



Dear Rotarians of Rotary District 6420,

It has been an honor to serve as Governor of Rotary District 6420 in the 2021-22 Rotary year. My final duty as Governor was to award individual Rotarians and Rotary clubs for outstanding Rotary achievements in the 2021-22 Rotary year. I asked our club presidents and Assistant Governors to nominate the achievers in their club(s), and I received several great nominations.

Following is a list of District award winners for the 2021-22 Rotary year:

First, I divided the Rotarian of the Year Award into two categories, club level achievement, and district leadership achievement. The club level "Rotarian of the Year" is **Sue Rector** from the Rotary Club of Rock Island. Sue single handedly completed a year-long service project entitled "Keeping Them Engaged". It involves an ongoing partnership with Earl Hanson Elementary School in Rock Island. This service project assists in keeping students engaged over the summer in a fun and creative way. This project was an incredible endeavor from collecting and storing the items in her home, to ensuring all 300 bags were assembled, and then personally delivering them to the school. Sue is a great example of "Service Above Self".

The "Rotarian of the Year" award for special achievement on the District leadership level went to District Public Image Chair **Melissa McCormick**. The District has not had this position filled for several years. Melissa is a professional in the areas of public image and public relations, and a dedicated Rotarian in the Rockton-Roscoe club. Melissa agreed to take the position, and soon had gathered an outstanding committee of District Rotarians to do the very important work of improving our public image in our communities. Our club websites have been brought up to date, and we have a new District Newsletter.

The award for "Club Officer of the Year" goes to **Chuck Watkins** of the Rochelle club. Chuck has been the Treasurer of Rochelle Rotary for many years. Chuck has been instrumental in getting his club through these pandemic years. When a new meeting place was necessary, Chuck helped find the place. When new technology became necessary, Chuck made sure the right equipment was available. He comes early to every meeting to set up and makes sure everything is put away afterwards. Also, Chuck has been an important part of Rochelle's "From the Heart Gala" which this year raised over \$64,000 for eight local charities in the Rochelle area.

Two clubs shared the award for "Best Fundraiser/Service Project of the Year". **Princeton Rotary's** community auction drew a huge crowd and raised over \$40,000, including over \$10,000 for the Princeton Food Bank. Also winning this year is **Rochelle Rotary's** "From the Heart Gala" which raised over \$64,000 and provided checks of \$8,000 to eight local non-profits in the Rochelle area. Both fundraiser/service projects are amazing achievements in another difficult Covid year.

The award for "Best Rotary Club Website" went to the **Galena Rotary Club**. The District's Public Image Committee was asked to select this award since they had already reviewed all our club websites. They narrowed the competition to a list of five finalists from which they chose Galena Rotary.

The final award is for “Net Growth in Membership” from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022. According to Rotary International statistics the winner was the **River Cities Rotary Club** with a net gain of six members.

Finally, I want to thank the Rotarians of District 6420 for allowing me to serve as Governor in 2021-22. It was a wonderful experience, and one I will always cherish in my life.

In July 2021, I sent all members a copy of the goals for myself and for the District. I have reviewed those goals throughout the year. With the help and support of our District’s leadership we have met or exceeded most of those goals. However, we have not solved our membership problems, but as we continue to emerge from a pandemic to a new normal, I am confident we will again grow Rotary in District 6420. I intend to do my best, along with District Governor, Laura, to see our membership begin to grow in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

PDG David Bills

District Membership Chair

July 28, 2022