

District Dispatch

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 7

JANUARY, 2024

Rotary District 6310

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Happy New Year!

It is the New Year - and that means we are halfway through our Rotary Year!

I realized that one year ago this month 500 of my District Governors Elect classmates and I attended International Assembly, which was our DG training. It was amazing training, and the first time we heard President Gordon MacInally's theme of *Create Hope In the World* with his focus on mental health. What an opportunity for Rotary to highlight mental health—I couldn't wait to get home to start sharing the information!

January is Vocational Service Month where Rotary calls on Rotarians to encourage and foster:

- High ethical standards
- Recognition of worthiness of all useful occupations
- The dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve

We can put these into action when we have club programs that highlight member occupations or when we help our Interactors and Rotaractors with career goals.

High ethical standards are at the core of Rotary. Almost every club recites the Four Way Test at their meetings. This was a test that Herbert Taylor created as an ethical guide to follow in all business matters—as he was trying to save a company from bankruptcy. The company's survival was credited to this simple Four Way Test.

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Happy New Year(continued)

Many years ago we had a young co-op at work, and I asked her to take on a special project to inventory our downtown buildings. She initially went to college for sports medicine, but she changed her focus and is now a successful Real Estate Agent. Right before Christmas this year, we reconnected; and she mentioned that our project she worked on many years ago actually helped her find her passion. What a great feeling to be able to help a young person achieve her goals.



District Governor Melanie McCoy

Even though it was a year ago, I am still energized to help Rotary *Create Hope in the World*.

Congratulations to our District Foundation Committee!!!

In the December issue of *The Rotary Foundation Cadre Connection* newsletter, there was an article recognizing districts that were current with "exceptional" grant reporting during the 2022-2023 Rotary year with at lest 90% compliance.

Our own District 6310 is one of only 39 districts around the world recognized—with only ten of those from the United States! The recognition includes our reporting on global grants, global scholarship grants, and district grants.

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 Rotary Foundation Committee team:

Committee Chair Cheryl Peterson, Rotary Club of Owosso

Annual Fund Chair Roderick Bieber, Rotary Club of Saginaw

Major Gifts/Endowment/Paul Harris Society Chair Eileen Jennings, Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant

District Grants Chair Larry Arendt, Rotary Club of Bay City Morning

International Service Coordinator and Global Grants Chair Charles Sassone, Rotary Club of Frankenmuth

Global Fellowship Chair Sivaram Narayan, Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant

Peace Fellowship Chair Gail Hoffman, Rotary Club of Midland

Polio Plus Chair Chuck Cusick. Rotary Club of Bay City

Water and Sanitation Subcommittee Chair Andreas Teich, Rotary Club of Bay City

Understanding Foundation Recognition Points By Annual Fund Chair Paul Hornak

What are Foundation recognition points, and how can I accumulate them?

Foundation recognition points are awarded to donors who contribute to The Rotary Foundation through the Annual Fund or PolioPlus or who contribute to sponsorship of a Foundation grant.

Donors receive one recognition point for every U.S. dollar contributed to these funds. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are not eligible. Donors can transfer Foundation recognition points to others to help them qualify as a Paul Harris Fellow or Multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Foundation recognition points belong to the original donor until the donor's death, unless the points are transferred or until the donor uses them. (The surviving spouse of a Major Donor may also use the points.)

How do I transfer Foundation recognition points?

A minimum of 100 Foundation recognition points must be transferred at a time, and you must complete and sign the Recognition and Transfer Request. The points may not be transferred from individuals to a club or district. Individual donors are the only ones authorized to transfer recognition points from their individual account. Club presidents are the only ones authorized to transfer recognition points from a club account. District Governors are the only ones authorized to transfer recognition points from a district account.

How are Foundation recognition points tracked?

Your club and district leaders can view the online Club Recognition Summary, which includes the recognition amount, tally of recognition points, current Paul Harris Fellow level, and date that level was achieved. Through your My Rotary account, you can view your personal contribution history, recognition amount, and available Foundation recognition points.

One way to use Foundation recognition points

The Rotary Club of Frankenmuth has a unique way of donating money to the Annual Fund-Share account. It raises money for The Rotary Foundation and helps club members obtain Paul Harris levels.

Understanding Foundation Recognition Points (continued)

Steve List, Foundation Chair for the Rotary Club of Frankenmuth states:

"When our members are about to leave Rotary because of retirement, illness, or job relocation, we ask them if they would consider transferring their accumulated recognition points available to be used as a transfer for a matching contribution that an active member would receive for a minimum donation of \$100 to a maximum of \$200. We also send emails to those members who are within \$400 to get to the next level of Paul Harris recognition. By doing this, the member knows that with a \$200 donation matched with a \$200 transfer they would reach the next level. In the last Rotary year, we raised over \$36,000 for The Rotary Foundation, and this matching program was an important factor in achieving that goal."

Develop a plan to use recognition points

I encourage each member, club president, and Foundation chair to check the Club Recognition Summary in My Rotary/Rotary Club Central to determine the number of Foundation recognition points each member and the club have accumulated. Individual members or a club can use their points to obtain a Paul Harris recognition for a club member or a non-Rotary individual. I suggest your club develop a plan to use these points on a yearly basis. If you need guidance with this or any part of the recognition point process, feel free to contact me at <u>p1hornak@gmail.com</u>.



"There is no denying that incidents of violence and atrocities being perpetuated around the world seem to be escalating. Global peace is fragile, and the stakes are getting higher.

Still, we know that it is possible to bring all people together to work toward a shared goal. Rotary members do so every day in every part of the world. May our ability to unify in common purpose be a spark that helps light the path out of these dark days.

Together, let's Create Hope in the World."

R. Gordon R. McInally President, Rotary International

Polio Update

By Chuck Cusick

As of December 27, 2023, 12 cases of the wild poliovirus have been reported; 6 in Pakistan and 6 in Afghanistan. We track these counts on a calendar-year basis, which means we are starting 2024 with zero cases reported. Your donations are tracked on a fiscal-year basis, so you have until June 30th to make your donations to The Rotary Foundation.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has two goals laid out in its current strategy: to interrupt all remaining transmission of endemic wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) and to stop all outbreaks of variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). 2023 was a critical year for progressing on each of these; and while our urgent and diligent work to end polio must continue into 2024, the GPEI achieved incredible things in the past twelve months. Health workers vaccinated more than 400 million children in 2023, preventing an estimated 650,000 cases of paralysis from polio and saving the lives of up to 60,000 children.

Please consider joining the PolioPlus Society and helping Rotary eradicate this disease. As long as poliovirus exists anywhere, it is a threat to people everywhere.

If your club would like a presentation on polio, contact <u>cvcusick@aol.com</u>.

Bequest Corner Q&A

Every month the Dispatch will include a Q&A about estate gifts to The Rotary Foundation.

If I leave money to The Rotary Foundation in my estate plan, but do not tell Rotary while I am alive, what will happen to my money?

Your gift will go into the Endowment Fund and earnings each year will go into the World Fund and be used for international projects. None of the earnings will go into the District Designated Fund and be available for district-sponsored grants and projects.

If this is what you want, then you do not need to tell The Rotary Foundation about your gift before your death. If, however, you want the gift to go to SHARE, so that half of the earnings each year will be under district control, complete the Legacy Form at <u>rotary.org/legacy</u>. (Scroll down to "Already made your commitment? Notify Us.") and complete the short form. Or contact Eileen Jennings, and she will send you the form (<u>eileen.jennings811@gmail.com</u>).



Challenges in Childcare

By Joyce Bremer, Maternal and Child Health Champion

As parents, we are aware there have always been challenges for us related to childcare throughout the years. As a mother of two sons, who are now 35 and 37 years old, I can share with you the barriers that I felt in the mid 1980's. Many of my challenges still exist for today's parents but at a different level. I can remember there were weeks that nearly all of my paychecks were needed to cover daycare costs. Why did I continue to work, some asked? I personally felt that I was building my career. The boys were well taken care of in the daycare setting, and I was learning daily in my position.

Many parents face the same challenges today. However, what may be critical for parents to consider today is the extreme rise in the cost of daycare as well as access to daycare. When considering the size of a family, not only is it important to consider the financial means to cover the cost of college for the children but also the consideration of the extreme cost of daycare today. Affordability and access to daycare are genuine concerns for today's parents. These issues may include a parent having to choose between staying home instead of pursuing their career/work for financial reasons. Access to daycare is extremely challenging as well and may be the reason a parent is unable to work.

Solutions are difficult to identify. In preparing for this article, I did research as well as interviewed young parents. Parents are easily spending 30-40% of their income on daycare with infant waitlists at daycares exceeding a year and a half timeframe. Parents are enrolling their unborn children in daycare to secure a place after a 12-week paternal/maternal leave. Other barriers outside of cost and access are location, quality, and daycares with programs for special needs children.

In conclusion, although there are similarities from my personal experience with day care and today's challenges, this topic is an extreme stressor for our young parents today. This is resulting in the strong link between childcare access and the ability to pay for the service with a mother's ability to pursue her career/ work.





Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The LARA Method

By DEI Committee Chair Sharon Mortensen

Happy new year! Many people write about the new year and fresh starts. Taylor Swift says, "This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change." T.S. Eliot stated, "Every moment is a fresh beginning." As we start the new year, let's look at a way to better understand and communicate with those around us. As in previous articles, we are looking at ways to address two important Rotary priorities: inclusion and mental health. The information today will help to promote inclusion and will help us have deeper connections with others. These deep meaningful connections can be helpful to those struggling with mental health.

The LARA method is a way of communicating with one another and communicating across differences. LARA stands for Listen, Affirm, Respond, and Ask/Add. This method of communication came from the Intergroup Dialogue Project from Cornell University. Information about this style of communication states, "The LARA method builds respect and common ground between people in conversation, allowing you to explore your differences more openly and honestly."

Let's look at how you can use this method of communication in the new year. First, start with listening. Rather than thinking about your response, slow down and truly listen. Listen for emotion and listen to understand the other person's experience. With empathy, understand what is underneath their words. The greatest gift we can often give another person is to truly listen.

Next affirm what you heard. Affirming does not mean you agree with the other person, simply that you heard what they said. Paraphrasing what the other person said is one way to affirm. This also helps to confirm what you heard and allows the speaker to clarify or correct. Affirming also establishes a connection between the speaker and you as the listener. It demonstrates that you are working to establish a connection. Express appreciation for the speaker's honesty and vulnerability.

The "R" of LARA stands for response. Responding is more than simply restating the speaker's words. It goes beyond the previous step of affirming. Responding provides an opportunity to share your thoughts in an honest and respectful way. If you disagree, share your thoughts. Using "I" statements can be a helpful way to share your beliefs and experiences. With differences of opinions, avoid debate. Instead, work to state both areas of conflict and areas of agreement.

Finally, ask and add. Up to this point, you've listened to the other person, you've affirmed that you heard them by reflecting what they said, and you have responded by sharing your opinions and thoughts. You can add to the conversation by sharing pertinent facts and information. Allow the other person to share additional facts and information as well.

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DEI: The LARA Method (continued)

Remember, this is not a debate. In a debate, information is used to prove your point. Here you are sharing and hearing relevant facts and information that may help each of you learn.

Engaging in conversations with the LARA method provides a fresh beginning to greater understanding. Rotary is about building understanding and working for goodwill and peace. That involves courageous communication, and the LARA method can help us achieve this. As Rotary's International's President, R. Gordon R. McInally, has stated, "Discovering the human connections that bind us is what we do through our membership every day." As Rotarians, let's explore human connections as we listen, affirm, respond, and ask/add.



DIVERSITY is a fact. EQUITY is a choice. INCLUSION is an action. BELONGING IS AN OUTCOME.



Interact News



The 30-member Rotary Interact Club from St. Lorenz Lutheran School in Frankenmuth sang Christmas carols for the residents at the Wellspring Lutheran Services Skilled Nursing and Rehab Home in December. The Interact Club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Frankenmuth.



This group of Oscoda High School alumni shown in the photo above were treated to breakfast by the Oscoda High School Interact Club. After breakfast, the returning alum held a Q&A session with the current senior class, fielding questions about college life and what to expect next year. This is the 4th year for the senior breakfast.



Club members visited assisted living and several private residences to sing Christmas carols and deliver Christmas cards. After the caroling the group gathered for hot dogs and chips. It is an annual event sponsored by the group, and every year the list grows of people requesting the carolers.



These two Interact students and club advisors take a quick break during their 'bagging for tips' fundraiser. The students are raising money for the trip to the Dominican Republic coming up the end of January. Isabelle Lorenzoni, a 17-year-old Rotary exchange student attending Pinconning High School, presented information to the Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish on her hometown, her native country of Brazil, and her involvement in Rotary activities. Isabelle's hometown is Palmeira dos Missoes, a city of 33,000, located in the state of Rio Grande do Sol, the southernmost state of the 26 states that make up Brazil. Brazil is one of the largest countries in the world, both in terms of physical size and population. It is unique in South America since its people speak Portuguese, whereas Spanish is the language of most South Americans. Brazil is home to the Amazon Rainforest, the largest rainforest on earth. Her home state is noted for its agricultural prominence.

Isabelle holds a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwan Do and has been active in Brazilian Rotary activities since the age of twelve. She is a member of the Interact club in her hometown. In Brazil, there are four levels of Rotary membership. The first involves regular Rotary clubs. There are 1,877 Rotarians in 67 clubs in her district. Second are the Rotaract clubs for people over the age of 18. There are 376 Rotaract members in 21 clubs in her district. Third are the Interact clubs for people aged 12 to 18. In her district, there are 490 Interact members in 21 clubs. Fourth are the Rotary Kids, clubs for children aged 4 to 12. In her district there are 135 young children involved in 7 Kids clubs. These young children hold meetings (with the help of their parents), elect officers, and have their own fundraising events just like the older folks. Rotary is a big deal in Brazil.

Isabelle said she had hoped to be an exchange student for many years. Even though it meant extending her high school education another year, she decided to come to the U.S. for a year of schooling. She said she was, at first, a bit afraid to come to a small town like Pinconning. Small towns in Brazil tend to be remote and isolated, and she was concerned that she might be trapped in a place where there was nothing to do. But, she said, her time in Pinconning has been great. It is close enough to places like Bay City for shopping and entertainment, and small enough that she

has been able to take part in many school and community activities. She is a member of the Pinconning girls basketball team, for instance, even though she had not played basketball before coming here. The first half of her school year has been spent with her host family, the Szeligas. In January, she will move on to her next host family, the Friebes. Isabelle's enthusiasm and charm are infectious, and she is likely to be a star wherever she goes and whatever she does in life.



Isabelle in the center (in yellow). Rotarian Mary LaPan is on the far right. The Szeliga family is to Isabelle's left. The Friebe family is to her right.

Around the District



Rotary Club of Cass City President Ruth Steele presented past president Kevven Dorland his Paul Harris +4 pin at a recent meeting. Foundation Chair Dave Milligan pointed out that Kevven is the youngest of the club members to have earned the PH +4.

The **Rotary Club of Ithaca** celebrated at its annual Christmas Dinner held at the Fields Golf Course. Rotarians and their spouses, as well as special guests, enjoyed a wonderful dinner catered by Litwiller Catering. Patrice Horak led a lively pre-dinner sing-along accompanying on her accordion.

Special guests included Rotary Assistant Governor Joyce Gluch from the Rotary Club of Shepherd; Jennifer Cook from the Gratiot County Commission on Aging; and Jo Jones from the Ithaca Senior Activity Building.

Check presentations were made to the Children's Advocacy Center of Gratiot County-Baby Pantry (\$1,000, made up of a \$500 District Grant and \$500 in local club funds), Gratiot Co. Integrated Mental Health (\$300), and Ithaca Food Pantry (\$500).

The club also celebrated its 88th birthday, having been established on November 29, 1935.



Emily Rayburn, Gratiot County Substance & Suicide Prevention Program Director, for the Children's Advocacy Center of Gratiot County-Baby Pantry receiving the \$1,000 check from Kim Hodge, current year Club President, and Marci Browne, incoming Club President.



Michelle Stillwagon, Gratiot Co. Integrated Mental Health CEO receiving the \$300 check from Kim Hodge, current year Club President, and Marci Browne, incoming Club President.

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Members of the Rotary Club of Oscoda, Mary Reitler and Cheri Meier pictured in photo at right, distributed books on December 6th as part of their pre-school literacy grant sponsored by District 6310.

Age-appropriate books are given to parents who visit the Alcona Baby Pantry, along with tips and advice on reading to your pre-schooler.





Special Guests Eli Hlavackova (Rotary Youth Exchange student), and Emanuella Agbegha (Rotary Global Scholar)

There were 45 Rotarians, spouses and guests who attended the Pigeon Rotary Annual Christmas Party held at the Pigeon Event Center. The meal and appetizers were catered by Eileen Fahl with volunteer Rotarians providing tasty desserts!

\$400 was collected for Safe Place and \$160 for Positive Alternatives.

The event featured sing-along carols, solo performances, and a game show spinoff of Family Feud hosted by Clark Ramsey. Each festive table of Rotarians was a family and competed for the win! Team of Debbie Dearing, Mandie Krohn, Barb Main, Troy and Shelly Gunden were the winners!

Paul Clabuesch, who recently rejoined Pigeon Rotary after spending several years as a member of the Rotary Club of Harbor Beach, was presented with both his PHF +3 and PHF +4 pins.



PDG Jeff Leipprandt, Paul Clabuesch, and President Andrew Johnson

Kris & Margaret Kringle (aka Santa & Mrs. Claus) were present at a December meeting of the **Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish**. The Kringles oversaw the enthusiastic singing of *Jingle Bells* as well as the distribution of Christmas cookies brought by members as part of the annual cookie exchange.





Club President David Tokarsky presented a Paul Harris Fellow +2 pin to Jim Ordiway for his ongoing contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

Jim and Club Treasurer Mike Stoner are shown in the photo at left.

CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATIONS

The Rotary Club of Bay City, which meets at noon on Tuesdays, will now be meeting at the Comfort Inn, 501 Saginaw Street, in Bay City.

The Rotary Club of Bay City Morning, which meets at 7:15 a.m. on Thursdays, will now meet at Old City Hall, 814 Saginaw Street, in Bay City.

Both clubs formerly met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City.





Session January 30, 2024 5 pm MT/7 pm ET

Lessons to be learned about the environment and peace connection

Registration Link



https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrde-gqDgoHtdF-avKH23gggSCSwj47CfP

Dr. Michele Devlin

Michele Devlin is Professor of Environmental Security and an Arctic expert at the U.S. Army War College and Professor of Arctic Health and Human Security with the National Science Foundation's UNI ARCTICenter.

Trustee Marty Helman

Marty served on The Rotary Foundation's Peace-Major Gifts Initiative and its predecessor committees for six years, culminating in the chairmanship (2020-21). Marty is president of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, a non-profit that made history in 2021 with a gift to The Rotary Foundation to completely fund a new Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East/North Africa region.

January 30, 2024 - Environment & Peace presentation, 7:00pm ET

click here to register

to all members of our District

Do you ever feel Poetic? Then try this...

A fantastic exciting new competition open to every Rotarian, Rotaractor, Interactor, Rotakid, Rotary Club and friends of... In association with Rotary International & the e-club of Innovation present *The Rotary Poet of the Year Awards* Everyone in our district is eligible to enter so let's put pen to paper,



press those keys. Individual or club submissions are all welcome. Please note, if the winner comes from our district, they will receive their award from me personally either at a club meet or a special Rotary Poetry event. You could of course accept the award in May 2024 at The Rotary International Convention in Singapore if you are there from Heather McInally, wife of President Gordon.

There are 5 categories to choose from including *Create Hope for the World*.

Everyone is welcome to be





Inter here: www.rolarypoelry.org Give it a go and raise Rotary awareness. Share with your friends. Have a club poetry night.

A real opportunity for friendship and fellowship

Good Luck District Governor 2023/24





Club of Mt. Pleasant

61STANNUAL BEEF TENDERLOIN OR TURKEY Dinner Fundraiser



Saturday, February 17, 2024 4:30 to 7 pm

Do you have an upcoming Rotary event?

Send your flyer or ad to include in an upcoming edition of the District Dispatch!

District and Global Grant Training for Rotary Year 2024-25 Save the Dates!!

Each year, the district provides district and global grant training sessions for those clubs that plan to participate in either of the grant programs in the upcoming Rotary year. These training sessions address the key information that will prepare your club to apply for, implement, and close a successful grant project. While only one club member is "required" by The Rotary Foundation to attend, we have found that clubs benefit from having more than one member participate in the training.

Our training session for *district grants will be Wednesday, February 21st at 7 p.m.* The *global grant training session will be Wednesday, February 28th at 7 p.m.* Both sessions will be *via zoom* to eliminate travel time and the risk of postponement due to winter weather conditions. We will ask clubs to register their attendees in January.

Between now and then, please determine which of the training sessions your club will need to have members attend and who those members will be. It is only required that your club participate in the training session(s) for the type of grant you will be applying for in 2024-25. If you have questions, please reach out to Cheryl at <u>cheryl.rotary@gmail.com</u>



Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month:		
Bay City - 109 years -	Chartered January 1, 1915	

Shepherd - 84 years - Chartered January 11, 1940

Frankenmuth Morning - 17 years - Chartered January 5, 2007



The District 6310 Newsletter is published monthly. Articles originate from various Rotary International publications as well as from events and activities within the district.

Thank you to all contributors. We encourage the submission of articles. Please provide information and pictures for a future *District Dispatch* to: Connie M. Deford, Administrative Assistanconnie.rotary6310@gmail.com