



# District Dispatch

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## Together We Grow: A Message from Your District Governor

As we begin the 2025–2026 Rotary year, I’m filled with enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to serve as District Governor for Rotary District 6310. This is a pivotal time for our district—a chance to build momentum, embrace change, and work together toward meaningful impact.

At the center of this journey is teamwork. Rotary thrives when we collaborate—not just within our own clubs, but across the entire district. This year, let’s foster stronger connections among clubs, share ideas freely, and support each other’s efforts to serve. We are stronger when we operate as one team with a shared vision.

One of my key priorities is positive, sustainable growth. That means not only welcoming new members but also exploring innovative club models like Satellite Clubs. These flexible formats can bring in new energy and new voices—especially from those who might not be able to join a traditional club but are eager to serve.

Equally important is communication across generations. Our strength lies in our diversity—of age, perspective, and experience. When we listen and learn from one another, we create a Rotary culture that is both inclusive and forward-thinking. Let’s continue to open doors for young professionals while honoring the wisdom of longtime members.

Continued on Page 2

## Together We Grow (continued)

Lastly, I urge every Rotarian to support the Rotary International Foundation. The Foundation fuels the work we do—from global efforts like polio eradication and peacebuilding to local projects that improve lives in our own communities. Your support ensures that Rotary’s impact continues to grow and endure.

This year is about more than programs or projects—it’s about people. It’s about coming together to serve, to grow, and to lead with purpose. I’m excited to walk this journey with you and look forward to what we will accomplish—together.

Yours in Rotary,  
Paul Wiese



District Governor 2025–2026  
Rotary District 6310

## Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo



RI President  
Francesco Arezzo

The new Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, and an orthodontist in private practice, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International’s President for 2025-2026.

The Rotary International Board conducted a special session following the unexpected resignation of RI President-elect Mário César Martins de Camargo on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Guided by the RI code and policies, the board selected the new President-elect from a pool of candidates who were considered by the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in August 2023.

In President Arezzo’s remarks at the International Convention in Calgary, he said “Let us create one great shared dream that unites us, that excites us, that changes the world and changes our lives, too.” He asked members to come together with a focus on membership, the eradication of polio, and peace.

He added, “Together, we can unite. We can unite to change lives, including our own. We can unite to change communities, right around the corner and half a world away. We can unite to change our world for the better, not just for us, but for generations to come. Together, we Unite for Good.”

# Thank You For Your Generosity

By PDG Randy Ettema, Foundation Chair

“Thank you” are inadequate words to express our appreciation from the District Foundation Committee for your generous and ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation. As you know, your giving to Annual Fund-Share allows our district to provide district grants to support local or small international projects.

Our combined club goals for year 2024-2025 was \$133,540. As of this date, the yearly report remains in an interim status, meaning that funds are still being processed. Our giving to date is \$152,526. As of now, the following clubs met or exceeded their goal: Alpena, Bad Axe, Bay City, Bay City Morning, Birch Run, Cass City, Frankenmuth Morning, Ithaca, Midland, Midland Morning, Mt. Pleasant, Oscoda, Owosso, Pigeon, Pinconning/Standish, Saginaw Sunrise, Sebewaing, Shepherd, and Vassar. Those clubs at 80% of goal or greater are: Caro, Frankenmuth, and Oscoda.

Thank you for each and every gift that opened many doors of opportunity and made a difference in your community.

Have a great Rotary year 2025-2026! Plan and expect service, fun, fellowship, challenges, accomplishment, satisfaction, and new friendships.

One of the highlights related to the foundation will be our Foundation Gala scheduled on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth. If this is not on your calendar yet, it should be!! Our keynote speaker will be Mike McGovern, Rotary's PolioPlus Chair. Please set aside time to join us. We will be celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of 2024-2025, and having great fun and fellowship together as we enjoy the evening with fellow Rotarians. More specifics to come over the next few weeks.

Thank you for being a Rotarian.



# Letter from Rotary Global Scholar

## Timmy Kipfmiller



U.S. ARMY

The  
Rotary  
Foundation



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Dear Rotarians,

As my coursework begins to slow, I have decided to record some reflections regarding my time at Cambridge! The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship has transformed my life in ways, cultivating my love for learning, people, and the planet. Every day, I am grateful for the generous support of Rotarians in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and back home in Michigan. Without their kindness and guidance, I would not have developed into the person who writes this message today.

Upon my arrival in Cambridge, I was quite overwhelmed. I found myself in an unfamiliar place surrounded by people from across the globe. This type of cultural immersion is difficult to achieve in the United States where the American way of life is so ingrained into every aspect of your day; thus, early interactions with course mates opened my eyes to the world. Each member of the Engineering for Sustainable Development (ESD) cohort, brilliant and unique in their own way, travelled from around the globe to study at the University of Cambridge. In total, the 30 student cohort included scholars from England, Germany, Ghana, Qatar, Kuwait, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, China, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Kenya, Sudan, the Netherlands, and the United States. Regardless of the country, each person arrived in Cambridge with a commitment towards making the world a better place through sustainability. This vision gave life to the program, motivating each student to challenge traditional ways of thinking regarding the harmonious relationship between engineering and the environment. This constant intellectual challenge culminated in coursework concerning sustainable development and political mechanisms for change. For the purpose of this reflection, I will highlight the three most impactful assignments from my program.

The ESD program's focus on cultivating systems thinking to solve complex sustainability issues related to climate change, infrastructure resilience, and international development generated a wide variety of assignment submissions. Recently, I completed an assignment titled: "Building a Resilient Water Supply in Mexico City: Enhanced Resilience Assessment." This assignment explored innovative methods to identify and address Mexico City's water infrastructure challenges, assisting policymakers in their decision-making process. The holistic analysis uncovered political, economic, and societal factors that hinder Mexico City's access to clean water. Solving these challenges, like other sustainability issues, requires outside-the-box solutions that counter traditional thought processes. This thinking has been foundational in the ESD learning process.

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## Letter from Timmy Kipfmiller (continued)

Outside of infrastructure resilience, the program has also forced me to interact with policy. This pollical thinking culminated in a policy brief for fictional representatives in the Government of Malawi. The brief was titled: “Powering Malawi: Strengthening Local Governance and Funding Structures for Increased Energy Access.” This submission proposed an alternative policy structure aimed at increasing energy access throughout the small African country of Malawi. Currently, only 12% of Malawi’s population has access to clean, reliable electricity; thus, sustainable and resilient energy solutions are needed to create long-lasting energy infrastructure for the region. This policy development pushed me outside of my comfort zone, transitioning my schoolwork from calculations to deeper contemplation regarding actionable policy development.

Aside from politics and resilience, I developed a water strategy for Kenya that focused on enhanced irrigation techniques. This paper required in-depth understanding of the country’s water infrastructure, along with appropriate knowledge of change mechanisms to enhance sustainability. Ultimately, each assignment challenged my limited knowledge of politics, economics, and global society. They forced me to understand the connection between each unique factor and helped me realize that sustainability is a multi-faceted challenge.

Outside of coursework, my time at Cambridge has allowed me to continually grow physically, culturally, and emotionally. I have cultivated numerous relationships with friends from around the world, eating their food and listening to stories about their lives. Additionally, I have travelled across Europe, devouring Crepes in France, appreciating the aroma of Dutch Tulips, and hiking the Irish countryside. These journeys have opened my heart to new perspectives, ideas, and adventures.

I was even able to challenge my body in new ways as I ran the Paris Marathon in April. As a person who grew up in a small Midwestern town, I am thankful for these challenges and new experiences. I never thought that life would take me along this path; however, my Cambridge journey has given me stories, friendships, and knowledge that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage every Rotarian to find peace in knowing that the work of the Rotary Foundation has a tremendous impact across the globe. The organization’s “Service Above Self” mentality should be embraced everyday as it continually inspires people to work towards a better future. I speak on this because Rotarians continually inspire me to become the best version of myself. Someone who loves others, gives to others, and wholeheartedly believes in the Rotary Foundation’s vision for a better world.

Thank you,



2LT Timmy Kipfmiller

Rotary Scholar

Churchill College, University of Cambridge

# Polio Update

By Chair Chuck Cusick

As we begin our new Rotary year, we have an opportunity to reflect on last year and determine steps to take to improve this year. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Gates Foundation agreed to continue the 2:1 match with Rotary that will provide \$450 million to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The \$61,451 that our district gave last year will be matched by the Gates Foundation. Thanks to district Rotarians who were part of this generosity, 16 of our clubs have given at least \$1,500 to polio and will receive a certificate from Rotary International. Polio Eradicator Clubs will be determined after all monies are tabulated by RI.

Efforts to improve the delivery of vaccines throughout the world continue. A hexavalent vaccine is being used in Mauritania and Senegal that immunizes against six diseases including polio. Somalia is using a vaccine that offers triple protection against measles, pneumonia, and polio.

So far this calendar year 15 cases of the wild poliovirus have been recorded, 2 in Afghanistan and 13 in Pakistan.

Please consider joining the PolioPlus Society. This merely requires a gift of \$100 per year until polio is eradicated.

If you are interested in more information on polio, contact [cvcusick@aol.com](mailto:cvcusick@aol.com).

## Rotary Learning Center Tech Tip



### Accessing the Learning Center for the first time

To use Rotary's Learning Center for the first time, follow these steps:

Sign in to [My Rotary](#) or follow the [guide to creating a Rotary account](#).

- Click on the Learning Center tile.
- Accept the Learning Center privacy policy.
- Download the RotaryLearn app if you want to take courses on a mobile device.

If you have questions, write to RI at [learn@rotary.org](mailto:learn@rotary.org).



# Celebrating a Century of Service

By Rotarian Jenny Hoyle

A milestone 100 years in the making was joyfully celebrated as the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant hosted a commemorative banquet on May 16<sup>th</sup>, bringing together 117 guests for an unforgettable evening of reflection, recognition, and Rotary fellowship.

Held in honor of a century of “Service Above Self,” the event was attended by local, state, and Rotary dignitaries including State Senator Roger Hauck; State Representative Jerry Neyer; City of Mt. Pleasant Mayor Boomer Wingard; Rotary District Governor Rod Bieber; Past District Governors Melanie McCoy, Debra Kranz, Jeff Leipprandt, Randy Ettema, Tom Miles, Michael Elliott, Delores Brock, and Eileen Jennings; District Governor-Elect Paul Wiese; and the sponsoring Midland Rotary Club President Christian Velasquez. These distinguished guests joined Rotarians and community members in paying tribute to a legacy of service that has shaped the Mt. Pleasant community and reached far beyond it.

The evening was expertly emceed by longtime Rotarian and community leader Dave Keilitz who set the tone with warmth and grace. One of the evening’s highlights came from Rotarian Rich Fleming, who delivered an historical presentation detailing the club’s local and global impact over the past century. His narrative, enriched with photos and anecdotes, painted a vivid picture of the club’s evolution—from its role in helping keep Central Michigan University rooted in Mt. Pleasant following the 1925 fire at Central Normal School to its ongoing commitment to humanitarian work both locally and around the world.

Mt. Pleasant Rotary President Annie Sanders led the celebration with heartfelt remarks, acknowledging past club leaders and special guests, and reading a City of Mt. Pleasant Proclamation commemorating the Club’s 100th anniversary—first presented during the City Commission’s May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Adding to the honor of the occasion, Representative Neyer and Senator Hauck presented the club with an official Special Tribute from the State of Michigan, recognizing the club’s enduring contributions to civic life and community betterment.

Rotary District Governor Rod Bieber delivered an uplifting message of congratulations, emphasizing the far-reaching influence of the club’s service efforts. President Christian Velasquez of the Midland Rotary Club—whose members sponsored the Mt. Pleasant Club a century ago—also shared thoughtful reflections and best wishes on this full-circle celebration.

The night was not only a testament to the past but a joyful promise for the future. Laughter, memories, and Rotary spirit filled the room as members and guests honored 100 years of meaningful impact—and looked ahead to the next chapter of service. Indeed, a great time was had by all as the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant proudly celebrated a century of dedication, leadership, and community uplift. Here’s to 100 more years of making a difference!

# 2025-2026 ROTARY YEAR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

District Governor.....Paul M. Wiese  
 District Governor Elect.....Jon Catlin  
 District Governor Nominee.....Carrie Strohkirch  
 District Treasurer.....Shelli Thurston  
 District Learning Facilitator.....Tara Welch  
 District Administrative Assistant.....Connie Deford  
 Assistant Governor, Area 1 .....Jackie Krawczyk  
 Assistant Governor Area 2 .....PDG Melanie McCoy  
 Assistant Governor Area 3 .....Barbara Holland  
 Assistant Governor Area 4 .....Joyce Gluch  
 Assistant Governor Area 5 .....PDG Debra Kranz  
 Assistant Governor Area 6 .....Dawn Tanner  
 Assistant Governor Area 7 .....Tom Lane  
 Assistant Governor Area 8 .....John Buckley  
 Assistant Governor Area 9.....Paulette Lenk  
 Rotary Foundation Comm. Chair.....PDG Randy Ettema  
 Foundation Annual Fund.....Paul Hornak  
 Foundation District Grants/Fundraising.....Larry Arendt  
 Foundation Endowment/Major Gifts/  
 Paul Harris Society.....PDG Eileen Jennings  
 Foundation Global Scholar.....Sivaram Narayan  
 Foundation International Service Coordinator/  
 Global Grants/Water & Sanitation.....Andreas Teich  
 Foundation Peace Fellowship.....Gail Hoffman  
 Foundation PolioPlus.....Chuck Cusick  
 PolioPlus Society Administrator.....PDG Debra Kranz  
 Membership Development Chair.....Sharon Mortensen  
 Membership Attraction.....PDG Melanie McCoy  
 Membership Engagement.....Amy Jaster  
 Rotaract.....Shelley Norris  
 New Club Development.....Brenda Kretzchmer  
 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.....Brandy Wiese  
 Alumni .....Kevven Dorland

Public Image Committee Chair/  
 Electronics/Website.....DGN Carrie Strohkirch  
 Public Image Graphic Designer.....Jeanna Rogner  
 Public Image Print/Newsletter.....Connie Deford  
 Public Image Social Media.....Amy Jaster  
 Youth Exchange Chair.....Jolene Compton  
 Youth Exchange Vice-Chair.....Jim Kranz  
 Youth Exchange Inbound Chair.....TBD  
 Youth Exchange Outbound Chair.....Joe Sawyer  
 Youth Exchange Protection Officer...Janice Lampman  
 Youth Exchange Rebound Chair.....TBD  
 Youth Exchange Treasurer.....Janice Lampman  
 Short-Term Youth Exchange Co-Chairs:  
 .....PDG Melanie McCoy  
 .....Lynne Mischley  
 RYLA Co-Director.....PDG Delores "Dee" Brock  
 RYLA Co-Director.....Krystal Campbell  
 RYLA Co-Director.....Bethany Ervin  
 Interact Chair.....PDG Delores "Dee" Brock  
 Finance Committee Chair.....Andrew Matuzak  
 Insurance Representative.....Peggy Pickler  
 Nominating Committee Chair.....PDG Rod Bieber  
 District Conference Com. ....DGN Carrie Strohkirch  
 Council on Legislation Rep.....PDG Michael Elliott  
 RI Convention Promotion Chair.....Chris Girard  
 Area of Focus Champions:  
 Basic Education and Literacy.....Erin Schmandt  
 Disease Prevention and Treatment.....TBD  
 Economic & Community Development and  
 Supporting the Environment.....Rebecca Emory  
 Maternal and Child Health.....Joyce Bremer  
 Peace and Conflict Resolution.....Gail Hoffman  
 Sanitation and Hygiene.....Andreas Teich



## YOUTH NEWS



The Rotary Club of Ithaca sponsors Jr. Rotarians from [Ithaca High School](#). Thirty-six seniors participated in the program in 2024-2025. Each month 4-6 students attend all the Rotary Club meetings. The IHS seniors choose a month to attend the meetings. The students also help with service projects during the school year.

The Rotary Club of Oscoda sponsored the first of their Summer Concerts on the Beach on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Members of the [Oscoda High School Interact Club](#) serve refreshments at these events and also helps with clean up after the concert.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



The **Rotary Club of Birch Run** held an Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> in partnership with Birch Run Premium Outlets. The event was open to all area residents to recycle unwanted electronics and household appliances.



Over 1,300 pounds were collected from residents of nine communities in Saginaw, Genesee, and Tuscola Counties. Most electronics were accepted at no cost, except for televisions and computer monitors, which had a recycling fee of \$20 each. Those who dropped off electronics at the event received a free plant and a sample of worm castings compliments of Abele Greenhouse and 5Heart Earthworm Farm.



**Rotary Club of Oscoda** Rotarians Cheri Meier, Rebecca Schirrick, and Cathy Wusterbarth cooked and served hotdogs at the Head Start End of School Year Celebration.



The art of giving was on full display during the month of June for the **Rotary Club of Pigeon**. Aimee Menard received her Paul Harris Fellow pin. Lynn Polega received her Paul Harris +1. Eugene Gascho received his Paul Harris +1. Shelley Gunden received her Paul Harris +4, and Don Faupel received his Paul Harris +7!

Additionally, thanks to donation of points from members, an annual Community Paul Harris Fellow award is given to a community member at the installation of new officers meeting.



President Randy and  
Aimee Menard



Lynn Polega and  
President Randy



Shelly Gunden, Eugene Gascho, Don Faupel,  
and President Randy



Mandie Krohn, Aimee Menard, Garrett Gazlay, Hans Eichler

Each officer was installed by the person preceding them. The officers of the Rotary Club of Pigeon for 2025-2026 are President Hans Eichler, Vice President/Program Chair Garret Gazlay, Secretary Aimee Menard, and Treasurer Mandie Krohn

The [Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish](#) recently recapped all of the activities during this year's Saginaw Bay Nature Festival. Here are some of the highlights:

- Student Nature Art Contest – 131 Pieces of Art submitted
- Two Art Contest Winners each from Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12
- Art Contest Winners received a framed print of their winning art, a Michigan bird b\guide, sketch pad and colored pencils, ceramic club showing their artwork, and gift cards
- Classroom Bird Presentations for a total of 214 students at four elementary schools
- Field Trips to Pinconning County Park and Nayanquing Point for 214 students
- Tree sorting/packaging at Arenac Conservation District Annual Tree Sale
- Native Seedlings for 5th graders with schools having the choice of receiving an individual seedling or two larger plants for each classroom, resulting in the donation of 45 trees, as well as eight White Cedar & Red Maple trees
- Take-a-Kid Fishing coordinated with the Arenac Conservation fishing program
- Banquet including a summary of the festival, presentation of art winners, and raffle/silent auction

All-in-all, a very successful festival and fundraising event.



## Rotary Fellowships

[Rotary Fellowships](#) are independently organized international groups that connect people who share hobbies, professions, or identities. They advance Rotary's vision of building a global community and creating meaningful connections across cultures.

Whether you're into music, art, sports, history, or technology, there's a fellowship for you!

[Explore our newest fellowships](#) and discover new ways to engage with Rotary beyond your club and district.

Participation is open to anyone regardless of membership.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*Free admission*  
**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

*from 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. at the*  
**COMMUNITY PARK, SHEPHERD, MI**

- HIGHLAND ATHLETES
- BEER TENT
- LIVE MUSIC
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- HIGHLAND DANCERS
- BAG PIPER
- AXE THROWING
- CRAFT SHOW
- FACE PAINTING
- CARICATURES
- FOOD TRUCKS
- BOUNCE HOUSES

PROUD PARTNER

**Special Olympics**  
Michigan



# Rotary Club Night at the Loons! August 7, 2025



Come enjoy a Great Lakes Loons game with Rotary!  
The game vs the Lansing Lugnuts begins at 7:05 p.m.

For only \$27 you get your game ticket and a meal  
consisting of a choice of entree, 3 sides, a cookie,  
and unlimited soft drinks!

Food is served from the time gates open at 6 until 8.

Use the following link to order your tickets!

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Rotaryclub811>



# District 6310 RYLA Reconnect

**Hosted by:**

Kevven Dorland (Alumni), Delores "Dee" Brock (RYLA Co-Director/Interact Chair)  
& Shelley Norris (Rotaract)

**WHO:** 2025 RYLA Camp attendees.

**WHAT:** Reconnect with one another to prepare for the upcoming school year and learn about the Interact/Rotaract opportunities available.

**WHERE:** Online via Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81457327802?pwd=8zroxXCINo2EJMqa34CBJa0m5gvfCb.1>

Passcode: 316154

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 9th @ 6:00 PM.

**WHY:** Stay connected, get involved in your community, and grow Rotary in District 6310.





# DRIATHLON



SEPTEMBER 14  
CASTAWAYS ON THE RIVER

**Rotary**  
Bay City Morning



# DRIATHLON



SEPTEMBER 14  
CASTAWAYS ON THE RIVER

**Rotary**  
Bay City Morning





## Membership Minute

### Use online surveys to enhance your club experience!

As you prepare for the new Rotary year, remember that engaged members lead to a vibrant club. Members are more likely to be engaged when their needs are met, and the best way to understand your members' needs is to ask about them. You can use a member interest survey and a member satisfaction survey to gather this valuable information that will help improve your club experience.

These surveys have a new editable online format, so you can easily customize questions for your members. The guides below will help you do that. After members complete a survey, you'll be able to view the results online.

[Creating Your Online Member Interest Survey](#) —Customize a survey for new and prospective members so you can help them find experiences they'll enjoy.

[Creating Your Online Member Satisfaction Survey](#) —Customize a survey for current members so you can learn how they feel about their experience in your club.

Assessing the feedback from the surveys and using it to make improvements to the club experience can lead to the long-term growth and success of your club.



### Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month:

**Caro** - 100 years - Chartered July 29, 1925

**Ubly** - 3 years - Chartered July 25, 2022

**Satellite Club of Oscoda—Tawas** - 3 years - Chartered July 25, 2022



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 Assistant at [connie.rotary6310@gmail.com](mailto:connie.rotary6310@gmail.com)