



## DISTRICT 7010 CONFERENCE 2016 SPEAKER BIOS



**BOB GALLAGHER, PDG**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland and a Past District Governor in District 6400 (Southeast Michigan, USA and Southwest Ontario, Canada.) During his 30 years in Rotary he has been fortunate to have travelled on behalf of Rotary to many countries to record Rotary's work. His photographs and videos have brought the international meaning of Rotary home to many people around the world.

Professionally Bob is a Visual Storyteller producing visuals, videos and staging events for private and public companies and organizations ranging from health care, financial institutions, government and including Past US President Bill Clinton. He also teaches photography and presentation skills.

For the past 15 years Bob has created the speech visualizations for each year's Chair of the Rotary Foundation both at the International Assembly and at the International Convention. He has produced the major speeches for the presidencies of Ray Klinginsmith (who refers to Bob as the Rotary Wizard), Kalyan Banerjee, Ron Burton, Gary Huang, Ravi Ravindran and John Germ. Bob has served in various capacities in District 6400, his Zone and at Rotary International.

Bob has received the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service, the Distinguished Service Award and the International Service Award for a Polio-Free World. He has also been awarded Rotary International's "Service Above Self" Award.

Bob and his wife Mary Jean are Major Donors and Founding Members of the Bequest Society. In 2010 they led a team to India to take part in a Polio National Immunization Day. Bob, Mary Jean and their daughter Michelle are all Paul Harris Fellows and Rotary Volunteers. The family has hosted 12 exchange students and members from nine GSE teams.





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**DR. MARY JEAN GALLAGHER** is an educator and a Rotarian with a lifelong passion for improving our world. Now CEO of M J Gallagher and Associates, she is the former Chief Student Achievement Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister of Student Achievement for the province of Ontario, Canada. Under her leadership, student achievement, literacy, numeracy and high school graduation rates rose in Ontario and the achievement gaps for students experiencing challenges to learning narrowed. She has provided advice and education development programs to governments and educators on six continents, and is a sought after speaker at events and conferences around the world.

Mary Jean has been a Rotarian since 1991 and served as President of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland in 2008/09. In 2000, she was a Rotary Volunteer in Action 600 km up the Amazon River in Brazil, helping to establish a new university in the region to provide opportunities to local students for whom poverty was a barrier to a successful future. Mary Jean and her husband Bob led a Polio Immunization team to India in 2010, and in 2012, Mary Jean led the District 6400 Vocational Training Team to South Africa, providing professional learning programs to hundreds of teachers.

She and her husband Bob are Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation, and the Gallagher family has personally hosted 12 youth exchange students as well as a number of members of visiting GSE teams.

Mary Jean truly understands the responsibility we have to leave our world better than we found it, and enjoys Rotary as the catalyst which allows us to come together to make our neighbourhoods, locally and globally, more successful places in which to live.





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**ELIZABETH A SMITH**, District Governor 2014-2015, is a third generation Rotarian. Grandfather Allen was the Secretary of the Flint Michigan Rotary club for 37 years, Dad Bob Smith was President of Detroit Rotary in 1985-86 and a Rotarian from 1971 until his death in 1993. Liz and husband Jamie Yeats are each Paul Harris Fellows. Jamie is a member of the Detroit AM Rotary Club.

Liz has served the Rotary Club of Detroit since 1994 in various committee memberships and chairmanships, as a Director, and as President in 2006-2007.

Liz and Jamie have traveled to Cuba with Rotarians to make person-to-person contact with Cubans as a cultural exchange. In February 2003 and again in 2004 they traveled to India to participate in Polio National Immunization Days. They traveled to Nicaragua to visit the "Children of the Dump" and the missions of Father Marco in 2004.

In January of 2005 Liz visited Peru and served as a non-medical volunteer on a Rotaplast mission. She has since traveled with Rotaplast five additional times, twice to Venezuela, and also to the Philippines, to India, and to Mali.



Closer to home, she is the "woman behind the curtain" serving as Technical Director at District 6400 conferences, making sure that The Show runs smoothly.

"I believe in Rotary, and all that it stands for in the world."

Rotary District 6400  
Southeast Michigan USA/Southwest Ontario Canada





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**MARK WAFER** is the owner of six Tim Hortons restaurants in Toronto. Over the past 20 years Mark and his wife Valarie have hired 120 people with disabilities to fill meaningful and competitively-paid positions in all areas of the operations, from entry-level to logistics, production, and management. They currently employ 46 people with disabilities in a workforce of 250.

Mark believes there is a clear business case for inclusive employment.

Mark is a member of the federal government's Panel on Labour Market Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; co-founder of Canadian Business SenseAbility, Canada's national corporate strategy for hiring people with disabilities; a member of Ontario's Economic Development Partnership Council; and an inaugural member of Ontario's Champions League. He was recently inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame.

Mark is also a motorsports enthusiast, race car driver and amateur sports car champion.





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**PETER F. SALE** is a distinguished University Professor (Emeritus) at University of Windsor, Canada, and a senior advisor to the United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). From 2006 to 2014, he was Assistant Director in charge of coastal marine programs at UNU-INWEH, leading projects that apply science to coastal marine management in tropical regions around the world. Marine management initiatives include acting as Chair of the Connectivity Working Group within the World Bank's global Coral Reef Targeted Research Project, 2005-2009, and leading a major development project, 2003-2009, on coastal marine management for the waters surrounding Nakheel's offshore island developments in Dubai, UAE.

Educated at University of Toronto, and University of Hawaii (Ph.D. 1968), he was on the faculty of University of Sydney, Australia (1968-1987), University of New Hampshire, USA (1988-1993), and University of Windsor, Canada (1994-2006) prior to joining UNU-INWEH. Since retiring from teaching, he has lived near Port Carling, in the Muskoka district, north of Toronto, where he is actively engaged in local environmental issues as Chair (2014-2015) and Past Chair of the Muskoka Watershed Council.

He has produced over 200 refereed publications, contributed numerous book chapters, edited three technical books, and in 2011 published a book on the global environmental crisis, *Our Dying Planet*, written for the general public. He has a broad perspective on ecology, sustainability, and our current environmental crisis, and is a recognized authority on the ecology and management of coastal marine systems. He continues to write and speak on our environmental crisis.





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**TODD H. BOL** of Hudson, Wisconsin, is creator and executive director of Little Free Library, a Midwest based nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free neighborhood book exchanges. With three decades of experience as a social entrepreneur, Todd has created international programs in nursing education, barter, innovative business models, teaching and community education.

Often, traditional nonprofits begin as needs-based organizations - they might obtain a grant and then hope to make some sort of revenue to sustain itself in the long-term. Little Free Library is anything but traditional. Thanks to Todd's vision, what started as a backyard project has exploded into a global phenomenon. The financial structure was uniquely designed by Todd to generate enough income from library sales to cover all overhead costs, allowing the majority, if not, of all future donations, investments, grants to be fully utilized supporting the mission. A true entrepreneurial nonprofit model!

Also a little less traditional, Todd views supporters as partners. It's not a transactional experience, it's a relational one that's two-sided. When you support Little Free Library you get something tangible - you own your library, you're a shareholder, invested in the organization. It's a long-term commitment that leads to lasting change; each supporter (Little Free Library calls these people "stewards") has been instrumental to the success of the organization. Little Free Library has become a global movement with 36,000 libraries in all 50 states and more than 70 countries and has facilitated the exchange of 9.3 million free books annually. Just ask any steward about their community impact and you will quickly learn about their commitment to this global movement!

We welcome all invitations for Todd to spread the word about Little Free Libraries. Todd creates a custom presentation for every audience, using the themes of reading promotion, neighborhood engagement, and building communities of literacy.







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**MICHAEL K. MCGOVERN** joined Rotary in 1986 as a member of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA. He has served as club president, district governor, district foundation chair, Rotarian Action Group chair, international training leader, RI committee member and chair, trustee and vice chair of the Rotary Foundation, and director and vice president of Rotary International. He has served in numerous other positions at the district, zone and international levels and has attended five councils on legislation in various roles. Mike

has spoken at Rotary events in 36 USA states, 8 Canadian provinces, and 27 countries.

In June 2016, Mike completed a four-year term as a trustee of the Rotary Foundation. He currently serves as chair of the International PolioPlus Committee and represents Rotary on the Polio Strategy Committee of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. He is chairing a committee preparing a recommendation to the RI Board on the realignment of zones. Mike also serves on the board of PPH National Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Rotary International providing liability insurance coverage to Rotary clubs in the United States.

Mike has worked his entire career with the Town of Cape Elizabeth, Maine beginning as an intern in 1977 and serving as town manager since 1985. He appreciates the public spiritedness of successive town councils who have been supportive in providing him time to participate in Rotary activities. He also is a past chair and serves on the board of Ecomaine, Maine's largest recycler, as a member of the executive committee of the transportation planning and funding agency for the southern part of Maine, and as a member of the Diocesan Review Board of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland which reviews policies and complaints against clergy relating to child protection issues throughout Maine.

He is a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation and a recipient of the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

