



District Dispatch

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NOVEMBER, 2023

Rotary District 6310

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Rotary Foundation Month

November is Rotary Foundation Month. In addition, the first week of this month is World Interact Week. How appropriate that we just celebrated our District Rotary Foundation awards, and we had almost 100 Interact and Youth Exchange Students in attendance!! It was a Gala Celebration indeed.

The newly chartered Interact Club of Unionville Sebewaing Area (USA) High School helped with ice breakers for the Interact fellowship time before the Gala program, and many of the RYLA attendees were able to reconnect with their friends. We look forward to building on this event next year!

Rotary International Trustee and Past Vice President Dean Rohrs was our fantastic keynote speaker on her life experiences in South Africa and later as a Rotarian. Rod Bieber and I were able to meet with Dean before the event; and while having lunch at Zehnder's, we found out she was a District Governor the same year as Bill Parlberg! Rotary truly does make the world smaller.

Our Global Scholar Omomoemi Emmanuella Agbegha from Nigeria shared her background and plans for the future. She is enrolled in a Masters of Public Health at Central Michigan University and will be able to use her talents to expand health care in remote areas of Nigeria. Emmanuella is beginning her club visits, and you can reach out to Cheryl Peterson if you would like to schedule her for a club program.

Continued on Page 2

Rotary Foundation Month (continued)

Congratulations to all the clubs that received their awards and to Cheryl Peterson and her team who made this a great celebration!

Mark your calendars for a Multi-District Membership Summit in Troy, MI on December 8-9, 2023. (See the flyer on Page 12 of this *Dispatch* for details.) We are fortunate to have incoming Rotary International President, Stephanie Urchick, joined by other great speakers. It will be an opportunity to collaborate with other clubs and districts on growing membership.

Have a great month—and remember Giving Tuesday is November 28th!!



**District Governor
Melanie McCoy**

Rotary Learning Center

When club officers-elect are added in My Rotary, they will now automatically receive an email welcoming them to that role and providing links to the courses that will prepare them for their responsibilities. Starting with the 2023-24 Rotary year, club presidents, treasurers, and secretaries are required to take these courses. Courses for club officers and committee chairs can be found in the [Club Leadership](#) section of the Learning Center.

Need help with the Learning Center?

Use these tips to ensure every member has a positive experience when visiting the Learning Center:

When you share this newsletter with people who haven't used the Learning Center before, encourage them to first go to rotary.org/learn, sign in to My Rotary, and accept the privacy policy. They need to do this before they can access courses or learning plans.

If links to the Learning Center don't work on mobile devices, try going to My Rotary first and then navigating to the Learning Center and searching for materials or courses.

New email address for Rotary Foundation District Grants Chair Larry Arendt is:

larendt1877@charter.net

16th Annual Foundation Gala

Rotary Foundation Committee Chair Cheryl Peterson



At Zehnder's of Frankenmuth last evening, we celebrated the support from 18 of our District's Rotary Clubs who achieved a giving level to Annual Fund and/or Polio Plus that resulted in recognition by Rotary International or District 6310 for Rotary Year 2022-23.

It was an outstanding evening of great fellowship, wonderful food, and many opportunities to celebrate success and the good work of Rotary in our communities near and far. ***We will feature pictures of the 16th Annual Foundation Gala in the December Dispatch; but here are many of the highlights of the evening.***

These clubs received banners from RI for being one of the top three per capita giving clubs to the Annual Fund of TRF in our district: ***Highest giving club: Cass City; second highest giving club: Frankenmuth; and third highest giving club: Saginaw Valley.*** Outstanding results from outstanding clubs!

Clubs recognized by RI as a 100% Foundation Giving Club and 100% EREY (Every Rotarian, Every Year) Club were: ***Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Cass City. Bad Axe*** was recognized by our district for meeting our benchmarks for a 100% Foundation Giving Club and 100% EREY Club. Congratulations to each of these four clubs.

A few years ago under Rod Bieber's leadership, we began a recognition at the district level for any club whose per capita giving to the Annual Fund was \$100 or more. ***Fourteen of our clubs that achieved or exceeded this benchmark were: the Rotary Clubs of Ithaca, Sebawaing, Birch Run, Shepherd, Saginaw Sunrise, Alpena, Midland Morning, Bay City, Mt. Pleasant, Frankenmuth Morning, Pigeon, Saginaw Valley, Frankenmuth, and Cass City.*** What a great achievement by so many of our clubs!!



RI recognizes clubs who have given \$1,500 or more to the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign. There were 14 clubs across our district that received this recognition. Some time ago, Chuck Cusick proposed that we begin an Eradicator Club recognition for giving to polio at a per capita level benchmark. This would encourage smaller clubs in their polio giving to reach a level of recognition. Clubs can receive one or both awards.

The ***Rotary Clubs of Durand and Saginaw Sunrise*** achieved an Eradicator Club Badge for exceeding the benchmark of \$45 per capita. RI recognition was awarded to ***the Rotary Clubs of Ithaca, Bay City Morning, Birch Run, Alpena, Saginaw Valley, Shepherd, Bad Axe, Mt. Pleasant, Caro, Frankenmuth, Midland, Frankenmuth Morning, Bay City, and Pigeon.*** ***Nine of these clubs also received the Eradicator Club Badge.*** Great job, Rotarians, in this remarkable success!!

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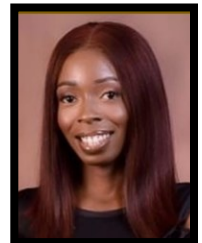
16th Annual Foundation Gala (continued)

Individual Rotarian recognition occurred in the categories of Major Donor, Paul Harris Society, and Bequest Society members. *We welcomed new or increased level of giving donors in each of these categories: 2 new Paul Harris Society members, 4 new or new giving level of Bequest Society Members, and 11 new or new giving level of Major Donors.* A special thank you to these donors as they personally step up to new levels of commitment!

Our dinner was remarkable in true Zehnder's tradition. *Bill Parlberg, Natalie Yockey, Lance Buchinger, and all staff* that we encountered were fully focused on creating a great experience for every Rotarian and student in attendance. We enjoyed a great meal with exemplary service and excellent fellowship!

The atmosphere in the room was charged with laughter and enthusiasm. *We had total reservations for 300 attendees of which 99 were students—Interact and Youth Exchange.* Final numbers of actual attendees are not yet available. This year, we offered the students their own reception in the lower level, which was a resounding success!

Omomoemi Emmanuella Agbegha, our Global Scholar, shared about herself, her country (Nigeria), and her studies at CMU to earn a Master's Degree in Public Health. As a pharmacist, she has already been involved in working with populations in Nigeria who are underserved in health care, education, and who live in poverty without clean water. Emmanuella is available for club presentations over the next almost two years that she will be at CMU. If you would like to have her at a club meeting, please reach out to cheryl.rotary@gmail.com to secure a date for your club.



The highlight of the evening was our speaker, Dean Rohrs. Her Rotary message was impactful, personal, and really touched the heart of the humanitarian work of Rotary. It was a tremendous message that brought us all back to why we do what we do, the impact on those whose lives we touch, and the impact upon ourselves as we serve others. I suspect that many went away from the evening refreshed, challenged, motivated, and more committed than ever to making a difference in our communities and our world!

Congratulations again to all the clubs and individuals recognized last evening, and thank you to all clubs and individuals across our district who faithfully support the work of The Rotary Foundation through giving to Annual Fund-Share and Polio Eradication. Each one of you is an integral part of our district's success as *Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

Polio Update

By Chuck Cusick

On October 24th, we celebrated World Polio Day. Drew Kessler, our Zone RI Director, sent each Rotarian his “In the Zone” newsletter, which included the Zone webinar held October 24th. This was very informative and worth watching by any Rotarian interested in learning more about our polio eradication efforts.

Past RI President Jennifer Jones shared a video of her visit to Pakistan and how the women health workers have gained the trust of the people. We also learned details of their data collection process. Each child is recorded by exact location—whether they have been vaccinated or not.

Past RI President Barry Rassin reminded us that Rotary made a promise to the children of the world that we would eradicate polio. Rotarians have given over \$1.2 billion—over \$2.5 billion with the Gates match. It is disappointing to learn that only 12% of Rotarians have donated to polio eradication.

As of November 1st, ten cases of the wild polio virus have been reported this year: six in Afghanistan and four in Pakistan.

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

Bequest Corner Q&A

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

I would like to make a substantial donation to The Rotary Foundation from my estate. How should I do this?

Contact Kevin Kelly kevin.kelly@rotary.org. His phone number is 847-866-3205 and his mobile number is 248-808-1967. He is the Major Gifts Officer for our Region, and he is located in Detroit. He can help you personalize your gift. You can have a named fund, or you may be narrowly able to direct the use of the funds. He is the person to contact if you want to make a substantial gift now during your lifetime or as a bequest.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Gratitude

By DEI Committee Chair Sharon Mortensen

The poet, Maya Angelou, said, “Be present in all things and thankful for all things.” As we think about building greater inclusion, thankfulness can be the start of appreciating differences and promoting belonging. Not only does gratitude link to greater belonging, it also contributes to increased wellbeing. With our Rotary International focus on mental health this year, we are exploring another topic that does two things: builds inclusion and increases mental wellbeing.

Let’s look first at the impact of gratitude on belonging. One definition of belonging that I recently read stated the following, “the feeling of security and support when there is a sense of acceptance, inclusion, and identity for a member of a certain group or place.” Rotary brings together a diverse group of people around the world. Many of our clubs reflect the rich diversity of our communities; we want to make sure all members feel supported and included.

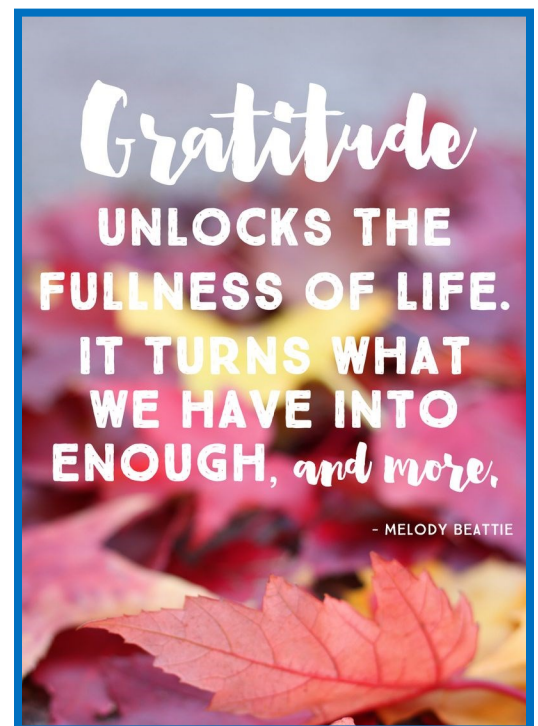
Rotarians are brought together by a desire to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. According to Rotary’s website, “we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision.” Gratitude can be a part of building this inclusive culture.

So, what is a simple way to help increase belonging? Express your genuine gratitude for others. Gratitude strengthens relationships and builds a more connected environment. The key to inclusion is deep and meaningful human connection.

When we are open to the perspectives and ideas of others, we can have a mutual sharing of experiences. Inviting conversation and then listening to one another’s stories allows us to build a culture of inclusion and belonging. As part of this, we want to appreciate the differences people bring. Thank those who share their stories.

Not only does gratitude build inclusion, it also increases wellbeing. How does gratitude impact wellbeing? Research has shown that grateful people experience greater life satisfaction, are more focused on others, sleep better, are more optimistic, have lower stress levels, and even have stronger immune systems.

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DEI: Gratitude (continued)

What are practical ways you can work to build greater thankfulness or gratitude in your life? Here are a few ideas:

- Write down three good things that have happened to you in the past 24 hours, as well as how you contributed to that good thing happening.
- Write at least one thank you note each week. Think about a person who did something that helped you or helped the community in some way. Take a few moments to express your gratitude to that person in an email or note.
- Think about those you are closest to, and make an effort to thank each of them at least once in the week ahead.
- Reach out to thank someone who shared their story or a different perspective with you.

Having an attitude of gratitude can help us focus on both inclusion and wellbeing. As we work to create hope in the world this year, let's make gratitude a hallmark of our actions, building a more inclusive environment in our clubs and promoting greater resiliency among our members.

"This month, Rotary takes a step toward supporting peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region.

In November, Rotary and District 2420 are hosting a signing ceremony for our newest peace center in partnership with Bahçesehir University in Istanbul....

Our peace centers in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia depend on financial support as well. The program at BAU was made possible thanks to a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

This new Rotary Peace Center will offer a one-year professional development certificate in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peacebuilding within the Middle East and North Africa region

Peace must be waged persistently; it is the soil where hope takes root. But as with any journey, we take one step at a time. Let's take those steps together."

R. Gordon R. McNally
President, Rotary International

Exchange Student News



The District 6310 Youth Exchange program hosted the interview weekend for 2024-2025 outbound students along with current inbound students.

Next year, Jett will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Alpena, Masha will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant, and Abril will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pigeon.

Current year Exchange Students include: Anazia of the Czech Republic, hosted by the Rotary Club of Midland Morning; Eli of Germany, hosted by the Rotary Club of Sebewaing and the Rotary Club of Cass City; Isabelle of Brazil, hosted by the Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish; and Yuna of Japan, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant.

The speaker at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish was Susie Duranceau, who was a Rotary Global Scholar 44 years ago. She spoke about the importance of international exchange programs sponsored by Rotary. Originally from the Philippines, she studied Urban Planning at Michigan State University, where she met and married her husband. They currently split their time between Arizona and Michigan.

Shown in the photo at right are Suzie and current Exchange Student Isabelle from Brazil, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish.



Interact News

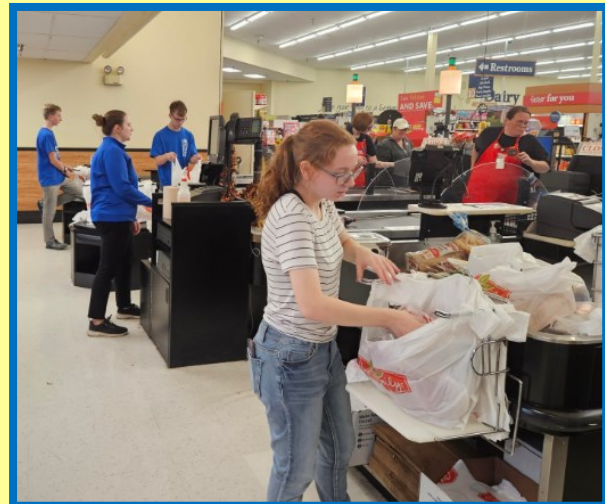


The **Oscoda High School Interact Club** held an End Polio Drive during the homecoming game on October 20th. The group provided information about polio and the quest of Rotary to eradicate it from the world.

The members circulated through the crowd and by the end of the evening had collected \$245.

The trip to the Dominican Republic is fast approaching, and the Interact students from Oscoda High School are busy doing fundraisers to raise money for the trip.

The students bag for tips at the local grocery store. The weekend of October 27-29, the students raised \$1,400. They have two more weekends scheduled before the trip.



The **Laker High School Interact Club** held a Purple Pinkie fundraiser at a recent football game. They raised \$193, and another fundraiser event will take place at an upcoming basketball game.

The club is also purchasing supplies to make blankets for a service project during the school year.

Around the District

The **Rotary Club of Pinconning & Standish** recently completed delivery of almost 500 dictionaries to 3rd graders and thesauruses to 4th graders at local schools. Students at Pinconning Elementary, Linwood Elementary, Standish-Sterling Elementary, AuGres-Sims Elementary schools, as well as St. Michael Catholic and St. Bartholomew Lutheran schools received the books.

This is the 18th year in a row that the club has purchased and delivered books to students in the area. During that time, over 8,000 books have been provided. Following are a few of the photos taken in the classrooms. This is a rural area, so some classes were as small as four students, others as large as 30 students.



Standish-Sterling Elementary 4th Grade Class



St. Michael's 4th Grade students
with Rotarian Mary Lapan



Mikaela Wackerle, Bob Charlebois,
and Ellen Charlebois getting ready to
deliver dictionaries



Linwood Elementary 3rd Grade Class



The **Rotary Club of Oscoda** participated in a Trunk or Treat event on Dwight Street in Oscoda on Saturday, October 28th.

The club set up in their own pocket park located in the center of town. The event was held from 1-4 p.m. with several local groups and businesses participating along the street, which was closed to traffic for the event.

On October 12, 2023, the **Rotary Club of Pigeon** held its Wine & Ale Fundraiser.

A special thank you to the leaders, Teresa Gascho, Clark Ramsey, Barb Main, Shelly Gunden, and all of the volunteers that helped at the event to make it a fun and successful night.

Approximately 130 community members attended. Pasta House served up heavy appetizers, and Café 53 provided mini cupcakes and other small treats. Pigeon One Stop Shop provided pairings with 20 varieties of wine and 8 varieties of ale.

All proceeds from the 50/50 drawings were donated back to the club! A special thank you to Kent Shetler, Mandie Krohn, and President Andrew Johnson.



Rotarians at work at Wine & Ale Fundraiser



MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT

Get Ready
to Grow
Membership

2600 West Big Beaver Road

Troy, MI 48084

December 9, 2023 | 9 am to 5 pm

Membership Summit Registration \$25



Stephanie Urchick
RI President Elect



Tom Gump
President Elect Aide



Chris Etienne
RI Director Elect



Drew Kessler
RI Director

Multi-District Membership Strategy & Collaboration Summit

Keynote Speakers, Breakout Sessions, and Leadership Panel

DGN Brianna Scott—District 6290

DG Melanie McCoy—District 6310

DGE Katherine Hahn—District 6330

DGN Jackie Huie—District 6360

DG Collyer Smith—District 6380

DG Russ Jones—District 6400

Rotary Membership Coordinator Doug Logan

Innovative Club Advocate Louisa Horne

Assistant Rotary Coordinator Margie Haas

Assistant Rotary Coordinator Bala Murthy

REGISTER by December 2 at <https://tinyurl.com/322rxhfn>



Pre-Summit Dinner | December 8 | 6 to 9 pm | Tickets \$35

2600 Big Beaver Road | Troy, MI

Summit Dinner | December 9 | 6 pm to 9 pm | Tickets \$55

American Polish Cultural Center | 2975 E. Maple Road | Troy, MI 48083

Embassy Suites Troy—Friday and/or Saturday | \$149 per night

Celebrate Rotary Foundation Month

In November, we celebrate the impact that The Rotary Foundation has in supporting grants and other projects around the world. During Rotary Foundation Month, you have several opportunities to get involved in raising awareness and funds for our Foundation.

1. **Support our Foundation on Giving Tuesday, 28 November.** [Make a gift](#) to The Rotary Foundation, and share your support on social media. The top clubs in fundraising, participation, and online giving will be featured on My Rotary. [Here are last year's honorees](#).
2. **Share our impact.** Take time during a club meeting to [share our latest video](#) that shows how the Foundation transforms gifts into service projects that advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by fighting disease, improving the quality of education, protecting the environment, alleviating poverty, and doing even more.
3. **Thank our donors.** The Rotary Foundation will be sending special thank-you messages to donors around the world throughout November, but we hope you thank members in your community that participate in service projects. Take a moment to write a quick thank-you note or recognize Foundation supporters during a club meeting.
4. **Give the gift of Rotary.** Make an impact in communities around the world by joining members who [give the gift of Rotary](#). Your gift helps create lasting change, from supplying filters that purify drinking water to providing vital medical equipment to neonatal intensive care units. You can share [information about Give the Gift](#) with fellow members and other prospective donors.



Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month:

Alma-St. Louis - 93 years - Chartered November 13, 1930

Ithaca - 88 years - Chartered November 29, 1935

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 connie.rotary6310@gmail.com