

District Governor 2010-11 Gary Welch

Gary L. Welch is a native Iowan born in Clarinda, Iowa and grew up on a farm just outside of Braddyville, Iowa. He is currently serving his third term on the Ankeny City Council. He has been involved with the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Board, 24hr Relay Challenge, Leadership Institute, Citizen's Police Academy and numerous other boards and committees over the years. He is founding chair of the Neveln Community Resource Center which provides service to over 11,000 people a year.



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Gary and Colleen Welch

Gary currently serves on the Metro Waste Authority Board, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Community Education Advisory Board and the Mayor's Youth Council.

Gary received a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska and is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW). He retired as a School Social Worker from Heartland AEA-11 in 2006 to go into private practice and to continue his volunteer work. He worked as a School Social Worker, a Family Therapist and Psychiatric Social Worker over 40 years.

He has received numerous awards including "Ankeny Citizen of the Year," "Governor's Leadership Award," "Friend of Community Education," listed in "Who's Who for Human Service Professionals," and published journal and newspaper articles. He has served as president of the Ankeny Rotary Club, District Club Service Chair, on the District Conference Committee, District Public Relations and EREY committees. He was an Assistant District Governor 05-08 and was elected to become the District 6000 Governor for 2010-11. In District 6000, he is currently serving on the following district committees: Executive Leadership, Budget and Finance, District Conference Chair, Club Extension, District Simplified Grants, Membership Development, Recruitment & Retention, PolioPlus Challenge, Training, World Community Service, World Peace Fellowship and ex-officio on Youth Exchange. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and a sustaining member. He has traveled to Xicotepec, Mexico and Nigeria for Rotary mission trips.

Gary has been an Ankeny resident for over 30 years. His wife, Colleen of 40 years works at Orchard Place, an adolescent treatment center, as an accountant and is an avid Coca Cola collector. He and his wife have two married sons, Eric and wife-Jennifer, and Jason and wife-Kay. They have two adopted grandchildren from Russia, Jozy- 12 and Luke-10. They have also been licensed Foster Parents working with teenage children.

Gary has worked in construction, and painted houses, did roofing and landscaping as a young man. He enjoys outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, sports, camping and wood working. He is a science fiction fan, but most of all, enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. He has a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.