these meetings often don't include meals.

'Regardless of the name – service companion clubs, club extensions, or satellites – the objective remains consistent: expanding service and engagement.'

It's important to note that members of these extensions are full-fledged, dues-paying Rotarians, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails.

"It's heartening to witness the resurgence in membership via these club extensions," remarked **District Governor-Elect Dave Cook**. "By diversifying meeting times, we are catering to an even larger demographic of service-oriented individuals. It's also exciting to see that 20 percent of clubs in District 6000 have already embraced the club extension model, and I expect more will follow suit."

Host club charters

Operating under the charter of their host clubs, club extensions are committed to community service. While they enjoy the autonomy to design their own service projects, they often also support initiatives championed by their host clubs, effectively amplifying community service efforts.

In essence, the club extension and service companion club format embody a dual meeting time approach. This not only diversifies membership but also amplifies opportunities for community service.

As the world evolves, Rotary's innovative approach ensures that service remains accessible and relevant to all.

Let's get Friendship Exchange active again in District 6000!

By Lesley Dakin/Boone

In May, 2014 four couples from District 6000 traveled to **southeastern Australia**. These eight representatives were the last outward-bound **Friendship Exchange** participants from District 6000.

Cal and Rachel Litwiller from Mount Pleasant, **Steve and Cheryl Miller** from Ottumwa, **Mike and Jo Anne Ruby** from Muscatine, and **Steve and I** from Boone enjoyed two weeks hosted by Rotarians in the states of Victoria and New South Wales.

After staying with our hosts we planned to attend the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney. We stayed with five families and what a wonderful adventure it was!

In the fall of 2013 District 6000 Rotarians hosted several "Kiwis" and when those New Zealanders heard Iowans were visiting Australia, they insisted that we spend some time in their homes on the north island. We had a great time bowling, eating Pavlova, hugging trees, and sharing stories with our fellow Rotarians for a week.

What a beautiful country!

This fall the District 6000 **Friendship Exchange Team** would like to re-establish this long-time tradition. We are investigating trips in association with project fairs in Latin America for spring 2024, and how about short "road trips" to Rotary clubs around the U.S.?

Another option is possibly hosting before the International Convention 2025 to be held in **Calgary, Canada**. If you know of any opportunities for District 6000 to explore, please contact me (lesley@retiredfun.net) or Heidi Drager(heidi.drager.d6000@gmail.com).



The Litwillers, Dakins and Rubys enjoyed Friendship Exchange in Australia. The program has been dormant, and they would like to get it active again. Friendship Exchange is an international exchange program for Rotary members and friends that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs.

ROTARY FOUNDATION

Three informational receptions in District 6000

By DGN Norlan Hinke/Clinton

District 6000 Rotary Foundation Chair

District 6000 held three special **endowment events** during the week of July 17th, 18th and 19th. These events were held in conjunction with **Rotary International Foundation Major Gifts Officer Rachel Greenhoe**.

Mark Rugeberg, Iowa City; **PDG Bill and Linda Tubbs**, Eldridge; and **Steve and PDG Erna Morain**, Waukee, graciously hosted these events in their homes with the intent to provide a casual, personal atmosphere.

About 50 attendees joined these events with the discussion beneficial and enlightening to participants. Seeds were planted for future investment opportunities, as there were several individual discussions with Rachel and financial consultants in attendance.

Thank you, **Mark, Bill, Linda, Steve and Erna!**

For questions about planned giving opportunities, contact **Rachel Greenhoe** at rachel.greenhoe@rotary.org.



Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Officer Rachel Greenhoe with District Governor Dennis Drager and Heidi at a reception for donors and prospective donors at the Bill and Linda Tubbs home in Eldridge July 18.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments

District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (*)

(Members: July 1, 2015-16-17-18-19-20-21-22)	(1) 22-23 Goal	(2) % of Goal	(3) Per capita	(4) Thru 1-8-23	(5) PolioPlus	(6) Other (**)	(7) TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28-24-21-27)	\$ 5,000	89	\$ 164.81	\$ 4,450	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,450
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29-29-32)	500	120	18.75	600	0	0	600
Ames (224-226-217-206-186-172-167-158)	16,000	105	105.82	16,720	7,985	23,536	
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46-43-43)	6,000	460	641.79	27,597	1,700	2,000	31,297
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83-101, 97-109)	20,000	102	187.57	20,445	9,550	8,300	38,295
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62- 59-53)	2,000	180	68.00	3,604	100	0	3,704
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100-94-123)	15,000	133	162.60	20,000	925	0	20,925
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12-13-13)	1,500	87	100.00	1,300	1,215	0	2,515
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46- 50-59)	5,500	292	272.62	16,084.68	7,095	25,000	48,180
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73-62-60)	2,500	20	8.33	500	100	0	600
Carroll (46-44-43-44-42-26-35-34)	1,000	10	2.94	100	100	0	200
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38-38-34)	3,000	176	155.15	5,275	100	0	5,375
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39-40-36-32)	3,300	97	97.66	3,125	0	0	3,125
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80-70-77)	8,000	90	93.39	7,191	200	0	7,391
Coon Rapids (27-31-34-30-29-28-27-21)	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coralville-N. Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22-23-24)	2,200	152	139.58	3,350	700	0	4,050
Corning (34-33-32-32-31-30-27-28)	1,200	85	36.43	1,020	1,000	0	2,020
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18-16-16)	1,300	23	18.75	300	0	0	300
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21-21)	200	50	4.76	100	0	0	100
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30-24-27)	2,700	104	103.70	2,800	160	0	2,960
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94-67-56)	3,000	198	106.07	5,940	2,855	1,150	9,945
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28-30-29)	6,000	10	206.90	6,000	1,775	0	7,775
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31-32-31)	2,000	100	64.52	2,000	0	0	2,000
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227-189)	16,000	119	100.93	19,075	2,408	0	21,483
Des Moines AM (170-170-179-189-194-200-209-194-192)	14,000	99	72.45	13,910	200	15,225	29,335
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22-23-18)	2,000	61	68.06	1,225	952	1,000	3,177
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41-34-32)	2,000	45	27.81	890	200	0	1,090
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42-43-44)	4,700	79	84.66	3,725	345	0	4,070
Greater Des Moines (12-12-11-13-26-17-12-11)	1,000	53	47.73	525	483	500	1,508
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34-32-33)	6,000	84	152.12	5,020	0	0	5,020
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37-32-29)	3,000	73	75.17	2,180	865	0	3,045
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271-239-225)	3,750	871	145.16	32,660	4,011	5,249	41,920
Iowa City AM (66-69-74-71-74-79-75-70)	16,000	106	243.07	17,015	15,796	6,651	39,462
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24-20-22)	3,750	63	107.45	2,364	500	0	2,864
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36-32-29)	2,000	50	34.48	1,000	100	0	1,100
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55-46-40)	5,000	111	138.55	5,542	2,940	0	8,482
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44-41-45)	6,300	165	231.29	10,408	2,253	0	12,661
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-38-32-32)	1,500	67	31.25	1,000	2,410	0	3,410
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41-37-37)	2,500	212	142.93	5,288	300	0	5,588
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26-24-25)	1,200	110	53.00	1,325	200	0	1,525
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34-30-28)	2,500	153	136.62	3,825	790	0	4,615
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25-25-15)	1,000	10	6.67	100	0	0	100
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22-20-20)	2,000	58	57.50	1,150	0	0	1,150
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10-9)	50	800	44.44	400	118	0	518
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117-111-129)	7,500	144	83.72	10,800	6,031	70,493	87,324
Mt. Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53-44-39)	1,000	154	39.49	1,540	1,000	0	2,540
Mt. Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15-15-15)	1,400	50	46.67	700	1,000	0	1,700
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62-60-62)	10,000	93	150.00	9,300	625	0	9,925
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48-56-59)	10,000	95	160.68	9,480	3,835	0	13,315
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38-33-34)	3,000	30	26.47	900	2,250	0	3,150
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95-91-100)	12,000	175	210.00	21,000	2,781	3,516	27,297
N'West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37-29-29)	8,000	158	436.02	12,645	4,628	0	17,273
Norwalk (0-0-20-24-18-18-17-18)	500	415	129.69	2,075	0	0	2,075
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21-17-17)	500	100	29.41	500	100	0	600
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59-49-46)	5,000	86	93.52	4,302	500	0	4,802
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75-75-70)	7,500	110	118.21	8,275	1,270	0	9,545
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26-27-28)	3,000	106	113.39	3,175	150	0	3,325
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22-22-25)	900	108	39.00	975	436	500	1,911
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23-23-20)	2,000	180	180.00	3,600	1,157	500	5,257
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41-35-31)	4,300	128	177.42	5,500	800	0	6,300
Waukeg (58-64-69-64-68-73-69-76)	9,000	77	91.12	6,925	1,485	5,100	13,510
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23-20-20)	2,000	154	154.05	3,081	0	0	3,081
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45-38-42)	5,000	122	145.55	6,113	3,100	10,103	19,316
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36-37-42)	13,000	108	334.52	14,050	2,060	0	16,110
West Polk County (31-18-19-20-24-21-17)	500	60	17.65	300	1,927	0	2,227
Winterset (25-30-33-29-30-32)	4,000	166	207.09	6,527	4,430	100	11,057
Total (3,854-3,853-3,793-3,693-3,580-3,464-3,212)	\$ 315,250	129.74	\$ 127.77	\$ 408,991	\$ 113,874		\$ 678,154-

(*) Year-End Report. (**) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants



RAG4Clubfoot

International Advisory Board will assist

By Tomeka Peterson/Iowa City Downtown

RAG4Clubfoot Co-Chair

RAG4Clubfoot approved a 2023-2026 **Strategic Plan** in early 2023. Establishing an **International Advisory Board (IAB)** was one of the first actions taken. The IAB shall be a means to strengthen our networks and outreach capacity to additional regions of the world. To date, we welcome the following members to the IAB:

Dr. Shafique Pirani (Canada)
Dr. Monica Nogueira (Brazil)
Dr. Dalia Sepulveda (Chile)
Dr. Charles Bizimana (Rwanda)
Dr. Naomi Davis (United Kingdom)

Visit the IAB webpage to read their brief bio.

RAG4Clubfoot approves two new board members

We welcome **Jorge Guterrez** (Ecuador) and **Dr. Michael Fakharani** (Germany) to the RAG4Clubfoot Board!

Jorge Guterrez is a specialist in customs law; he holds a doctorate of Law and Legal Sciences from the Free University of Colombia. He's a CADRE member and his knowledge and expertise of customs law was tapped recently to assist in the release of foot abduction braces being held in customs at an Ecuadorian port.

Dr. Michael Fakharani is an orthopaedic surgeon at the city of Bremen in northern Germany. He specialized in paediatric orthopaedics and is a former member of the German Society for Paediatric Orthopaedics – VKO. As a volunteer, in the past 15 years, he has been travelling to various countries in **East and West Africa, India and Indonesia**. He helped introduce the **Ponseti Method** treatment in southern **Tanzania** in cooperation with the Tanzanian Clubfoot Care Organization (TCCO) in 2018.

Visit the RAG4Clubfoot Board webpage for more information.

In the News

Rotary magazine in April 2023 featured the clubfoot story.



At Melbourne: Iowa City AM Rotarian PDG Chris Knapp, a RAG4Clubfoot board member, meets with Rotarians from Ecuador who are hosting a Ponseti Method Global Grant.

The Rotary Foundation approved a Global Grant in **Colombia** (GG2238189)

Rotary, Ayuda a Caminar / HELP WALKING

Primary objectives are to provide additional braces to the brace bank in **Colombia** and to provide education to parents about the importance of the brace and appropriate use. The following groups will benefit from this project:

1. **823 children under 5 years of age**, treated with Ponseti Method, by trained orthopedists and who require the use of braces up to five years to maintain successful result of the correction.

2. **400 parents and/or caregivers** of children treated with the Ponseti Method will receive training regarding the importance of using braces until age 5 as well as handling and adequate use of the child's brace.

RAG4Clubfoot contributed \$5,000 of funds received, in the past, from the **Rotary Club of Iowa City (Noon)** that were specifically designated for braces in Latin America. This donation was matched by District 6000 in Rotary Foundation District Designated Funds.

House of Friendship - 2023 Rotary International Convention, Melbourne, Australia

RAG4Clubfoot had a beautifully positioned booth in **Melbourne** to greet Rotarians and raise awareness about clubfoot and **Ponseti Method**.

Rotary members visiting the booth learn about the number of children born each year with clubfoot in their country. Common inquiries are requests for a RAG4Clubfoot representative to be a guest speaker during a club meeting, to share more details about **Ponseti Method** training grants and to give ideas for how a Rotary club or district can assist children born with clubfoot in their country.

We enjoy connecting with other Rotary members wanting to make an impact in the world.

A huge THANK YOU to the many Rotarians from D6000 that helped set-up the booth and provide information about our efforts.



Lesley Dakin of Boone, a RAG4Clubfoot board member, visits with a Rotary member at the RI Convention in Melbourne about the Ponseti Method of non-surgical clubfoot repair.

ACTION GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH

'Transform mental illness to mental wellness'

By Paul Daniel, PhD/Marshalltown

Chair, District 6000 Rotarian Action Group Mental Health

The Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI) is up and running in Iowa. At this time, District 6000 is the only active RAGMHI in the Midwest. California have two, and Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey and Vermont have one.

Our vision and goal with the D6000 Chapter of RAGMHI is to transform mental illness to mental wellness one life at a time. The activities and initiatives of Rotary Action Groups can vary widely across the United States and are often organized at the local, district, or regional level, depending on the needs and interests of Rotary clubs and members in each area.

D6000 Chapter of RAGMHI is actively involved in **brain health initiatives** in Iowa and is working in collaboration with local Rotary clubs and organizations to address specific brain health needs and challenges in that area in our state. These initiatives could include:

Educational Workshops. RAGMHI may organize workshops and seminars to educate Rotary members and the community about brain health, including topics such as depression/anxiety, bi-polar awareness, autism, brain injury prevention, and mental fitness.

Local and State Advocacy. They may engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about brain health issues and promote policies and resources that support brain health and wellness through local and statewide legislature.

Community Projects. D6000 RAGMHI Chapter may support, or initiate community-based projects aimed at improving brain health, such as organizing brain health fairs, providing resources for individuals and families with brain health conditions and participating in awareness walks.

Collaboration. Our RAGMHI will collaborate with local healthcare providers, mental/brain health organizations, and community leaders to address brain health challenges comprehensively.

To get specific information about what RAGMHI is currently doing for brain health in District 6000, or to join us, visit www.mhid6000.com. We have an annual membership for \$25 and we will keep you informed and offer opportunities to become more aware and advocate for wellness.

President targets mental health

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

Our Rotary International President, Gordan McNally, is passionate about Mental Health and has made that one of his priorities this year. I, too, am committed to helping any way that we can in District 6000.

We have created a District 6000 Chapter on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI) with the goal of transforming mental illness to mental wellness one life at a time. Our mission is:



Gordon McNally

To create and provide opportunities for all Rotarians in our District to improve their mental, emotional and behavioral health in order to lead a healthy, happy and productive life.

To provide support for clubs in the implementation of mental health projects and initiatives in our district and beyond.

To provide a variety of helpful mental health resources in our District that result in a measurable impact on the mental wellness of our Club members and committees.

The cost to join the RAGMHI is \$25 each year. I HOPE that you will consider joining in our efforts. Send payment to: Norlan Hinke, 512 Silver Creek Road, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Additionally, reach out to local Rotary clubs or district leadership as we continue to “normalize” mental health challenges and destigmatize the illness. As Rotarians come to aid, the transformation of individuals with mental illness will turn to mental wellness.

Join us to **CREATE HOPE in the WORLD.**

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Nominate a member for ‘Guardian of Integrity’ award

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

District 6000 Vocational Service Chair

To encourage Rotarians and clubs to focus on Rotary’s core value of integrity, and to honor the memory of the late Boone Rotarian, PDG 1954-55 **Judge Paul E. Hellwege**, District 6000 is asking clubs to nominate one member for the 11th annual District 6000 “Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity” awards.

A nomination is available at the District website under **Vocational Service**. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31, 2024. The nominations will be submitted to the District

6000 Vocational Service Committee, and nominees will be recognized at the **Celebration**, April 20 at Pella.

The award is presented annually to Rotarians in District 6000 who have been a member for a minimum of three years and who exemplify the attributes and passion for ethics and integrity in his or her vocation, business and personal life that Paul exemplified. This award recognizes 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.

FLIGHT TO END POLIO

'We hope' becomes 'We believe'

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Editor, District 6000 News

At a news briefing in **Karachi, Pakistan**, during his and John Ockenfels' May 5 through July 30 **Flight Around the World to End Polio**, the question went to pilot Peter Teahan: "Captain Teahan, do you still have hope that we're going to eradicate polio?"

"No," Peter said.

The audience, which included leaders of Rotary, Unicef and the World Health Organization, gasped. Reporters were hastily taking notes. Then Peter continued: "**I no longer have HOPE. I BELIEVE.** I would hate to be in the generation that says we give up. It's time we quit hoping and start believing."

Headlines ensued: **PILOTS BELIEVE!**

"It was one of the most defining moments of our trip," Teahan told an audience of 100 at an Oct. 23 World Polio Day Dinner at the Quad-City Botanical Center. "We changed the dialogue from hope to believe."

That was not an uninformed remark.

Teahan and Ockenfels, well into their 87-day, 21-country, 39-stop journey, were connecting with Rotarians everywhere.

"It (polio) is a totally different discussion in the rest of the world compared to



here where we think it's gone," said Peter.

"Start telling people you believe, Believe means you are willing to risk your life."

The pilots surely did that – risked their lives – but Rotary's message of **End Polio Now** is being heard. "When we flew in there (Pakistan), they thought the whole world was paying attention. That alone made this a successful flight."

Pakistan is one of two countries remaining where the wild polio virus is

endemic after Rotary's quest to eradicate the disease that afflicted 1,000 children a day – 350,000 annually – began in 1987. Thus far in 2023, just 10 cases of polio have been identified, six in Afghanistan and four in Pakistan.

Ockenfels said **Muhammad Faiz Kidwai**, the first RI Director ever from Pakistan, told him on Oct. 20 at Evanston that the impact of the flight still lives today.

The **Taliban**, who once resisted, have pledged their support.

So have Rotarian donors. "Our mission was to raise awareness and money for polio," said Peter. "When we started we thought we'd raise \$10,000."

So far, Rotarians have raised an impressive **\$1.5 to \$2 million** for PolioPlus. (The Gates Foundation's the 2:1 match is part of the calculation.)

All of the money goes to PolioPlus. All expenses – fuel, visas, and upkeep of their **Cessna Turbo** single-engine airplane – were paid by Ockenfels and Teahan, whose flight, which was first scheduled in 2020, was twice delayed because of Covid, and in 2022 because Russia invaded Ukraine and made its air space off limits.

"The hard part was people tell us you

BELIEVE, continued on next page



After flying around the world in a single-engine airplane, Peter Teahan and PDG John Ockenfels were joined by their supportive wives, Janet and Deb, as they addressed Rotarians at the Eastern Iowa Airport July 30.

Photo by Jacque Andrew



PDG John Ockenfels and Peter Teahan answer questions from reporters of area television stations and newspapers upon their arrival July 30 at the Eastern Iowa Airport. Photo by Bill Tubbs

World Polio Day

Pilots PDG John Ockenfels (l) and Peter Teahan (r) received an unexpected gift Oct. 23 at the Quad Cities' Rotary clubs' World Polio Day Dinner from District 6000 District Governor Dennis Drager of Marshalltown (l) and District 5970 District Governor Carole Bernhardt of Bancroft (r). The gift was a collection of photos from their Flight to End Polio, compiled by their wives and signed by Rotary International President Gordon McInally. The RI president signed the books in August when DG Drager and PDG Steve Dakin accepted an invitation to McInally's home country, Scotland.

Photos by Bill Tubbs



can't do that," said John.

The pilots persevered and sold their smaller planes to buy the Cessna Turbo which cruises at 11,000 feet and has a longer range because it can carry more fuel.

The fuel was needed for two long flights over the Pacific, but during their 17-hour flight from Pongo-Pongo, in American Samoa, to Honolulu, Hawaii, John feared for a moment it wasn't enough. "We weren't on anybody's radar until 60 miles outside Honolulu and saw no ships on the open sea. 'We have a problem,' I said. 'Not enough gas, we're one hour short and the survival rate going down in the open ocean is 12 percent.'

"But I had miscalculated and recorded one fuel tank twice."

All was well, but this is just one of many adventures the pilots lived to tell: in the October 2023 issue of **Rotary magazine**; in talks they would give 50 times (and counting) to Rotarians and

others; at their website, <https://www.flighttoendpolio.com/>; and in a 32-minute Podcast promoted by Rotary magazine, which can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/2rzz3d2y>.

Adventure came at the first stop in New Hampshire where they were grounded because the alternator didn't work. The assistance they received from Rotarians there would be a foretaste of the hospitality they would find at every stop.

"Every place we went we were met by Rotarians," they said. A photo gallery at the welcome home pancake breakfast attended by 200 the morning of July 30 at the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids shows the pilots meeting Rotarians, dignitaries and heads of state everywhere – including the hospital in Australia where Peter spent nine nights recovering from a parasite which was contracted along the way.

When they did eventually depart

Australia, they were 1-1/2 hours over the ocean and returned to repair a radio. Such was the caution and safety of our pilots during 180 hours in the air, side by side in the 44-inch wide cockpit. "Not a lot of space!" said John.

At the send-off party in May, they said their No. 1 goal was to return safely to their wives and families; raising awareness of PolioPlus was No. 2.

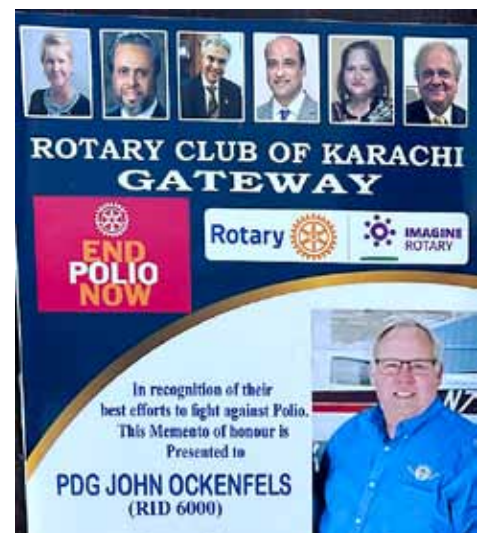
In accomplishing both, they joined an elite group. "Four thousand have climbed Mt. Everest. Five hundred have traveled to outer space; Seven hundred-two have flown around the world in a single engine airplane, and only 270 are alive today," they said with pride.

For all their adventures, they choked with emotion, they said, when they entered Cedar Rapids air space and heard the air traffic controller utter blessed words of comfort: "Welcome Home!"

We believe.



Map shows the flight plan for the Flight to End Polio, including Egypt to Jordan. If we had waited until now (war in Gaza) we wouldn't have made it," said John on Oct. 23.



Rotary and polio eradication were widely publicized in Pakistan. Photos by Editor



Iowa RYLA students lined up for this group photo on the lawn at Grinnell College. Learn more at <http://www.iowaryla.org/>.

Iowa RYLA returns for impactful

One hundred fifty-seven high school students immersed in an impactful week of leadership training at Iowa RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) July 16-21 at Grinnell College.

DISTRICT 6000 CLUBS

Adel: Riley Keller
Albia: Abigail Perry
Ames: Justin Shin
Ames Morning: Harper Schnettgoecke
Ankeny: Sophie Digmann
Ankeny: Tyler Zhang
Ankeny: Duy Duong
Atlantic: Margaret McCurdy
Atlantic: Brady Wagner
Bettendorf: Grant Jaques
Bettendorf: Kailee McCaw
Bettendorf: Ryan Pottratz
Bettendorf: Elyse Van Meter
Bloomfield: Gavin Walker
Boone: Bram Carpenter
Boone: Xianne Godzicki
Boone: Blake Gradoville
Boone: Marinza Roosa
Boone: Natalie Thompson
Boone: Bruthnie Dorsaint
Carroll: Elizabeth Chase
Carroll: Kendra Schuette
Chariton: Kelly Morgan
Chariton: Adrian O'Leary
Corning: Andraya Dimmler
Creston: Maci Webb
Dallas Center: Malaina Elliott
Dallas Center: Samuel Watkins
Decatur County: Allison Goodman

Decatur County: Isabelle Triggs
Des Moines AM: Tama Gardoud
Des Moines AM: Addison Harris
Fairfield: Jorja Haggard
Fairfield: Ethan Hsia
Fairfield: Shreya Mallick
Fairfield: Zoe Soares
Fort Madison: Madelyn Gobble
Fort Madison: Ethan Huffman
Fort Madison: Oliver Santiago
Greater Des Moines: Ruby Jacob
Grinnell: Alexa Schuler
Indianola: Elisa Flores
Indianola: Norah Leuwerke
Iowa City: Amara Ballantyne
Iowa City: Norah Kauper
Iowa City: Lydia Keene
Iowa City: Nathan Keene
Iowa City: Kaj Larsen
Iowa City: Peyton Liu
Iowa City: Makaiya Love
Iowa City: Hannah Michalec
Iowa City: Marko Perencevich
Iowa City: Juan Rosado
Iowa City: Lanira Siron
Iowa City: Noah Gregoire
Iowa City AM: Corte Beal
Iowa City AM: Sabrina Du
Iowa City AM: Jade Hardy
Iowa City AM: YiFan Liu
Iowa City AM: Rosario Mendez-Diaz
Iowa City AM: Anna Song
Iowa City Downtown: Emmett Bottorff
Iowa Quad Cities: Kennah Block
Iowa Quad Cities: Robert Day
Iowa Quad Cities: Camryn Retzl
Iowa Quad Cities: Charles Silver
Jefferson: Randa Linberg
Jefferson: Brooke Williams

Johnston: Shreyas Shrestha
Kalona: Annika Stutzman
Knoxville: Madilynn Day-Suhr
Knoxville: Diego Garcia
Knoxville: Janie Maasdam
Knoxville: Ethan Russell
Knoxville: Natalia Schneider
Marshalltown: Ava Lucas
Marshalltown: Ella Phomvisay
Mount Pleasant: Elsie Lange
Mount Pleasant: Jonah Zimmer
Mount Pleasant Noon: Izabelle Mathews
Mount Pleasant Noon: Anneliese Sallee
Nevada: Mary Hensley
Nevada: Eayon Phipps
North Scott: Delaney Fitzgibbon
North Scott: Katherine Van Ness
Northwest Des Moines: Sophia Burns
Northwest Des Moines: Trey Jackson
Northwest Des Moines: Josephine Winters
Ottumwa: Jady Hallgren
Ottumwa: Karina Murray
Pella: Kaitlyn Flory
Perry: Rebeca Cacheo
Perry: Kenneth Martinez
Perry: Mylah Meis
Washington: Will Gilchrist-Brock
Washington: Teague Mayer
Waukee: Atiksh Hood
Waukee: Erin Stone
Wellman: Landon Humble
West Des Moines: Dennese Devine
West Des Moines: Owen Walker
Winterset: Autumn Riegel

DISTRICT 5970 CLUBS

Bellevue: Aiden Harms
Bellevue: Jack Hiland
Bellevue: Maya Oliver
Bellevue: Katie Tritz
Cedar Rapids: Thanvee Paga
Cedar Rapids Daybreak: Isak West
Cedar Rapids Sunrise: Cam Andrews
Cedar Rapids West: Miguel Kutter-Walker
Charles City: Jenna Aikey
Charles City: Alexander Graeser
Charles City: Natalie King
Charles City: Alexandria Wedeking
Dubuque: Biniam Andrews
Dubuque: Anderson Brooks
Dubuque: Katelyn Danielson
Dubuque: Laura Harris
Dubuque: Julia Hilbun
Dubuque: Kathryn Kunkel
Dubuque: Kaitlyn Miller
Dubuque: Soren Obermueller
Dubuque: Saanvi Ram
Dubuque: Shreya Ravada
Dubuque: Francesca Richter
Dubuque: Noah Ripberger
Dubuque: Andrew Weidemann
Forest City: Taylor Gassman
Forest City: Hayden Reynolds
Forest City: Nathaniel Sipress
Forest City: Destiny Tendall
Fort Dodge: Shawn Roberts II
Fort Dodge Daybreak: Olivia Richardson
Independence: Levi DeBoer
Independence: Hunter Johnson



Photos by Jane Schlegel

week at Grinnell College

Linn County: Maya Carstensen
Linn County: Ian Hill
Linn County: Noah Pelletier
Maquoketa: Brady Hahn
Marion-East Cedar Rapids: Seijal Bhushan

Mason City-River City Sunrise: Lucia Hadacek
Metro North Cedar Rapids: Abigail Banowetz
Metro North Cedar Rapids: Evelyn Kunz

Monticello: Lillian Moestchen
New Hampton: Elliott Adams
New Hampton: Karla Pickar
Rockwell City: Adrianna McCusker
Rockwell City: Tyjah Sease

Storm Lake: Lisette Luna
Storm Lake: Maria Marte
Waverly: Luke McMillin
Waverly: Lindee Rohne
Webster City: Hank Christeson
Webster City: Emersen Paukert



RYLA leadership team

Providing leadership for RYLA were student counselors and Rotarians, front (l-r): Allie Hayes, Santi Fajardo, Annie Knipper, Ashwin Parab, Jeremiah Collins (Head Counselor), Piper Carroll (Head Counselor), Liv Gather, Sophie Brown, Carl Rathje and Anna Current; Leaning forward: Danae Gossman, Quinn Weidenaar, Jasper Countryman, Rai San Martin, Lynn Kuethe, Liz Loeb, Mark McAndrews, Dave Kutter, Betsy Kutter, Mike Babcock, Brooklyn McNeil, Ellie Heiar, Ari Collins and Abby Globokar; standing: Elijah Alsop, Kai Ethell, Zach Fisher (Chair Elect), Steve Wieneke, Al Hermanson, Linda Nudd, Wayne Steen, Jan Schlegel, Greg Probst, Marie Pipes, Steve Dakin, Patrick Engelhaupt, Mark Dohms, Patt Englander (Chair), Matthew Stabler and Joe Parker. The 2024 RYLA Conference will be July 14-19 at Grinnell College. Student applications will be available Feb. 1, 2024.

ROTARY'S CHALLENGE

'The children at the gate'

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Editor, District 6000 News

Among the thousands of photos from this trip filled with anticipation and joy, the one of children at the gate wanting to be part of the party at the **Imbabaze Centre for Women and Children in Kisoro, Uganda**, is perhaps the most haunting.

Inside, the 57 orphans and vulnerable children whose education and enrichment is paid for by members of the **Rotary Clubs of North Scott, Tipton, Iowa Quad Cities** and others, were singing, dancing, eating cake and enjoying a feast with Rotarians and the children's caregivers – the women who open their homes and provide for their day-to-day needs.

The eight Iowa Rotarians who traveled to Equatorial Africa to see the Rotary Foundation-supported projects and meet the children they have sponsored since 2015 for the first time, were mobbed with love from caregivers and children when they reached the **Imbabaze Centre** the afternoon of June 23.

"It was like being a rock star and walking into an arena," said Rotarian **Jeff Ashcraft**, of the welcome.

The day was indeed a mountaintop experience for the children **inside** the gate. They're the lucky ones for whom Rotarians have created hope with scholarships, support for their caregivers, and enrichment programs at the **Imbabaze Centre** on weekends and semester breaks.

Connections made

At the center of day-to-day operations is 31-year-old **Lydia Kambaba**, whose full-time salary is paid by Rotarians and the Centre's founder, **Robbinah Hakeza**. It was Robbinah's connection with **North Scott Rotarian Merle Anderson** in 2012 that got the ball rolling. **Anderson**, a retired farm cooperative manager,



Children at the gate watched the June 23 celebration of kids at Imbabaze Centre for Women and Children in Kisoro, Uganda, with their Rotary sponsors, wishing to be included.

met **Robbinah** when he was working with farmers in Uganda. Notes were exchanged, trust was established, and the Centre was opened in 2014 with 15 orphans and vulnerable children at a site owned by Robbinah's parents in Kisoro, in extreme southwest Uganda, just a stone's throw from the border with **Rwanda and Congo**.

Anderson took the message to members of his own and other Rotary clubs that without their support, these children would be destined for human trafficking and slavery. Rotarians responded, as they always do, and enrollment grew to the present 57.

Robbinah, who lives a day away in Kampala, communicates regularly with **Lydia**, who mentors each child. She signs up new children when a student graduates or leaves, and pays tuition, receives report cards, and facilitates communication (letters, photos, report cards) between children and their Rotarian sponsors in the U.S. and United Kingdom, made possible by Anderson's connections.

Rotary Foundation Grant

Changes were on the way through a **Rotary Foundation Global Grant** which provided a water system which provides clean water for 12,000 residents in the village, classroom equipment, desks, chairs, pots, pans, cooking utensils, 40 meat goats for the caregivers, land rental, chicken house, seed, hoes and tools for producing crops, Irish potatoes and edible beans. Sanitary toilets were built, and a rain-harvesting system was installed.

The **Rotary Club of North Scott** paid for a kitchen, and the **Rotary Club of Tipton** provided start-up money for a micro-credit project which finances enterprises to help the caregivers (women) become more financially secure. **Lydia** supervises the **Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)**. She meets with the caregivers frequently to collect payments for principle and interest and to approve or disapprove new loans. She helps caregivers learn new skills such as making items from



North Scott Rotarian Sara Somsky gives a bag of flour to one of the caregivers in appreciation of the care she provides for our children.

Photos by Bill Tubbs

continued on next page



Imbabaze Centre founders Merle Anderson (I) and Robbinah Hakeza (second from right) at Rotary's Makerere Peace Center in Kampala, Uganda, with District 9120 Rotary Foundation Chair Sara Odongo and District 6000 PDG Bill Tubbs.

IMBABAZE, continued

bamboo and, most recently, packaging and marketing soap.

The morning of June 23, our team of Rotarians – **Merle Anderson, Jeff Ashcraft** and his wife, **Crista, Dick Cole, Pat DeLuca, Sara Somsky** and **Bill Tubbs** from North Scott and **Doug Peterson** from Iowa Quad Cities – visited the pond, the home of a caregiver with its dirt floors, a micro-finance project, and the schools, where they saw the stark contrast between public and private.

En route, they attended the meeting of their partner club, the **Rotary Club of Masaka**, and met the staff at Makerere, Rotary's newest **Peace Center** in Kampala. They stood at the Equator, where water swirls in opposite directions just feet apart, went on a **Nile River** cruise and safari at **Murchison Falls National Park**, and spent at evening of dance and story telling at the **Ndere Cultural Centre**.

The most vivid memory, however, was the children at the gate. "We simply cannot handle any more kids with our current facilities and staffing," said Anderson, a reminder that the words of **RI President 1995-96 Herb Browne** at the RI Convention in Nice, France, ring true: "If Rotary were a company, there would be no limit to the need of our product – service!"

Opportunities to **Create Hope in the World** are endless.



Students at the Imbabaze Centre for Women and Children in Kisoro, Uganda, received ICWAC T-shirts, compliments of the Handicapped Development Center in Davenport, and flashlights.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



North Scott Rotarian Jeff Ashcraft celebrates the moment June 23, dancing with his "daughter" and children and caretakers at the Imbabaze Centre for Women and Children in Kisoro, Uganda.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



This spring-fed water tank which was funded with a Rotary Foundation Global Grant provides safe water for 12,000 residents in Kisoro, Uganda. Water is delivered through 15 risers like the one at right. The system is managed by a community water association. A portion of the fees which go to the association make it sustainable. Rotary's leadership showed the way for the local government to do more. The alternative is a 4-5-mile walk to a fetch dirty water from a pond.



Rotarian Dr. Jim Merchant speaking on behalf of the program at the award ceremony.



Members of the Rotary Kerber Community HeartSafe Campaign receiving the recognition. (l-r): Rotarians Jim Merchant and Linda Kerber, Fiona Johnson of the Johnson County Ambulance Service and Rotarian Diane Atkins (right).

IOWA CITY

HeartSafe project recognized for Community Impact

By Barb Thomas/Iowa City

The Community Foundation of Johnson County recently recognized the **Rotary-Kerber HeartSafe Community Campaign** and presented it with the **Community Collaborator Award**. This recognition was for the project's exceptional work to increase the survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest victims through community education and the deployment of automated electronic defibrillators throughout Johnson County.

The project began with a 2019 **\$5,000 Rotary 6000 District grant** and an additional \$5,000 from the Iowa City Noon Rotary. Inspired by the pioneering research and American Heart Association service of the late **Dr. Dick Kerber**, the project has grown to become a Johnson County-wide collaboration between the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club; the **Johnson County Ambulance Service (JCAS)**; the cities of **Coralville, North Liberty, and Iowa City**; the **Community Foundation of Johnson County**; and many generous donors.

The goal of the campaign is to make Johnson County one of the very safest locations to survive a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). To date, the campaign has distributed **50 indoor AED kits** to nonprofits and businesses and **40 durable yellow public AED enclosures** paired with AEDs provided by the JCAS and placed where SCA have most commonly occurred.

The campaign has also provided **free CPR training** to non-profits and businesses that have obtained an AED through our cost-sharing programs. This has resulted in hundreds of CPR-trained individuals despite being unable to train during two years of the pandemic. The campaign has donated training manikins and AED trainers for check-out by the **libraries of Coralville, North Liberty, and Iowa City**.

The campaign donated the initiation fee of \$10,000 to bring **PulsePoint (PP)**, an electronic messaging system and AED registry, into Johnson County. Currently, there are 3,380 people with the PulsePoint app that alerts the holder of a sudden cardiac arrest has occurred within a quarter mile of their current location.

The **Johnson County Ambulance Service** manages PulsePoint and the current 443 Johnson County AEDs in the PP registry. The campaign continues to enjoy strong financial support from donors now totaling nearly **\$200,000** which is expertly managed by the **Community Foundation of Johnson County**.

The Rotary Kerber HeartSafe Community Campaign could be replicated in any community. The committee responsible for the effort in Johnson County would be happy to work with your club to ensure that more Iowans are safe from a sudden cardiac arrest.

CORNING

Connecting for good: Corning sends computers to Kenya

By Steve Gruba/Corning

District Governor Dennis Drager visited the Rotary Club of Corning and noted the club's activities in **Kenya, Africa**, which have included fitting children with **eyeglasses**, providing **reading books**, outfitting **computer labs** for primary schools and buying **"mobility carts"** for those who can't use their legs.

When Governor Drager casually mentioned that he had a contact who might have some computers to donate to modernize a rural hospital's infrastructure, the club was right on

it. Soon, more than 30 three-year old high-quality **computers, monitors and keyboards** will be shipped via ocean container from **Marshalltown Company**, a manufacturing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, to **St. Orsola Mission Hospital** in **Chiakariga, Kenya**.

The plant was thrilled to donate equipment that was otherwise headed for the landfill, and the hospital is overjoyed to receive it. Rotary is the perfect vehicle to allow everyone to give **"Service Above Self."**

WEST LIBERTY

'Immensely proud of service projects'

By Xiomara Levsen and Gretchen Nollman/West Liberty

Club Public Image Co-Chairs

The Rotary Club of West Liberty started the year with feet on the ground with *#ServiceAboveSelf*. Starting in July, at the Muscatine County Fair at the club's annual food stand during the fair week, where they were able yet again to partner with the **Iowa City Downtown Noon Club** as well as their own West Liberty Interact Club in raising funds to help with community projects.

Several more opportunities for *#ServiceAboveSelf* took place in August and September. In August, the club was able to feed hot dogs, chips and water to the West Liberty High School Marching Band students, as well as feeding the West Liberty Community School District teachers and staff hamburgers, chips and water.

September started great with a District Governor visit from Dennis Drager and his wife, Heidi. Twelve Rotarians received Paul Harris Fellow pins and certificates: **Jake Burroughs, Ken Brooks, Allie Paarsmith, Krista Lanier, Father Guillermo Trevino Jr., Xiomara Levsen, Rebecca Lorom, Charles Brooke, Sam Morel, Shaun Krueger, Juan Manuel Garcia-Hortas and Cara McFerren**. *#ServiceAboveSelf* rolled in with having a car show come to town on a Friday at which Rotarians helped serve coffee and cinnamon bread. Also in September, club members assisted local Lions club members and other volunteers to clean up brush, limbs and trash along the **Heritage Foundation Trail** in West Liberty.

Middle of September is also when the **Annual Children's Festival** and **Latino Festival** takes place in downtown West Liberty, at which club members set up a booth to have coloring activities for children as well as handing out Rotary stickers.

September ended with Rotarians along with city park district employees, installing the **bike repair center** and bike racks at West Liberty Parks from the 2022-23 cycle that the club received as a matching grant from D6000 and The Rotary Foundation.

Now that school has begun, the **West Liberty Interact Club** is off to a great start. They've begun aligning their officers for this school year and identifying their projects. RCWL has sent Interact their portion of the Muscatine County Fair proceeds after a successful year of selling ice cream and pop. This



West Liberty Rotarians worked with city park employees to install a bike repair center and bike racks at West Liberty parks.

will help fund their activities for 2023-24. We look forward to a number of collaborative events with RCWL and Interact clubs to further benefit all in the community.

In October, the club hosted a West Liberty School Board candidate forum and in November, a mayoral and city council candidate forum. A very fitting quote recently from Rotary Club of West Liberty president, Ken Brooks:

"I am immensely proud of the array of service projects that we've spearheaded across West Liberty. Every initiative, from environmental conservation efforts to community welfare and educational programs, is imbued with the quintessential Rotary spirit of 'Service Above Self'. Our projects are not just acts of service but a manifestation of our unwavering commitment to foster a world where individuals unite and take action to create lasting change."



Burlington clubs partner for parks

Service clubs in Burlington co-hosted and participated in a Community Service Day on Sunday, Sept. 17. The Rotary Club of Burlington joined Kiwanis, Lions and Optimist clubs for a day of work and fun in Burlington's SErvDankwardt and Crapo parks and at the community's RecPlex sports venue. Rotary past president Chad Bird operates the tractor, at left, while Kiwanian Austin Swartz and Bonnie Miller, spouse of a Rotarian, mulch trees, at right. After the afternoon of mulching, pulling weeds, and sprucing up, the group gathered in Dankwardt Park for a grilled picnic lunch.

Provided by Chad Bird

ROTARY SHOWCASE

What are other clubs doing?

By Dennis Drager/Marshalltown

District 6000 District Governor

What are Other Clubs Doing?

Questions asked over and over by Rotarians include: How do we learn about what other clubs are doing? How do we share all of the great work we do within our community? How do we connect with Rotarians outside of our club?

The first answer is to read the *District Newsletter* and submit your news to the District Newsletter Team. **PDG Bill Tubbs** along with his team put together a phenomenal product that is the envy of many districts. It is a great source of ideas about what other clubs are doing and it is a beautiful record of the happenings within our District.

The second answer is work with your **Assistant Governor (AG)** to create relationships with neighboring clubs. Work together on projects and share ideas. We have several areas where the club presidents and AGs meet each month to talk about what is happening within their clubs and to organize multi-club projects. **Iowa City area clubs** have jointly hosted speakers on food insecurity and mental health and hosted a **World Polio Day** event together. There was even a multi-district World Polio Day event held in the **Quad Cities**. We are stronger and can accomplish more together.

The next answer is to use Rotary Showcase. Rotary Showcase is a dynamic online platform that serves as a hub for Rotary clubs and members to showcase their impactful projects. It's a powerful tool designed to share the incredible work being done within the Rotary community and highlight our mission to make a positive change in the world. By creating visually engaging presentations of projects, **Rotary Showcase** offers an opportunity for Rotarians to broadcast their successes to a global audience. Moreover, Rotary Showcase serves as a source of **inspiration and collaboration**. Rotarians can explore the diverse array of projects featured, find new ideas, and connect with like-minded individuals for future initiatives. It's a powerful tool for tracking project progress and a means to promote Rotary's core values, reinforcing the commitment to **service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership**. In summary, Rotary Showcase is a window to the remarkable world of Rotary, offering recognition, collaboration, and inspiration. Visit rotary.org/showcase.

Get Connected with a My Rotary Account

There is a wide world of Rotary out there and it all starts with a **My Rotary** account. With a **My Rotary** account you can explore and learn more about Rotary in general, The Rotary Foundation and use the Learning Center for professional development.

Follow the steps below to create an account for My.Rotary.org.

1. Go to my.rotary.org | Select Register | Create an Account | Click Continue
2. Activate Your Account | Add Password & security question | Click Continue | If the email address matches the existing record, no further steps.
3. Verify Member Status (only required if your email address doesn't match one in the records)

Sign in to start exploring the Rotary world!

- Look up your Foundation giving history
- Access Rotary Club Central (the primary way RI tracks Club goals worldwide)
 - o Enter & Monitor Club Goals (Club Officer)
 - o View Club Goals & Progress (All Club Members)
- Access the Brand Center
- Take a Learning Center Class online (Topical or Role Based)
- Register for RI Conventions
- Start or Join a Discussion Group
- Find Rotarians by name worldwide
- Browse the Rotary Showcase of projects and programs to get ideas



19th annual Project Team heads to Guatemala in January

"How Wonderful It Is That Nobody Need Wait A Single Moment Before Starting To Improve The World."

— Anne Frank

By Deb Dunkhase/Iowa City AM

Iowa Miles Of Smiles (MOST) team leader

As our **Iowa MOST team** prepares for our 19th year of serving the most vulnerable people of **Guatemala** with cleft lip/palate and cataract surgical missions, it's important to take time to reflect on our intent to actualize Service Above Self.

Each District 6000 club is working to change the world. We all want our volunteer service to be of help to others, to improve the lives of those less fortunate. The medical work started by Rotarians **PDG Gary and Nancy Pacha, Bill Olin, Pete Wallace, and Dr. John Canady** so many years ago has dramatically changed the lives of thousands of impoverished Guatemalans enabling children to attend school, adults to gain employment, and families to be active participants in their communities rather than live in isolation.

In January 2024, our **Iowa MOST** medical team will rejoin our Rotary family in **Huehuetenango** to provide free surgeries to dozens of babies and children born with **cleft birth defects**, giving these youth the gift of a healthy, hopeful future. We'll perform **cataract surgeries** to over 75 individuals who are leading diminished lives due to blindness giving them the simple gift of sight.

Last May we met a young 10-year-old boy who suffers from total blindness due to cataracts in both eyes. His mother told us that he is bullied at school and agonizes from a lack hope for his future. On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, young **Juan** will undergo cataract surgery with us. By Saturday he will be able to see the world around him with new eyes. The Rotarians of District 6000 make this act of service possible.

Gracias a Ustedes y a Dios!

I'd like to think that if **Anne Frank** were alive today, she would agree that our **District 6000 Iowa MOST** project has taken her inspirational words to heart. Please keep **Juan** and all of our Guatemalan patients in your hearts and prayers this January as Iowa MOST works to make this world a better place for everyone.

With gratitude, Deb

4,000 blankets for Bettendorf

The **Rotary Club of Bettendorf's** third annual **blanket drive** created positive publicity for Rotary with a goal of 4,000 blankets for 20 agencies in the Quad Cities to benefit homeless shelters, food shelters, homeless veterans, single mothers and more. Collection boxes were placed throughout the community, and on Nov. 10, 702 blankets and \$360 cash were delivered to the studio of **KWQC-TV** in a program promoted by the station. **Cub Scouts** in Pack 54 assisted, said Rotary president **Joe Campion**.



Fans of Iowa, Iowa State, Drake, UNI and Other divided into teams and collected 345 pounds of supplies for Johnston Partnership, which aid under-served residents of the community.

Provided by LuAnn White

CY edges Herky in drive for Johnston Partnership

By LuAnn White/Johnston

What does Johnston Rotary do? One of the main themes of Johnston Rotary is **Service Above Self.** To carry out this motto, Johnston Rotary involves itself in service projects and fundraising for local charities and organizations as well as Rotary International projects. One of the charities Johnston Rotary supports is the **Johnston Partnership.**

In September, Johnston Rotary lived this motto by putting some friendly competition toward a worthy and needy cause. Johnston Rotary members, divided in their loyalties to **Iowa, Iowa State, Drake, UNI and Other**, fought it out on the donation tables bringing much-needed personal care supplies for the **Johnston Partnership** at their meeting before the big **Cy-Hawk** showdown. It was a hard-fought challenge, but Iowa State Rotary fans won out, bringing the most items, or at least the biggest that would take up more room. It was a great way to start the Cy-Hawk rivalry week. Rotarians brought personal care items, including **toilet paper, body soap, laundry soap, dish soap, deodorant, paper towels, Kleenexes, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, diapers, baby wipes and cash.**

Rotary members delivered **345 pounds of needed donations** and \$145 to the Johnston Partnership, which continues to see

record numbers of families coming to the food pantry and clothes closet for basic needs.

This past winter Johnston Rotary collected **winter coats, outerwear, and boots**, for the Partnership. Doing a drive for personal care items and cash, for clothing and shoes, or for winter coats and boots, is a way for an organization to have a team-building project while helping those in need in the community.

This spring Johnston Rotary visited the Johnston Partnership for one of its meetings, and learned about the food pantry, clothes closet, and **JUMP mentoring program** from program director **Andrea Cook.** The Johnston Partnership was designated as one of the beneficiaries of the Johnston Rotary's June J-Town Golf Tournament.

The Johnston Partnership provides the community with a food pantry, clothes closet, and JUMP school mentoring program. It is located at 5870 Merle Hay Rd Ste. C, Johnston, IA 50131. Its website is www.johnstonpartnership.org. Donors and volunteers keep the Johnston Partnership working for the community. Donations are accepted during business hours, which are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:00

Johnston golf event raises \$12,000 for charities

By Neil Hyde/Johnston

Johnston Rotary's second **Annual Charity Golf Event** featured 144 golfers, generous sponsors, distinguished guests, and a picture-perfect day for golf at Hyperion Field Club in Johnston on Monday, June 12.

This year's net proceeds were more than \$12,000. The funds will support our primary 2023 beneficiaries: **Ellipsis, the Johnston Partnership, ChildServe**, along with **Adaptive Sports Iowa, Johnston Rotary**, and other local beneficiaries.

The day kicked off with a luncheon from the grill, mingling with **Cy**, football great **Chuck Long**, and **Cubbie Bear** from the Iowa Cubs. Golfers picked up registration gift bags from our sponsors and the **USO**; **Tesla** provided electric vehicle test drives for all interested attendees. Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, Chuck Long from Adaptive Sports Iowa, Dr. Allen Stoye from the Bombers Entertainment District, and event chairman, Rotarian John Waldron, greeted the golfers with brief remarks prior to the noon shotgun start. No one won the **Hole in One Audi** offered by **Lithia Motors.**



Following a beautiful afternoon of golf, the scorecards were tallied as golfers claimed their raffle prizes and enjoyed pizza in the clubhouse. The Johnston Rotary Club meets at 7 a.m. Tuesday mornings at Hyperion Field Club and welcomes new members who enjoy fellowship, learning and service.



Sept. 30 was a great day to fly a kite at 'Kites Over Grinnell,' sponsored by the Rotary Club of Grinnell.

ROTARY IS SPONSOR

'Kites Over Grinnell' attracts 3,000 spectators

By Effie Hall/Grinnell

It was a perfect fall day – clear blue skies, sunshine, a lovely breeze, summery still but not humid – a great day to fly a kite!

Scores of kite flyers – professionals from the **American Kite Fliers Association** from surrounding cities and states and first-time or long-time kite lovers from the local area – dotted the skies with their colorful kites of various sizes and shapes.

The 7th annual **Kites Over Grinnell**, sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Grinnell**, held on Sept. 30, drew some 3,000 people during the all-day event. They scattered across the wide-open spaces of the soccer complex and the driving range of the 50-acre Ahrens Park and claimed their space to fly a kite or just sit back, relax, and enjoy the tableau.

Kites Over Grinnell was a community tradition that was started in 2002 and became a three-day event in 2009. Shortly thereafter, it went into a hiatus and was revived by the **Grinnell Rotary Club** in 2016 under the leadership of long-time Rotarian **Bruce Blankenfeld**.

"Rotary Club is all about family," Bruce said. "What better way to bring the kids of Grinnell together with kites and the Rotary club and create years of memories." Since then, the club has sponsored Kites every year except in 2020 during Covid.

Some features have remained the same: a **kite hospital** where participants can get help putting together their kites or repairing them; **free lunch** of hot dogs, chips, and water; **games** with prizes; and a **DJ** who provides music all day. Other attractions include a **firetruck** and a **police car** for kids to check out. A regular kite vendor comes every year to sell a wide range of kites.

Ahead of the event the club distributed some **1,000 kite kits** to three elementary schools and the community pre-school. Led by the art teacher and with volunteer Rotarians, the school children decorated their kites during art class. Kite kits were also given out to two of the nursing homes.

Remembering Rotarians

Every year Kites has honored a Rotarian who has recently passed away. This year's event honored the memories of **Jack E. Hendrickson**, a member from 1992 to 2012 and president in 1990-91, and **Jim Onthank**, member from 1987 to 2007.

New this year was the **Grinnell College Balinese Sound Ensemble** and **Rhythmic Exploration Class** that played gamelan music. Un-

der the leadership of **Putu Hiranmayena**, assistant professor of music at Grinnell College, some 25 Grinnell College students performed gamelan balenganjur, one of the most popular styles of music performed in Bali, an island in Indonesia. **Hiranmayena** explained that gamelan music is very suited to kite flying in Bali where whole villages participate in making and flying large kites.

Another new attraction this year was **night kite-flying** from 7 to 9 p.m. Blankenfeld said that the idea to fly the kites at night came from the professional kite flyers themselves. "The club thought it was a good idea," he said. The wind, however, had died down by nightfall so only three of the smaller professional kites went afloat. Nevertheless, the community came out in droves eager to enjoy one of the last few remaining nice evenings of the season.

This year's **Kites** had been funded in part by grants from the **Grinnell College Community Grant Program**, the **City of Grinnell** from the hotel and motel tax and local businesses that had supported the club's annual chicken barbecue. The venue was provided by the **Ahrens Park Foundation**.



Bruce Blankenfeld, coordinator of Kites, provided rides around the park.
Submitted by Effie Hall

DES MOINES

Club honors outstanding police officer, firefighter

By Kitte Morehouse/Des Moines

Club Executive Director

For over 30 years, the **Rotary Club of Des Moines** has honored a police officer and firefighter who were selected by their peers as being community-minded individuals, dedicated to the service and well-being of our community and its citizens.

Detective **Jeff Shannon** of the DMPD and **firefighter Ahman Douglass** were honored this year. A traveling billboard co-sponsored by **Lamar Advertising** will display these two recipients on open billboard spaces across the community for the year.

The **Food Bank of Iowa** (detective Shannon) and **Children's Cancer Connection** (firefighter Douglass) were the two \$500 charities of their choice made possible because of the **Rotary Club of Des Moines Foundation**.



The Rotary Club of Des Moines honored the Police and Firefighter of the Year, (l-r): DMPD Chief Dana Wingert, Police Officer of the Year Jeff Shannon, Rotary Club of Des Moines president Becky Greenwald, Des Moines Firefighter of the Year Ahman Douglass, and fire chief John TeKippe.



Thank FALL Celebration for members

The Rotary Club of Des Moines sponsored a **ThankFALL** Celebration to celebrate its members. This was an outdoor event on Sept 14 at Jester Park Nature Center. Music was provided by Dan Medeiros, and food by Watcha Smokin BBQ. Event sponsor was Neumann Brothers Construction while music was sponsored by MDS Records Management. At top left, DG Dennis and Heidi Drager attended the ThankFALL event. Above, right, the Rotary Club of Des Moines board, (l-r): Becky Greenwald, Tim Lillwitz, Kevin Kacere, Karter Smith, Paul Johnson, Claudia Schabel, Josh Braby and Kathy Coady.

Provided by Kitte Morehouse



Rotary Foundation socials

North Scott Rotary president, assistant governor Jeff Ashcraft (North Scott), Bettendorf Rotary president Joe Campion, and North Scott president Tracy Lindaman were among more than 40 Rotarians at a District 6000-sponsored Rotary Foundation social the late afternoon of Oct. 17 at Crawford Brew Works in Bettendorf, District. Rotarians from clubs in the region enjoyed fellowship and watched a presentation about Rotary Foundation programs from District Governor Dennis Drager and Heidi. The event was one of two Rotary Foundation casual socials planned by DG Drager and Assistant District Governors. The other was at Iowa City.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

IOWA CITY

More than a million for Ronald McDonald House

By Barb Thomas/Iowa City

For the past 22 years, the **Iowa City Noon Rotary Club** has partnered with the **Iowa City Ronald McDonald House** on a golf outing that raises funds for the House and its programs. This year, after a successful June 5th outing, the grand total raised for the charity in its 22 years has now surpassed \$1 million.

It was 22 years ago when Iowa City Noon Rotarians **Steve Bowers** and **Chuck Skaugstad** coordinated area Rotarians to help with the event. The pair chaired the fundraiser for 12 years before turning it over to Rotarians **Brad Baldes** and **Bruce Kout**. This year's event brought in \$70,435 in donations, bringing the 22-year total for the event to \$1,030,805.

The outing typically has 36 foursomes (144 golfers) and is held at **Finkbine Golf Course**. Funds are raised through golfer registration, sponsorships, raffle ticket sales, silent auction items, specific hole games (such as Doug Paul's Lucky Ducky, golf ball launcher, beat the pro tee shot on hole 13, Riverside Casino blackjack table, Scheels chip shot game, Birdies for Charity closest to the center of the fairway on a drive, and others). In addition, the event has included a live auction, a wine pull, and more recently an "Adopt a Program" cash donation effort to obtain specific dollar amount donations to cover particular programs at the house (a toy for one child, feed a family for a day, etc.).

"The Iowa City Noon Rotary Club is proud of our continued work on this initiative," stated club president **Margaret Reese**. "The project involves a number of Rotarians and the end result is so worthwhile – providing resources to the **Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)** which helps so many families as they deal with their child's medical issues."

"In addition to the amazing participation by area golfers and Rotarians, our sponsors help make this event special and help bring in important resources," stated **Heather Croskrey**, a member club's board and the RMHC's Chief Development



Each year, foursomes like this one pictured, enjoy a day of golf at Finkbine Golf Course in Iowa City while knowing that they are helping families affiliated with the Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Officer. "Every sponsor at every level is key to this event's success."

A special thank you goes out to all who have helped with the event over the years. Plans are already under way for the **2024 Fore the Families Golf Outing**, which will again be held at Finkbine Golf Course. If interested in providing sponsorship or being involved in any way, contact **Heather Croskrey** at 319-384-5852 or by email at: hcroskrey@rmhc-eiwi.org. If you are interested in adopting a program at the RMHC, visit <https://rmhc-eiwi.org/donate/adopt-a-program/>.



Buy 'Zoo of Love' animals to support PolioPlus!

By Heidi Drager/Marshalltown

What is soft, cuddly and adorable? The **Zoo of Love**, of course. These little guys are dressed in their finest **Rotary End Polio T-shirts** and stand ready to spread awareness about polio. There are six characters: **frog, dog, monkey, fox, panda** and a **giraffe**.

Here in District 6000 we have been selling these fun Rotary-branded stuffed animals to help raise money for **PolioPlus**. The cost is just \$40 per stuffed animal, of which \$30 is given to **PolioPlus** in the purchaser's name.

Remember, every dollar gifted to **PolioPlus** is matched 2 to 1 by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. That means every stuffed animal equals \$90 towards ridding the world of polio.

If you do not want to collect these sweet zoo animals, consider purchasing them to gift to an organization that works with children in crisis. Imagine how happy you could make a child with the gift of a new stuffed animal all while helping the world eradicate polio. To learn more about how to buy the zoo animals email: Heidi.Drager.D6000@gmail.com.

ATLANTIC

Support for employees, teachers, Make-A-Wish

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic

The summer time frame for the Rotary Club of Atlantic Rotary started with the annual **employee recognition** in June. This event is an opportunity for employees to get a little better understanding of Rotary. Many times, the event has a special speaker but this year the event was a little different. Several “employers” and “employees” volunteered to play a little game, similar to the Newlywed game. The “employer” was asked questions regarding their “employee” then the “employee” returned to answer the same questions to see how well they knew each other. The “employee” then had the same opportunity. It was enjoyed by everyone.

July started with the **Pancake Fly-In Breakfast** held at the Municipal Airport on July 4. This year there were over 300 more people served this year over last.

In July, Rotarians helped watch children waiting to be in the bounce house at the **Atlantic Chamber Produce in the Park**. On Saturday, July 29th Rotarians helped serve lunch at the **Cass County Fair** in the food stand. The fair is a free-admission fair and the proceeds from the food stand make it possible to do that. So, volunteers from the community help make this possible. Volunteers work in the food stand and make donations of food products to the project. The entire community works hard to keep the fair free. To support the fair, the Rotary Club does not have a regular meeting on Tuesday, but eats breakfast at the food stand.

On Monday, July 31st, Rotarians serve **watermelon during the cattle show** at the fair. This event has been going on over 40 years and is appreciated greatly by the fair goers. This year, because the morning started out raining, the cattle show had to be moved into an indoor show ring. Therefore, we had to be flexible in the location we served the watermelon. There are three things that are heard from individuals eating watermelon.



The Rotary Club of Atlantic welcomes new teachers, front (l-r): Aya Hamanaka, Mikayla Stockhaus, Jessica Bacariza, Oran Perkins, Kirstin Blake, Maria Pearson, Christina Simonton and Hannah Alff; back: Naela Thornton, Julie Van Maanen, Jim Brauer, Nathan Block, Jeremy Blake, Casey Pelzer, Ashley Gacke, Megan Anderson and Jennifer Weisenborn.

One is “Thank you,” and another is “where did you get the watermelon, they are so good?” The other is, “This is the best part of the fair.”

The summer continues with the annual **new teacher recognition**, August 15th. New teachers from the Atlantic Community School are welcomed with a luncheon and presented with a “goodie bag” of items from the Rotarians. When the teachers are introduced we are advised of what grade or subject they will be teaching. August concludes with the **family picnic**. Rather than a noon meeting the evening picnic is planned for family members of Rotarians to attend.

September finds the Atlantic Rotarians helping put together **playground equipment** with the Atlantic Kiwanis members. This is a **Make-A-Wish** project that was planned for last year but the equipment didn’t arrive until this year. This equipment was installed at the home of a young girl in our community that is confined to a wheelchair. The equipment is designed for a wheelchair plus a couple items for her little brother and sister so they can play with her.



Rotarians and Kiwanians put cement around the base of the poles in a Make-A-Wish project. You will see there is really good help. Little brother and sister were very excited for their big sister and helped as much as they could!



District board meeting

The District 6000 Office located at 1915 Washington Street in Pella is equipped with a directional microphone and large screen to facilitate hybrid meetings, such as this District board meeting Sept. 21. From left: DGN Norlan Hinke (Clinton), PDG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny), DGE David Cook (Boone), DG Dennis Drager (Marshalltown), district treasurer Tim Trudeau, Megan Franklin (Des Moines AM), Bill Bruce (Denison) and PDG Steve Dakin (Boone).

Photo by Bill Tubbs

ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

Rotary tackles human trafficking

By George Belitsos/Ames

District 6000 Prevent Human Trafficking Chair

Rotary District 6000 was one of ten successful grantees to receive a \$1,000 **Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) Community Awareness and Prevention Education (CAPE) grant**. The \$1,000 RAGAS grant was matched by \$2,500 in District 6000 HEF funds. The grant project is rapidly drawing to a close and it is time to report the successful outcome.

The District 6000 Grant was carried out by 18 Rotary clubs. There were eight different community prevention/education (P/E) projects launched by eight of the 18 clubs, and one project was carried out by a combined effort of 10 clubs. The 10 clubs that joined forces (**CIVITAS**) were all located in central Iowa. The 18 clubs are named in the inset.

To carry out this 18-club grant, **Past District Governor Alka Khanolkar** formed a **Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team**. She asked George Belitsos to chair the Action Team. The goal of the Action Team was to educate District 6000 Rotarians to become aware of the growing problem of human trafficking and to initiate a variety of anti-trafficking prevention projects in local communities.

The team meets monthly via Zoom. One of the first steps was to develop and show a trafficking training PowerPoint to Rotary clubs and community groups. The slide presentation ended with a description of why Rotary is uniquely positioned to fight human trafficking and modern slavery through its ability to pull communities together for a common humanitarian cause.

'Present-day abolitionists'

As Rotarians enter the world of human trafficking and explore what they can do together to end this global crime, we have seen how District 6000 Rotarians have taken up this urgent cause and become present-day abolitionists. The CAPE grant incentivized District 6000 and the Action Team to commit "boots on the ground" Rotarians to work to educate/prevent the heinous crime of human trafficking.

Some of the club CAPE community projects have focused on arming and protecting school-age youth from all forms of trafficking and exploitation. All 18 Rotary clubs partnered with local nonprofits, faith communities, and schools to initiate P/E programs that will hopefully be sustainable in future years. The **Rotary Club of North Scott's** 2021-22 Impact Grant of \$15,000 supported victim services at Davenport's Family Resources.

All projects have distributed hotline stickers with the 888-3737-888 national hotline so people can report suspected trafficking, and for victims to ask for help. Between the 18 Action Team Rotary clubs and a partner organization, the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, over 15,000 hotline stickers have been posted statewide.



Dr. George Belitsos



IOWA NETWORK AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

'We have seen how District 6000 Rotarians have taken up this urgent cause and become present-day abolitionists.'

Secretary of State partnership

One other statewide project taken up by the 18 clubs has been in partnership with Iowa Secretary of State, Paul Pate. He launched a new P/E initiative called **Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT)** 12 months ago. The SOS has presented the IBAT program to nearly all of the 18 Action Team Rotary clubs. Secretary Pate met with the Action Team on July 9, 2023, to report that there are already 700 IBAT members reaching over 300,000 employees. He asked the clubs to push hard to help IBAT to reach 1,000 corporate members by the end of the year 2023.

Secretary Pate joined the Action Team Zoom meeting from Washington, D.C. where he was attending the annual Secretaries of National State Association meeting. He presented a workshop to secretaries of state from around the country and several plans to replicate the Iowa IBAT program in their own states.

Central Iowa clubs

Now to end this CAPE grant progress report with a description of the Iowa project carried out by the 10 Central Iowa Rotary club collaborations known as **CIVITAS**. The project ended with a training event held at a Des Moines hotel on May 2, 2023. One hundred-forty Rotarians and their guests paid \$20 each to attend a fundraising/educational program focused on preventing human trafficking across greater Des Moines.

Each of the clubs matched the funds raised at this Rotary-sponsored event, which added up to \$45,000. All net proceeds were donated to local nonprofits fighting human trafficking.

Participants learned from some of Iowa's human trafficking heroes fighting this important global problem. Their excellent panel of speakers included a survivor, an IBAT business, a Chief Federal Court Judge, and a Victim Witness Specialist. The **CIVITAS** Des Moines area multi-clubs May 2 event capped off their major local educational project. These 10 clubs plan to repeat the project next year with a focus on either trafficking prevention or law enforcement training on human trafficking.

District 6000 has recently made an additional \$5,700 available to the Action Team to continue CAPE projects into a second year of operation. The Action Team will continue monthly Zoom meetings and continue to carry out their human trafficking prevention projects through July 2024.

Human Trafficking Prevention clubs

Ames	Greater Des Moines	Ottumwa
Ankeny	Keokuk	Tipton
Davenport	Knoxville	Waukee
Des Moines AM	Marshalltown	West Des Moines
Des Moines	Muscatine	West Liberty
East Polk County	North Scott	Winterset

EDUCATION

'One Summit' revamped with club-driven focus

By DGE Dave Cook/Boone

District 6000's **One Summit** is undergoing a transformation this year, with a focus on engaging and amplifying the voices of club members.

One Summit is a district event dating back to at least 2015. Participating Rotarians from across the district would exchange ideas to gain a better understanding of how **Membership**, **Public Image** and **The Rotary Foundation** work together to build Rotary. Often the discussion was focused on a specific need or service project to illustrate how these three key areas work together.

In recent years, **One Summit** has been held virtually. Last year's event was focused on **food insecurity**. A few clubs, including **Marshalltown** and **Ankeny Evening**, held watch parties and we witnessed the benefits of a more club-focused **One Summit** approach. Together, members in those clubs developed ideas on how they could help people in their community who were food insecure.

This year's club-focused approach builds on what we learned last year from those watch parties. Best of all, clubs can conduct their own **One Summit** during a regularly scheduled meeting of their choosing. The entire process can be completed within the 30 minutes typically allocated for a program.

How clubs will benefit

This year's focus will be **Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus (below)**. It will help clubs consider if they want to add a new Area of Focus to their current efforts to do good in their community. Most important, that decision will be based on the collective interests of their club members.

Because most Rotarians share a commitment to serve, clubs that participate will benefit in two ways. First, it will help them expand the **Area of Focus** within their club based on the collective interests of their members. Second, it will give members the opportunity to consider **new service project ideas** within the new Areas of Focus, and then determine which ideas have the most interest in their club.

There are numerous benefits to clubs participating in this new process, including enhanced member involvement, strengthened community connections, and a more focused and impactful approach to service projects.

To assist club presidents, our **District's Education Team** helped develop step-by-step instructions and a PowerPoint presentation to guide clubs through the process. Club presidents were emailed this information on Oct. 16. **One Summit** instructions and the associated PowerPoint can also be downloaded from the District 6000 homepage.



Rotary Night at Iowa Cubs

On Saturday, June 13, 121 Rotarians and guests purchased tickets and attended a great baseball game, watching the Iowa Cubs play at Principal Park in Des Moines. A total of \$755 was contributed from the sale of tickets and donations that went toward the Rotary International Foundation PolioPlus fund. Special thanks to the Iowa Cubs staff of John Rodgers, president of the Rotary Club of West Des Moines, and Jason Gellis, director of group sales.

Submitted by Steve Wieneke



Happy 90th birthday!

Friends from Rotary and others helped Past District Governor Ken Noble celebrate his 90th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Discovery Park in Muscatine. Ken and Jo were members of West Liberty Rotary when he was DG in 1995-96, and have since moved to Muscatine.

Photoby Bill TubBs

Rotary In Memoriam Dennis R. Skinner

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2003-04

Dennis R. Skinner, 76, passed from this life on May 30, 2023 at Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines. Denny was a humanitarian and an inspirational family man to his wife of 55 years, Kathy, and daughter Emmi Miller (Mark), and son Josh Skinner (Brandi) and his grandchildren and great grandchildren: Tali Paicurich (Todd), Kade Miller, Nichole Miller, McKenna Skinner, Zachary Skinner, Grayson Skinner, KayElla Williams, and Kyra Paicurich. He was known as steady, fun, reliable, rock solid, and answered to the name "Baca". Memories of him are haloed with joy.

He was born January 28, 1947 in Perry, Iowa to William and Doris (Kopp) Skinner. His first years were in Madison, Wisconsin, then Perry, Iowa where he graduated in 1965. He earned a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1969, and a master's degree in accounting from Drake University. He also acquired certification as a Certified Financial Planner, Estate & Trust Specialist and an Enrolled Agent.

Denny's first career was in banking, in Palo Alto, California, then at two banks in central Iowa. In 1980, Denny started his own accounting firm in Huxley, Iowa, and then moved to Nevada, Iowa. His expertise in complex farm tax, accounting and financial planning quickly brought farm clients from all over Iowa. In 2001, he and Kathy and Bernie Stephenson built the Liberty Building, across from the Story County Courthouse, which was new at the time. The name Liberty had meaning as our country focused on 9/11 in 2001. Kathy's law office was also in the building and they enjoyed their collaboration for many years.

In 2014, daughter Emmi joined Denny in the business. Denny delayed retirement over and over, because he loved going to the office, helping his clients, and spending office time with Emmi, in the presence of wonderful assistants who worked with him long term.

Denny was a significant humanitarian via Rotary International, a world-wide organization. In the local area, he worked earnestly in developing the Nevada Rotary Club, advancing programs in Youth Exchange, community service and global service. He is known as a mentor and friend to many. He received many awards in Rotary including the prestigious Guardian of Integrity award. He was District Governor in 2003-04 and advanced the international theme

of "Lend a Hand", a focus on peace. One project he created was in Ara, Nigeria, providing business assistance in the Palm Oil business to village women, and establishing a library. As a citizen of the world, he believed in doing whatever is possible to protect voting rights and to create opportunities for people to rise from poverty.

Denny enjoyed planning and sharing motorcycle trips and fishing trips. He was referred to by all accomplices as "The OE" (Outfitter Extraordinaire). His Harley motorcycle trips traveled all over the U.S. with good friends who were a source of excitement and fun, known as "The Sabas." Denny and Kathy also rode in Scotland and South Africa. Denny's beloved fishing trips were to Bamaji Lake in Ontario, Canada, with his father, brother Bill, son Josh, grandsons and friends. Folklore passed for generations from this long history of fishing. The dates of the fishing trip were sacrosanct and this year would have been the 50-year golden anniversary.

In 2013, Denny and Kathy built a house in Mahahual, Mexico, 18 steps from the Caribbean Sea, and found it to be a grand adventure they enjoyed sharing. They appreciate the family orientation of Hispanic culture and have many friends south of the border.

Denny is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, sister Janice Hood (Tim) of Middleton, Wisconsin, brother Bill Skinner (Ellen), of Appleton, Wisconsin; mother-in-law

Edna Mace of Perry, Iowa, brothers-in-law Richard Mace (Shirley) of Gilroy, California, Mike Mace (Bridgot) of Perry, and many nieces and nephews.

Charity favorites for Denny are Rotary International, www.rotary.org/donate, or The Rotary Club of Nevada, Iowa, c/o Nevada Rotary Treasurer, P.O. Box 496, Nevada, Iowa 50201, or Globalvolunteers.org, or any organization working for peace and understanding.

A memorial service was June 6, 2023, at the Nevada First United Methodist Church with Pastor Deb Copple officiating. A reception was held at Gatherings (1024 6th Street) in Nevada. Private burial will be at a later date.

Rasmusson-Ryan Funeral Home in Nevada handled arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.rasmussonfh.com



Past District Governor Dennis Skinner

Rotary In Memoriam

Dellwyn D. Bluhm

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2006-07

Dr. Dellwyn D. Bluhm, 87, passed away July 21, 2023, at Israel Family Hospice House, Ames, surrounded by his loving family. A visitation, memorial and lunch were held August 18, at First United Methodist Church, Ames.

Del was born July 8, 1936, in Charles City, Iowa, to Kenneth Bluhm and Evelyn (Lynch) Bluhm. He was baptized and confirmed in the Congregational Church and attended Charles City public schools from kindergarten through high school, graduating in the class of 1954. He was active in Boy Scouts of America, earning his Eagle Scout Award, and was a newspaper carrier for the *Des Moines Register*. In high school Del played football and wrestled for the Charles City Comets, was a member of the Iowa All-State Chorus, and worked for the family business, Bluhm Electric Company.

After high school he enrolled in electrical engineering (EE) at Iowa State College (now Iowa State University). Besides classes, he was in ROTC and the Iowa State College Chorus, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor of science in EE and as a member of Eta Kappa Nu National EE Honorary Society and Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honorary Society.

After graduation, he worked as a design engineer in power systems for Stanley Engineering Company in Muscatine, Iowa, for six months before going to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey to fulfill his ROTC/Army commitment as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps. A few months later he was selected by his commanding officer to go to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, at Redstone Arsenal where he taught classes at the Ordnance Guided Missile School.

Del married his high school sweetheart, Georgia Summers, on Aug. 16, 1959, a week after she graduated from the University of Iowa College of Nursing. They were married at Trinity Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, then drove south to Huntsville to set up their first home on base. A daughter, Jennifer, was born the following August.

In January of 1961 after achieving the rank of 1st Lieutenant, he and Georgia chose to move back to Iowa with their small family. Del took a job as a research engineer for the U.S. Department of Energy at Iowa State University. Full-time employment, attending graduate school for his master of science in electrical engineering, being a new father

and husband, and building a new home for his family kept him busy. He also continued fulfilling his duties as a reserve officer in the U.S. Army.

Del and Georgia became members of First United Methodist Church in 1962 and through the years were active on boards and committees; as trustees, ushers, and greeters; in Adult Couples' Bible Study; and as teachers and assistants for Youth Sunday School and Vacation Bible School up to two weeks prior to his passing.

In 1966 a son, David, was born. The family of four then began their many camping trips to all the national parks and the state capitals.

Del continued his post-graduate education, in 1972 earning his Ph.D. in electrical engineering. In 1996, he was initiated as a member of Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honorary Society.

Del was a Professional Engineer (PE) for 41 years in engineering design; research and development (R&D); and engineering management. He retired after 39 years with Ames Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy operated by Iowa State University. He was manager of R&D Engineering Services Group, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Program Manager at Ames Lab, and was a principal investigator on numerous projects. He presented research papers and results at U.S. and international conferences, colleges, and universities throughout his career. In 2007, he was recognized as a Distinguished Technical Committee Member for the National Fire Protection Association and author for the development of the NFPA Classifications as well as the Codes and Standards Handbook.

Many interesting projects were presented for design and fabrication. One of the most interesting was the rebuilding of the Atanasoff-Berry Computer, known as the ABC Project, the world's first supercomputer. This project was initiated, championed, and directed by Dr. Bluhm.

In addition to his dedication to being an active and engaged husband, father, grampa, great grampa, brother, uncle, friend, and church member, he was also deeply committed to his career, colleagues, mentoring, volunteering, community service, and continued education. Del's other community



Past District Governor Del Bluhm

DEL BLUHM, continued on page 38

Rotary In Memoriam Gary Lee Welch

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2010-11

Gary Lee Welch, 79, of Ankeny, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, Sept. 24. Gary was born to Floyd and Isabelle Welch in Clarinda, Iowa, on Aug. 18, 1944.

Visitation and celebration of life service were Sept. 30, at Ankeny Free Church, 118 NW Linden St, Ankeny, IA.

Gary grew up on a farm just outside of Braddyville, Iowa, and later moved to Hastings, Nebraska, where he graduated from high school in 1962. He received his bachelor's degree from Hastings College and then earned a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska and was a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW).

He married his high school sweetheart, Colleen, in 1968 and they had two boys Eric (Jennifer) Welch and Jason (Kay) Welch, both of Woodward.

He retired as a School Social Worker from Heartland AEA-11 in 2006 to go into private practice and to continue his volunteer work. He worked as a School Social Worker, a Family Therapist and Psychiatric Social Worker for over 40 years.

In his 79 years on this earth, he provided a positive influence on thousands of people over the course of his life through school social work and volunteerism. Gary always loved interacting with people, especially kids and working with them to be the best person they could. He was a positive influence with everyone he interacted. He was always giving of his time and knowledge, especially after retiring. Gary was a very active member and servant in his local church.

Gary served three terms on the Ankeny City Council (1999 to 2011) and served as chair of the Metro Waste Authority Board. He was a leader with the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce and was honored as Ankeny Citizen of the Year for 1997. He was the founding chair of the Neveln Community Resource Center. He also chaired the Community Education Advisory Council and served in the Citizen's Police Academy.

Gary served as president of the Rotary Club of Ankeny and was the Rotary International District 6000 Governor for 2010-2011. He was a Paul Harris Fellow. He traveled to Mexico and Nigeria for Rotary mission trips and enjoyed traveling the world with his Rotary family. He co-founded the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), a life changing leadership training program for youth across Iowa. They also enjoyed hosting three high school exchange

students (Silvia, Elinor, & Kinuka from Italy, Sweden & Japan) and making many new friends from around the world.

His time as Santa helped to keep him young. Gary & Colleen enjoyed being Santa and Mrs Claus over many Christmas seasons. He always had a twinkle in his eye and enjoyed making children smile.

Gary loved most spending time with his family and making memories with family vacations. He also enjoyed outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, sports, camping and woodworking, and helping with landscaping and construction projects with his two sons. He was an avid science fiction/Star Wars fan. He, along with Colleen, Eric, and Jason, all got their Black Belts in Tae Kwon Do as a family.

Gary is survived by his wife of 55 years, Colleen (Jahnke) Welch; his children, Eric (Jennifer) Welch of Woodward, IA, and Jason (Kay) Welch of Woodward, IA; two grandchildren, Jozy (Ben) Murry and Luke Welch; and one great grandchild, Joshua Murry.

Gary was the youngest of four children and was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Verla Crussell; and brothers, Dwayne and Jay Welch.

Memorials may be made to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or the Ankeny Free Church.

Addendum by editor Bill Tubbs:

Gary proudly showed off the Ankeny Band Shell, a project of the Rotary Club of Ankeny, during my second club visit as District Governor in 2004. Our friendship with Gary and Colleen grew, and Linda and I were among the cheerleaders when he assumed the role of District Governor in 2010-11, which he performed with passion, dedication and Service Above Self. The choir of children from Capetown, South Africa, which burst into song at his District Conference, which he arranged in connection with the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, was especially inspirational! We traveled together, laughed together and served together these past 20 years. I credit Gary's leadership as instrumental in creating Iowa RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference which impacted the lives of 2,000-plus high school students positively for many years. The theme during Gary's governor year was "Building Communities, Bridging Continents." He did exactly that. Gary, thank you! We will miss your laugh and good ever-present cheer. Wishing peace for Colleen and family. Thanks for sharing Gary with the family of Rotary.



Past District Governor Gary Welch

Rotary In Memoriam

Corliss Klaassen

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2005-06

Corliss Klaassen, 84, of West Des Moines, formerly of Chariton, passed away on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, after a long and brave battle with Multiple Myeloma. He will be remembered well by all who knew him.

Services were Monday, Nov. 6, at the First United Methodist Church in Chariton. Family received friends on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pierschbacher Funeral Home in Chariton. Memorials may be contributed to the First United Methodist Church in Chariton, the Chariton High School Booster Club, and the Wesley Life Hospice in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Corliss grew up on a farm near Pomeroy in northwest Iowa, along with his three brothers. Corliss received his bachelor of science degree from Wartburg College in 1961 and a Pharmacy Degree from Drake University in 1964. He then worked in Rockford, Ill., as a pharmacist for four years. He moved to Chariton in 1968 where he owned and operated his pharmacy for 33 years.

Known for his integrity and humbleness, Corliss was a very dedicated community servant, and he served in various capacities in community-based organizations. He was a Charter member of the Chariton Chamber & Development Corporation, a board member of the Rathbun Area Health Services, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Lucas County Health Center, and an active member of the First United Methodist Church.

Corliss, along with his wife, Jeanne, enjoyed the many friendships and relationships that they made in Rotary. He joined the Rotary Club of Chariton in 1976 and in 2005-2006, he served as District Governor for District 6000. He also served as District Rotary Foundation Chair, Annual Fund Chair and Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Chair for Zone 29. He was recognized on numerous occasions with many awards for his service, including The Citation of Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards of The Rotary Foundation. Corliss and Jeanne made many international trips with Rotary as well. They were part of endeavors to aid in the eradication of polio in Nigeria and India. Corliss took to heart and lived the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Over the years, Corliss always had a group of friends to have coffee with each morning. He never wanted to miss a chance to catch up with their lives and share in a good debate.

Corliss was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed watching all levels of different sports. He and his son loved watching the Packers. If he wasn't traveling to watch his kids and grandkids participate in events, then he was catching up on scores and games and having in-depth conversations about anything sports-related. In his younger years, Corliss became quite a pitcher for fast-pitch softball. He played on teams throughout his summers and always loved the thrill of competition.

Corliss cared deeply about his family and faith. He and Jeanne spent time with their five children and 11 grandchildren. He and his brothers also had quite a bond. Bringing the family together was a high priority, especially at Easter at his brother's home. Education was very important to Corliss throughout his life. He and Jeanne supported their children and then their grandchildren in pursuing further education. It was a sense of pride for Corliss to be a part of the future endeavors of his family.

Corliss and Jeanne moved to Edgewater Independent Living in West Des Moines in June of 2022. They have enjoyed their life as they have met new friends and become part of a new welcoming community.

Corliss is survived by his wife, Jeanne Klaassen of West Des

Moines, Iowa; son, Spencer (Angie) Klaassen of St. Joseph, MO; daughter, Vicki (Michael) Chew of Woodinville, WA; daughter, Jodi (John) Define of Lenexa, KS; son, Mike (Misti) Johnson of Polo, MO; daughter, Deborah Fajardo of Glenwood, IA; 11 grandchildren: Hannah (Trystan) Wiedow, Henry Klaassen, Connor Chew, Julia Chew, Alexandria Define, Aila Define, Gabriella Define, Alex Johnson, Erik Johnson, Emily Fajardo, Sophie Fajardo; brothers, Curtis (Cherry) Klaassen of Leawood, KS and Gary (Cyndi) Klaassen of Pocahontas, IA; sister-in-law, Nancy Klaassen of West Des Moines, IA; brother-in-law, Dick Hines of Weldon, Iowa; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Connie and Tom Pyron of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; sister-in-law, Jan Spurgeon of Centerville, Iowa; along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Corliss was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and LuWene Klaassen, and his brother, Cletus Klaassen.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Timothy 4: 7-8



Past District Governor Corliss Klaassen

NOTES



Presidential hospitality

In August, District Governor Dennis and Heidi Drager, and PDG Steve Dakin and Lesley, took RI President Gordon McNally (third from left) up on his offer – in *Rotary magazine* – of hospitality in Scotland for Arch Klumpf Society members or those who contribute \$100,000 to The Rotary Foundation. In their 10-day trip to Scotland, they spent two days with the McNallys, eight other Rotarian couples and 10 RI staff members, which included lodging and dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where couples were introduced by bagpipes. They visited Edinburgh Castle, the royalty ship *Britannica*, and attended the Military Tattoo, a large concert which included the U.S. Air Force Band. – S. Dakin

BLUHM, *continued*

commitments included The Cyclone Club, The ISU Alumni Association, and as a charter member of the Ames Tones Barbershop Quartet.

He and Georgia's membership in the Holiday Rambler Recreational Vehicle Club kept them busy as Del worked his way through various leadership roles, becoming the national president. Travels with and without the RV included the forty-eight continental United States, Mexico, Canada, and many international destinations.

Del also served in various leadership roles for the Ames Noon Rotary Club. In his 42 years as a member of Rotary, he served as treasurer and president of the local club, followed by one year as District Governor for the 65 clubs in the southern half of Iowa.

He and Georgia were volunteers and/or active members of Reiman Gardens, ACPC, Raising Readers, Fellows Elementary Reading Buddies, Mary Greeley Medical Center,

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The District 6000 **Nominating Committee** conducted interviews Nov. 5 at the District Office in Pella nominated **Bill Bruce**, of the **Rotary Club of Denison**, for **District Governor 2026-27**. Bill's Rotary classification is hospital administration. Clubs were notified, and if no challenging candidate was nominated by Nov. 20, the nomination will stand. The DG succession in District 6000 includes **David Cook, Boone** (2024-25), and **Norlan Hinke, Clinton** (2025-26).

AUDIT REPORT

District 6000 financial records have been reviewed by CPA Matt Corwin. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, ended under budget by \$25,676.

'SUPER SUSTAINERS'

The board of directors, at its September meeting, approved a new recognition level, called "**Super Sustainers**," for commitments of \$200 a year to **The Rotary Foundation**. Watch for details.

ASSISTANT GOVERNORS

DGE Dave Cook is planning an increase in the number of Assistant Governors in District 6000 from 16 to 22 in 2024-25.

RI DIRECTOR

Salvador Rizzo Tavares, of the Rotary Club of Monterrey Carlos Canseco, in **District 4130, Mexico**, will represent Rotarians in Zones 29, 25A and 25B on the 17-member **Rotary International Board of Directors** for two years beginning July 1, 2024. In the newly configured map, Zone 29 is the upper Midwest USA and a few clubs in Canada. Zone 25B is in Texas, and Zone 25A stretches through Central America to Colombia. Until June 30, 2024, we are represented by **Pat Merryweather-Arge** of Naperville, Ill. The Zones 29 and 25B Institute will be **Sept. 5-8, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas**.



Salvador Rizzo Tavares

RI CONVENTIONS

Early registration discount deadline for the **May 25-29, 2024, RI Convention in Singapore** is Dec. 15, 2023, at <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration>. The 2025 RI Convention will be **June 21-25 in Calgary, Canada**.

United Way, Special Olympics, Grab & Go Summer Food for school children, and more. They were also intently involved in working to prevent and stop human trafficking both in the United States and abroad.

Left to cherish and honor Del's memory are his wife of 64 years, Georgia; daughter Jennifer (Randy) Rinderknecht; son David (Angela Yoder) Bluhm; 5 grandchildren - Alyssa (Nathan) Mauch, Briana (Christopher) Riddell, Nolan Rinderknecht, Casey Mordini-Bluhm, and Ezri Bluhm; 5 great-grandchildren - Olivia, Carter, and Logan Mauch; Emersyn and Marlee Riddell; sister, Kathleen (Rees) Hakanson; nieces Leah (John) Conyers, Amy (Mark) Atchley, and nephew Bo (Brenda) Hakanson as well as each of their children and grandchildren; cousin, Bob (Ruth Ann) Summers; and last but not least the many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances across the world.

Del was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Evelyn Bluhm; his infant brother Douglas; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Viola Summers of Ames



Zone Institute at Rotary World Headquarters

These Rotarians from District 6000 attended the Zones 29 and 25B Institute Oct. 20-21 at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Ill. The statue of the Rotarian giving the polio drops of life in the background is the one that inspired our statue at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. From left: PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott), Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Officer Rachel Greenhoe, Heidi Drager (Marshalltown), DGN Norlan Hinke (Clinton), PDG John Ockenfels (Iowa City AM), DG Dennis Drager (Marshalltown), DGE David Cook (Boone), PDG Steve Wieneke (Ankeny Evening), Cindy Hinke (spouse of DGN Norlan), Lisa Cook (Boone), Bonnie Lowry (Marshalltown), Vernetta and PDG Chris Knapp (Iowa City AM), Larry Thein (Bettendorf), Jennifer Chittenden (Des Moines AM), Lesley and PDG Steve Dakin (Boone), and Brenda Wieneke (Ankeny Evening).



District administrators

Dennis Skinner was district governor in 2003-04 when District 6000 opened its first district office at Knoxville, with Jerri Uitermarkt (I) as district administrator. Carolyn Scharff (r) succeeded Jerri in 2007, and the office moved to Pella in 2009, where Carolyn has continued Jerri's excellent service to Rotarians since.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



2024-25 leaders introduced

At the introduction of DGEs at the Zone Institute at the Woman's Club of Evanston, District Governor 2024-25 David Cook is congratulated by RI President 2024-25 Stephanie Urchick.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



Rotary's goal is a polio-free world! There were 12 cases of polio in 2021, 30 in 2022 and 10 thus far in 2023, four in Pakistan and six in Afghanistan, the only two remaining countries where the wild polio virus is endemic.

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The Object of Rotary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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