

District Governor John Ockenfels

John's Rotary experience began in 1986 when he was invited to join the Rotary Club of Iowa City. Two years later, he became a member of the extension committee whose focus was to start a new Rotary Club in Iowa City. The Rotary Club of Iowa City AM was officially chartered in January 1989. He became a charter member of that club and is still an active member today.

He was a member AM board of directors for almost 10 years. While on the board, he served as the chair of several committees including Community Service, Foundation, and Vocational Service. These experiences led to his being elected to serve as Club President for the 1998-1999 year. John was an Assistant Governor working with the four Iowa City area clubs from 2011-2013. Over the years John has served on several District committees including Permanent Fund (now known as the Endowment Fund), Polio Eradication, Youth Exchange, and the Future Vision and Grant Management committee.



**Governor 2014-15
John and Deb Ockenfels**

John feels fortunate to be one of the members of the committee that started the Iowa MOST program. Iowa MOST is a district committee that specializes in cleft lip repair for children in Guatemala. In the spring of 2014 John and his wife Deb, also a member of the Iowa City AM club, joined the Iowa MOST team going to Guatemala to help with the surgical procedures and program support. They are both Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society members, Benefactors and members of the Bequest Society.

He has served on the board of HEF / FAMSCO (Fire And Medical Supply Company) since 1996. FAMSCO is a District 6000 501(c)(3) program that collects and distributes used fire fighting gear and medical equipment and supplies to Rotary partners in Mexico and Central American countries. John has made two trips to Xicotepec, Mexico where the district partners with the Rotary club of Xicotepec de Juarez (Puebla, Mexico). The District also sends teams of Rotarians, with high school and college students to learn each other's cultures and share skills.

John attended the International Conventions in Indianapolis, Indiana (1998), Lisbon, Portugal (2013) and Sydney, Australia (2014). In 2002 he participated in a National Immunization Day (NID) program to help give Polio vaccine drops to children in India and attended the World Polio Conference in Mumbai, India.

He was raised in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, Iowa and attended the University of Iowa. He served in the Air Force from 1972 to 1976. During this time he spent two years flying as a crew member on AC-130 aircraft in based in Ubon and Korat, Thailand.

In 1977 John was promoted to be the manager of the family business, City Carton Recycling. He retired as company CEO in October 2010. He has served on numerous boards and commissions throughout his career. These include the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Iowa City Airport Commission, Iowa Recycling Association, Stearman Flight, Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge committee and many more. John's primary hobby is flying and maintaining training airplanes from World War II, and teaching formation flying in those types of aircraft.

John and Deb have been married since January 1978. They have a son, Dan, and daughter, Kris. Deb graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing and worked as an operating room nurse for the University of Iowa Hospital for the next 32 years. After retiring, she still maintains her nursing license. Deb also owned and operated a commercial horse boarding and training facility for over 10 years. In her free time she enjoys her hobbies of quilting, maintaining a saltwater aquarium and taking care of her horses and cats.

Together, John and Deb look forward to experiencing the many opportunities Rotary offers in the years to come.