

Bio - Kelly C. Atkinson

Kelly C. Atkinson is a native Utahn who has lived in the Salt Lake City Valley his entire life.

In 1986, he became the first member of his party elected to the Utah House of Representatives from his area since the Great Depression. He served in the House leadership from 1990 to 1996. During his ten years in office, the Deseret News named Kelly as "one of the most effective legislators" on Capitol Hill each term he served.

In 1986, Kelly was approached by Bob Ladenberger, a hospital administrator, to help form a new Rotary Club in West Jordan, Utah. Kelly became a chartered member of the club, established 1987. In the centennial year of Rotary, Kelly was the District Governor for Utah. He was the chairman of the House of Friendship for the 2007 Rotary International Convention held in Salt Lake City. He is a Paul Harris Society member as well as a Major Donor.

In 2010, Penny, Kelly's wife of 48 years, was elected as the first woman Governor in the history of District 5420. Kelly and Penny are among just a handful of Rotarian couples in the world that have both served as District Governors and the first and only couple to do so in Utah. Together, the Atkinson's have hosted 29 Exchange Students from all over the world. The Atkinson's have two sons and three grandsons.

