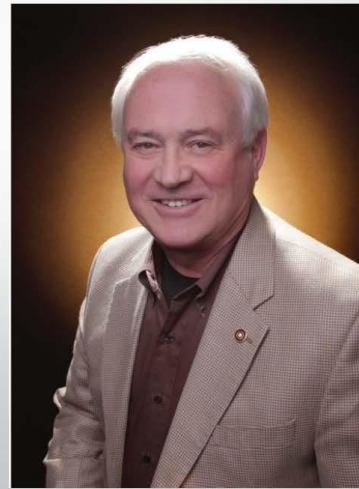


Rotarian of the Year



William A. (Bill) Downes
Mountain Foothills

The Rotarian of the Year is our district's highest award given to a Rotarian. The winner of this award must demonstrate exemplary service to his/her club, district and community.

Bill is a commercial real estate broker and founder of the Evergreen Commercial Group, a graduate of Leadership Evergreen, member of the Conifer and Evergreen Chambers and a major donor to the Mountain Area Land Trust. He joined The Mountain Foothills Rotary Club in 2005 and served in many roles and was that club's "Rotarian of the Year" in 2009. In 2010-11, he served as his club's president and Area 8 Assistant Governor the next year.

Bill has served on the District Membership team for more than two years and has developed the membership-tracking tool, helpful in identifying clubs with membership challenges and initiating a response to help clubs retain and increase membership. Of Bill, Debi Bush says: "I'd love for all to have the drive he does for membership."

Bill has served as Assistant Governor for Area 8 for the past four years and developed a regular quarterly meeting of club presidents, presidents-elect and nominees with a training agenda appropriate for the each individual's role. He has given numerous presentations to clubs and members, most notable his Rotary 101 for new members. In addition to the Area 8 fall Assembly; he has encouraged an area spring social gathering, which has increased area-wide fun and fellowship.

During this Rotary Year, Bill assumed the role of chief Assistant Governor, working with other AGs to coordinate each area assembly and then followed up with evaluations. He has helped identify areas of improvement in the assemblies. He accepted the role of Chair of the Million Dollar Dinner which although delayed to be completed in Rotary Year '15-'16 and has helped identify potential donors of more than \$1 million dollars. His work with his own club has been exemplary serving as President and on several committees and on club fund-raisers. Most significant are the comments from his area clubs; Peak-to-Peak Rotary indicates their gratitude; "Without Bill's countless hours of assistance, support and encouragement, our club would still be struggling to move forward."

I am honored to acknowledge Bill Downes as District 5450
"Rotarian of the Year."