

Rotary District 6000
Iowa USA
Erna Morain, Governor

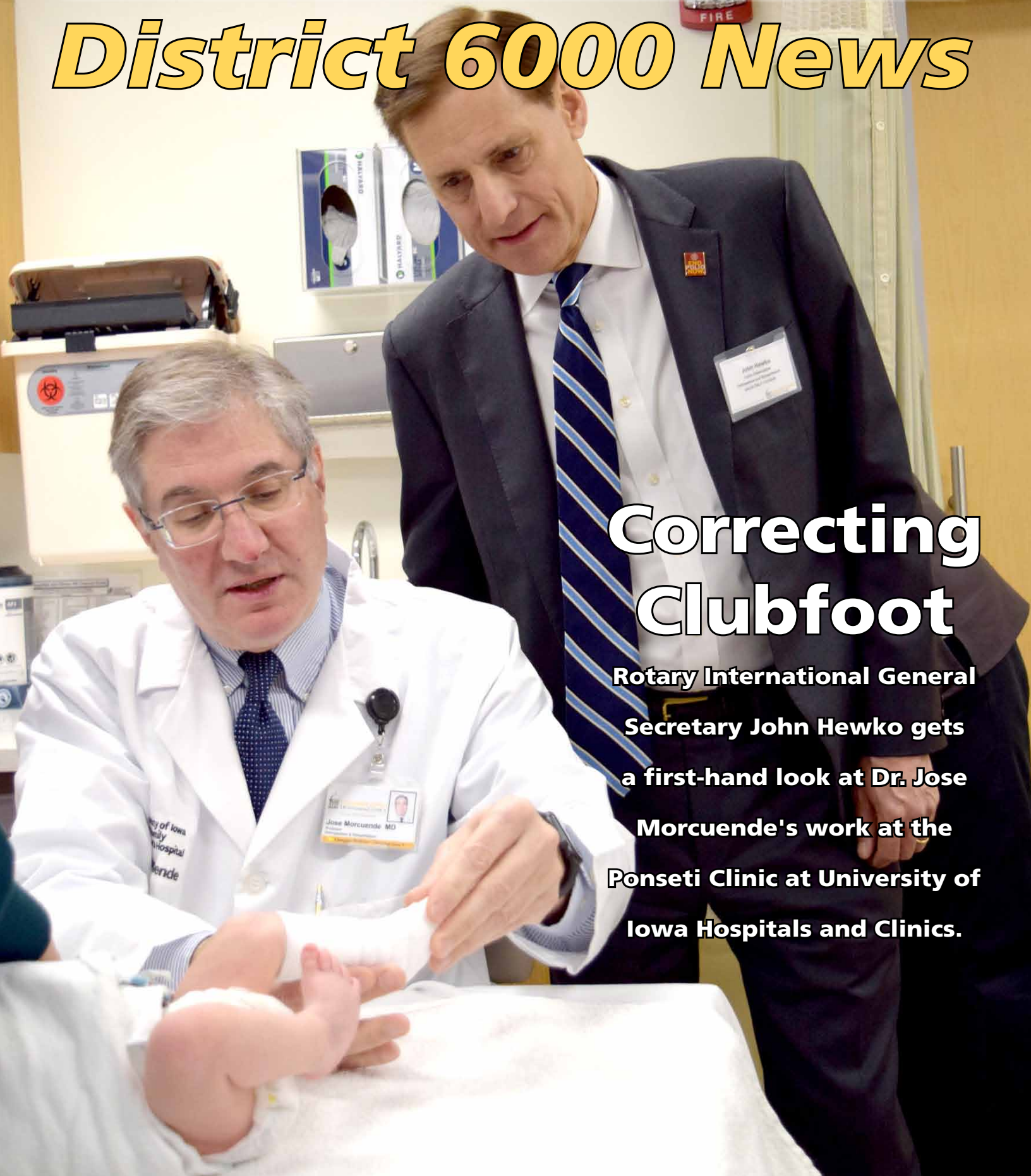


Second Issue
2019-20
(November thru
February)

District 6000 News

Correcting Clubfoot

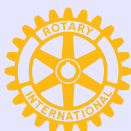
**Rotary International General
Secretary John Hewko gets
a first-hand look at Dr. Jose
Morcuende's work at the
Ponseti Clinic at University of
Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.**



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Rotary



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Creating community and engaging Rotarians

Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

When my story about the dedication of the polio statue broke in the print edition of *The Sunday Des Moines Register* last Sept. 15, I was contacted by a dozen people the first day. Some, like Edd Soenksen, whose story is on page 10, shared incredible personal childhood experiences with polio.

My story, which was first posted Sept. 10 at *The Register's* website, yielded just two calls in six days, both from Rotarians.

The impact of the print publication underscored my belief, born from 48 years as a community newspaper publisher, that print publications create community and bring people together. Those same newspapers now also have a digital presence. All are important, but in my community – and I believe for Rotary District 6000 as well – it is print that delivers the most impact.



Bill Tubbs

A University of Notre Dame study found that when communities lose their newspapers, the cost of local government goes up 30 percent within five years because nobody is watching. Likewise, magazines like *District 6000 News* play a unique role by telling Rotary stories in one compact, portable package, and presenting multiple opportunities for member engagement. All this, in the case of *District 6000 News*, for less than \$1 per member per issue – delivered.

Past Rotary International President Ray Klinginsmith, at the Institute at Kansas City in September, praised our newsletter: "There is nothing else like it in the Rotary world."

In this issue, in addition to reports from many clubs, you'll find invitations for action in support of everything from Youth Exchange, to RYLA, polio, clubfoot correction, human trafficking awareness, RLI, club health checks, membership ideas, district and international meetings, and more. Every issue is, in the words of Past RI President Ron Burton, an invitation to Engage Rotary and Change Lives.

Read. Enjoy. And Take Action!

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

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Celebrating successes with our clubs

Dear Rotarians and Friends of District 6000,

Part of the fun of being Governor of District 6000 is the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our member clubs.

My husband, Steve and I have recently had the great privilege to join with both Muscatine and Oskaloosa as they have celebrated their 100th anniversaries. We have Fairfield's century event coming soon, and there are other 100th anniversaries and major milestones to mark with other clubs reaching 50, 75 or 80 years this year.



Erna Morain

Very few organizations anywhere reach those longevity milestones, but it seems like many of our District Rotary clubs are doing it and continuing to thrive – serving their communities and the world while enjoying fellowship among their members. It's worth pausing for a moment to contemplate why. I think there are several reasons for our successes.

First, Rotary International provides a **great culture** and organization with training to nurture our clubs and our District. Whether our clubs are large or small – RI feeds us with training tools and staff support to insure continuity as our clubs transfer leadership year after year. I have been blessed with intensive training and programs (photo, below, for example) which have given me the confidence that I could proudly lead our District this year. And RI supplies systems and guidance which provide our District leaders what they need to prepare and inspire incoming Club presidents and other officers for their respective leadership terms.

But there is more than that. I think **success breeds success**. Rotary's over 100 years of growth and success internationally has made us all



proud to be members, and inspires us to continue the tradition of Service Above Self that drives so many District 6000 Rotarians to serve humanity in so many ways – locally and globally.

And it's also the **fun and fellowship**. People gravitate to things and people they enjoy. Belonging to an organization which has dynamic members who are committed to making the world a better place is uplifting. All the more so when they love to have a good time while they're doing it.

Maintaining our success

That has served so many of our clubs well for so many years. But to maintain our success and continue to grow, we need to **retain our vibrancy and vitality**. That means we need to continue to attract new – and especially younger – members. They bring the enthusiasm we need to replace those who are departing for any number of reasons.

And that means that we need to communicate with prospective members in our communities the way they are accustomed to communicate and receive their inputs. **Social media and digital communication** are vitally important – that's simply the way Gen Xers and Millennials live their lives. We're trying to build our capabilities and our practices at the District level to be able to do that, and we're trying to up our game to assist clubs to do the same. Our clubs that are more active on social media and the use of digital communication are the clubs that are drawing the most new members and find that the costs of communication with their members can be vastly reduced.

I encourage each of our clubs to **review your website and Facebook** output. Develop a plan and commit to posting regularly to encourage members and others in your community to check out your social media and digital posts. I know it will pay dividends to renew the enthusiasm of your current members and be a draw to build your new member pipeline.

We want to ensure that Rotary is as strong and vibrant in the next hundred years as it has been since it first began in District 6000 in Iowa. And thanks for all you do for Rotary.

– Erna Morain, District Governor



Rotary's emphasis on training is evident in this photo from the International Assembly attended by District Governor Erna Morain, and leaders from many nations, at San Diego in January 2019.

Provided by Erna Morain

NCPETS slated March 12-14 at Rochester

By DGE Tom Gump/District 5950

NCPETS is an annual multi-district training event for incoming Rotary Club Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Nominee. It is currently composed of Rotary International Districts 5950 (Minnesota); 5960 (Minnesota and Wisconsin); 5970 (Iowa); and 6000 (Iowa). RI District 5610 (South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska) will try out NCPETS this year.

The 2020 NCPETS Team, led by Executive Chair and Past District Governor Tim Murphy (RI District 5950), is taking the opportunity to review its working documents and plan its future. Since last March, the team has been working to design and implement the best program it has hosted to date. It has reworked its Bylaws, Manual of Policies and Procedures and conducted a survey of last year's participants.

Working from last year's Presidents-Elect/Nominees, this year's Presidents-Elects' comments, the team has chosen speakers and is drafting curriculum to address the most pressing concerns of next year's attendees. The top four areas that our audience wants help with, in order of importance to them, are:

1. Growing **membership**;
2. Practicing **public speaking**;
3. Dealing with their members' **fear of change** and ensuring that change will not cause loss in club membership; and
4. Learning **where is Rotary headed?**

The NCPETS team has secured the following speakers for their 2020 event:

1. RI Director **Suzi Howe**, Zones 25A-B and 29 (2020-22);
2. Past Rotary Foundation Trustee **Mary Beth Growney-Selene**;
3. RI General Manager and Chief Strategic Officer **Tom Thorfinnson**; and
4. Past District Governor and Zone Rotary Public Image Coordinator **Michael Angelo Caruso**.

District participation

To make sure all of the all areas of the event were covered, The NCPETS Executive Committee formed a number of sub-teams for registration, House of Friendship, hospitality, facilities, education/curriculum, hosts/ambassadors and technology. Each of the 2020-21 District Governors of the participating districts chose a member from his district for each of the sub-teams.

The event will be held from March 12-14, 2020, at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minn. It will be sure to inspire attendees and energize them for their year as their club's president!

The current agenda for the event is:

Thursday, March 12th:

- 4:00-5:30 p.m. - My Rotary
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. - Fundraising Roundtable
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. - Recruitment Roundtable
- 5:30 p.m. - Welcome to Rochester Reception
- 7:00 p.m. - Dine by District

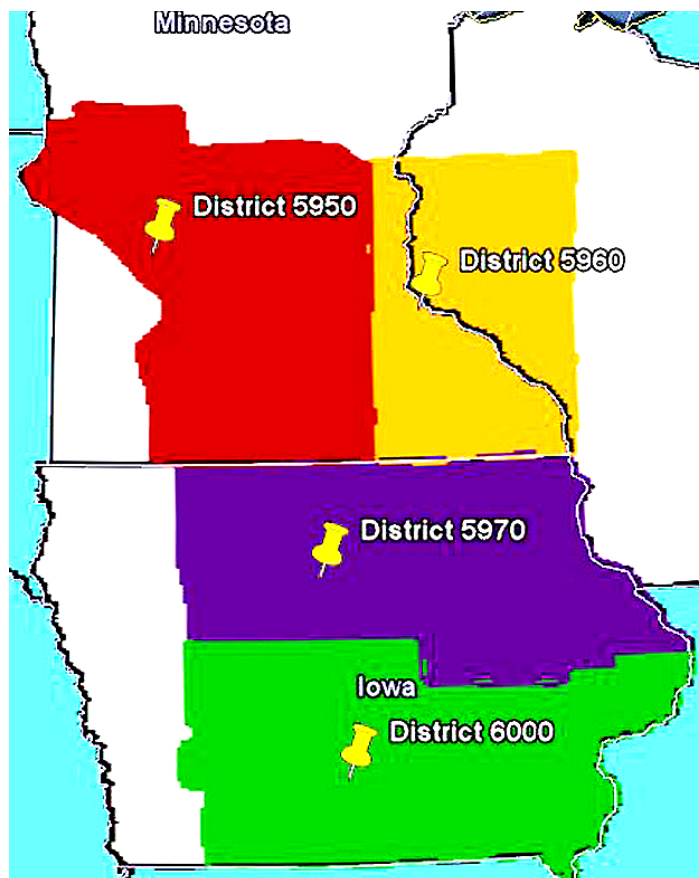
Friday, March 13th:

- 7:15 a.m. - General Session Opening Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. - District PE Training Session
- Noon - General Session Luncheon
- 2:15 p.m. - Multi-District Breakout Sessions
- 5:15 p.m. - Reception
- 6:30 p.m. - General Session Dinner

Saturday, March 14th:

- 7:00 a.m. - General Session Breakfast
- 8:45 a.m. - Multi-District Breakout Sessions
- 11:15 a.m. - District Wrap-Up Session
- 12:15 p.m. - Conference Concludes

To register, please go to <https://www.ncpets.org/>.



Incoming club presidents from these districts plus District 5610 (South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska) will participate in NCPETS March 12-13, 2020, in Rochester, Minn.



Tom Thorfinnson



Suzi Howe



Michael Angelo Caruso



Mary Beth Growney-Selene

TRAINING

Four Grant Management Seminars slated

By Norlin Hinke/Clinton

District 6000 Community Grants Co-Chair

As you know, each Rotary club is required to attend a Grant Management Seminar (GMS), plus complete the club's Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) forms, and have submitted the club's annual goals to District 6000 to qualify for a Rotary Foundation grant.

We strongly encourage the Rotarian who is submitting the grant application to attend a GMS, as well as the club's president-elect.

The deadline for submitting the Community Grant applications for 2020-21 is June 1, 2020. There will not be approval for a deadline extension. The Community Grant Committee will meet in June to approve the grant requests and immediately submit them to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for final approval.

As soon as we receive final approval, we will notify the Rotary clubs. This will hopefully be mid-July. Those clubs that have completed the proper documents and have all previous years' Final Reports submitted and approved, will receive the grant funds soon after receiving the approval letter. The rules, regulations and rating system for the grants are the same as in the past.

Todd Wheeler of Des Moines will be working with me this year rather than Kris Ockenfels of Iowa City AM. If you have questions, or prefer additional information, please let me know. I can be reached at (563) 219-5020, or norlan.hinke@gmail.com.

There will be four Grant Seminars in 2020:

West Liberty Community Center: Saturday, Feb. 22, 9:00 a.m.

West Des Moines Shive Hattery, Saturday, Feb. 29, 9:00 a.m.

Newton DMAC Center, Friday, March 27, 5:00 p.m.

On-Line, Saturday, April 11, 10:00 a.m.

District Assembly March 28th

By Ron Heideman/Indianola

District 6000 Trainer

Rotary District 6000 Training Assembly will be Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the DMACC Campus in Newton. This is a great opportunity for incoming officers, board members, and those interested in learning more about Rotary. Some added benefits: It's **FREE**; refreshments and lunch are included, and you'll network with Rotarians from across District 6000.

You will hear from past, present, and future District Governors and learn about membership, PolioPlus, Rotary Youth Exchange, RAG4 Clubfoot, The Rotary Foundation, the theme and Governor goals for next year, innovation and flexibility, secretary and treasurer training, the Xicotepec Project, and RYLA. Everything you ever wanted to know about Rotary! And, the final Grant Management Seminar of the year will be the night before in the same location.

Lodging is available across the street at the Best Western Holiday Manor. Registration information can be found at <https://rotary6000.org/event/district-training-assembly-3/>.



SAVE THE DATE

June 25-27, 2020

Rotary

RD 6000 FESTIVAL 2020

at
PRAIRIE MEADOWS EVENT CENTER
ALTOONA, IOWA

CELEBRATE!

www.rotary6000.org

FEED MORE

The graphic features a large blue gear in the center with the text "Rotary RD 6000 FESTIVAL 2020 at PRAIRIE MEADOWS EVENT CENTER ALTOONA, IOWA CELEBRATE! www.rotary6000.org". Surrounding the gear are various images: a group of people in hard hats, a sign for "Outlets of Des Moines", a sign for "PRAIRIE MEADOWS", a sign for "THE ROTARY GAME", a sign for "ADVENTURELAND", a sign for "Outdoor World", a sign for "FEED MORE", and a group of people in a meeting.



Africa is Calling and I must go

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MOKOPANE, SOUTH AFRICA | 2020 | \$2,250 + AIRFARE

2020 TRIP DATES

Jan 16 - Jan 28
Jan 30 - Feb 11
Feb 13 - Feb 25
Mar 05 - Mar 17
May 07 - May 19
May 21 - Jun 02
Jul 09 - Jul 21
Jul 23 - Aug 04
Aug 20 - Sep 01
Sep 03 - Sep 15 (Days for Girls)
Oct 15 - Oct 27

Blessman International
2557 106th St. | Urbandale, Iowa 50322
www.BlessmanInternational.org
515-343-5920

The graphic features a large group of people in a meeting, a map of Africa, and a Rotary logo.

(Advertising)

AROUND THE WORLD IN 51 DAYS

The flight to end polio



By Diane Nollen, Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette

Reprinted with permission

While Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels aren't Santa, they are flying around the world to give the gift of crucial vaccines to the most vulnerable children.

Their goal is to fly eastward this spring from Cedar Rapids, raising money and awareness around the globe to eradicate polio through Rotary International and a 2-for-1 dollar match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. With the match in place, Teahen is optimistic \$1 million can be raised.



PDG John Ockenfels

For about seven weeks – March 24 to May 13 – pilot Teahen, 66, of Cedar Rapids, and co-pilot Ockenfels, 67, of Shueyville, will fold into Teahen's six-cylinder, 300-horsepower single-engine airplane.

Cruising speed of the six-passenger Piper Lance II will be 150 knots, or 171 mph. The plane will burn 16 1/2 gallons of fuel each hour. Besides 94 gallons held in the wings, the seats behind the front row will be removed to make way for a 165-gallon reserve tank, as well as luggage and supplies.

Navigational and communication equipment will be onboard not only for safety's sake, but also to enable people – including school students – to follow the progress on a five-minute delay.

"You'll be able to see where we were five minutes ago," Teahen said.

All of this gear will be packed into tight quarters, along with the men, who will sit side-by-side with less room between them than in a car – and with less headroom, too.

They plan to drink just enough to stay hydrated, and eat very few solids, to keep their in-flight, in-place toilet needs to a minimum, relying on disposable, environmentally correct bags in their confined space.

That's the least of their worries.

Safety concerns

The weather is unpredictable that far in advance, and they will be flying over open water and mountains, occasionally through unfriendly skies – taking myriad safety precautions along their estimated 19,601-mile route and 135 in-flight hours.

Their longest flight is nearly 10 hours – about twice the duration Teahen has ever piloted a plane on a trip – from Newfoundland over the Atlantic Ocean, landing on Portugal's Azores Islands March 27.

The Pacific crossing on the way back to the United States will be much shorter, from the northeastern tip of Russia to Nome, Ala.

Any time they're flying over water, they'll wear a special kind of wet suit that will keep them warm in case of an emergency water landing. They'll also have a life raft on board to slide into the water, if need be.

Each day's flight will end at an airport that allows them to refuel and leave the craft overnight. Finding those airports has been no easy feat, since most outside of the United States close overnight, Teahen said.

Changing time zones also have to be taken into consideration. They had intended to land in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, but that airport will close before their projected arrival. Instead, they will fly from Nagpur, India, into Chit-



Rotarians Peter Teahen and PDG John Ockenfels will fly around the world March 24-May 13 with this 1978 Piper Lancer II to raise funds PolioPlus. Rotarians and others can make donations online or download a donations form at Flighttoendpolio.com/contact-us. Photo by Andy Abeyta/The Gazette

tagong, Bangladesh, in mid-April, then continue on to Bangkok, Thailand.

"I'm spending three, four hours a day just on logistics things," Teahen said.

Handlers in England, Japan and Moscow have been helping them navigate the complexities of landing sites, time zones, fuel transport, visas for 13 countries, customs regulations and flight permits. Other handlers will meet them on the ground, and arrange for any repairs that Ockenfels can't make.

"That's the backroom part of what we're doing," Teahen said. "The exciting part is what we're doing in partnership with Rotary."

Giving back for good

The daunting logistics – not to mention the risk – lead to an obvious question: Why would the two take on this odyssey?

Teahen is pretty fearless, after spending his adult life as a funeral director, author and mental health professional.

He's served as a disaster responder since 1989 and a national spokesman for the Red Cross since 1999.

He's taken leadership roles on 65 major disasters around the globe, from the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, to the ongoing



19,601 miles in 135 hours

ing genocide in Sudan's Darfur region, the 2004 Indonesian tsunami, 2005's Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

"I've been held twice at gunpoint by terrorist groups, buildings have collapsed on me," he said. "I've been blessed (and) I keep wanting to give back."

Ockenfels also lives by that philosophy. An Air Force veteran and retired chief executive officer of City Carton Recycling, he has been on the front lines of administering polio vaccines through Rotary.

Both men are members of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians, and said the choice was clear to them to use a global flight as a fundraiser for Rotary International's three-decade quest to finally eradicate polio.

Ockenfels in June attended a Rotary International Conference in Hamburg, Germany, presenting the plan for a polio fundraising component to the flight. "Rotary was very excited about it," Teahen said. "We're now an official fundraising project for Rotary International, and they'll help promote it. We'll have help from Rotarians around the world when we're on the ground."

The public can make donations online or download a donation form at Flighttoendpolio.com/contact-us.

Gates involvement

They also have a huge helping hand from the Gates' foundation, which is donating \$2 for each \$1 pledged through the flight.

"Polio is a terrible disease," Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said in an online video. "And as our foundation was getting involved in global help, we saw that Rotary, CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), UNICEF, WHO (World Health Organization) had partnered together back in 1988, and getting rid of the disease is kind of the ultimate goal for all these infectious diseases."

So the foundation decided to join the fight.

Teahen and Ockenfels are paying their own way around the world, estimated at \$60,000 to \$70,000, offset by some grants and high-tech equipment donations.

"And so 100 percent of the money that we raise will go to Rotary International," Teahen said. "And 100 percent of the money that goes to Rotary International goes to eradicate polio."

Rotary polio initiative

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary International has contributed nearly \$2 billion toward stopping the debilitating, paralyzing disease, reducing cases 99.9 percent since first vaccinating children in the Philippines in 1979.

While Rotary lists three countries where polio remains active, Ockenfels said Nigeria recently has come off that list, being polio-free for three years after suffering a relapse. That leaves Afghanistan and Pakistan as countries where polio is endemic.

"Pakistan is finally onboard with making it happen," Ockenfels said. "Afghanistan still is fighting it politically. We're now over 100 cases this year between those two countries, and we were down to 30 some cases a couple of years ago worldwide."

Polio is not a 20th-century disease, although that's when outbreaks hit the hardest in the United States.

"They've done research going back hundreds and hundreds of years to the time of the pharaohs, and they have absolutely found polio, going all the way back. It's not a new disease," Ockenfels said.



The route begins and ends in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

FLIGHT TO END POLIO

Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels

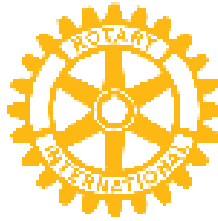
March 24TH to May 13TH 2020

www.flighttoendpolio.com

DATE	Locations (Airport ID)	Flight Duration
Mar 24	Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA (KCID).....	START
Mar 24	Bangor, Maine, USA (KBGR).....	6 hr, 38 m
Mar 25	St. John, Newfoundland (CYYT).....	4 hr, 05 m
Mar 27	Santa Maria Azores, Portugal (LPAZ) ...	9 hr, 50 m
Mar 29	Rabat, Morocco (GMMX).....	6 hr, 59 m
April 2	Sardinia, Italy (LIEE)	5 hr, 44 m
April 5	Crete, Greece (LGIR)	5 hr, 31 m
April 8	Aqaba, Jordan (OJAQ)	3 hr, 57 m
April 10	Kuwait International (OKBK)	4 hr, 20 m
April 10	Al Ain Abu Dhabi, UAE (OMAL)	3 hr, 27 m
April 13	Karachi Pakistan (OPKC).....	4 hr, 41 m
April 15	Nagpur, India (VANP)	4 hr, 55 m
April 18	Chittagong Bangladesh (VGEG)	4 hr, 40 m
April 19	Bangkok Thailand (VTBD)	4 hr, 50 m
April 22	Singapore (WSSL)	5 hr, 37 m
April 25	Kota Kinabalu Malaysia (WBKK)	5 hr, 18 m
April 26	Angeles City Philippines (RPLC).....	4 hr, 00 m
April 29	Naha Okinawa, Japan (ROAH)	5 hr, 16 m
May 1	Kobe, Japan (RJBE).....	4 hr, 08 m
May 5	New Chitose Sapporo, Japan (RJCC).....	3 hr, 35 m
May 5	Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (UHSS)	1 hr, 41 m
May 6	Magaden, Russia (UHMM)	5 hr, 54 m
May 7	Anadyr, Russia (UHMA).....	5 hr, 08 m
May 8	Nome, Alaska (PAOM)	3 hr, 07 m
May 9	Fairbanks, Alaska (PAFA)	3 hr, 04 m
May 12	Watson Lake Yukon Canada (CYQH).....	4 hr, 32 m
May 12	Edmonton, Canada (CYEG)	4 hr, 37 m
May 13	Grand Forks, ND USA (KGFK)	4 hr, 51m
May 13	Cedar Rapids IOWA USA (KCID)	2 hr, 47 m
(Schedule subject to change)		FINISH

ESTIMATED TOTAL IN-FLIGHT HOURS..... 135
 ESTIMATED TOTAL IN-FLIGHT MILES . 17,050 Nautical Miles/
 19,601 Statute Miles
 ESTIMATED TOTAL GALLONS OF AVIATION GAS..... 1,855 U.S.
 Gallons /27,022 IMP Liters

Rotary



RAG4Clubfoot

RI General Secretary John Hewko visits Ponseti Clinic; lends support

By PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

Telling the story of clubfoot disability and its treatment is in the DNA of Dr. Jose Morcuende and Thomas Cook, PhD, both Rotarians working with the Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa. They're encouraging others to also take up the mantle.

On Monday, Jan. 13, John Hewko, General Secretary of Rotary International, spent time with Dr. Morcuende learning about the Ponseti method of clubfoot treatment at the pediatric orthopedic clinic during the doctor's full schedule of seeing patients. Mr. Hewko was in Iowa as the invited speaker for the celebration of the Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary Club's 5,000th meeting held in the Rotary Hall in the NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids.

Clubfoot is a global problem affecting about 200,000 children born annually worldwide. Morcuende, Cook and members of the RAG4Clubfoot (Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot) endeavored to show Hewko the problem and impress on him that Rotary International should be addressing it on a broad scale.

The response from Hewko? It's a "no brainer" that the doors to RI should be opened wide for clubfoot to be presented as a global issue of mighty proportions.

Hewko recommended that the RAG4Clubfoot consider applying for a "scale grant" that could provide funding to help train hundreds of doctors worldwide in the non-surgical Ponseti method, now recognized as the global standard for correcting clubfoot.

Teaching the Ponseti Method using a "train the trainer" approach meets the sustainable gauge of the scale grant as doctors will in turn teach other doctors the procedure. And the treatment of hundreds of thousands of children born with clubfoot is certainly measurable. Promoting the Ponseti method is also a high impact endeavor since babies will continue to be born with clubfoot for years to come, because there is no known "cure" for this genetically caused deformity.

The mission of the RAG4Clubfoot is to support activities to assure timely treatment and appropriate care for children born with clubfoot deformity worldwide. This RAG was created and approved by Rotary International to provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs, districts and multi-districts in planning and implementing programs for training doctors in the Ponseti method of treating children diagnosed with clubfoot. The RAG functions to recruit and identify partners to provide these training opportunities.

Membership in the RAG4Clubfoot supports its capacity to market, connect and offer technical support to training teams as they create their project grant applications. To contact the RAG team, become a member, renew membership support or contribute, see the website www.RAG4Clubfoot.org.



Tomeka Petersen of the Rotary Club of West Liberty reports that RAG4Clubfoot has been informed that it will have a booth at the House of Friendship at the RI Convention June 6-10 in Honolulu. "Visit us in the House of Friendship!" she says.



Dr. Tom Cook explains the Ponseti Method of clubfoot correction to RI General Secretary John Hewko.



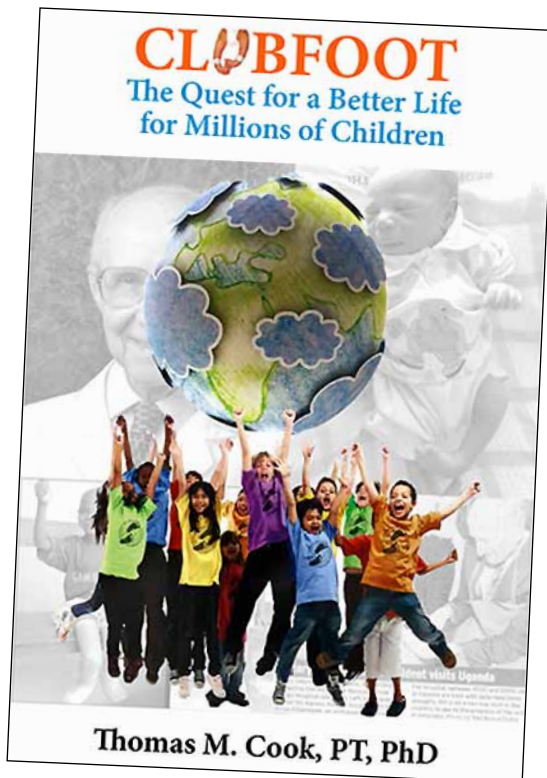
Herb Wilson (PDG), Dennis Jordan (RAG4Clubfoot Co-Chair) and John Hewko (RI General Secretary) meet at the University of Iowa Ponseti Clinic to discuss how Rotary and Rotarians can make an impact for children born with clubfoot.

Photos above, and cover photo, by Jacque Andrew



Angela Jordan (c) joined RAG4Clubfoot in October 2019 as the new administrator. She is a native of eastern Iowa and a member of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids. She is active in the community of Marion. She recently celebrated 10 years of marriage to Dennis Jordan. Together they have four children.

Provided by Angela Jordan



Rotarian authors book about quest to treat clubfoot

Dr. Tom Cook, RAG4Clubfoot Board member, has authored a book about Dr. Ponseti's quest to provide children born with clubfoot a life free of pain and disability.

"Clubfoot: The Quest for a Better Life for Millions of Children" tells the little-known story of the world's most common skeletal birth defect and development of a revolutionary method for eliminating lifelong disability for the 200,000 children born every year with this deformity.

The hero of this story is Dr. Ignacio Ponseti (1914-2009) who, as a young physician, became enmeshed in the Spanish Civil War before being forced into exile in France and then Mexico. He eventually found a home in the heartland of America where, despite opposition from the medical establishment, he began a life-long quest to reshape children's futures from lives of pain and disability to lives of hope and promise.

Because of Dr. Ponseti's quest, and the many healthcare professionals, parents, and other advocates who have taken it up, a normal, disability-free life is now possible for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of children. This book answers three questions. Who was Ignacio Ponseti? What is the treatment he developed? How successful is his quest?

The endorsements on the back cover of the book include these two:

"The truly remarkable story of the legacy of Dr. Ponseti and his continuing impact on the lives of children around the world. He is God's gift to these children." -Tom Brokaw

"Rotarians: Get involved in this important global effort!" -Herb Wilson

The book is published by Ice Cube Press and can be ordered at <https://icecubepress.com/2019/10/29/clubfoot-2/>

All proceeds go to Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa.



DGND Steve Wieneke and Brenda

Steve Wieneke nominated for District Governor 2022-23

The nominating committee of District 6000 interviewed candidates in November and recommended Steve Wieneke of the Rotary Club of Ankeny for District Governor 2022-23. His appointment will become official with a vote of clubs' representatives at the District Annual Meeting in Rochester at NCPETS in Rochester on March 13-14.

Steve retired from Iowa State University in 2019 after seven years in the Office of Risk Management, after careers in agricultural education, and 33 years in the Iowa National Guard, from which he retired at the rank of colonel in 2012.

A native of West Branch, he attended Kirkwood Community College and received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural education from Iowa State in 1983, a master of science degree in agricultural education from Iowa State in 1991, a master of science in strategic studies degree from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., in 2006, and a master of science degree in collaborative teaching strategies in higher education from Graceland University in 2008.

He was an ag educator and FFA advisor for the Tipton and Solon schools, and company commander of the 134th Medical Company in Washington, Iowa. He served on active duty with the National Guard in Kuwait in 1990-91, and had a wartime deployment to Iraq in 2003-2004 (15 months) as the commander of the 109th Medical Battalion. He was on federal active duty status in the Active Guard and Reserve Program in Iowa City and Camp Dodge (Johnston) from 1993-2012, including serving as State of Iowa Inspector General advisor to the state Adjutant General and Governor.

Steve has been an active Rotarian since 1996 in the Rotary Clubs of Iowa City, Johnston and Ankeny, where he was the driving force to establish an evening club. He was club president in Johnston (2010-11) and the Ankeny Evening Club (2018-20), and Assistant Governor from 2012-15. He is a Rotary Leadership Institute graduate, facilitator, and District 6000 coordinator, 2015-20.

Steve is an active member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in Ankeny, a member of the pastoral council, and a member and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Steve will marry Brenda Powell on April 25. He is the father of two adult children: Beth (Mrs. Derek) Meyer and their three children of Stanwood, Iowa; and Mark (wife Gabbi), of Waukee, Iowa. His stepdaughter, Robbie (Mrs. Joel) Keene, lives in Bondurant, and they have three children.

POLIOPLUS

A survivor's testimonial to life in an iron lung

When District 6000 News editor Bill Tubbs' article about the dedication of the polio statue at Blank Children's Hospital was published in the print edition of The Sunday Des Moines Register on Sept. 15, citizens who were previously unaware of Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio contacted him to tell their polio stories. Among them was Edd Soenke, 76, a retired architect from West Des Moines who grew up in Davenport, where one-fourth of his third-grade class at Holy Family School contracted polio in 1952. Edd wrote, "Though paralyzed from the neck on down for 8-1/2 months still gives me chills, luckily, I escaped relatively unscathed. That statue to the War on Polio on the Unity Point Blank Children's Hospital grounds is a fitting tribute to those that endured an epidemic that had no treatment early on! Thank you to Rotary for carrying on the battle worldwide." Here, PDG Susan Herrick writes about Mr. Soenke's visit to the Rotary Club of Boone on Jan. 22:

By PDG Susan Herrick/Boone

District 6000 PolioPlus Chair

Many Rotarians can remember when poliomyelitis caused paralysis and death and struck fear into families in Iowa and the upper Midwest, much like the epidemic of the coronavirus that is now frightening families worldwide.

In 1952, parents feared for the lives of their children. But many of our Rotarians have no memory of this epidemic and even though eradicating polio is the No. 1 priority of Rotary International, some Rotarians don't see the return of polio to our cities and state as a threat, and therefore are not responding to our continued calls for polio giving as a priority.

Therefore, PLEASE read this article to make real for yourselves that polio is a disease that we NEVER want to see return to our lives.

Life in an iron lung

At 3 a.m. on a fall evening in 1952 in Davenport, Iowa, 8-year-old Edd Soenke woke up and realized that he was unable to move – he was paralyzed from the neck down. With no warning, his life and the life of his family changed drastically. His house was cordoned off by the Scott County Health Department and a placard was placed on their door. The removal of that placard was punishable by a fine of up to \$100. To put that into perspective, in 2020 that would be nearly \$3,000. Drinking fountains were disabled and swimming pools were closed and drained. No one knew what caused polio and there was no cure. The Salk vaccine was in experimental stages and would not be announced to the world until April of 1955.

Edd was admitted to Mercy Hospital in Davenport, only a block and a half from his home. He and other children were housed in a separate building that was used as the isolation ward. The children could only see their parents and siblings through the wire glass of the hallway. One fourth of Edd's third-grade class at the Holy Family Catholic School were struck with the same affliction, and Edd speaks of peering out to see most of his friends' heads sticking out from their "tombs" (iron lungs) that were extraordinarily noisy. Those iron lungs used two vacuum cleaner motors which ran continually to provide the contraction and expansion to replace lung function.

Imagine being 8 years old, confined away from your family,

'In my third grade class at Holy Family School in Davenport, 1/4th of the 32 kids ended up in isolation (even from parents and relatives).'

and surrounded by frightening sights and sounds – no television, no distraction from this scary place.

Edd had a warrior mother, Ruth, who was Head of Nurses at Mercy from the late 1940s after WWII, and she would not allow the doctors to confine her son to an iron lung. Her take was that the lung muscles would atrophy from the lack of use and the lungs would eventually collapse. In fairness, it should be said that many children were saved by the use of the lung, but in Edd's case, his mother's insistence in keeping her son out of the lung served him well, and he credits her for his survival from this disease.

Edd laid in bed for 8 ½ months staring at the corridor to get a glimpse of his parents and sister, who fortunately missed the ravages of the disease. He proudly remembers that they visited him EVERY DAY. He has fond memories of a kind, gentle nurse who attended him and the other children hospitalized with him, but also terrifying memories of the only treatment at the time, which was the administering of bone marrow replacement which was done twice a week by using a large syringe being "jammed up your spine as a big strong nurse bent your body into a 'C'."

After 8 ½ months, Edd began to recover the feeling in his legs and arms was released from the hospital to face months of rehabilitation using "Wabby Boots" as he was escorted down sidewalks during the summer of 1953. Eventually he returned to school which was a six-block walk from his home. That walk took him an hour and half, but when he finally made it to the cheers of his classmates, he got to his desk, slumped to the floor and slept there for two hours "with a grin on my face."

Happy ending

Edd's story has a happy ending. He suffered his right leg being 3/8" shorter, and more recently a disk was removed from his back, but he has gone on to have a successful career in architecture, to be a 50-year pilot, and have a marriage and family about whom he is very proud!

About half of the children who were hospitalized with Edd died of their disease or its complications, and those are stories that we should also remember. Interestingly enough, the day Edd spoke to our Rotary Club of Boone, PDG Don Goering was visiting, and after Edd spoke he rose to say that he lived a block away from Edd in Davenport and was thankful that he and his family were not touched by polio – although I imagine the memories of his youth have fueled his passion to End Polio Now.

Edd feels that, "Any future travails in life were a 'piece of cake' as I think back to my polio days," and he thanks God for mothers.

I am thankful to Edd for sharing his story, and hope that Rotarians in District 6000 will take to heart our responsibility to help bring this crippling killer of children to an end.



Edd Soenke with PDG Susan Herrick.

Meet your Rotary Scholars

Two Rotary Scholars sponsored by District 6000 are studying abroad this year in the oldest program of The Rotary Foundation.

Here, we hear from Sydney Bergman, who is studying International Relations with a focus on Peace and Conflict Resolution at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London, England.

Sydney is a native of Newton who earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Grinnell College. She was an intern in research and an analyst for the Office of Historian for the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. Her studies focus on international relations and peace and conflict resolution for Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Djibouti. Her goal is to be a foreign service officer. Thanks to District 6000 Scholars Chair Liz Beck of Ames for procuring this report.

By Sydney Bergman

Rotary Scholar, 2019-20

I am currently in the second semester of my graduate program and working toward a Master of Science (MSc) in International Relations, with a focus in Peace and Conflict, at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London, England.

This master's program will help me hone the skills necessary to accomplish my ultimate goal: to serve as a United States Foreign Service Officer (a diplomat) in the Political Section where I will assist in peace resolutions and address humanitarian crises.

With this Rotary Global Grant Scholarship in the Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution focus area, I am part of an immensely diverse community of international scholars and professionals at the LSE who approach issues from different perspectives. It is this community of changemakers, in addition to my individual course of study, that creates the intellectual space to allow me to critically analyze and propose measurable and sustainable solutions to issues present both in the United States and abroad.

I am and/or have taken classes on Nationalist Conflict, Political Violence, and Terrorism, Gender and Political Violence, Conflict and Peacebuilding, and a course on the theories and approaches to the study of International Relations. These courses have added to my focus on learning the frameworks, tools, strategies, and causes and effects of conflicts and peace as well as broadened my knowledge of the ways in which



Sydney Bergman

to critically approach issues present in society today.

I am interested in northern and east African humanitarian/peace and conflict issues. Several of my classes have analyzed the role of identify and hierarchy in conflict (such as the Rwandan Civil War) and civil war conflict (such as the ongoing South Sudanese Civil War), and the resulting displacement and gender and political violence that takes place. While my courses unfortunately do not have an explicit geographical and political focus of African countries, the frameworks, case studies, and theoretical approaches of my courses do allow me to apply these tools to critically analyze events in Northern and East African countries.

The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship has opened a door to education and knowledge that I will take with me well into the future. The financial support of The Rotary Foundation and Rotary District 6000 as part of this scholarship has allowed me to be intellectually curious, immerse myself in rigorous academic debate, and to live abroad and to experi-

'The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship has opened a door to education and knowledge that I will take with me well into the future. The financial support of The Rotary Foundation and Rotary District 6000 as part of this scholarship has allowed me to be intellectually curious, immerse myself in rigorous academic debate, and to live abroad and to experience the diversity of London.'

Sydney Bergman

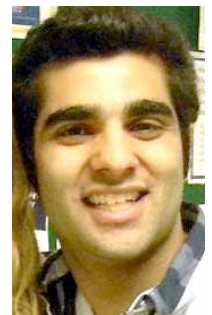
ence the diversity of London.

The opportunities this scholarship affords for both intellectual and character growth is an invaluable component of The Rotary Foundation's mission.

Thank you to Rotary District 6000, to Rotary E-Club of London Centenary District 1130 (my host club in London), and to all Rotarians around the world for the work you do to improve your communities every day.

Sydney can be contacted at sydneybergman2014@gmail.com

KASRA ZAREI. *Our other Rotary Scholar is Kasra Zarei. He is a graduate of Iowa City West High School and the University of Iowa who is studying Immigrant and Refugee Health at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. His degrees at Iowa were bachelor of arts in psychology, bachelor of science in mathematics, biochemistry and biomedical engineering. He also has master of science and Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering. He speaks Farsi, French, Swedish and Arabic in addition to English.*



Kasra Sarei

He is in the medical degree program at Iowa and hopes to work in global health.

ROTARY FOUNDATION

Dinners celebrate successes, recognize donors

By PDG Chris Knapp/Iowa City AM

District 6000 Rotary Foundation Chair

Your Rotary District 6000 Foundation started a new tradition on Nov. 1 and 2. The committee, with the support of District Governor Erna, hosted dinners in Davenport and West Des Moines. At the Holiday Inn & Suites, Davenport, 57 Rotarians and guests enjoyed fellowship, good food and a greater appreciation of what our Foundation does. At the Marriott West Des Moines, 58 Rotarians and guests had a similar experience.

Our guest speaker was Past Rotary International Director and Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Mary Beth Growney Selene from Madison, Wis. She told of the impact of The Rotary Foundation Global Grants. Her first remarks introduced the audience to Rotary International's new vision statement:

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

Mary Beth then shared several stories demonstrating the power of our Foundation and the impact we are having changing lives around the globe. Polio awareness and immunizations are improving the lives of children everywhere. We are still working to eradicate the virus in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mary Beth cited the Water and Sanitation Grants changing lives in Tanzania and other African nations. She also talked about the sanitation systems being installed in Central America and are reducing illnesses born from open defecation systems in many rural communities.

We celebrated milestones of giving by several Rotarians across our district. Special recognition was given for:

New Paul Harris Society members:

Davenport: Roger Christian, Peggy Doerge (Iowa City AM);

West Des Moines: Dennis Drager (Marshalltown); Greg Probst (Iowa City AM); Gretchen Nollman (West Liberty).

New Major Donors:

Davenport, Level 1 (\$10,000 given): PDG Mike and Jo Anne Ruby (Muscatine); Doug Peterson (Iowa Quad Cities).

West Des Moines, Level 2 (\$25,000 given): PDG Chris and Vernetta Knapp (Iowa City AM); and **Level 4 (\$100,000 given):** Steve and Lesley Dakin (Boone).

PDG John Ockenfels made a special presentation on his forthcoming "Fight to End Polio Flight Around the World." He shared the challenges of small plane single engine global flight. The challenges include arranging refueling, engine maintenance, flying over the Atlantic Ocean and single day

long distance legs of the trip. It was a great preview of this exciting fundraising adventure.

This coming November we will again meet in both Davenport and West Des Moines. There is an open invitation for every Rotarian to sign up and be a part of The Rotary Foundation.



Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Mary Beth Growney-Selene .

Photo by Bill Tubbs



At West Des Moines, TRF Fundraising co-chair PDG Jacques Andrew (r) recognized donors DGE Steve and Leslie Dakin and PDG Chris and Vernetta Knapp.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



At Davenport (l-r): Bill Koellner (TRF Fundraising co-chair), Verne Folkman (Paul Harris Society chair), DG Erna Morain, new Paul Harris Society members Roger Christian and Peggy Doerge, past TRF trustee Mary Beth Growney Selene, District Foundation Chair PDG Chris Knapp. Photo not available of Major Donors recognized at Davenport.

Photo by Vernetta Knapp



At West Des Moines, TRF Fundraising co-chair PDG Jacques Andrew (r) recognized new Paul Harris Society members Dennis Drager, Gretchen Nollman and Greg Probst.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

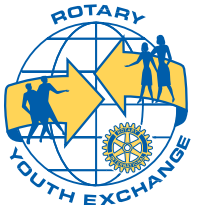
The challenges and rewards of Youth Exchange

By Greg Probst/Iowa City AM
District 6000 Youth Exchange Chair

As I sit down to write this article, I cannot help but reflect on the difficult year that our district and many others have experienced with Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE). For a variety of reasons, we are encountering an uptick in early returns across the South-Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE) network of 37 districts and 18 states, of which D6000 is a member. There are some common threads to some of the issues, but there are no real clear reasons why the uptick seems so accentuated this year, and whether this year is an anomaly or an indication of the challenges that lie ahead.



Greg Probst



Our numbers for outbound students are also down for next year, indicating a trend where students are forgoing an exchange for other ventures in their lives. Some of reasons are similar to ones Rotary as a whole and other organizations are facing: competition for time and resources, among many other activities available for one to participate in. My larger concern, while rooted in observation and speculation and not scientific fact, is the impact social media has had in replacing traditional social engagement and cultural curiosity with a more comfortable online world where you literally do not have to leave your seat to be socially “engaged.”

Some districts are compensating for the problems with short-term exchanges; however, this is a Band-Aid and really defeats the purpose of creating an opportunity to truly become immersed in a culture and language that will open more doors than any student can ever imagine. More than any adult can imagine, a short-term exchange in our view is more aligned with the notion of a vacation versus a nearly yearlong dedicated and courageous effort in building relationships and goodwill.

While anyone could look at this year’s situation and conclude it looks rather bleak, I do not share that view because we are Rotarians. If we closed up shop decades ago with the first flare up of polio, we would not be as far along as we are today in eliminating a horrific disease. If any one of the Rotarian business leaders I have had the privilege to know over the years had a bad sales cycle or unexpected turn of events, most I know would not shrug in despair and close up shop. No, we are Rotarians. We adapt. We get up when we fall down, we keep moving ahead when others may not.

Consider hosting a student next year

What I am asking all of you to do is to consider hosting an inbound exchange student next year. While you may not have found a student in your local community who wishes to participate in an exchange, it does not keep a club from hosting a student from another country. If you had a bad experience, please try again. Please do not toss out all of RYE based upon one poor experience or student. While early returns can occur, they still remain a small percentage of the overall program and we have hosted awesome exchange students who have gone on to great things. An RYE student from Italy was instrumental in a program that provides elec-

'I am asking all of you to consider hosting an inbound exchange student next year. While you may not have found a student in your local community who wishes to participate in an exchange, it does not keep a club from hosting a student from another country.'

tricity in an African village that had absolutely no electricity and changed the lives of that community forever. I can tell you that her RYE experience played a significant role in her mission and passion in life. There are many stories like hers. Perhaps if we open our clubs’ doors wider to more students from other parts of the world, we will shed more light among many of our own district’s high school students in the future.

While our committee is small and we are always looking for help, we are all in this together and this is a district-wide obligation to our youth. The youth of our communities, whether supported through our RYLA, World Affairs and RYE programs or through any other myriad of youth programs including local club outreach, are integral to the future of Rotary.

If your club has never hosted before, just start. It’s like raising kids – not a single one of us was handed a manual on child rearing and likewise there is not one on hosting. We have a great committee in place, and we are growing our training and support. But in the end, it begins with a club to commit, follow through and realize like anything else in the world there will be the occasional scratched knees and head bumps along the way. It’s also important to note that your host families do NOT have to be Rotarian families – but what a great recruiting opportunity.

Yes, it’s hard. Yes, there will be difficult moments – they are teenagers. And yes, it will be challenging at times; but in the end we all know deep down that the benefits and reward of knowing you are changing lives outweigh the occasional setbacks. But this is nothing new to us because we are all Rotarians and while the characters are different, the story is the same. Information: Greg Probst, (319) 331-5987; greg@icdesigns.com.

Youth Exchange parade of flags will be March 28 at District Assembly



The always inspirational Rotary Youth Exchange parade of flags with Inbound and Outbound students will take place this year at the District Training Assembly, Saturday, March 28, at the DMACC Conference Center in Newton. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration at the District website, www.rotary6000.org, is appreciated. Rotarians from all clubs are invited.



Rotarian volunteers Katalina Kutch and Wayne Steen of West Liberty.



Team leaders Greg Probst of Iowa City and Mariela Filerio of West Liberty.



Head counselors Ben Stutting of North Scott and Ally O'Meara of Indianola.

WE NEED HELP

Find out what 'RYLA Magic' is all about!

By Wayne Steen/West Liberty

Iowa RYLA 2020 Conference Chair

We need Rotarian volunteers for Iowa RYLA 2020. Due to some past Rotarian volunteers' retirements and some moving out of state we need you to volunteer for Iowa RYLA 2020. It will be one of the best weeks of your life! You will work with 240 of the most outstanding high school students throughout the state of Iowa.

Rotarian volunteers will take part in Pre-Iowa RYLA training that will take place on Saturday, June 20 at Grinnell College. Rotarian volunteers will then take part at Iowa RYLA from Saturday, July 18, through Friday, July 24 at Grinnell College. We will let you know your exact arrival times for the week of Iowa RYLA 2020.

Rotarian volunteer applications are currently available at iowaryla.org. This is an outstanding opportunity for you to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Make sure you click the link to the Rotarian volunteer application.

As a Rotarian you will work with a Team Leader and help the Team Leader lead a team of 12 high school students. Your week will be busy and you will leave with a lifetime of great memories and a strong sense of accomplishment. You will help 12 high school students become leaders in their high school days and beyond.

As a Rotarian volunteer you will receive free room and meals for the week of RYLA. You will also get to enjoy some outstanding speakers who will come to RYLA, and be involved in fun and exciting team building exercises. It will be a week in which you will help be a positive catalyst for 12 youths and bring a renewed optimism in how great our youth are in Iowa. We talk of "RYLA magic" and you will find out that RYLA magic is real!

RYLArians (Conferees)

Applications for the conferees to attend Iowa RYLA are also available at iowaryla.org. Make sure the conferee clicks on the appropriate link to the conferees' applications on the Iowa RYLA website. The Conferees (RYLArians) will arrive Sunday, July 19 and depart Friday at noon on July, 24. Each conferee will be contacted by their team leader approximately

two weeks before RYLA for all of the specific details of what the conferees need to bring to RYLA.

Some reasons for high school students to want to attend RYLA:

Foster and develop leadership skills;

Establish a greater appreciation of "Service Above Self" and other values of Rotary;

Engage in activities to increase cultural competency;

Create close connections with other students from across Iowa.

Head counselors

This year RYLA will be headed by two outstanding Head Counselors, Ben Stutting and Ally O'Meara, both are students at the University of Iowa. They will lead this year's RYLA.

This year's Iowa RYLA Conference Chair is Wayne Steen of the Rotary Club of West Liberty (District 6000) and the Iowa RYLA chair elect is David Kutter of Cedar Rapids (District 5970).

Ally O'Meara is a second-year student at the University of Iowa double majoring in marketing and finance. She is a graduate of Indianola High School. When Ally is not studying, she stays active in AKPsi, tutoring at the writing center, working as a caterer and involved at the Newman Center. Ally has loved being a team leader at RYLA 2018 and 2019.

Ben Stutting is a second-year student at the University of Iowa double majoring in History along with Ethics and Public Policy. He is a member of Dance Marathon at Iowa and a CAMBUS driver. Ben is a graduate of North Scott High School and is looking forward to making Iowa RYLA 2020 the best Iowa RYLA ever.

Their goals for Iowa RYLA 2020 are:

Having an emphasis on the creation and development of leadership skills.

Increasing our focus on the principles and values of Rotary as a whole.

Providing conferees with tangibles and resources for post-conference success.

Please come and be a part of Iowa RYLA 2020 and be a part of RYLA magic!



Seven Rotarians from District 6000 enjoyed friendship with Xicotepec Rotarians and friends Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Rotarians enjoy Xico hospitality in Fall planning trip

By PDG Tom Narak

Xicotepec Project Co-Chair

A group of seven members of the Iowa Xicotepec team visited Xicotepec and Mexico City Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2019. The team members included: Jim Peterson, Beth Peterson, Bob Main, Tom Mott, Jeffrey Dawson, Chris Catney and Tom Narak.

The purpose of the fall trip was to begin planning with the Rotary Club of Xicotepec members for the spring 2020 Xicotepec Project. Some of the members visited sites to check on current water purification systems and to investigate additional prospective sites.

Along with Xicotepec Rotarians, several of the Iowa team members visited 14 schools for potential projects. A few members were interviewed by the local TV station, TV 3. A meeting was held at the local technical college for potential collaborative projects. A few members met with the Xicotepec Rotaract Club to discuss collaborative projects.

The team also attended a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Xicotepec near the end of the week to discuss the visit and enjoy some social time together. The Xicotepec community and Rotary club members and families extended wonderful hospitality during the week of our team's visit.

Team ready for 18th annual spring trip to Xicotepec

By PDG Tom Narak

Xicotepec Project Co-Chair

The spring 2020 Xicotepec Project trip will be from March 14-22. A group of 36 Rotarians, Interactors, University of Iowa service learning students, physicians, professors, instructors and others will spend a week in Xicotepec working side by side with our good friends in the Rotary Club of Xicotepec.

In October 2019 a small group from our team visited Xicotepec and started some initial planning with the members of the Rotary Club of Xicotepec for the spring 2020 project trip. Several projects are being planned for our group to accomplish during the week.

Some of the initial plans include:

Water purification systems in schools;
Community public health planning discussions;
Improvements in elementary and pre-schools;
Pharmacy planning and deworming;
Painting and refreshing some school playgrounds;
Dental screening, varnishing, and oral hygiene;

2020 Xicotepec Project Team:

Tartil Ali	Richard Hopper	Grace Parrott
Monia Ali	Taylor Hopper	Jim Peterson
Jillian Belieu	Hiba Ibrahim	Stephanie Rivera
Chris Catney	Alana Just	Noah Segal
Raeni Chavez	Courtney Klopfenstein	Daniel Soh
Giselle Coreas	Amy Lesch	Emily Starman
Jeffrey Dawson	Elizabeth Loeb	Melanie Stoss
Amani Dewan	Bob Main	Melanie Tran-Duong
Melissa Draughn	Jovana Majstorovic	Noah Weaver
Williams	Jose Molina	Taya Westfield
Amerika Dunbar	Tom Mott	Rachel Whitesitt
Luke Farley	Tom Narak	Abigail Wieland.

Providing shoes, school uniforms and school supplies for children; and some other project plans that will be decided upon before we arrive.



Muscatine Rotary past presidents are recognized at the club's 100th anniversary, Feb. 1, (-r): Scott Natvig, John Axel, Erika Cox (chair of the gala), Cynthia Maeglin (first female president), Marv Krieger, Keith Porter (emcee), Mary Odell, Jessica Wittman (president), Tony Joseph, Mary Wildermuth, DG Erna Morain, PDG Mike Ruby, Shane Orr. Photo by Bill Tubbs

Muscatine Rotary celebrates a century of service

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Editor, District 6000 News

The Rotary Club of Muscatine celebrated 100 years of service with a gala attended by 142 members and guests on Feb. 1 – the actual charter date 100 years ago – at the newly refurbished Merrill Hotel in downtown Muscatine. The agenda included introduction of guests and board of directors, welcome by club president Jessica Wittman, a message about Women in Rotary by Joni Axel, and a "Rotary Moment" from District Governor Erna Morain. PDG Mike Ruby introduced ten past, present and future district governors in attendance. West Liberty Rotary president Gretchen Nollman spoke of the special relationship of West Liberty and Muscatine Rotary. Past president Erica Cox and Service to Humanity chair John Kuhl spoke about the club's service, including \$826,000 all-time for The Rotary Foundation, including \$200,000 for PolioPlus. The evening wrapped with an inspirational video.



Marv Krieger, 2020 and 1957. Is 70 years of membership a record in our district?

Muskie mural teaches Four-Way Test to preschoolers

By Mary Wildermuth/Muscatine

Project Leader

Do you suppose that Fred Block, the first president of the Muscatine Rotary Club, would be surprised to see the club partner with the Muscatine Community School District's Early Learning Center in 2020, 100 years after he started the club? Yes, to honor and celebrate the Muscatine Club's 100th birthday, they did just that!!

It's a partnership that began with a colorful mural, suited to 3- and 4-year-old tastes! Muscatine artist Chris Anderson took the club's idea of using the Four-Way Test to remind students heading out to play, of appropriate playground behaviors, as well as being supportive of the school district's antibullying efforts.

Anderson met with Jessi Freers, the principal of the Muskie Early Learning Center, to clarify ideas and garner support for the 100th Anniversary Project. Working together, the mural idea began to evolve, using the colors already adorning the walls of the newly opened center. Daily suggestions would be given by the Center staff to Chris that would make the mural come alive for them. Adding a butterfly here – and making that red ball have a tiger face – were only a couple of the suggestions and additions.

The colorful playground mural is seen by 3- and 4-year-old children as they get ready to play. The Four-Way Test is scattered among the colorful clouds and has been translated into 3-year-old language. Looking up in the clouds you can see:

Are you telling the TRUTH?
Are you being fair?
Are you being a good friend?
Are you helping everyone?

Anderson daily enjoyed the thank yous and loving comments made by the children as they watched the mural evolve.



The colorful mural teaches Rotary's Four-Way Test to preschoolers at Muskie Early Learning Center.

Practicing the Four-Way Test as they exited to the playground, the teacher asked each child, "Are you telling the truth? Are you being fair?" – and when she finished with, "Are you being a good friend?" every single child smiled and said Yes! Oh to be 3! Pretty sure everyone would claim they are helping everyone!!

The mural took a month to complete. Anderson plans to honor the opening of the Muskie Early Learning Center with a mural on the opposite wall designed and created by the children and staff to honor their beginning in 2020!

So, Fred, it's come full circle. 100 years ago on Feb. 1, 1920, you

started the Muscatine Rotary Club which in 2020 celebrated its 100th Anniversary by painting a children's mural at the Muscatine Early Learning Center which is just beginning in school year 2019-2020! For details about the mural project, contact Rotarian and project leader Mary Wildermuth, or Jerry Riibe, Muscatine Schools Superintendent and Rotarian. Wildermuth can be contacted at mlwilder@machlink.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Seven reasons young people should join Rotary

By Ryan Bell/Iowa City

District 6000 Public Image Co-Chair

Ever heard of Rotary? No? That's what I expected! If you have, it was probably from your grandpa and you tuned out after three minutes of hearing about his club's weekly lunch spread. And hey, maybe you were interested until he got so passionate about the salad bar. I get it.

Salad bar aside, Rotary is kind of a big deal. With over 1.2 million members worldwide, it's the biggest service organization on the planet ... well, that's just what Rotary wants to preserve. Through peace. Through service. Through understanding.



Ryan Bell

And—get this—NOT through religious or national affiliation. We don't care what you believe or who you voted for. The way Rotary sees it, the most important thing is that we come together to accomplish some much-needed tasks for a lil' group we like to call humanity.

Rotary efforts have already helped eradicate 99.9 percent of global cases of polio. (Never heard of polio? Thank a Rotarian for your ability to NOT know about this awful disease.) Now, armed with a massive investment and partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary is poised to take on even more ambitious global projects, including water and sanitation access, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy to name a few areas of focus.

In addition to these large-scale, international projects, Rotary clubs are always working to improve their own communities, too.

So, now that you've actually heard of Rotary, you're probably thinking, "Wait, should I be one of these Rotarians?"

I would never pressure you to do something that will improve your life in every conceivable way, but how about I just tell you the benefits I've personally seen from being involved in Rotary for seven years? And then you can decide on your own that you should absolutely, definitely join.

1. You'll make local connections. Rotary can introduce you to other like-minded and wonderfully diverse people from your community. Ultimately, to most of us, this is what it's all about: local friends, local colleagues, clients and contacts. Heck, it's actually why Rotary was started by a group of young professionals in Chicago back in 1905. When it comes to networking and advancing your business, Rotary membership isn't like the fickle, transactional networking and "referral" groups you've likely been encouraged to join. It's authentic and real. With Rotary, if you're willing to put in the effort and give back to your club, I guarantee you will meet people who can open doors for you personally and professionally.

2. You'll make a global impact. Two words: Bill. Gates. He and Melinda Gates see the efficiency and effectiveness of the Rotary Foundation. So much so that they partnered with Rotary to commit \$450 million to eradicating polio from this sweet planet we've got here. Once we crush polio once and for all, we're moving on to ensuring everyone on earth has access to clean water. Rotary doesn't mess around.

3. You'll see your work pay off locally. Sure, the whole "saving the world" thing is cool, but if you're wanting to make a

'I would never pressure you to do something that will improve your life in every conceivable way, but how about I just tell you the benefits I've personally seen from being involved in Rotary for seven years? And then you can decide on your own that you should absolutely, definitely join.'

difference a little closer to home, don't worry, Rotary does that, too! We tackle every local project we can. We are a funding source (through a grant program), a volunteer source (because we're awesome like that) and we even come up with our own initiatives, like in 2018 when we planted over 1.2 million trees (controversial opinion alert!!! Fresh air is awesome!).

4. You can inspire the next generation. We have amazing youth programs to get high schoolers involved in service and leadership, and being involved in Rotary is life-changing for these kids! Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and World Affairs are programs that fuel and shape the potential for greatness that's already within them. The kids coming out of these programs are fired up about making the world a more peaceful, loving place — and have the contacts, plans and direction to make it happen.

5. ... and spend time with the Greatest Generation. Sure, Rotary has a bit of a reputation for skewing older, and hey, there's some truth there. But there is also a ton of great experience and perspective to be gained from the Greatest and Boomer generations. Trust me ... Rotary has all of the stories and great folks willing to tell them.

6. You'll get inspired. No matter what your motive is in considering Rotary, the meetings you attend will likely include a guest speaker or performance. I've seen programs including amazing singers, legitimately awesome circus clowns, environmentalists, coaches — you name it. There's no telling what you might see at a Rotary meeting, but you will get a quality presentation about something that matters to a bunch of people in your town. Isn't that enough?

7. You'll put your energy where it's really needed. Here's (perhaps) the best part of getting involved in Rotary: these clubs freakin' need you like crazy! We need leaders from every community in the world to join Rotary and amplify our impact. Also, insider tip: if you're under 40, some of the club's traditions might make you feel like you're experiencing a throwback to another time — in a good way. There could be singing. There could be a public display of giving "Happy Bucks." There could be a moment of silence for one our own that's left this sweet world. But no matter what, it will be a real, genuine human experience. And you'll be better for having been there. I promise.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Ryan Bell has been a Rotary member for seven years, and he will tell you about the salad bar if you really want to know. He is the owner of Locals Love Us Iowa City. His great passions include community-building, Pearl Jam and Iowa whiskey.*

ROTARY FOUNDATION



Major Donor Level 2

PDG Gary Pacha (second from right) was recognized at the Rotary Club of Iowa City meeting on Nov. 21 by District Fundraising co-chair Bill Koellner, left, and PDG Chris Knapp, District Rotary Foundation Chair, second from left. Gary and Nancy Pacha, both Paul Harris Society members, were thanked for their commitment to The Rotary Foundation and their achievement of Major Donor level 2. Nancy was unable to attend the meeting. Club president Jim Conard at right.

Provided by Jacque Andrew



Ames Morning Foundation observance (l-r): Jim Dickson, club foundation chair; Al Hermanson, MD2, PHS; Carolyn Jons, club president, PHF+3; PDG Jacque Andrew, annual fund chair; and Bob and Janice Anderson, MD1.

Provided by Jacque Andrew

Ames Morning recognizes Foundation contributors

By PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

District Rotary Foundation Annual Fund Chair

Several members of the Ames Morning Rotary Club were recognized during Foundation month on Nov. 5 for support of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) by PDG Jacque Andrew, D6000 Annual Fund chair at the request of club president, Carolyn Jons.

Funds from members of the Paul Harris Society, now 94 in the district, comprise more than 37 percent of the total TRF Annual Fund giving in D6000. Paul Harris Society (PHS) member recognitions included new members, Bob and Janice Anderson; one continuing PHS member, Al Hermanson; and one PHS-eligible, Carolyn Jons.

Contributions to the Annual Fund of TRF by D6000 members are significant and in the Ames Morning club 98 percent of the 59 members give to TRF and 85.7 percent are sustaining members donating at least \$100 per year.

Two major donor couples were recognized: Bob and Janice Anderson, Major Donor Level One; and Al and Karen Hermanson, Major Donor Level Two.

The Ames Morning club became a 100 percent Paul Harris Fellow club in April, 2017 and celebrated its 25th club anniversary in 2014. Ames Morning president, Carolyn Jons, was also presented with her PHF+3 at the Nov. 5, 2019 meeting.



District Governor Erna Morain and Steve attended the Rotary Club of Wellman's 80th birthday party Dec. 11, (l-r): Marianne Van Roekel, AG Jim Johnson, Steve and DG Erna Morain, Deb Dunkhase. President Allen Leichthy is a right.

Provided by Jim Johnson, Kalona News

WELLMAN

80 years of Rotary service

The Rotary Club of Wellman celebrated its 80th anniversary on Dec. 11 with a dinner at the Goodwin Dining Center. Club President Allen Leichthy said the club was founded Dec. 12, 1939, and has been meeting ever since.

Retired Wellman attorney Albion Young has been a Rotarian in the club for 66 years. He and his wife were warmly greeted when they arrived at the dinner.

District Gov. Erna Morain attended the event which featured a presentation by Deb Dunkhase about Iowa Miles Of Smiles Team that travels annually to Guatemala to provide surgical services to children born with cleft lips and palates.

Wellman Rotarians have been making blankets, which MOST takes with them when they travel to Guatemala. The blankets are given to the children after their surgery.



ROTARIANS! Please check your club's progress toward its Rotary Foundation Giving Goal in the table at right. Note, too, that 10 clubs have not submitted goals. If your club is one which has not, please urge club leaders to do this **NOW!**

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments

District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2019 - Feb. 11, 2020 (Interim Report)

(Members: July 1, 2015-16-17-18-19)	(1) 19-20 Goal	(2) % of Goal	(3) Per capita	(4) Thru 2-11-20	(5) PolioPlus	(6) Other (*)	(7) TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28)	\$ 0	0	\$ 70.71	\$ 1,980	\$ 150	\$ 0	\$ 2,130
Albia (22-28-28-24-24)	750	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ames (224-226-217-206-186)	25,000	64	85.90	15,977	10,328	3,360	26,305
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52)	6,000	94	108.37	5,635	125	0	5,760
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83)	13,500	74	119.70	9,935	2,635	0	12,570
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62)	1,975	106	33.65	2,086	0	0	2,086
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93)	9,000	101	97.31	9,050	0	0	9,050
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12)	1,000	0	0	0	280	0	280
Boone (42-34-41-51-50)	4,200	414	347.98	17,399	5,480	0	22,879
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76)	0	0	18.68	1,420	0	0	1,420
Carroll (46-44-43-44-42)	0	0	25.00	1,050	100	0	1,150
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45)	5,000	63	70.00	3,150	0	0	3,150
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39)	4,000	56	57.82	2,255	25	0	2,280
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91)	10,000	73	80.71	7,345	1,188	200	8,733
Coon Rapids (27-31-34-30-29)	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coralville-N. Corridor (20-21-22-24-23)	2,000	45	39.13	900	0	0	900
Corning (34-33-32-32-31)	1,252	178	71.74	2,224	1,000	0	3,224
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16)	1,200	25	18.75	300	0	0	300
Creston (23-19-17-18-21)	200	38	3.57	75	60	0	135
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101)	30,000	24	71.78	7,250	1,275	0	8,525
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30)	6,000	109	218.63	6,559	1,496	0	8,055
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240)	21,000	83	72.44	17,386	2,500	0	19,886
Des Moines AM (170-170-179-189-194)	0	0	30.03	5,825	761	0	6,586
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27)	2,500	37	34.67	936	704	0	1,640
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47)	4,000	59	49.79	2,340	383	0	2,723
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48)	4,000	63	52.08	2,500	398	0	2,898
Greater Des Moines (12-12-11-13-26)	0	0	15.38	400	0	0	400
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36)	4,750	101	132.64	4,775	0	0	4,775
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39)	5,500	29	41.03	1,600	550	0	2,150
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293)	50,000	37	63.17	18,510	3,150	0	21,660
Iowa City AM (66-69-74-71-74)	13,000	175	307.64	22,765	19,596	0	42,361
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22)	4,000	77	140.68	3,095	170	0	3,265
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38)	3,500	61	56.32	2,140	668	10,000	12,808
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59)	5,500	67	62.29	3,675	91	0	3,766
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49)	0	0	131.94	6,475	975	0	7,440
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38)	2,500	48	31.58	1,200	2,000	0	3,200
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45)	3,500	44	34.33	1,545	501	0	2,046
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26)	0	0	23.08	600	0	0	600
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45)	3,400	49	37.22	1,675	2,875	0	4,550
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25)	1,200	69	33.00	825	0	0	825
Manning (19-25-21-23-22)	2,500	0	0	0	38	0	38
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10)	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127)	10,000	35	27.77	3,527	2,241	0	5,768
Mount Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56)	5,000	31	27.51	1,541	2,930	0	4,471
Mount Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16)	0	0	25	400	330	0	730
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67)	13,000	63	121.68	8,152	300	0	8,452
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54)	6,000	13	18.52	1,000	1,025	0	2,025
Newton (60-55-49-40-36)	3,500	34	33.33	1,200	1,690	1,050	2,890
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88)	12,000	96	130.97	11,525	2,500	45,200	59,225
N'West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36)	8,000	63	140.97	5,075	125	0	5,200
Norwalk (0-0-20-24-18)	500	400	111.11	2,000	0	0	2,000
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22)	700	36	11.36	250	0	0	250
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59)	4,500	3	2.03	120	0	0	120
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82)	8,000	6	6.10	500	100	0	600
Pella (29-30-29-29-26)	2,800	68	72.80	1,892	2,096	0	3,988
Perry (26-26-26-23-23)	400	36	6.30	145	0	0	145
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28)	400	5	2.50	70	104	0	174
Washington (49-48-43-42-43)	0	215	50	2,150	0	0	2,150
Waukee (58-64-69-64-68)	8,500	104	130.29	8,860	6,908	100	15,868
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26)	2,575	0	0	0	335	0	335
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50)	5,500	51	56.00	2,800	2,023	2,605	7,428
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38)	11,000	94	272.37	10,350	1,845	0	12,195
West Polk County (31-18-19-20-24)	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winterset (25-30-33-29-28)	2,500	127	113.75	3,185	4,069	0	7,254
District Contributions				100	200		300
Total (3,854-3,853-3,793-3,693-3,580)	\$ 362,602	71.07	\$ 71.98	\$ 257,690	\$ 88,322		\$ 404,119

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

ROTARY PROJECTS

Join the Network Against Human Trafficking

By George Belitsos/Ames

The Network Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) is a non-profit organization, totally dependent on donations. The NAHT receives no state or federal funding. In 2019, the Network's largest single donation came from the Rotary Clubs of **Iowa City** and **West Liberty** (p. 29). They not only carried out trafficking awareness 2019 projects, but also raised money to support the printing of Network anti-trafficking educational materials and Rescue Stickers. Nearly 10,000 Rescue Stickers have been distributed and posted in public restrooms by volunteers in Iowa.

At Gov. Reynolds' Janaury proclamation signing, DGN Alka Khanolkar of Keokuk was asked by Ames Rotarian and emcee, George Belitsos, to stand for recognition. The event took place at the Rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol Building.

At the event, Alka shared her goal to call on all 65 District 6000 Rotary clubs to become educated on the growing human trafficking problem. She also encourages clubs to take up anti-trafficking projects in their local Rotary club's community. The undeniable truth is that both sex and labor trafficking are found not only in Iowa cities, but also small towns and rural areas.

Rotarians are joining the fight

Rotarians are joining the fight against trafficking, not only here in Iowa, but across the USA and around the globe.

Local anti-trafficking prevention and survivor service organizations are encouraged to contact their local Rotary club with project ideas and requests for assistance. One great example of this is a request made by Dorothy's House in Des Moines.

The **Rotary Club of Des Moines** (p. 28) responded by awarding its annual community service grant for \$40,000 to Dorothy's House, a safe place for teen and youth girls whose lives have been severely damaged by sex trafficking and exploitation. "We are so pleased to make an impact on our community in this way, by supporting the excellent work of Kellie Markey and the team at Dorothy's House. Our support will help their expansion efforts to provide care and a safe place for more young women and girls who have lived through sex trafficking," said Rotary Club of Des Moines Grant Committee Chair DeAnn Thompson.

Another great example is the 2020 education and awareness project the **Rotary Club of West Liberty** recently completed. They arranged for a teacher training program for 150 local school district faculty and staff. The "Any Kid Anywhere" Iowa teen sex trafficking documentary was shown with training provided by Braking Traffik counselors. The presentation was a great success with positive feedback from the WLCSD faculty, as stated by Diego F Giraldo, Superintendent, "It is essential to start with awareness and learning how to support our children, families, and community."

Rotary can open doors for local anti-trafficking non-profit providers and this partnership initiated in West Liberty, Iowa should inspire other local Iowa Rotary Clubs to partner with non-profit anti-trafficking groups to partner with their local Rotary Club.

For more information or project ideas, contact Iowa's representative to the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, George Belitsos at gbelitsos55@gmail.com or go to the RAGAS website <https://ragas.online/>. If you would be interested in a twice monthly update about trafficking events, training, resources, arrests and convictions, please click here to subscribe to the NAHT blog produced by George Belitsos.



DGN Alka Khanolkar of Keokuk, with Ames Rotarian George Belitsos, represented Rotary District 6000 at Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' proclamation signing declaring January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month.



Rotary had a presence in the rotunda of the Iowa Capitol Building for the signing of the proclamation against human trafficking. Clubs are encouraged to choose projects in support of this initiative.

Provided by Karin Sevde

SHARE your copy of District 6000 News with others to show others what Rotary is about!

Ride to End Polio raises \$14,542 in District 6000

By Vernetta Knapp/Iowa City AM

The Rotary Club of Iowa City AM, City High Interactors and West High Interactors were among the clubs and groups in District 6000 which raised \$14,542 in the Ride to End Polio in November 2019.

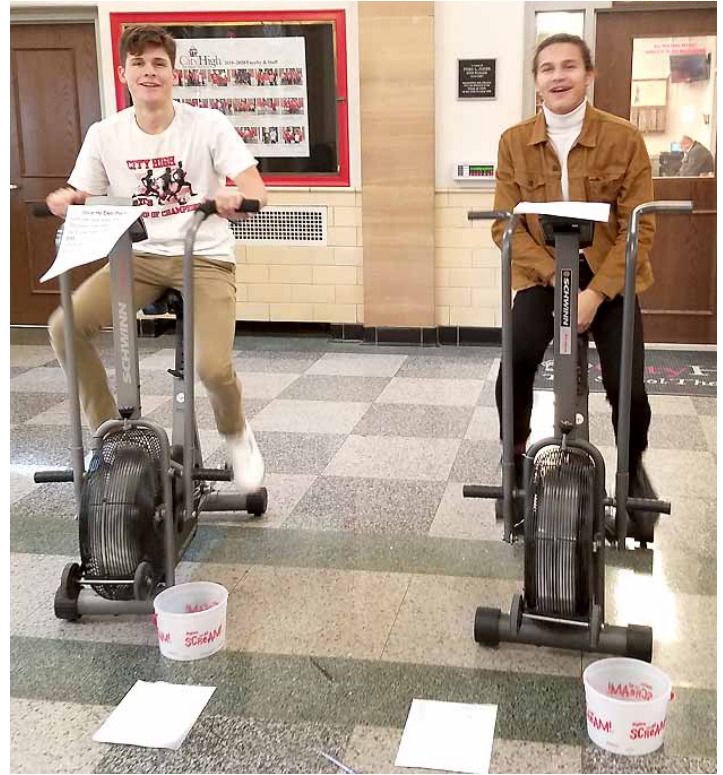
The Rotary club had 11 people ride. There were approximately 10 from each Interact club who participated. The club raised \$2,391, \$100 from City High and \$140 from West High.

District 6000 PolioPlus chair PDG Susan Herrick of Boone released these club totals from the Ride to End Polio:

RC Ankeny: \$2,910	RC Iowa City AM: \$2,391
RC Bloomfield: \$250	RC Knoxville: \$2,850
RC Boone: \$360	RC North Scott: \$2,500
RC Decatur County: \$971	RC Waukee: \$1,000
RC Fairfield: \$835	TOTAL: \$14,542



Iowa City AM Rotarians Jenny Seylar and Dick Huber were all-stars in the Ride to End Polio.



Interact Students from City High School in Iowa City rode stationary bicycles to raise funds for PolioPlus in November's Ride to End Polio.

Quilt finds a home and PolioPlus and The Rotary Foundation get \$3,500

In 2017, Iowa City AM Rotarian Deb Ockenfels created a king-size (90 x 106 inches) quilt as a fund raiser for DG Chris Knapp's District Conference. This quilt was auctioned to raise money for Rotary's PolioPlus program and for the District 6000 polio statue, which was dedicated at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines last July.

Blank was chosen in recognition of its mission of treating children with polio since the mid 1940s. The quilt was to hang in an agreed upon location inside the hospital as a reminder of Rotary's ongoing efforts to eliminate Polio from the earth.

Due to the large size of the quilt and associated problems and costs to meet the fire codes for cloth fibers, it became very difficult to find a suitable location to display the quilt.

It was decided that the District would take back the original quilt and Deb would make a new "Wall Hanging" sized one specifically to meet the safety codes. The new one is being made at this time and is focused on the polio virus and its eradication. This new quilt will also be donated to the hospital.

The original quilt recognizes the 100th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation, and the "End Polio Now" program. It was put up for auction at the November 2019 Rotary Foundation Dinners with the proceeds to go to The Rotary Foundation.

The winning bidder, at \$3,500, was PDG Bill and Linda Tubbs. The Tubbses, in turn, donated it to North Scott Rotary's Auction, where it was purchased on Nov. 22 by PDG Chris and Vernetta Knapp for \$900. Vernetta, especially, was thrilled. "Oh, I am so happy; I am so happy!" she cried. — Carolyn Scharff



Quilter Deb Ockenfels (with PDG John, at left) saw her magnificent quilt auctioned three times before it found a home with the Knapps. In between, PDG Bill Tubbs and Linda (at right) bought it at the Nov. 2 Rotary Foundation Dinner.



Norwalk boosts Freedom Rock

A \$5,000 Rotary Foundation Community Grant helped the Rotary Club of Norwalk complete a Veterans Memorial around the Warren County Freedom Rock. Located at Warrior Run Golf Course, the memorial features five rays of pavers emanating from the Rock and benches with the names and symbols of the U.S. Armed Forces. Also supporting the project were the Warren County Philanthropic Partnerships, the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the cities of Norwalk and Cumming, as well as individuals and other groups.

Photo from DG Erna Morain's D6000 News



Food insecurity proclamation

On Dec. 13, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation declaring December 2019 as "Hunger Free Holidays Month" in Iowa. District Governor Erna Morain (fourth from left) and her husband, Steve (at Erna's left) were among those in attendance. Des Moines Rotarian Michelle Book, at Gov. Reynolds' left, is CEO of the Food Bank of Iowa. Eliminating food insecurity is the primary emphasis of District Governor Morain.

Photo from DG Morain's D6000 News



East Polk Rotarians and spouses show their dance lesson moves at the club's winter party.

EAST POLK COUNTY

40 years of service and fun

By Marty Kline/East Polk

The Rotary Club of East Polk County is living proof that little can still be mighty! With fewer than 25 active members, the club's many projects range from local to international, and plans are under way for a 40th anniversary club celebration, as the club was chartered in May of 1980.



President Gregg Lynes kicks off 2020 with some New Year's fun.

East Polk Rotary's (EPR) signature project is the Iowa Industrial Technology Exposition hosted each year at Southeast Polk High School. May 8 will be the Expo's 32nd year for hundreds of Iowa students to exhibit projects including woodworking, robotics, metalworking, drafting, photography, electronics, hydraulics, computer animation, auto restoration and much more. EPR is the primary Expo sponsor, awards scholarships, and members help judge projects (judging assistance always welcome!).

This year's special project will provide bus stop benches on the route from Altoona to the VA hospital in Des Moines so veterans have a place to rest while waiting for transportation to and from appointments. EPR also actively supports the local Caring Hands food pantry and clothes hanger.

International projects have included wells in Mali, eyeglasses, school supplies and health clinics in Tibet, Mexico and South Africa and, of course, PolioPlus! Members raise funds with an annual February "Bowling Bash" with a silent auction and raffle, cleaning up after Iowa Cubs games, and highly competitive trivia nights!

There's no shortage of fun in East Polk County...members socialize with summer family picnics and winter parties that have included dancing, games and progressive suppers.

EPR meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. at Prairie Meadows in Altoona for an outstanding breakfast buffet and terrific programs. Join us any time – we plan to be around for another 40 years!

ANKENY

Club provides coats, snow pants for 2,086

By David Mercer/Ankeny

What started out as a Rotary Community Service Grant in the fall of 2014, has developed into an every year, full blown effort by the Rotary Club of Ankeny Rotary Club to supply coats to needy students in Ankeny.

Step back in time to 2014 when the club received the Community Service Grant for coats. At that time, the need in Ankeny was known, but not understood by Project Fresh Start, which is an Ankeny-based volunteer program that provides free school supplies, back packs and prom dresses as well as winter clothing for students. With the grant, the club was able to purchase coats that enabled over 150 students to enjoy recess and other outdoor activities with their classmates.

Given the explosive growth in the Ankeny population, the need has substantially increased. Ankeny Rotarians understood this and committed capital to the project even without the assistance of a Rotary Community Service Grant. In 2015, Project Fresh Start was able to supply more than 210 students with winter wear.

In the fall of 2016, Project Fresh Start had a new request for the Ankeny Rotary Club. That request was to help with supplying not only coats, but snow pants for school children, especially elementary students. Without skipping a beat, the club took up the challenge by funding an allotment of snow pants that were sold at a significant discount to Project Fresh Start by the local Wal-Mart. Ankeny Rotary has been funding both items ever since.

As Ankeny has grown, the club has kept pace. "Project Fresh Start's winter clothing giveaway was a tremendous success this year. On Saturday, Nov. 9 and Monday, Nov. 11, 495 students and Ankeny residents received items of winter clothing. This is a record for giving for this project. Since the inception of the project in 2014, 2,086 students and residents have received winter clothing," said Dave Kissinger, co-chair of Project Fresh Start.

Adds Anne Williams, co-chair of Project Fresh Start, "The Ankeny Rotary Club has been our greatest service club supporter since day No. 1. They have donated clothing and funds for the purchase of additional clothing. They have been a great leader and promoter for this event. Our success would not be possible without their annual support."

Ankeny Rotary takes great pride in its effort to help Project



Rotarian David Mercer and Anne Williams of Project Fresh Start sort through some of the 2,086 coats and snow pants provided to Ankeny students and residents since 2014.



Fresh Start and looks forward to future Community Service Grant opportunities and their own monetary support to the winter clothing give away.



Corning Rotary, 75 years strong!

The Rotary Club of Corning recently celebrated its 75th anniversary with a record number of Paul Harris Fellows. Although Corning Rotary is a small 32-member club, the number of Paul Harris Fellows presented during their annual celebration was 14, front (l-r): Guy Brace, Kathy Ennis, Lake Grundman, Nancy Mann and Kathy Peterson. Back: Stephen Gruba, Dennis Villhauer, Tim Ennis, Adam Grundman, Cliff Mann, Brian Peterson. Not pictured: Mike and Becky Grundman and Richard Hogan.

Provided by Jayne Templeton



Second-grade students in the United district are happy to have books, thank to the Rotary Club of Boone.

BOONE

Happy to have books

By Lesley Dakin/Boone

The Rotary Club of Boone is continuing to support literacy this year by expanding our second grade initiative from last year. From February through May 2019, Boone Rotary contributed one dollar for each second grader in Boone County to build a home library.

Research shows that students who read at home and have books in their home are more likely to find success. After applying for and receiving a Rotary Foundation Community Grant from District 6000, Boone Rotarians are able to provide one dollar for each second grader to order a book of their choice from their teacher's Scholastic order for each month of this school year.

Students look forward to their chance to select a book to take home, keep, or share. Every month each student receives a bookmark or a sticker for their book indicating Rotary's efforts to help make reading fun. Teachers are grateful for Rotarian support and Boone Rotary enjoys a connection with the Boone, Trinity, Sacred Heart, United, Ogden, and Madrid schools.



'Can Do' attitude for Iowa City AM

A major fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Iowa City AM is the CAN DO beverage can recycling project. On the cold morning of Jan. 4, these intrepid Rotarians practiced Service Above Self to sort the cans. This club's CAN DO project funds many community organizations and projects. Photo by Nancy Pacha



From left, CVECs Justin Bossard, Mark Waechter, Charles VandePol, Becky Teno, Kenny VandenBerg, Jacob Maggio, Albia Rotary president Tyler Boley (next to District 6000 Governor Erna Morain), Dan Tometich, Wes Aeschliman, Laura Teno, Assistant Gov. T. Waldmann-Williams, Adam Mick, Donna Flahive, Steve Morain, Jim Chapman, Darren Fisher and Kathy Wauson. Behind the group is the new restroom and one of two large solar lights.

ALBIA

Rotarians wrap up \$30,000 Reservoir restroom

By Tony Humeston/Albia

The Rotary Club of Albia celebrated the addition of a new \$30,000 restroom facility to the Reservoir Park. Rotary District 6000 Gov. Erna Morain was present, and employees of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative. CVEC, provided a \$3,750 grant through the Cobank Sharing Success Program to put into solar lights for the project.

Albia Rotary worked for almost three years raising funds, planning and implementing the building of the all-weather, environmentally friendly restroom, placed on the north side of the park near the Rotary Club shelter house and the sand volleyball courts.



Church dinner

The Rotary Club of Albia enjoyed its annual dinner at the Iconium Methodist Church at Iconium, Iowa, on Nov. 26. The food was excellent, the hosts were gracious. The club presented the church with a check for \$965.

Provided by Tony Humeston

Great turnout for Rotary Leadership Institute training

By DG Erna Morain/Waukee

Great turnout for the Rotary Leadership Institute training in West Des Moines on Saturday, November 9th. Over 25 rotarians took part in the training. These three Rotarians from District 6000 completed Part III and became RLI Graduates: Ron Heideman (Indianola), T Waldmann- Williams (Knoxville) and Jim Peterson (Iowa City AM). Congratulations graduates!

"The purpose of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is to strengthen your club and strengthen your life. Rotary provides an opportunity for all of us to provide service to our community and throughout the world. (Service Above Self) With that service comes a learning experience in the areas of leadership, team building, planning, marketing, communication and organization. RLI provides an opportunity to enrich that learning through sharing experiences and ideas with other Rotarians throughout the region."



District 6000 DG Erna Morain (r) with RLI graduates (l-r): Ron Heideman, T. Waldmann-Williams and Jim Peterson.

Future training dates

DGND Steve Wieneke of Ankeny reports that Rotary Leadership Institute sessions have been scheduled in 2020 as follows:

March 28, 2020: District 5650, Dundee Presbyterian Church, 5312 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, NE;

April 4, 2020: District 6000, First United Methodist Church, 309 North Main St, Mount Pleasant, IA;

Aug. 29, 2020: District 6000, Shive Hattery Inc., 4125 Westown Parkway Suite 100, West Des Moines, IA;

Oct. 17, 2020: District 5650, Dundee Presbyterian Church, 5312 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, NE 68132

New attendees and members that have not completed all three sessions are encouraged to attend any of the training sessions listed above. You can attend any session, at any location, and sessions should be completed in sequential order (1,2,3).

Wieneke says the goal is to offer all three sessions for each training date. The cost is \$85 is to be paid in advance through PayPal or by check. Information: Steve Wieneke, (515) 250-0507; sawieneke24@gmail.com.

AMES MORNING

Kids Run promotes health, literacy, respect

By Carolyn Jons/Ames Morning

Club President

Ames Morning Rotary launched Kids Run for Kids in 2015 with Rotarian Bob Anderson's leadership. It is a Saturday morning family-friendly event that promotes children's health, early literacy, and respect for law enforcement officers.

Generous community sponsors and registration fees provide funding. Proceeds support local police and early literacy programs as well as Rotary International polio eradication and clubfoot braces.

The event is geared toward children from 12 days to 12 years old and their siblings, parents, grandparents, guardians, and friends. It features runs (not races) on 5K, 4K, 3K, 2K, and 1K courses at Brookside Park. Additional activities include a farm-themed nine-hole miniature golf course, lawn games, face painting, book reading, and crafts. Children can also explore a police patrol car, an ambulance, a fire truck, and the Ames library bookmobile.

In 2019 there were 212 participants, half were adults and half were children with an average age of 5 years. Of the 52 volunteers, 36 were Ames Morning Rotarians. The communities of Ames, Boone, Nevada and Story City are now partnering in Kids Run for Kids.

The 2020 Kids Run for Kids event will be April 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Brookside Park, 1325 6th Street in Ames. There will be online registration and all are welcome.

For more information contact Steve Kirts at kirtssteven@gmail.com.



Rotarian Jason Paul and his wife Eleanore and daughter Emily were part of Ames Morning Rotary's Kids Run for Kids.



Participants in the Indianola project included (l-r): Todd K., Sinikka W., Mckinley S., Jana T., unknown, Dave T., Brian A., Joe W., Spencer W., Terry P. Photo by Jennifer Mc.

INDIANOLA

Guinness Beef Stew brewed for Food Bank

By Terry Pauling/Indianola

Rotary Club of Indianola's Noon and PM clubs partnered with The Groggy Dog, a local English-style restaurant and pub, to prepare, package and donate Guinness Beef Stew to people who need food assistance.

The Groggy Dog set aside \$1 for every Iowa Eagle Draw sold during November and December to purchase ingredients for four batches of the beef stew. The frozen stew is delivered to The Helping Hand Food Bank in Indianola, which provides food, clothing and other necessary essentials to individuals in the community who need help meeting their family's basic needs.



Marvin Gribbins, The Groggy Dog's owner and chef, successfully created two separate batches of the delicious beef stew on Sunday, Jan. 5. Rotary Club of Indianola members arrived about the time the first batch was ready and packaged the stew into pint containers,

which were labeled and subsequently frozen.

A total of 40 pints were prepared and subsequently frozen from the two batches prepared Jan. 5. Plans were to prepare two more batches of Guinness Beef Stew on Sunday, Jan. 12, then package and freeze it for later delivery to The Helping Hand.

This isn't all that the Rotary Club of Indianola does to support its local food pantry.

During the summer of 2019, Rotary members walked in three local parades, but instead of throwing candy, members collected food items and other necessities from spectators. About 600 items were collected during the three 2019 parades and donated to The Helping Hand.

In 2020, the club plans to continue the parade project and to expand the Beef Stew project. Members hope to ask other local Brew Masters to join Rotary in providing necessities for people living in our community who need help providing for their families.

JEFFERSON

Service awards presented

By Susan Laehn and PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

The Rotary Club of Jefferson recently presented its 2019 awards for service to Sid Jones, president of Home State Bank, honored as the Professional of the Year, and Adam Pedersen was recognized as the Rotarian of the Year.



Adam Pedersen

The Professional of the Year award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the objectives of Rotary via encouragement of high ethical standards in the professional world, and one's occupation as an opportunity to serve society. Honored for outstanding and dedicated service to her or his profession, the recipient of the Jefferson club's award is a recognized professional in the area. The awardee is not necessarily a Rotarian.

Active for decades in the economic development of the community and county, Jones has had many bright ideas that have become reality. Moreover, his have been words of encouragement and positivity, seeking out new ways to grow, not only his own business, but the area as well.

Wild Rose Casino and Resort and the regional career academy and new Greene County High School are examples of projects that he encouraged from the start and then worked diligently to make reality.

Jones has led Home State Bank to great heights, figuratively and literally. Home State has received statewide and national honors for innovation and customer service. The bank will soon see a new level of service – a second floor.

Adam Pedersen, an abstractor at Mumma & Pedersen Law Firm, was honored as the Rotarian of the Year for his various volunteer activities, within Rotary and to other organizations. The award is given to one Rotarian each year in recognition of an individual's fulfillment of Rotary's five avenues of service. Pedersen was chosen because of his service to the club, his vocation, the local community, young people, and the international community.

Pedersen has headed up Rotary's Annual Auction for several years, resulting in tens of thousand of dollars being given back to the community. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity, volunteered at the Jefferson Public Library, and mentored young people in Hong Kong via his church's mission trips.



President Travis Dvorak (r) presented Jefferson's Rotarian of the Year award to Sid Jones. Photos by Jacque Andrew

Rotary's Community Relations Chair, Susan Laehn stated, "The Rotary Club of Jefferson is proud to honor Sid and Adam. Multiple Rotarians put forward each of their names for these two awards, and in both cases, their dedication to our community made them obvious choices. We are grateful for their years of service in Jefferson and beyond."



Ottumwa Rotary's 40th annual Chicken BBQ was a sellout!

FUND RAISING

Ottumwa chicken feed sells out in 40th year!

By Sharon Stroh/Ottumwa

Oct. 1 marked the 40th Annual Rotary Chicken BBQ in Ottumwa. Members and other volunteers, including Rotaract, Job Corps associates, and Ottumwa High School cheerleaders were on hand to prepare and serve 2,600 meals which featured half-chicken, coleslaw, corn, roll and butter, ice cream cup and a beverage. Meals are available as dine-in, carryout, or drive thru.



Perfection times 2,600!

The event is considered the kick-off to a week-long Oktoberfest celebration which includes a parade, entertainment and lots of food. This year Rotary sold nearly 200 more meals than 2018. It was a sell-out effort!

As the only club fund raising event, turnout is critical to raising the \$15,000 goal for community grantmaking; supporting such issues as

downtown beautification, purchasing elementary school playground equipment, supporting a transitional home for the homeless, and pedestrian trail improvements.

Rotary would like to thank its chairman, Ryan Mitchell, plus sponsors Keurig/Dr. Pepper, Winger Companies, Fareway, HyVee (north and south locations), Edward Jones (all Ottumwa offices), Phil Noel, Bridge View Center, Hill Productions & Media Group, Wapello County Sheriff's Reserve, and Warehouse BBQ for cash and in-kind contributions. Mark your calendars for next year on Oct. 6, 2020!

Fairfield Centennial April 3

Rotarians are invited to join the Rotary Club of Fairfield, which will celebrate 100 years of Service Above Self on Friday, April 3, 2020, with a fundraiser for Jefferson County Kids/New Child Care Facility. The event will start with a 5:30 p.m. cash bar and 6:30 p.m. dinner at the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center, 200 N. Main St., Fairfield. Tickets are \$50 each or \$350 for a table of eight, and can be ordered by calling John at (641) 233-0765, or email wjolojin@gmail.com, or online at www.eventbrite.com (search Rotary 100 Fairfield). Keynote speaker is explorer and humanitarian Charlie Wittmack, who climbed Mount Everest.

INTERACT

Students rake leaves

By **Tori Riley/Jefferson**

President-Elect Nominee

Greene County High School students spent the afternoon of Nov. 4 raking leaves in Jefferson, Grand Junction and Scranton.

Students, teachers and chaperons raked 121 yards with 463 people, ate 39 dozen donuts, used 45 tarps, drank 24 cases of water, and had a fun time on a sunny afternoon with temps in the low 50s, reported teacher and project coordinator Teresa Green who is also the Interact Club advisor.

The Interact Club raked nine more yards the next day on Nov. 5 bringing the total to 130 yards.

This was the 23rd leaf-raking service project. "This gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation for everything our communities do for our schools," Green said.

The project was started in 1997 with the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club raking 15-20 yards. In 1999, the project became so big the high school staff decided to continue the tradition as a school project.

The list of yards was divided up according to location, and teachers and their advisory groups raked two to six yards depending on the size of the yards and how many people were in their group. As each group finished, they helped other groups who were in the same area.



Interactors rake leaves in Jefferson.

Green thanked Fareway and HyVee for each donating 12 cases of water; Rotary for providing tarps and drivers; and Home State Bank, Peoples Bank, and Wells Fargo for donating 39 dozen donuts from Dunkers by Matt.

She thanked Dave Teeple and the city of Jefferson for getting everything cleaned out of Daubendiek park before and after the leaf-raking project.

At least one pickup or garbage truck was with each group which made everything run very smoothly. Green thanked the cities of Grand Junction and Jefferson,

Greene County Medical Center, Heritage Insurance, Home State Bank, the Jefferson police department, Jefferson Telecom, and New Way for providing pickup trucks and drivers.

She also thanked Rotarians and local volunteers who drove another 20 pickups to help transport leaves to the garbage trucks or to Daubendiek park; and the school for providing eight buses to transport students and for helping pick up leaves with the school pickup and trailer.

She thanked Dave Destival, Vern Foje, and Dave Walker who went out on their own to prep some of the yards.

"It takes a lot of people to make a project like this come together, and we want everyone to know how much we appreciate their help," Interact advisor Teresa Green said. "It was great having our school work with various groups to give back to our communities. We are thankful for all of the help from each of these groups. We could not complete this project without everyone's support."



Fitting eyeglasses for students in Nairobi, Kenya.

LENOX, CORNING, ATLANTIC

Giving the gift of sight

By Steve Gruba, MD/Corning

The Rotary Clubs of Corning, Atlantic and Lenox banded together to purchase two eyeglasses kits to fit glasses for school children in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and to pay a local man to visit the schools and screen the kids.

Nairobi has 3.4 million people, 60 percent of whom live in slums and earn less than \$1.90/day. School attendance is mandatory, but the children don't have books. Instead, the teacher stands at the blackboard in the front of the room and lectures as she writes with chalk. If you can't see the blackboard, well, you don't get an education.

The kits make 200 pair of eyeglasses costing roughly \$5.25 each. Corning Rotarian Dr. Steve Gruba, MD, delivered the kits personally and made sure the local worker was well trained in their use. In the first two weeks of this project

three schools were visited and 15 children got eyeglasses. In addition, the local man got paid about \$1/hour for his labor, which helps him support his wife and daughter in an environment of 60 percent unemployment where earning \$3 a day is a good income.

Dr. Gruba commented, "The project continues to go well with 40 pairs of glasses fitted. I would love to see this in print mostly because it might make other clubs aware of how easy it is to give the gift of sight. The website firstsighteyeglasses.com has all the information about the kits we bought. The Rotary Clubs of SW Iowa have truly made an impact in Nairobi living out the motto "Service Above Self."



The gift of sight enables students to succeed.

DES MOINES

Major gift targets sex trafficking, exploitation

By Kitte Morehouse/Des Moines

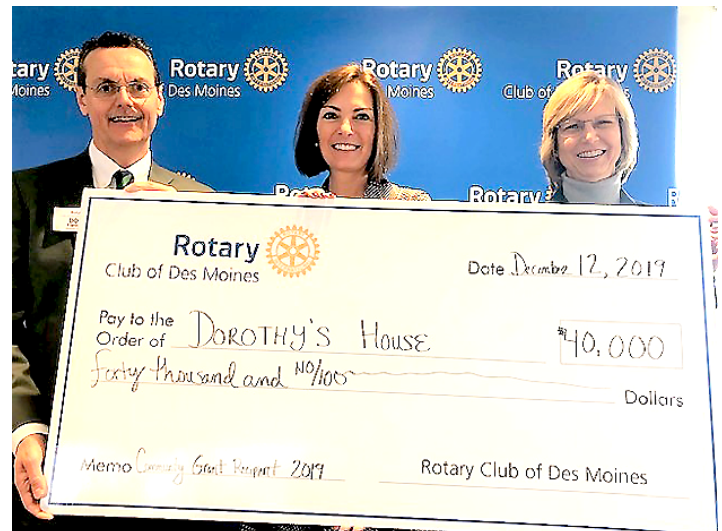
Club Executive Director

The Rotary Club of Des Moines awarded its annual community service grant on Dec. 19. The grant of \$40,000 was awarded to Dorothy's House, a safe place for teen and youth girls whose lives have been interrupted by sex trafficking and exploitation.

"We are so pleased to make an impact on our community in this way, by supporting the excellent work of Kellie Markey and the team at Dorothy's House. Our support will help their expansion efforts to provide care and a safe place for more young women and girls who have lived through sex trafficking," said Rotary Club of Des Moines Grant Committee Chair, DeAnn Thompson.

"This year's gift puts the Rotary Club of Des Moines Community Grants contribution at \$205,000 to non-profit organizations throughout Des Moines," said Rotary Club of Des Moines President, Don Flannery. "I'm extremely proud of the heart and generosity of this club."

Each year, the Grants Committee reviews applications from many worthy organizations and groups. Applicants are reviewed by the Committee and a final three are then interviewed before a selection is made.



From left, RCDM President Don Flannery, Kellie Markey (Dorothy's House) and DeAnn Thompson, RCDM Grant Committee Chair.

Club Anniversaries, 2019-20

December 2019	Wellman	80 Years
December 2019	Corning	75 Years
February 2020	Oskaloosa	100 Years
March 2020	Fairfield	100 Years
March 2020	Fort Madison	100 Years
April 2020	Atlantic	100 Years
April 2020	Knoxville	80 Years

WEST LIBERTY

Forums educate about human trafficking

By Tom Barr and Gretchen Nollman/West Liberty

The Rotary Club of West Liberty has continued its quest to educate our community regarding Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking. We began our efforts in 2017, with an open community forum with other service organizations and local police were present, where Braking Traffik (Division of Family Resources of Davenport), an organization dedicated to bringing an end to Human Trafficking, presented. This resulted in this organization being invited back for additional presentations to our local Christian Youth Group and other service organizations over the next year.

We then sponsored a fundraiser in conjunction with World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 7/30/2019, raising \$1,500 for the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking (INAHT).

The INAHT is Iowa's first and only volunteer organization devoted exclusively to ending human trafficking in all its forms. Human Trafficking IS modern day slavery where vulnerable people are forced or coerced into involuntary servitude of the purpose of financial profit for Traffickers. We also had

another successful fundraiser in October 2019, a pulled pork barbecue, that allowed our club to donate another \$1,300 to INAHT. In total we raised \$2,800 for INAHT in 2019!

On Jan. 20, 2020, we achieved a goal of providing Human Trafficking education to our West Liberty Community School District (WLCSD) faculty and staff, where approximately 150 attendees, with other service organizations and local police, were present. This was a presentation by Braking Traffik called "Any Kid Anywhere...", featuring sex trafficking survivors' stories which shatter the myth that sex trafficking is just a big city or third world country crime.

The presentation was a great success with positive feedback from the WLCSD faculty, as stated by Diego F. Giraldo, superintendent, "It is essential to start with awareness and learning how to support our children, families, and community." Our club looks forward to continuing to support and educate our community regarding Modern Day Slavery: HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



Bell Ringers raise \$3,500

Salvation Army chairman Bill Koellner and West Liberty Rotary president Gretchen Nollman combined efforts to ring the bell for the Salvation Army in West Liberty in early December at the community's special holiday open house. Taking on the task for the first time, the organization raised more than \$3,500 for the Muscatine County chapter of the Salvation Army, with all the funds promised to be used for West Liberty area residents. Photo by Tim Evans, West Liberty Index

JEFFERSON

Auction aids Food Pantry

By PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

On Monday, Jan. 20, the Rotary Club of Jefferson presented a check in for \$10,299 to the Greene County Christian Action Resource Center (ARC) represented by Shirley Haupert of Jefferson. The check was distributed as the result of "fund-a-need" donations for this purpose made by generous donors at the club's 21st annual charity auction held in November.

Haupert noted that donations such as this help the ARC food pantry purchase fresh meat, hygiene products, and other items to round out their offerings to a growing number of families accessing the service.

"The Jefferson Rotary club is a group of service-minded individuals who want to make a positive and lasting impact on the community area and in the world," said former district governor and past Jefferson Rotary president Jacque Andrew.

The annual auction has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support services, clubs, and activities in Jefferson and Greene County.



Making the presentation to the ARC, from left, are immediate past president of the Jefferson Rotary Club Carol Durbin, and, at far right, current president Travis Dvorak, to Shirley Haupert, center, of the Greene County Christian Action Resource Center

INDIANOLA

Little Free Library becomes a landmark

By Ron Heideman/Indianola

The Rotary Club of Indianola built and installed two Little Free Libraries to encourage literacy. Each month I take out the old books and put in new books. Occasionally there is some vandalism that needs to be repaired.

I went into McCoy True Value, our local hardware store owned by a Rotarian, to get a few pieces of plexiglass for the Library doors. The floor manager and I commiserated about the senseless vandalism. Then she, Monica Thompson, told me her dream. She envisioned a TARDIS Little Free Library on a concrete pad in their parking lot. Her goal was to stock it with "do it yourself" books, magazines, and tools (they are a hardware store, after all).



The Rotary Club of Indianola's Little Free Library.

As a young adult, I watched the British sci-fi series "Doctor Who" with his TARDIS ("Time And Relative Dimension In Space") time/space machine that resembles a British police call box. I since discovered Doctor Who continues with new episodes and twenty-somethings also love it. Within 15 seconds I said, "I'll build it!"

Within two weeks I built it at home and transported the pieces to McCoy's parking lot. Our two newest Rotarians from our new Evening Rotary Club,

Amanda and Brian Adams, joined Monica and me on a very windy Saturday afternoon to assemble and prime the TARDIS. The following week I painted it, put solar lights on top and inside, built shelves, and attached signs. Monica added little flashing blue lights around the perimeter.

Monica received a nice note from "Pageturners," an Indianola used book store, that some shady people were stealing books from Little Free Libraries and trying to sell them to her store. Monica ordered a stamper to identify the books in the TARDIS.

The construction was exhilarating, and we knew there would be excitement in our community, but we didn't expect the fervor that the TARDIS triggered. The enthusiasm has been electrifying! Many people stopped to visit as I was working on it. Some asked what it was. Most knew what it was.

One young man said, "Yeah. I used to tell my friends I live across from McCoy's. Now I tell them I live across from the TARDIS." One woman asked if she could get the plans so she could build one with her son. I was happy to share. I've heard that many people are inviting friends to Indianola to see the TARDIS and photograph it. It's becoming a landmark.



Ames Morning Rotarian Craig Van Pay (r) promotes Vroom materials.

LITERACY

Ames Morning Rotary's Step into Storybooks features Vroom

By Carolyn Jons/Ames Morning
Club President

The eleventh annual Step into Storybooks event was held Sept. 28, 2019, at the Ames Public Library. Co-sponsors are the Rotary Club of Ames Morning, the Ames Public Library, and the nonprofit organization Raising Readers in Story County. It's a free event that attracts families from all walks of life.

Community groups set up 23 interactive stations with stimulating everyday activities designed for children ages 0-5 and their families to explore. Stations also featured children's books related to their theme.

There were over 1,230 attendees and 96 volunteers, 40 of whom were Rotary recruits. Rotarian contributions include planning, setting up and cleaning up, volunteering at stations, and wearing costumes to add to the festive atmosphere.

Each year Ames Morning Rotary hosts our popular book giveaway station. We provide collections of developmentally appropriate books so each child could choose one to take home and keep. Funds from endowment gifts made by Ames Morning Rotarians Mary and Dean Harms helped purchase books this year, and Rotarians labeled them in memory of Mary and Dean.

This year Ames Morning Rotary expanded the book tables to promote Vroom, a set of tips, tools, key messages, and a downloadable app to help parents and caregivers be brain builders of their children 0-3. A D6000 Community Grant helped us purchase these materials and this event was an effective way to continue to distribute them to families.

BETTENDORF

Grants to Quad-City groups total \$30,000

By Fred Anderson/Bettendorf

Club Public Image Chair

For a dozen years Bettendorf Rotary has shared the income from its LobsterFest with the Quad-City community in the form of grants to not-for-profit organizations. For most of those years, BRC has donated a total of \$20,000.

This year, because the need for assistance never stops growing, BRC raised its total to \$30,000 in grants; they went to 15 QC organizations that help meet the needs of a broad spectrum of Quad-City citizens.

The awarding of these grants is the best statement of BRC's impact on the Quad-City community. The funds come largely from the club's largest fundraising event – LobsterFest – which last June topped \$100,000 in revenue for the first time.

The BRC Charities Board, which makes the grant decisions, consists of Jeff Hassel, Ann Kappeler, Kevin Kraft, Sharon Sarver, Tim Lane, Bill Daley and Scott Naumann.

This year there were 45 grant requests for a total of more than \$127,000. The 15 organizations that received grants were:

100 Black Men Quad Cities, Inc. Since 1998 this organization has worked to “reduce behavior problems in school, reduce truancy and out-of-school suspensions, and to develop respect for family, justice and integrity.” Retired Davenport Police detective Michael Cole, who received the \$2,500 grant check, said the money will go primarily to the Stanley Moore Mentoring Program to aid the development of young men one-on-one.

Argrow's House of Healing and Hope. The \$2,000 grant will buy “the first barrels of coconut oil and Shea butter” for Argrow's Bath and Body Product enterprise, according to Dr. Kit Evans-Ford, director. That project aims to “develop a thriving social enterprise that ultimately serves survivors of domestic abuse and violence.” The 2-year-old group provides its clients with therapies in art, chiropractic and massage – and the Bath and Body Products “will put some money in their pockets,” she added.

American Red Cross of the Quad Cities and West Central Illinois. Recognizing that home fires cause ripple effects throughout communities, the Red Cross' “Home Fire Campaign” aims to “reduce deaths and injuries from home fires.” BRC funded this effort at \$2,000, which will buy smoke alarms for homes of low-income residents, said Jeff Wahlfeld.

Asbury United Methodist Church. Asbury's Ecumenical Garden Ministry grows fresh vegetables and distributes them to QC food pantries, meal sites, shelters and senior-living apartment complexes. Now in its 19th year, the program grew more than 35,000 pounds of fresh food last year, reported Dave Phillips who received the \$1,000 check.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley. BBBS offers more than 25 “match activities” each year that are intended to strengthen the relationships between the youths and the “bigs” with whom they are matched. Director Beth Clark could not attend, so BRC member Harry Coin, who has been a “big” for more than 10 years, accepted the \$2,000, saying, “It will make an impact.”

Café on Vine. The Café has been serving daily meals for 13 years, and Waunita Sullivan said the \$1,000 grant will help purchase stainless steel pans and some blenders, which will help the kitchen staff “to better serve our guests.”

Hand in Hand. Teen and Young Adult Programs serve two purposes, said Samantha Yeager-Walrath who accepted the \$2,000 grant. She explained they give participating young persons “a chance to be themselves while having positive experiences with their peers” and at the same time provide some respite for their parents.

Handicapped Development Center. The \$2,000 grant will go towards purchasing new chairs in the center's multipurpose room, which will help “provide a safe, clean and pleasing environment for the individuals with disabilities we serve,” said Mary Egger who accepted the check.

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Members of the Metropolitan Youth Program Drill Team are vulnerable youth who will be able to receive training in “the art of drumming, synchronized marching and dance” so they can perform in parades, and at special events and

competitions. Perhaps more importantly, said Director Jerry Jones, the \$2,000 grant says to the kids that “this community cares about your success.”

Mississippi Bend Trykes. A dozen Eastern Iowa children are waiting to receive their own individually customized and adapted tricycles, and this \$2,000 grant will provide them for two kids, named Haven and Kruz. Actually, four kids will get trikes, said Katie Powers, because when Haven and Kruz get their new ones, their smaller ones will go to two younger children.

One Eighty. One Eighty works with Quad City schools to help low-income children “learn social skills, improve academic performance and develop healthy habits.” Free sports programs, such as the basketball programs the \$2,000 grant supports, help underserved youth overcome the opportunity gap,” said founder and Director Rusty Boruff.

Our Lady of the River Church. Night 2 Shine Prom, a free event affiliated with a national program founded by football star Tim Tebow, gives kids ages 14 and older with special needs a prom-night experience they otherwise might never have. In its fourth year in the QC, it has grown from 265 guests to more than 500, and has outgrown its planned venue each year, said Jennifer Hildebrand who received the \$2,500 grant.

Penguin Project of the Quad Cities. Augustana College hosts Penguin Project, a four-month-long free theater camp “expressly for children with special needs.” The director, Megan Christensen, was unable to attend, so BRC President Carol Foster received the \$2,500 grant check and will deliver it to her.

Project Renewal. The Summer Youth Program 2020, which the \$2,000 grant helps fund, “provides educational support, recreational activities and social experiences” for youth in grades K-12 who otherwise might never experience those opportunities. Ann Schwickerath said swimming lessons are especially popular – and important, since before Project Renewal offered them, almost none of the youths in its service area knew how to swim.

Quad City Arts. The \$2,500 grant will help support the 2019-2020 Visiting Artist Series, said Carrie Gilson. Every year the Visiting Artist Series brings professional artists to the community who present lectures, demonstrations, master-classes and concerts to the public – especially some 35,000 K-12 students.



Grant recipients, front (l-r): Carrie Gilson, Quad City Arts; Mary Egger, Handicapped Development Center; Samantha Yeager-Walrath, Hand in Hand; Claire Koszewski, Argrow's House of Healing and Hope; Katie Powers, Mississippi Bend Trykes. Back: Jeff Wahlfeld, American Red Cross of the Quad Cities and West Central Illinois; Rusty Boruff, One Eighty; Jerry Jones, Martin Luther King Center; Jennifer Hildebrand, Night 2 Shine Prom / Our Lady of the River Catholic Church; Ann Schwickerath, Project Renewal; Dave Phillips, Ecumenical Garden Ministry / Asbury Methodist Church; Waunita Sullivan, Café on Vine.

Photo by Bill Tubbs



North Scott Rotarians made junior high students feel welcome at the start of the day after a gun incident shook the community – and then spent time in the classroom with junior high Interact students.

NORTH SCOTT

Rotarians help ease tensions after school gun incident

By PDG Bill Tubbs/North Scott

Club Publicity Chair and Editor, District 6000 News

In August 2018, a seventh-grade student at North Scott Junior High in Eldridge pulled a gun on a teacher in a classroom in a story that made national news. The incident ended with no harm, thanks to heroic efforts of teachers and staff. To ease the tensions that followed, members of the Rotary Club of North Scott accepted the district's invitation to greet students at the beginning of their

school day to show interest and concern.

On Friday, Dec. 6, the Rotarians stayed at school and met with members of the North Scott Junior High Interact Club to show interest in their projects and service, which includes support for the God's Mercy Orphanage in Kisori, Uganda, which is a Rotary club project.

The activity was deemed a success by superintendent and Rotarian, Joe Stutting, and Interact advisor Jan Touney, and will continue.



Dick Cole and Jonathan Cole assemble musical instruments for the North Scott Rotary Inspiration Play Zone.

The junior high welcome is one of several activities which have energized the club during president Jeremy Kaiser's year:

Auction: The "Rotary Rallies for Youth" auction on Nov. 22 drew 460 members and guests and netted \$84,500 for club projects. The club will soon be awarding several Community Grants of up to \$3,000, while saving a larger amount (\$15,000 or more) for the fourth annual Impact Grant project.

Harvest Party: 240 youngsters from after-school programs in the Quad Cities were treated to a day at the Pride of the Wapsi Pumpkin Patch in the 14th annual Youth Harvest Party, a joint project with the Rotary Club of Davenport.

Literacy: Members handed out Student Dictionaries to 264 fourth-graders and are reading to elementary students.

Membership: Membership has grown to 98, and the club is having a contest to see which teams can invite the most guests.

Days of Action: With spring will come days to volunteer at Special Olympics and a day to assemble custom-made tricycles for differently-abled youth.

Days of Celebration: The Valentine Day Party on Feb. 14 was attended by members and sweethearts, with musical entertainment (love songs) by Freddy Allen.

In May, the club will present scholarships and awards its 25th annual Youth Day, to be followed by the annual Rotary Foundation Day to celebrate success and recognize donors. North Scott Rotary is an All-Paul Harris Fellows club.

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DISTRICT 6000 FESTIVAL**Suzi Howe named President's Rep to District 6000 Festival**

Rotary International Director 2020-22, Suzi Howe from Friendswood, Tex., will be RI President Mark Maloney's representative to the District 6000 Festival (District Conference), June 25-27 at Prairie Meadows. She is a member of the Space Center Rotary Club in Houston.

She served as District Governor in 2006-07 and is the recipient of Rotary International's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. She holds the Woman of Distinction Award from the Federation of Houston Women, and was recognized by Houston area Rotarians for her working supporting those in need after Hurricane Katrina. She has worked tirelessly to support Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio.

Beginning July 1, she will our representative on the RI Board from the new paired Zones 29 and 25B.

– Bill Tubbs, with information from DG Erna Morain's December D6000 News



RI Director 2020-22 Suzi Howe (second from right) with Bill Howe (at right) at the Kansas City Institute, with aides PDG Terry and Peggy Geiger from District 6000.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

Ski Fellowship supports Higher Ground fundraiser for veterans

By Allyson Walter/Ames

President/International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians

This year the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR) had 83 people hitting the slopes in Sun Valley, Idaho; some from as far away as Australia, Switzerland and the UK. Multiple members skied over 40,000 vertical feet Wednesday for the Higher Ground Challenge. Many more skied 20,000 vertical feet.

As the International President of the organization, I will once again be raising money to support adaptive ski programs with a majority of the fundraising supporting Higher Ground (highergroundusa.org) – a program focused on giving much needed therapeutic support to wounded warrior veterans right here in Sun Valley.

Higher Ground's mission is, "We give people with all abilities a better life. With recreation, therapy and continuing support, we bridge the gap between disability and belonging."

Last year, we raised \$20,000, which was donated to the Telluride Adaptive Ski program. We are hoping to exceed that



Allyson Walter

amount this year for Higher Ground. Personally, I've pledged to raise \$2,500. If you are interested in donating, please see the Rotary Club of Ames' Facebook page.

MEMBERSHIP**What gets your members excited? Do a club 'health check'!**

By Bonnie Lowry/Marshalltown

District 6000 Membership Development Chair

When you join a Rotary club, your potential to make a difference in the world grows exponentially.

That's because you're joining a network of over 1.2 million people who take action – volunteers from all over the world who share a goal of improving others' quality of life. In fact, the top two reasons people join Rotary are to connect with and give back to their communities. These are the same reasons members stay in Rotary year after year.

But, simply joining isn't going to change lives or make those connections. That happens when you get involved. You'll shape your own experience and decide how to get the most out of your membership.



Bonnie Lowry

Membership in a Rotary club offers opportunities to connect with other professionals who aren't afraid to lead and are dedicated to making a difference. Spending time with your fellow club members – whether to attend a meeting, plan a project, exchange ideas, or just have fun – can lead to lifelong friendships. When you get involved and make connections, you will inevitably grow as a person and develop new skills.

Each Rotary club has its own DNA. It is important to periodically do a club "health check" to examine the passion and connectedness of your members.

What gets your club members excited? What activities do club members want to see increased or decreased?

Consider using an online survey tool to gather this information. They're convenient, are often free or inexpensive to use, and are helpful in managing response data.

Once you have this information, the energy level for planning engaging opportunities becomes easier and there is a shared vision.

WINTERSET

'An active, 30-plus-member-strong organization'

By Kayla Hawkins/Winteriset

In just two short years, Winteriset Rotary will turn 100! I am sure that the past 98 years have seen lots and lots of change to Rotary – and the events and projects were just as important to those folks back then as they are now to us! It's almost impossible to write about all of the wonderful things Winteriset

Rotary does, but here is a little bit of what went on last year – a “re-cap” of what Rotary is about.

Winteriset Rotary is an active, 30-plus-member-strong organization, meeting weekly over the noon hour at Pizza Ranch. Winteriset Rotarians take great pride in all of their projects to raise dollars that benefit the local community, as well as district and international projects. 2019 was an amazing year! Thousands of dollars were raised through various events! The **Rotary Races** continue to serve as our largest fundraising effort and the drive for sponsorships will start soon. Other fundraising included the **Can & Bottle Collection**, **Bocce Ball tournament** and of course our **Covered Bridge Tours** during the Covered Bridge Festival!

Winteriset Rotary also had the opportunity to participate in **RAGBRAI** and collect cans (and garbage) as a source of fundraising. These fundraising efforts, along with Community Development Grants, helped Winteriset Rotary bring dictionaries to local elementary schools, helped in the purchase of those “Protect Our Children” signs and the purchase of 140 pairs of winter boots for CRISP to distribute to families in need.

Fundraising efforts also allowed us to donate funds to several local non-profit organizations. Club members also began to bring food items to the weekly meetings to be taken to Matura to benefit the Food Pantry with over 40 bags of food being delivered to date. Fundraising is always an important part of any organization, but Winteriset Rotary also spends lots of time and energy building, maintaining and promoting several projects throughout the community: the **Rotary Hedge Maze**, **Bocce Ball Courts** and the **Rotary Skate Park**. All of these places are here for the community as well as visitors to enjoy. Through many volunteer hours, local Rotarians keep these places safe, tidy and ready for you to enjoy!

Winteriset Rotary also proudly supports international projects such as **Shelterbox**, water projects in **Tanzania** and **PolioPlus**, making a positive difference in people's lives around the world. Our club strives diligently to follow the example of Rotary International's six Areas of Focus: Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy and Economic and Community Development.



PE Sarah Simon and Corey St. Johns with our "Protect Our Children" signs.

Winteriset Rotary's boot drive (l-r): President Jim Mease, member PE Sarah Simon, Carol Lichty and Amy Nolan with CRISP, treasurer Dan Nielsen, Terri Kuhns owner of Village Bootery, and member Bob Kaldenberg.



DGN Alka attends 'Rotary at the United Nations'

Rotary Day at the United Nations in New York City was a fabulous event filled with inspirational stories of Rotary's work in providing solutions to the global refugee crisis. Rotary's "People of Action" exemplify our commitment to doing good in the world. Throughout the year, we will continue to recognize our lasting relationship with the United Nations and the parallels of our work through a series of presidential conferences.

– RI President Mark Maloney



Alka Khanolkar

District 6000 DGN Alka Khanolkar of Keokuk attended Rotary Day at the United Nations in November 2019 celebrating the 75th anniversary of the U.N. "I felt inspired and empowered! I met a lot of real-life heroes," she said. "Peace is present in Rotary's DNA."

"The focus was on the current refugee crisis and what is being done by the UN and partners like Rotary to change that! One first goes to the root of the problem, assesses the needs, finds a solution and takes action that has a lasting change for a better world and for humanity. Such a good day even though many stories were sad and touching. Nevertheless, never give up hope! It ended on a very positive note."

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**'Rotary Opens Opportunities'
is RI theme for 2020-21****By DGE Steve Dakin/Boone**

Governor-Elect Steve Dakin of Boone and his spouse, Lesley, attended the 2020 International Assembly in San Diego the week of Jan. 19. Fellow Rotarians from all districts around the world converged to enjoy fellowship and gain a knowledge of the upcoming Rotary International strategic plan for 2020-2021.

Each day consisted of general sessions with inspiring speakers and break-out sessions to provide a focus for sharing the Rotary story in all districts across the globe. It was an informative and demanding week. On Thursday, approximately 60 Rotaractors joined the meetings, bringing their youthful energy and ideas to all the sessions. Opportunities were given to make friends and share impressions in every setting.

Steve and Lesley enjoyed meeting service-minded Rotarians who traveled from six continents. These Governors-Elect represented roughly 535 Districts in 18 zones. Monday morning Holgar Knaack, Rotary International President-Elect, introduced his theme, "Rotary Opens Opportunities."



DGE Steve Dakin (l) with RI President 2020-21 Holger Knaack of Germany, at the September 2019 Rotary Institute in Kansas City.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

BETTENDORF**Sensory path, Pinewood Derby make for busy day****By Fred Anderson/Bettendorf**

Club Public Image Chair

The morning of Saturday, Jan. 25, members of the Rotary Club of Bettendorf fanned out across the community to put service above self. Well, actually, they went to two places and there wasn't a lot of self-sacrifice involved. But they did some worthwhile work. And some kids benefitted from their efforts.

One group – Fred Anderson, Peter Paisley, Brian Strusz, Dick Hanzelka, Steve Foster, Monica Kruse, Joe Pacha, S.K. Nanda, Carol Foster, Rick Bormann, Lyn Cochran and Kevin Koellner – arrived at the Genesis Pediatric Therapy Group a bit after 7:30 to begin installing sensory-path stickers on floors and walls, which will help kids with disabilities who are in programs the group carries out.

Less than two hours later, they had laid down foot-shaped stickers for kids to follow through a hop-scotch track; created a path that looked like logs and stepping stones; placed a randomly spaced alphabet that they could walk from A to Z; and set down a tiptoe trail of swirly lines and loops.

In other rooms of the pediatric therapy clinic, posters appeared on walls to guide activities, handprints appeared on walls above matching-colored footprints, and a giant "keypad" of numbers and arithmetic symbols became a target for future beanbag tossing.

The stickers were purchased using a Rotary Foundation Community Grant from Rotary District 6000 with matching funds from BRC.

About an hour after all of that activity had begun, Lyn Cochran drove to Paul Norton Elementary School where the boys of Cub Scout Pack 54 were getting ready to run their annual Pinewood Derby. Before the wooden racers started rolling down their track, Lyn joined Steve Pieart and Amy Ahmed to judge the workmanship of the cars themselves – in categories that included "best Scout theme," "most patriotic," "best sports car design" and others.



Bettendorf Rotarians Lyn Cochran, Amy Ahmed and Steve Pieart judge Cub Pack 54's Pinewood Derby racers before the wheels started rolling.



Bettendorf Rotarians create the sensory path at Genesis Pediatric Therapy Group (l-r): Fred Anderson, Peter Paisley, Brian Strusz, Dick Hanzelka, Steve Foster, Monica Kruse, Joe Pacha, S.K. Nanda, Carol Foster, Rick Bormann and Lyn Cochran.

ATLANTIC

Fall activities engage members and community

By Dolly Bergmann/Atlantic

Club Publicity Chair

The Rotary Club of Atlantic had several fall activities. In November they hold the annual Veterans Appreciation luncheon where any veteran in the community is invited to attend and enjoy a lunch with the Rotarians and listen to a great speaker.

This event is organized by Rotarian Rick Burns, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran. As always, the event was well attended. The speaker was Bill Williams. Bill and his wife, Evonne, are the founders of Patriotic Productions, which is a non-profit organization that sponsors honor flights that take veterans to see the memorial in Washington, D. C. They also have a traveling exhibition that memorializes all of the fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The ideas for the traveling exhibition "came after reading a story in the *Omaha World-Herald* about a father whose pain and grief were even greater four years after his son, had died in Iraq."

Auction raised \$46,500

In November the 37th annual Rotary Auction was attended by 240 people and raised \$46,500. The auction proceeds do not include the Rotary Raffle. The proceeds from the raffle will go toward a K-9 and body cameras for the Cass County Sheriff's office. One of the highlights of the auction was the bidding on a creation from Aubrey Graham. She had made a bench with wagon wheels, that was her welding project for the county fair. She received a purple ribbon on the project and had taken it to the Iowa State Fair. She was asked after the county and State Fair if she would sell her project, but finally decided she would rather donate



Bill Williams (l) was keynote speaker at the Rotary Club of Atlantic Veterans Appreciation Luncheon that was organized by Rotarian Rick Burns (r).



Rotarian Bailey Smith sits on Aubrey Graham's wagon wheel bench, a 4-H project, which raised \$1,300 at the Rotary Club of Atlantic's Auction.

it to the Rotary Auction. The auctioneers had Aubrey tell about her project and stand on the stage as it was being auctioned off. To Aubrey's surprise it went for \$1,300.

There was something for everyone when it came to packages to bid on – a package called Eat, Drink and Be Merry offered the purchaser a four-course prime rib dinner for 12 at the Heritage House. A Surf and Turf dinner for eight was donated by Rotarians Mark and Julie Smith. This dinner would be served at the Smith's house included cocktails, appetizers, steak and crab legs, sides, desserts, and after dinner drinks. This package proved to be in high demand, going for \$2,300.

The auction was again very successful and enjoyed by everyone attending.

Christmas in Atlantic

The Rotary Club of Atlantic is a proud sponsor of the Christmas season in downtown Atlantic where six blocks

are lighted with nearly 200,000 lights. Children of all ages can visit Santa in his cabin in the city park which is owned by the Atlantic Rotary Club. Moving the 1800's cabin to the city park was a Bi-Centennial project for the Rotary club in 1976. Today Santa sets up in the cabin for the children to visit him and tell him their wishes for Christmas.

The first Saturday of December the Chamber holds a lighted Christmas Parade. Floats are decorated with as many lights as they possibly can. Fireworks are shot off above the depot to signal the parade is starting. After the parade, Rotarians and their families gather at the historic Whitney building for a meal of soup, sandwiches and desserts. Santa then joins us to talk to all the kids and give them each a book for Christmas. This event grows each year, with more Rotary families attending. This year the young daughter of the caterer helped the children decorate their Christmas cookie. The event is enjoyed by all.



Fellowship and leadership

Past, present and future District Governors of District 6000 and guests gathered in fellowship at the annual Holiday Party, hosted this year by District Governor Erna Morain, on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Des Moines Country Club.

Rotary In Memoriam

John L. Dasher

District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 1992-93

John Lawrence Dasher, 81, of Fountain Hills, AZ, and Sturgeon Bay, WI, passed away in the loving arms of his family, Friday evening, Sept. 27, 2019, at Door County Medical Center in Sturgeon Bay.

He was born Oct. 22, 1937 in Oskaloosa, IA, the son of Frank Leon Dasher, Jr., and Agnes (Warder) Dasher. John graduated from Keota High School in 1955 and went on to study political science the University of Iowa in Iowa City where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1959. While at Iowa, he was a member of the fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and through that, he met Linda Kay Stone. They were united in marriage on Jan. 10, 1965, at Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines.

Following his graduation from Iowa in 1959, John enrolled in culinary school at the City College of San Francisco in California.

He initially worked for Marshall Field's, The University of Iowa Memorial Union food service and the Dayton Company. John and Linda moved to Waterloo and resided there until 1967 when they moved to Ames. There, he became co-owner of Mr. Steak restaurant with Bill Berger. In 1971, John became the owner/operator of McDonald's restaurants in Iowa in Ames, Story City, Boone, Carroll and Nevada which he owned for 40 years. He and Linda moved to Iowa City in 2014 and remained there until 2016 when they moved to Fountain Hills, AZ. They became summertime residents of Sturgeon Bay, WI in 2017.

John was a founding Board Member for the Iowa City Ronald McDonald House and served on the boards for the Ames Chamber of Commerce, Ames Economic Development Commission, and Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. John was named an honorary alumni of Iowa State University in Ames. He was a member of the Order of the Knoll and chair of the Iowa State University Foundation.

John was a member of the Rotary Club of Ames where he served as President and was District 6000 Governor from 1992-1993. He served in numerous leadership roles in District 6000, including chair of the Nomination Committee. During Rotary's Centennial year of 2004-05 he led the initiative of Rotarians in Districts 5970 and 6000 in Iowa to deaccession a portrait of Rotary founder Paul Harris by the famous 1930s portrait artist Paul Trebelkok from the University of Iowa; and to have the portrait and frame restored to their original lustre and donated to Rotary International. The portrait was dedicated in May 2005 and hangs outside the board room of Rotary Headquarters in Evanston, Ill., to this day. John and his wife, Linda, were Level 3 Major Donors of The Rotary Foundation.

He also served on the Board for the United Way of Story County. He was an ombudsman for the McDonalds Corporation and was on the Terrace Hill Commission and on the board for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry in Des Moines.

Above all, John loved his family and friends and valued service through work and volunteering. John was very beloved, one of the kindest you would ever meet, and a true gentleman.

His memory will live on the hearts of his family: wife, Linda; two daughters, Kelsie (Ty) Stewart of Ames, IA and Jil (Jamie Boling) Dasher of Iowa City, IA; son-in-law, Kevin O'Brien, of Iowa City, IA; five grandchildren, Emma and Benjamin Stewart, and Alexander, Lauren, and Lillian O'Brien; sister, Marilyn Houck of Mason City, IA; and good friends who became family; Edward (Kathleen) Bridges of Mesa, AZ, Anthony Cawdron of West Lafayette, IN, Shalini (Kerman) Amersey of Mumbai, India, and Rick (Katie) Carmer of Ames, IA among others.



John Dasher and his wife, Linda (at left) applaud when the refurbished portrait of founder Paul Harris was unveiled at Rotary headquarters in Evanston, Ill., May 2005.



Past District Governor John Dasher

John was preceded in death by his father and stepmother, Frank (Naomi) Dasher, Jr., mother, Agnes Dasher; two sisters, Barbara (Jim) Robertson and Donna (Herb) Dawson; and other relatives.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held in Ames, IA spring 2020 with date and details pending.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in John's honor for the Iowa State University Foundation, Iowa State University Alumni Foundation, or the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois; DOOR CANcer, Inc. or the Door County Medical Center Foundation; or Rotary International. "Our family would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the staffs of Door County Medical Center and Unity Hospice for their compassionate care given to John and our family." Huehns Funeral Home, Inc. & Door County Crematory LLC in Sturgeon Bay are assisting the Dasher family. Expressions of sympathy, memories, and photos of John may be shared with his family through his tribute page at www.huehnsfuneralhome.com.

NEWS NOTES

ROTARY FESTIVAL

District Governor Erna Morain's goal is to set a Guinness Book of World Records notation with the largest ever simultaneous gavel passing during Rotary Festival, June 25-27, at Prairie Meadows, Altoona. "The hope is that all 65 club presidents will hand over the gavel to their 65 respective successors," she wrote in her December RD6000 News email. There are also plans for all clubs to compete for prize money of several thousand dollars to be used for a project of the winning club's choice. "One member of each club will enter the finals of the Rotary Game, the card game invented by District Governor Morain and delivered to each club at the outset of this Rotary year. The event will celebrate the successes of the 65 clubs this year, and especially their activities to ensure food adequacy for all Iowans." Watch for registration information at www.rotary6000.org.

FUTURE DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Save these dates for District Conferences in 2021 and 2022 and watch for details:



Class of 2020-21

Steve Dakin and Lesley, of Boone, were introduced as members of the District Governor Class of 2020-21 at the Zones 25B-29 Institute Sept. 28, 2019, in Kansas City.

Photo by Bill Tubbs

• **2021:** District Governor-Elect **Steve Dakin** is planning a non-traditional District Conference with the theme of "Story Telling," to be hosted in three-hour sessions at six locations over two weekends:

Burlington: Friday evening, April 16;

Quad Cities: Saturday noon, April 17;

Iowa City: Saturday evening, April 17;

Atlantic: Friday evening, April 23;

Boone: Saturday noon, April 24;

Des Moines: Saturday evening, April 24.

• **2022:** District Governor Nominee **Alka Khonalkar** is planning a joint District Conference to be held with District 5970 (northern Iowa) the weekend of April 23-24, 2022, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville.

DISTRICT MEETING

District Governor-Elect Steve Dakin will be leading Pre-PETS training with 2020-21 club presidents to prepare for NCPETS, March 13-14, at Rochester, MN, and the District 6000 Annual Meeting. Items to be voted include: 1) Approval of the **district budget** for 2020-21. The district is asking a \$5 per member increase to \$35 per member. This will be the first increase since 2009. Membership has declined 700 in that time. With the increase, District 6000 member dues will remain the lowest in Zone 29. 2) Amendment to the **bylaws** to allow the District Governor to appoint one member-at-large to a three-year term on the District Executive Committee. Current member-at-large terms, appointed by DG Erna Morain and chosen by lot, are: Devin Boyer (Waukee), 2019-20; Michelle Cassabaum (Nevada), 2019-21; and Shawn Mullen (Des Moines), 2019-22. 3) Approval of **Nominations Committee** recommendation of Steve Wieneke of the Rotary Club of Ankeny to serve as District Governor in 2022-23.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Suzi Howe of Friendswood, TX, who will be our director on the RI Board from the newly-aligned Zones 29 (upper Midwest and Great Plains) and 25B (Texas) has convened a District Leadership Summit July 17-19 in Des Moines. The regional training is designed to support district leaders to achieve goals for the 2020-21 Rotary year. For more information, contact coordinators: Pat Merryweather-Arges, dg6450pat@al.com; Dian Edwards, dg5630.20212@gmail.com; or Dean Ryerson, dryerson@tds.net.

BLESSMAN INTERNATIONAL

Rotarians are invited to attend the 8th Annual Blessman International "One Child at a Time" Gala which will be Thursday, April 23 at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner and program at 7:00. Special guests are Brazilian twins and Eric Hanson (KCCI). This is the big, annual fundraiser for Blessman's extraordinary humanitarian service in the South African province of Limpopo. It is organized by Waukee Rotarian, Dr. Jim Blessman and his wife, Beth. Blessman International is a Christian, faith-based mission organization working to meet the needs of impoverished children. A list of trip dates which Rotarians may join, is in the Blessman ad on page 5 of District 6000 News. Reservations for the Gala are \$150 per person and can be made online at blessmaninternational.org. Information: (515) 343-5920.

NEWS NOTES

HONOLULU

DGN Alka Khanolkar and Kiran invite all who are going to the RI Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 6-10, to connect with District 6000 Rotarians and friends at the District 6000 Breakfast, Monday, June 8, from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Carnation Room at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, HI 96814 (808) 955-04811. The hotel is five minutes from the Convention Center. The price is \$37 per person. Please register online at www.rotary6000.org, or send your check made out to Rotary D6000 to: Rotary, PO Box 122, Pella, IA 50219. Convention pre-registrations close after March 31. The Zones 25-29 Party will be Sunday, June 7 from 6-9 p.m. at the Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu. The price is \$125 per person and includes buffet dinner. All are welcome, but pre-registration is needed at www.zones25b-29.org, or Debra Warner: debrawarner13@gmail.com.

FUTURE RI CONVENTIONS

2021 Taipei, Taiwan, June 12-16
 2022 Houston, Texas, USA, June 4-8
 2023 Melbourne, Australia, May 27-31

HARASSMENT TRAINING

DGE Steve Dakin reports that DGEs were asked at the International Assembly training to encourage all PEs to take the RI course on Preventing and Addressing Harassment. Steve added, "It would be good if every Rotarian did. The course time says it is 45 minutes. It took me 20 minutes." The online course can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/rk3jsdx>.

MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation giving table on page 19 of this newsletter shows a four-year membership history of all clubs in District 6000, from July 1, 2015 through July 1, 2019. In this period, our district has had a net decrease of 274 members. Twenty clubs have increased and 43 have declined. Which is yours? Will you take action to help your club grow?

GUARDIANS OF INTEGRITY

The deadline for the 2020 Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity Awards which honor a member of high integrity in each club, was moved to March 1.

ROTARY FOUNDATION HIGHLY RATED

The personal-finance website WalletHub released its picks for 2020's Best Charities on Dec. 3, and a Charity Calculator to help donors decide where and how to give. In its charities with the highest ratings section, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is No. 1 overall!

SHULTS & CO. AT GRINNELL

Shults & Co., under the direction of Frank and Sherry Shults, and the Grinnell Rotary Club have raised over \$100,000 for area organizations and projects with their musical performances. This year's concert, the 13th bi-annual event, "Return to Vegas/The Headliners," was at the Hotel Grinnell Auditorium Feb. 20, 21 and 22. All proceeds from this year's production will be donated to Grinnell's important first responders, the Grinnell Police Department and the Grinnell Fire Department.



District 6000 honored

At Zone Institute in Kansas City Sept. 28, 2019, District Rotary Foundation Chair, PDG Chris Knapp, accepted awards to District 6000 as a leader in Foundation giving in the former Zone 28 for 2018-19: Second for Annual Giving (\$386,762), third for total giving (\$775,178), and third for PolioPlus (\$168,228). (l-r): Rotary Foundation Trustee Jennifer Jones, RI President-Elect Holger Knaack, PDG Knapp, RI Director Larry Dimmitt and PDG Art Ziedler, Zone 25B RRFC. Photo by Bill Tubbs

HELP WANTED

District Accountant, and District Treasurer, for District 6000 for Rotary year 2020-21, beginning July 1, 2020.

Contact DGE Steve Dakin, (515) 230-0036, email: steve@retiredfun.net, or District Administrator Carolyn Scharff, (877) 976-8279, or dis6000admin@Lisco.com

Rotary 
 District 6000



Rotary's goal is a polio-free world! There were 33 cases of polio in all of 2018, and 173 in 2019. Already there are 12 in Pakistan in 2020 as of Feb. 17, and none in Afghanistan.

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Club leaders' checklist

NCPETS: Be sure that your President-Elect is registered for NCPETS, March 12-14 at Rochester, and your president-nominee if possible (p. 4).

ASSEMBLY: Encourage members to attend District Assembly, March 28 at Newton (p. 5).

GMS: Ensure that your club is represented at a Grant Management Seminar if you wish to participate in Rotary Foundation grants programs (p. 5).

RYLA: Encourage a member(s) to serve as a Rotarian volunteer at RYLA 2020 (p. 14).

COMMUNITY GRANT: Submit your club's application for a Community Grant for 2020-21 by June 1, 2020 (p. 5).

FOUNDATION: Check your club's progress toward your Rotary Foundation goal, and make plans to meet or exceed it. If you have not yet set a goal, do it NOW! (p. 18-19).

POLIO: Encourage members to be informed about Rotary's quest to eradicate polio, and to support it (p. 6-7, 10, 21).

MEETINGS: Encourage members to attend the RI Convention and District 6000 Breakfast in Honolulu, and DG Erna Morain's Rotary Festival in Altoona (p. 5, 33, 38, 39).

RYE: Invite your club to experience the challenges and rewards of Rotary Youth Exchange (p. 13).

TRAFFICKING: Ask your club to support projects to stem the tide of human trafficking (p. 20, 28, 29).

SUBMIT NEWS or your activities by May 22 for the next issue of District 6000 News to PDG Bill Tubbs at btubbs@north-scottpress.com. Send text as a Word file or in the body of the email; and free-standing high resolution .jpg images.



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?