



BE THE INSPIRATION

Rotary Heroes Recognition

Saturday, May 18, 2019

District Conference

Mackinac Island, Michigan, USA

Rotary
District 6360





August 2018 - The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo distributes bottled water to residents of the City of Parchment and parts of Cooper Township, in Kalamazoo County Michigan.

Left to right are Rotarians Ken Fischer, Keith Mumma, Barb Walters, Rob Williams, and Kurt Elliott. The Rotarians were joined by State Senator Margaret O'Brien.

* A July 26, 2018 state-of-emergency declaration stemming from health and safety concerns was tied to the discovery of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS in Parchment's municipal wells.

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Albion

Brandy Eggleston - "Creative Genius"

Not only has Brandy shared her imaginative ideas to help expand membership and community events, it was because of her drive and persistence that our Club now has a wildly successful Interact Club. Just this year, the high school club has gained over 20 members who have volunteered and participated in numerous community events. They have also raised thousands of dollars to support their project to provide hygiene care kits to schools, senior centers, libraries and other facilities that can help those in need. Her mentoring, consistent support and encouragement have had a tremendously positive impact on these potential future Rotarians.

Brandy is constantly going the extra mile for her family, her friends, her job, and as a member of several boards in Albion. But it is her passion and support of the role of Rotary in the community that is the very definition of *"Service Above Self"* and we are so very proud she is a member of the Rotary Club of Albion.



Benton Harbor Sunrise

Robert (Bob) Elliott "Go-Getter"

Bob Elliott has been an active member of our club since 2005 and served several years as treasurer. He recently made a transition to bookkeeper supporting the new treasurer. This new alignment provides separation of duties and better financial controls and accountability. Bob also provides the "glue" for the club members with weekly newsletters, posting summaries of presentations, and instructing new members on use of our club's website. He organized and initiated two district grants for literacy and park maintenance projects. Bob also built and maintains a dedicated website to support our three annual fundraising events. Not only that, he has had perfect attendance for at least two years. Bob is a true Rotarian!



Berrien Springs-Eau Claire

Karl Kincade - "Club Leader"

Berrien Springs-Eau Claire Rotary Club is nominating Karl Kincade as our Club Hero for this year. Karl is our "Club Leader" in every sense of the meaning. His service to our club defines Rotary at it's very best. Both he and his wife are engaged in our events, from our big fundraising chicken BBQ to our annual Christmas Care dinner, and are significant donors of resources to both. Not only is he our club leader and a person we turn to for advice, but he represents our club at the District level in various ways. This year, he is the chair of the Rotary District 6360 Foundation, and is involved with other clubs in Southwest Michigan as well.



Charlotte

Nate Lovaas - "Go-Getter"

Nate Lovaas is a lifetime resident of Charlotte, Michigan. Following graduation from Charlotte High School, Nate worked at ALIVE in Charlotte before attending Mortuary Science School and working towards his license as a funeral director. This young man is an example of selfless dedication and collaboration across many organizations. He is known for always bearing a smile and always willing to say, *"Yes, I can do that."* Even while working two very demanding jobs, he always made time to volunteer for countless civic groups and service clubs. He's always there to set up and tear down, no matter how early and how late. And he has helped organize several community service projects and events. He volunteered to be the first Chair of the Rotary Satellite Club of Charlotte Evening, and will again lead as Chair in 2019-2020.



Coldwater Township

Michael Beckwith - "Focused Leader"

The Rotary Club of Coldwater Township Sunrise has selected Rotary member and friend Michael "Mike" Beckwith as their Hero. Mike has been a member of our club since 1999, and served as Club President during 2010 – 2011. An Army veteran, Mike's career was dedicated to education, with the culmination of his work career being his service as Superintendent of the Branch Intermediate School District. Additionally, he continues to serve the system as an elected member of its Board of Education.

Mike has been married to his wife, Margaret "Maggie," for 46 years, and has a daughter, Lisa, and four grandchildren. When not focused on his family, Rotary projects, or the Branch ISD Board of Education, he serves as a Director of the Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council, and on the Coldwater City Council. In his spare time, he is an avid golfer.

In addition to his continuous involvement in our numerous projects, Mike takes it upon himself to prepare the club's weekly bulletins, and has for many years headed one of our group's largest fundraisers, its summer Golf Outing.

Coldwater Township is pleased to nominate Mike Beckwith as our Hero, but prouder to call him our friend.



Delta-Waverly

Cherry Hamrick - "One Sweet Rotarian"

Cherry Hamrick is the 2019 Rotary Hero for the Rotary Club of Delta-Waverly. A member since 2003, Cherry has actively participated in many, if not all, of our Club's events, fundraisers, and community projects. From highway clean-up to packing and delivering backpacks filled with food to elementary students, Cherry is available as often as she can be to lend a helping hand. She has also been the driving force behind the Rotary Club of Delta-Waverly's winter Jingle Belle Run, a 5K race for women which raises money for our club to use towards our good work in the community. In addition, Cherry has been a speaker/presenter for our club at our weekly meetings, sharing with us about her adventures to other countries and continents. She is a most valuable Rotarian.

Cherry Hamrick is truly a Rotary Hero. We are all very proud to have her as an outstanding member of the Rotary Club of Delta-Waverly.



Hastings

Margie Haas - "Educator Extraordinaire"

Margie was the Club's President for the 2013-14 Rotary year, is a Paul Harris Fellow, and has been very active on numerous committees and for a variety of club projects. Margie currently is about to start her year as the District 6360 Governor, and lives by the Rotary motto of "*Service Above Self*."



Jackson

Renée Merchant - "Renée is Rotary"

Renée lives and breathes Rotary's motto and guiding principles every day, and is a consistent billboard for Rotary. Renée has been instrumental in representing our club over many years in "Racing for Dollars" to raise funds for the local foundation. Renée is a Past District Governor, Co-District Trainer, founder of Rotary Leadership Institute in our district, and also helps lead our district's visioning facilitation. "Renée is Rotary."



Kalamazoo

Rick Briscoe - "Mr. Rotary"

Our hero, Rick Briscoe, could be nominated every year, as he never rests on his laurels. As a member of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo since 1987, Rick served on the Board of Directors for five years, and was President in 2003-04. He has also chaired five committees, and currently serves as Club Trainer and the Chair of the Club RI Foundation Committee. Rick served the District as an Assistant Governor for four years, and was District Governor in 2015-16. He and wife Penny, who is a Rotarian in the Vicksburg Club, have hosted numerous Group Study Exchange participants in their home. Having attended two International Conventions, multiple Great Lakes Rotary PETS, and numerous District Conferences, in 2010 Rick and Penny co-chaired the District Conference that created the concept of honoring a "Rotary Hero" from each club. Rick is a Major Donor Level 3 at The Rotary Foundation, and also created and organized a fundraising Concert to End Polio in cooperation with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, which increased awareness of Polio eradication efforts. A great man civically and professionally as well as a great Rotarian, Rick is truly our club's "Mr. Rotary."



Lansing

Helen Pratt Mickens - "Role Model"

Helen Pratt Mickens was one of the first women in our club, as well as our first woman club president. She also served as President of the Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation, and is a Paul Harris Fellow +3. She has been an outstanding role model, not only for club members, but for all Lansing area citizens. She is generous with both her time and her expertise, and always conducts herself with quiet dignity that speaks to her strong sense of purpose and self-confidence. At a time when voices are strident and polarizing, Helen stands for a humility and forthrightness of spirit that is truly refreshing.



Marshall

Jay Larson - "Preservation, Restoration, Dedication"

There's not enough space here to recount all of Jay Larson's accomplishments, so we'll just skip past his 35 years of local Rotary involvement, including Club President, Foundation Chair and his Lifetime Service Award.

Never mind his many years of District 6360 involvement, including District Governor, District Trainer, and District Chair for Youth Services.

Forget about his generous financial support for Rotary at all levels and much more for his home community.

After moving to Marshall, Jay and his wife Karen purchased one of our historic homes which was built in 1868, and have done much to preserve and restore its beauty. They have made it open to the public twice during Marshall's Historic Home Tour.

Jay also purchased and re-habilitated a downtown building which was originally the most grand and elegant hotel in the entire Northwest Territory. Built in 1838 at a cost of \$30,000, it served many purposes over the years, and now is home to Karen's Quilt Shop.

But more recently, Jay has made it possible for the Eastend Studio and Gallery in downtown Marshall to acquire an architecturally significant building dating to 1870, and has proceeded to rescue it from certain ruination. Using his engineering abilities, knowledge, and steadfast determination, Jay has provided the impetus to create a jewel in the center of town and provide a showplace for local artists to sell their works. Restoration work on the third floor ballroom is now completed, and will soon provide a spectacular space for public and private use.

For all this, Jay is our Hero.



Mason

Mary Shinkle - “Creative and Energized”

The Rotary Club of Mason recognizes Mary Shinkle for her extensive contributions in the three and a half years she has been a member. She has served as President-elect, President and Past President. Of greater significance, she initiated and has chaired the club's major fundraiser, the Rollie Dart Memorial Golf Outing. In three years, the approximately \$18,000 raised via this event has been shared with Polio Plus and the Mason Promise Scholarship. Mary organized volunteer opportunities for members at the Salvation Army/Toys for Tots toy distribution, and to pack weekend survival kits for school children.

Mary has demonstrated her commitment beyond the local club. She has participated in the Rotary Leadership Institute, attended district conferences, PETS, district training sessions, and District Grant Management Training sessions. She is serving on the District Conference Committee, and the Registration and Sponsorship Committees. She has been a major contributor to the club's success in obtaining District Foundation grants for two projects.

Paul Harris Fellow, Mary is focused on how the Club can become more visible, increase membership, and gain additional opportunities to serve locally and beyond. Her leadership and creativity, combined with her enthusiasm and energy, are exceptional. She is definitely a Rotary Hero!



Middleville

Lillian Stehr - “Go-To Rotarian”

Whenever anyone in our club has a function or program to arrange, the first call is to Lil. She arranges speakers, locations, food, and details. She is the glue that holds our club together. Not only is she always helpful, she is always graceful. When Lil is asked to help, she does it with a positive spirit that is truly refreshing. She is a past Club President, and a current Board Trustee. She is the current chair of our fall and spring spaghetti dinners, as well as our yearly Christmas dinner at Lincoln Meadows Senior apartment complex in Middleville. Lil is simply our “Go-To” person, and so deserving of this recognition.



Oshtemo

Petur Gudlaugsson - "Mr. Technology"

Our Rotary Hero for Oshtemo is Petur Gudlaugsson. Petur is "Mr. Technology" for our club. He fully takes on the responsibility of maintaining our website along with our Facebook page. He updates both sites with our speaker information and with our club's calendar. This past year, Petur redesigned our website and mobile site, giving it a fresh new look. Petur also serves as our club's Public Image chair. He takes on a lot of responsibility, and our club is grateful for his contribution!



Otsego

Cyndi Trobeck - "With Enthusiasm"

Cyndi is a highly motivated individual, and epitomizes the true spirit of Rotary. She is constantly looking to make Rotary a better place. She loves to plan our gatherings to make them fun and so others will want to join us. She takes the lead on most of our projects, and does this all with great grace and success. Cyndi is also active in our community, giving of herself!!



Paw Paw Lake

Davis Moss - "Mr. True Heart"

The Rotary Club of Paw Paw Lake is proud to have selected our member David Moss as our Rotary Club Hero for 2019. He was selected for this honor by a vote of our membership on March 13, 2019. David is our Mr. True Heart.

David is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has been the Club President three times, and Program Chairperson for many years. Over the 33 years he has been in our club, he has helped other members maintain their membership by assisting with paying their dues when needed. He always contributes to our projects, and chairs many of them. David exemplifies "Service Above Self."



Plainwell

W. Michael (Mike) Sanders - "Super Hero"

The Rotary Club of Plainwell recognizes Mike Sanders as our Rotary Hero. To clarify, Mike is not just a hero, he is our "Super" hero because of all the great things he does. Mike has been a Plainwell Rotary member since 2001, a two-time past president, a Paul Harris Fellow, and for the past several years, our club's Rotary Foundation Chair. One of the things that has set Mike apart is how he very quietly and unassumingly stepped up to provide assistance to some of our most senior members so that they could still enjoy the camaraderie and other benefits of their beloved Rotary Club, as well as letting them know they were very much a part of our family. Mike put in countless calls to them, and even helped them with errands when they were in need. He picked them up for meetings when they could no longer drive, and drove them home afterwards. It meant the world to those members that they could still actively participate and be a part of Rotary. Mike is also always at the forefront of our service projects and fundraisers. His valued experience and hands-on help greatly contribute to our club's success.

For all this, and even more, we recognize and are honored to have Mike Sanders as our Rotary "Super" Hero.



South Haven

Robert (Bob) Straits - "Go-To Guy"

Bob Straits has been a Rotarian since 1986, originally as a member of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, and then transferring to the Rotary Club of South Haven. Bob served as President of the Rotary Club of South Haven in 2015-2016, and continues in a leadership role as Treasurer. There is much more to the Bob Straits story.

While serving as President in 2015, our club Treasurer became ill and was required to take a medical leave of absence. Bob did his best to find a temporary Treasurer, but when no one stepped forward, those responsibilities were his to shoulder all by himself. When his term as President came to an end in 2016, he volunteered to continue as Treasurer, a role he continues with to this day.

What is really interesting about this story is the work Bob did to bring our accounts up to date, straighten out a tangled membership roster, professionalize our reporting, and bring accountability to our budgets -- all of this while serving as an outstanding President. In addition, he has been instrumental in managing the money from our big fundraisers, organizing new fundraisers, serving as co-chair of a fundraiser for another charity in South Haven, and serving as a Captain of the Rotary Hole Number 2 Marshalls at the Senior PGA tournament at Harbor Shores.

Bob is a perfect example of Service Above Self, and is most deserving of this recognition.



St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

Cindy Igoe - "Highly Engaged"

As the highly engaged Rotary Advisor to the active, popular and successful Interact Club of Upton Middle School, Cindy Igoe is committed to mentoring kids in service at the highest level. Not only does she provide inspiration and ideas for service activities, but she is also hands-on in every possible way. It is perfect that Cindy would be the Rotary Hero to our club this year, since she is the mother of two Interact Presidents - Reilly Igoe, President of the Interact Club of St. Joseph High School, and Regan Igoe, President of the Interact Club of Upton Middle School.

Keeping up with three children is a lot of work, and there is a lot on Cindy's plate. Yet aside from the responsibilities of leading Interact Club of Upton Middle School members, she finds time to help with Interact Club of St. Joe High School member activities. One example is her trip to the Dominican Republic as an Interact Club of Southwest Michigan Chaperone in 2018. This was not something Cindy had to do, but something she wanted to do. Thanks in great part to Cindy's high level of engagement, Interact Club members who leave Upton Middle School and come to St. Joseph High School are engaged at a higher level than ever before. We are very fortunate to have Cindy Igoe as a Rotary member of the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, and there is no better time than now to show her how much we appreciate her contributions.

No one is more deserving of the Rotary Hero honor than Rotarian Cindy Igoe.



Union City

Richard (Rick) Juhnke D.M.D. - "Always Willing"

Rick is always willing to lend a hand in all club projects, be it financially, physically or creatively. Rick truly exemplifies what a hero represents to us.



Williamston Sunrise

Norm Shinkle - "Above and Beyond"

As a founding member of our club, Norm has proven time and time again to be a truly dependable member. Norm is always quick to put the needs of the club first, rain or shine. At our last "Taste of Williamston" event, in the midst of wind and rain, Norm grabbed his rain jacket only to pick flowers that he arranged for our annual "Taste of Williamston" dinner. Those flower arrangements were then sold for our fundraiser, with proceeds being applied to our Polio Fund. In the summer, he can be found walking ducks through our downtown promoting ticket sales for our annual Duck Race! Not once has Norm hesitated to volunteer his time for the club. Our club is grateful that Norm not only helped start our club, but also that he is available to keep the history of the club alive. It is with that we are proud to call him our Club Hero and loved by all.

- > **SMART**
- > **COMPASSIONATE**
- > **PERSERVERING**
- > **INSPIRING**

Rotary
District 6360

