



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary Heroes Recognition

May 2021

Rotary
District 6360



Service Above Self

HEROES

HOW WE LIVE OUR VALUES

Fellowship

› We build lifelong relationships

Integrity

› We honor our commitments

Diversity

› We connect diverse perspectives

Service and Leadership

› We use our leadership and expertise to solve social issues

“The greatest of all achievements... are the result of the combined effort of
HEART and HEAD and HAND working in perfect coordination”

- Paul P. Harris, Founder of Rotary

Rotary
District 6360



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Opportunities**

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Albion

Ralph Cram - "Steadfast & Dependable"

Dr. Ralph Cram was selected because of his unrelenting dedication to the Rotary Club of Albion and the Albion community. He has been a member since December 1, 1992 and has served the local community as a family practice physician for more than 50 years and the Rotary Club of Albion for 28 years.

He has provided meritorious service to Rotary that spans from president nominee, president-elect, and president. He is a Paul Harris Fellow, participated in Meals on Wheels for senior citizens, donated time after his retirement on Wednesdays and Saturdays to provide medical service to the underrepresented and elderly, provides financial support to community projects to enrich the lives of children through senior citizens, and amplifies the epitome of servant leadership in all capacities. He has a willingness to give his best at all times regardless of challenges. His dedication and *Service Above Self* can be emulated by all.



Battle Creek

Kathy Gallagher - "Conscientious & Devoted"

The Rotary Club of Battle Creek recognizes Kathy Gallagher as our Rotary Hero for 2021. Kathy has been an exemplary member of our club since joining in February of 2005. She has served as president, Board member and Chair of many committees. Her passion is to engage in Youth development ranging from International Youth Exchange and Rotaract youth club development within our area. She worked on our web page and provided many other ways to make our club visible and accessible to others. Kathy is always willing to say yes to what is asked of her. She is a great example of a Rotarian in action. Most of all, she is always a fun and nice person to have around and for that we thank her.



Benton Harbor Sunrise

Larry Jackson - "Student Advocate"

Mr. Larry Jackson has been a member of the Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary Club since 2015. He and his wife Rhonda have two boys, Lawrence, and Jamaal.

For 20 years Mr. Jackson has been a strong and guiding influence in the Benton Harbor High School and Berrien County. As a building trades instructor at the high school, he has mentored countless number of students. Under Larry's guidance, these students not only learn trade skills but also structure, accountability and how to build stronger relationships in their lives. As a volunteer football coach, his passion and care for the youth of Benton Harbor has been seen on and off the field. Many of the boys who participate in sports miss dinner. Larry was instrumental in coordinating multiple dinners for the Benton Harbor football team, one of which was provided by the Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary Club.

In 2018, Larry, along with his colleagues at Benton Harbor High School, started the Benton Harbor Sunrise Interact Club - whose numbers continue to grow. In 2019, Larry was amongst the Benton Harbor staff which took a group of youth to Cuba on a humanitarian mission trip. The Cuba trip was an eye opener for the Interact students who participated and made a positive impact on the outlook of their own lives. As one participant stated, "In Benton Harbor you see poverty, but not the extreme poverty we saw in Cuba. Even though we could not speak the language, we connected to each other by playing soccer and sharing our lives." In that same year, Larry was amongst the recipients of the Rotarian of the Year award for his efforts in starting the Benton Harbor Sunrise Interact Club.

Larry is very thankful to the Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary Club for giving him opportunities which positively impact the youth in the local community through projects and service. He believes his work in the Club has touched many students' lives in the Benton Harbor school district and, in turn, the Benton Harbor community.

There are many heroes in our Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary Club who are continuously making a difference in people's lives. Mr. Larry Jackson is amongst these heroes and it is with pleasure to nominate him as our 2021 Rotary Hero of the Year.



Berrien Springs-Eau Claire

Sharon Dudgeon - "Strong Leader"

Our nomination for the Rotary Club of Berrien Springs-Eau Claire hero is Sharon Dudgeon. Sharon is a two term president of our club who has managed our club with professionalism and great leadership. She was instrumental in starting a new Rotaract Club thru our local university and she has been working side by side with our current president during these trying times to establish Zoom meetings each week and to work to keep our meetings, even remote, ongoing. Sharon exhibits the true meaning of the four way test, both in the club and in the professional world. We are very pleased to be able to nominate Sharon as our local club hero.



Cereal City Sunrise

Kelly O'Connor - "A Passionate and Committed Leader"

In the midst of the COVID19 pandemic, club president O'Connor assumed the leadership role of our small club. She followed in the footsteps of past president Brian Fish who had blazed the Zoom trail and set a great foundation for our virtual meetings. Kelly took over and with her tremendous passion for Rotary she led our club to new heights. The club's attendance has skyrocketed and we are having weekly programs from all over the country and even worldwide. We have seen our volunteer efforts in the community blossom and there is a renewed commitment to being *people of action*. As we continue to fight the COVID19 battle, president O'Connor is a great role model for all the club members of how to take a difficult situation and turn it around and make a positive impact.



Charlotte

Rod Yates - "Consummate Gentleman"

Rod is the oldest member of our club at the age of 93 and the second longest member of the club. His sponsor Richard Johnson is the only member who has been in the club longer. Rod joined the club on January 1, 1960. He served as president of the club in 1974-75. He has been a continually active member all these years and is always willing to do anything that is asked of him. He is still a driver for the Mobile Meals program sponsored by GFWC-Charlotte. In the words of the member who nominated him, "I would be proud to nominate Rod Yates. Not only is he a long-serving member and past president, but this picture tells me all I need to know about him and his character "consummate gentleman." The photo on the left was taken at last year's President's BBQ, with Rod escorting Mrs. Grundstrom to her vehicle."



Coldwater Township Sunrise

Rick Merrill - "Lives & Breathes Rotary!"

Rick's first exposure to Rotary was participation in a Group Study Exchange to India in 1986 with Rotary District 6330 to assist in administering the polio vaccine. He joined a provisional club in Flushing, Michigan with his wife Kathy and was the charter president in 1991. Rick and Kathy were one of two couples in the club and the only club in the District with 2.

Rick's commitment and dedication to Rotary was present from the beginning. He was the founder, and actively involved in many events in Flushing sponsored by the club including the Annual S'mores at the Flushing Candlewalk, and the Annual Duck Race. He was also a Tommy Award winner, a designation for a Flushing Rotarian who exemplified Rotary, and he has multiple Paul Harris Recognitions plus as a Major Donor.

Rick and Kathy moved to Coldwater and transferred to the Coldwater Township Sunrise Rotary in 2010. His commitment and active participation have continued. He has near perfect attendance and there is not a work project, fundraiser, or social event that he is not actively involved in. Many times, that involvement is extensive and key to their success, but is not widely recognized or known. That quiet leadership continues as he serves as the Club Treasurer and behind the scenes has a valuable mentor to several of the past presidents of the club. The Coldwater Township is as successful as it is because Rick Merrill is one of its members.



Delta Waverly

Rob Spagnuolo - "Joy Master"

Rob Spagnuolo is our club hero because he spread joy better than the butter cream frosting coated cupcakes that he delivered all year long! Our club had a tradition of celebrating member birthdays once a month with a birthday cake. When we went into remote meetings, Rob took it upon himself to make sure the every Rotarian's birthday was still honored. Every month he would call any Rotarian that had a birthday that month and ask them what their favorite flavor cupcake was. Then he would go out, purchase their favorite cupcake, and deliver them to each birthday boy or girl in person. It made every single Rotarian feel special, and cared for. Rob did not let the pandemic stop our club from showing appreciation and celebrating milestones. For that reason, along with being on the both the Rotary Board and the Foundation Board, Rob Spagnuolo is our Rotary Hero!



Delton Area

Wendy Weaver - "Wonder Woman"

Ms. Wendy Weaver walks with a determined stride while working to achieve success for the community through her positive attitude and genuine smile. Wendy grew up in Alanson MI (north of Petoskey) and received a \$500.00 college scholarship from the Petoskey Rotary Club. After graduating from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science with a goal of teaching high school, Wendy found her way to Delton, Michigan. where she currently resides with her husband Tim. Wendy is adamant that Tim is the reason she is able to give her time without hesitation. Wendy joined Rotary on 9 Jan 2014 and has held multiple offices to include: Secretary, Treasurer, president, and Foundation Chair. In addition, Wendy has led the charge to successfully deliver multiple fund-raising projects and has attended grant training. Working at the District level Wendy has been Registrar for RYLA for two years. Wendy has a passion for helping young women to be self-confident and to help them realize what their talents and skills are; to encourage them to share these attributes with the world. In addition to being our club's super-hero, Wendy is a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant and sells insurance with the Buckland Insurance Agency. In Wendy's downtime she enjoys technology, knitting, reading, and loves spending time with her family.



East Lansing

William "Bill" Webb - "Warm & Giving"

Bill is natural in everything he does. His warm smile made members easy to be around him always. Membership is always demanding something from the chair. He just takes it in and make it happen. During the pandemic, he was successful in recruiting three new members to our club. He gives directions in membership committee. In the midst of the Pandemic, he was there at the coffee shop to discuss issues in the club. He served in the Navy, so he was an easy choice for us. We can always call him when we have any issue, such as Sergeant of the week, Member Time or volunteer vacancy. Bill is always available and easy to work with as a leader.



Casa Amparo orphanage, Reynosa Mexico

Dan Hartlieb, Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Hero 2020 - Photo ©Keith Mumma



Grand Ledge

Co-Hero, Chuck Pantera - "Pride in Place"

Briefly, a word about Chuck Pantera and why he is a club co-hero: Chuck owns several businesses, but one was hard hit with the pandemic--that business none other than the Sun Theatre a small and historic and inexpensive much beloved family oriented place to catch a film, on the cheap, with all seats being inexpensive, and the popcorn being some of the best in the county. Then the pandemic hit, and with the pandemic, rules and regulations, routinely changing and evolving, making it tricky if not treacherous to operate such a place, not only from a health department perspective but, also from an almost political perspective. What to do? Close, stay open and seat folks every third row, none of the above? Is it safe? Are the concerns warranted or overwrought? In this environment, long time club member Chuck Pantera and his wife talked with health officials and others, and decided to close, and to close almost like soldiers drafted into WW II, "for the duration." But that's not the heroic part (although closing completely a town's little gem/institution and putting on hold completely an income stream is nothing to sneeze at--No Sirree). Rather it is what Chuck did next during the pandemic. What did he do? He turned the Sun Theatre into a safe fundraising and family institution in another way. Yepper, that popcorn we mentioned? Well guess what, it could be made safely and donated/sold many times, to hundreds at a time, who would come to get "free" popcorn (and believe me, while free, everyone donated) for veterans, for the food bank, for this charity and that charity and even to this day, that effort continues. (And thankfully, now the streets folks in town and cops in town help route traffic such that--unlike the first event--little Grand Ledge no longer looks like the Kennedy freeway in Chicago at 5 p.m.) Then tragedy hit, Chuck's father died late in 2020, and Chuck himself got affected by COVID 19--and big time--like 5 days in the hospital big. And yet, you can't keep a good Rotarian down. After he was feeling better, he would join us again at Rotary meetings, and most recently, he tackled yet another project, and in that way Chuck can do, encouraged or egged or teased others in coming along. That project? A nice meal for the health care workers at the hospital.



Grand Ledge

Co-Hero, Vicki Paski - "Derby Determined"

A word about Vicki Paski, owner of the Harry O. Culp Insurance Agency Inc. Vicki is one of our co-heroes, as nominated by the club board in April partly because of her track record with the club and community, a sort of, often unsung hero, fundraiser and event planner extraordinaire, but also because of how she pulled off one of the most successful fundraisers in club history, despite the pandemic. What sort of "track record" you say? Well, you may or may not know that one of the most fun events in the region, was/is something known as the 5 Grand Fea\$ts. Often held the very day of the Kentucky Derby, often with Kentucky Derby dress and celebration, charity betting, fund and fundraising, in a slick setting (country club one year, another fun spot the next, and so on and so forth). Lots of work, permits, applications to the state lottery division to do things up right, meal planning, gift procurement, sponsorship procurement, and big ticket sales--all to bring in money for our foundation and efforts and for our club as well. And people, lots of people, cheek to cheek and shoulder to shoulder deep. Then the pandemic hit--could we ever have a party safely or by following ever changing rules by Derby day? After all, Paski and her crew had a "track record" to keep (bad pun groan here). Alas, it was not to be, no way, to pull off the traditional fundraiser as in the past, in time for the Kentucky Derby. For a while, Paski, who admittedly isn't the world's best Zoom participant in the world, licked her wounds. But, also not a Rotarian to give up, she conferred with the board and friends and tech savvy individuals and sponsors, and decided she simply had to go on with the show, no matter the hurdles. She hosted a Zoom only fundraiser on December 7 for the club. A fundraiser that, while totally different, carried over some of the same fundraising elements AND, with some of the expenses eliminated, raised more money than ever before in the event of the history--approximately \$20,000 or so, almost all of which was gravy, or the net profit. That's why she is nominated.



Gull Lake

Don Paulson - "Kind & Trustworthy"

Don Paulson has been an outstanding and dedicated Rotarian for 30 years. He served as president in 2009-2010. His expertise is most visible in his role as Rotary Foundation Chair. He leads by example. He is a Paul Harris Fellow Plus 5, a member of the Paul Harris Society, and a Rotary Benefactor. He works diligently to process and keep track of member contributions to the Annual Fund and Polio Plus and does so in a professional and trustworthy manner. Don is a kind and considerate Rotarian who is respectful to everyone in both his professional and Rotary life. He may seem quiet and unassuming at times, but his great sense of humor comes through when he shares a funny or interesting story as we pass the box for "Happy Bucks". Don participates in our fundraising efforts and club projects that benefit the community and is a regular attendee at club meetings and social events. Don exemplifies what it means to be a Rotarian by serving others and a role model for other Rotarians. He is worthy of being our club's Rotary Hero for 2021.



Harbor Country

Frank Schmidt - "Master Builder"

Frank Schmidt is a Man of Service, a Rotarian for 37 years in New York State, Wisconsin, Florida and now Michigan. He is a Paul Harris Fellow. Rotary Club of Harbor Country can count on Frank for his generosity of spirit, terrific sense of humor, stories of his Rotary travel experiences which include England, Italy and U.S. locations, and his masterful woodworking skills. His presence at our meetings delights all who attend. Frank's love for woodworking has flourished during his retirement. He has enjoyed making birdhouses with neighbor children and volunteered for 10 years at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind teaching woodworking to students. His latest woodworking adventure was working with fellow Rotarians to create and donate school desks for Harbor Country students in need. We are proud to count Frank as a member of the Rotary Club. Harbor Country.



Haslett-Okemos

Jon Lundy - "Always Dependable"

The Rotary Club of Haslett-Okemos is proud to present Jon Lundy as our hero. Jon has been our foundation treasurer for 4 years. He is so dedicated to Rotary that he has achieved many levels of Paul Harris recognition. He is always available to go above and beyond what ever is asked of him. A true hero and an example of *Service Above Self*.



Hastings

Patricia "Patty" Woods - "Faithful Volunteer"

Patty is the Rotary Hero for the Rotary Club of Hastings because of her very strong commitment to *Service Above Self*. Patty has been a member of the club since 1989, and was the first female president of the Club, setting the standard for the seven women presidents who have followed Patty over the years. As a member of several club committees, as a wonderful volunteer for nearly every club project and service opportunity, and as a member who had a key assignment in planning the club's 100th anniversary celebration, Patty continues to provide cheerful, valued, and dedicated leadership for all of the club members, who enthusiastically cheered when it was announced that she was selected to be this year's Rotary Hero!



Jackson Breakfast

Mike Tackett - "Always There"

1. Is extremely reliable!
2. Volunteered as club president elect 21-22
3. Volunteered as club admin chair
4. Sends out weekly email to club members discussing the past week's speaker and the speaker for our next meeting engaging our members
5. Single handedly set up and promoted World Polio Day. Utilized Rotary website to facilitate easy donations. Very successful inaugural club event.
6. Volunteers his time for what few events we could attend in late 20.
7. Constant collaboration with Jackson Rotary Club – Lunch / improving camaraderie
8. Exemplifies and lives the *Four Way Test*



Jackson

Robert "Rob" Reizner - "Zoom Guru"

Bob Reizner has been a true hero to the Rotary Club of Jackson this year! Bob's skills, expertise and dedication allowed the club to seamlessly transition from in person meetings to remote meetings when the pandemic hit. Throughout the many changes we have faced, Bob continues to stay steadfast in his commitment to the club, now being the technology behind our hybrid meetings. We are truly grateful to have Bob as our member! Thank you Bob!"



Kalamazoo Sunrise

Anne Schmidt - "Enduring & Dedicated"

Anne was born in Napoleon, Ohio; raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and became a "naturalized" Texan after meeting her spouse at the University of North Texas.

Courtesy of her husband's profession, Anne began a nomadic lifestyle by living in 15 different communities over the years, including three European countries. She became a "professional volunteer," and joined her local Rotary club wherever she happened to be beginning in 1997. Her main contribution has been focusing on club communication. She has also trained Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Students and kept in touch with them during their year abroad.

Anne's Rotary "claims to fame" include becoming the first female member of the Rotary Club of Zaventem, Belgium, and designing a t-shirt that became part of the Russell-Hampton catalog. She has been serving as president of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo-Sunrise since July 2019.



Kalamazoo

Steve Kreider - "Mentor Leader"

Steve is a dedicated Rotarian who has stepped up time and again as a leader in the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo and beyond. In fact, Steve has also served as club president in two other clubs in District 6360—the Battle Creek and Gull Lake Area clubs.

He served twice on the board as Kalamazoo club treasurer, and he also served as District 6360 Assistant Governor twice. In addition, he served as co-chair of the 2016 District Conference Committee and he served on the 2019 District Conference Committee, where he was instrumental in recruiting key speakers.

When our club president-elect had to drop out at the last minute, Steve generously stepped in to serve as club president for a second time. During his second term, Steve focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion by bringing in a series of speakers whose presentations made the importance of diversity top-of-mind for Kalamazoo Rotarians.

Steve has mentored several high school students through our club STRIVE committee, offering friendly support as they navigated their junior and senior years. The young men keep in touch after graduation, a testament to the strong bond Steve forms with his mentees. Steve also helps coordinate STRIVE by keeping its accounts, serving as an informal liaison to the club's board, and, when we meet in person, ordering breakfast for STRIVE group meetings



Lakeshore

Laur Schaberg - "Fearless Leader"

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created challenges for all Rotarians and Rotary Clubs. Our 2021 Hero, club president LAUR SCHABERG has dealt with the uncertainty, and has guided our club forward while instilling a sense of confidence and calm in our members. Laur joined the Rotary Club of Lakeshore in November 2018, so she was a very new Rotarian when in December 2019 she agreed to become president in 2021-22. With the unexpected resignation of the club president three months into the 2020-21 Rotary Year, Laur FEARLESSLY made the decision that she could juggle her commitments to be able to immediately fill the club president position effective in early October 2020. District 6360's quick one-on-one PETS training qualified her to fill the vacancy. Laur's leadership, openness, and compassion during the past months as president have been a wonderful example of *Service Above Self* and an inspiration for all our club members. This is why we honor Laur Schaberg as our Lakeshore Rotary Hero for 2021!



Lansing

Patrick Hanes - "Gets It Done"

Pat Hanes is a thirty-year member of the Rotary Club of Lansing and serving on the board and is currently servicing as club president for 2020-21. During his tenure on the board, Pat spent considerable time revising, editing, and ensuring compliance on many of the club policies and procedures. This work often goes unnoticed yet was essential in providing consistent practices for our club management. During Pat's tenure as president, he also consolidated a committee structure—an endeavor took considerable time to work to be able to integrate into a board process for accountability for each committee.

Pat's Rotary work also includes promoting and sponsoring the activities arranged by our U35 members as he understands the vital need to keep our club moving forward by engaging with younger members of the community. He also appreciates the legacy of our 100-year old club and spearheaded the publication of a historical coffee table book for our Centennial Celebration by coordinating the content and photography with each of the writers for each chapter within the book. Pat elevated to a Hero when faced with transitioning the club to virtual meetings as the pandemic eliminated our ability to gather together. We only cancelled one meeting at the onset of the pandemic. The virtual networking time with break out rooms continues to be a popular feature with the club. Pat also assisted other clubs throughout the district about the features virtual meetings.

Pat always puts *Service Above Self* and exemplifies the *Four-Way Test* by always considering fairness and honesty. We thank Pat for his leadership and service to Lansing Rotary!



Marshall

Ron Duchaney - "Gets 'Er Done"

Ron has been a member of the Rotary Club of Marshall since November 1995. Currently Ron holds the position of our club treasurer. He has served in many different positions within the club, some even twice!

Ron has served and chaired many different events over the twenty-five years and is always able and willing to pick up anything and run with it. He is a Paul Harris Scholar and was Rotarian of the Year in 1997 showing that he did not wait long after joining the club to be an asset to the club. He was selected in 2011 for this same Rotary Hero Award but that shows you that his dedication and service is still strong and second to none. Thank You Ron for being a strong leader and Hero for the Rotary Club of Marshall.



Mason

Shanda Johnston - "Pandemic Perseverance"

Shanda joined the club in 2016 and has become an integral part of the Rotary Club of Mason. If anyone could end up getting dropped in the deep end of the pool and succeed, it would be our 2020-2021 president. Her entire year has been during the pandemic including installation via Zoom. Yet through all the ups and downs of the changing landscape of the pandemic Shanda has provided solid visible leadership. The club has had no meetings, biweekly meetings via Zoom, weekly meetings in the park, a few in person meetings at our usual meeting place and back to Zoom. Shanda made sure that we provided for our usual Christmas families including the groceries for the holiday meal. She is putting together the Rollie Dart Golf Outing with changes in accordance with pandemic regulations.

Shanda had extra responsibilities at work for part of her presidency. In addition, all their adult children moved home, nice to have everyone under the same roof, it does take time to make that adjustment. With the pandemic, extra work, and "extra" family, none of this stopped her from serving the Rotary Club of Mason and exemplifying the motto *Service Above Self*." Shanda is definitely our club's choice for Rotary Hero for 2021.



Paw Paw Lake

Bob Becker - "Mr. Rotary"

The Rotary Club of Paw Paw Lake is proud to have selected our member, Bob Becker, as its club Hero for 2021. He was selected for this honor by a vote of our membership. Bob is our "Mr. Rotary."

- Does the extra to support and promote the club.
- Leading the restart of an Interact club in Watervliet High School.
- Helped promote and fund banners thanking school staff and emergency workers in our service area.
- Past president.
- Has held many club committee chair positions.
- Thinks outside-the-box to increase our presence in the community and getting speaker programs for our meetings.
- Bob is truly *Service Above Self*. He goes above and beyond for the club. He is a true advocate for the Paw Paw Lake Rotary Club.



Portage

Bonnie Granado - "Power Worker"

Bonnie has been instrumental in the support of the orphans in Mexico at Casa Amparo, providing Christmas gifts and food. Additionally, she chaired the Rotary Golf outing, helping with flags for the Veterans at the Portage Cemeteries as well as any task that needed to be addressed. Bonnie can be counted on for *Service Above Self*.



Saugatuck-Douglas

Ed Karasek - "Steady. Ready. Eddie."

Ed is a fellow Board Member and acts as CFO of our largest fundraiser of the year, the Mt. Baldhead Challenge Multi-Terrain Race. Ed anchors the Race Directors with his thoughtfulness and thoroughness, and his commitment to always following through on assignments. Ed was part of the team that lifted proceeds from the race to \$95,000 in 2019, up from the prior year's record of \$19,000. Even in the pandemic year of 2020, when we were forced to cancel the race, Ed took charge of the fundraising and runner relationships. Mostly through his efforts, the club raised and cleared nearly \$20K . . . without even holding the race. (That's the second highest take in our history with the event). Ed's constant attendance at our twice-monthly meetings, his willingness to provide lots of Board service, and his quiet enthusiasm on our club's COVID response last year, make him our obvious candidate for the Hero recognition. Ed is a true gentleman, scholar, and a judge of fine wine. He generally bends over backwards to make the club successful.



St. Joseph Benton Harbor

Matt Hanley - "Masterful Matt"

Matt Hanley has been a dedicated Rotarian since 2013. He is currently serving as club president for the 2020-2021 year. Matt has been instrumental in a number of efforts to benefit our club. He spearheaded efforts to purchase new banner displays, a new presentation computer, and a new cabinet to store our Rotary supplies at our host location that could be more safely transported. He was also one of the top two fundraisers for our Centennial Event in 2018 to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of our club. In addition to serving as president, Matt has also been a member of the Sergeant-at-Arms and Membership committees and has been an active board member for several years. He was recently recognized by the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber with the "Rising Star" award which celebrates the accomplishments of a highly motivated emerging leader in our community who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and shows initiative/leadership in their industry. Matt's navigation of our club through the COVID-19 pandemic has been nothing short of masterful and his efforts and energy are greatly appreciated by all club members.



South Haven

Tom Rummel - "Pinch Hitting Treasurer"

Over the past several years our Club Treasurer goes south for the winter months. During this period Tom Rummel serves as our "interim" Club Treasurer.

Tom is extremely conscientious in his responsibilities, keeping our club books in proper order and responding to board of director questions, during our monthly board meetings. Tom is responsive to emergent needs of the club always prompt and understanding of our club's needs as required. Tom is a true pleasure to work with and the club is very lucky to have him as a member.



Three Rivers

Jeff Middleton - "Steady Hand"

Through all the changes in the Rotary Club of Three Rivers over the past 30 years, one thing has remained constant: the steady hand of president-elect and club historian Jeff Middleton.

With a collection of scrapbooks and a mind like a steel trap, Jeff is a veritable encyclopedia of institutional knowledge – reminding us where we came from. Soon, this past president and Paul Harris Fellow will step up as only the second two-time president in club history – leading us in the right direction for the future.

Each year, Jeff oversees the club's signature Rotary Honors Night, recognizing Three Rivers High School seniors for their hard work and accomplishments. He organized the club's successful 50th anniversary celebration and was working on a 75th anniversary celebration before COVID-19 brought those plans to a halt.

Vocationally, Jeff has served in the St. Joseph County court system for four decades. Hired into the county prosecutor's office in May 1981, he was appointed to its top post in April 1989. He remained at the helm until 2002, when he was elected district judge – a position he holds to this day.

As prosecutor, he was active with the Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition. He continues to chair the county's Community Corrections Advisory Board, which brings together representatives from the judiciary, law enforcement, the recovery community, and more to help make the best decisions for their clientele.

Jeff and his wife Sally, a retired school counselor, celebrated their 40th anniversary last year. The couple has three sons and one granddaughter.



Vicksburg

Danna Downing - "Gracious Dynamo"

Every Rotary event, activity, and meeting benefits from the contributions offered by Danna Downing. Her actions in the Rotary and the community at large have exemplified the concept of *Service Above Self*.

Having served as the Club Treasurer, Danna perceived a need to continue raising revenue for the Club's Polio Fund. During a year of social distancing and electronic meetings she assembled a can and bottle drive which has raised \$1,515.00 to date. For years before that, Danna worked to contribute to our community as the Director of South County Community Services.

The Vicksburg Club is honored to recognize Danna as our Hero who lives the Rotary value of *Service Above Self*.



Williamston

Gene Klco - "Our Rock"

Gene is the person everyone turns to when information is needed. He has been our club secretary, our webmaster, facebook administrator, and flag bearer during Zoom! He is always one of the first to volunteer and always has a smile on his face. He is an awesome woodworker and volunteers numerous hours to the Scheffel Memorial Toy project where they hand make adorable wooden toys for those in need. Above else he is a dedicated Spartan!

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS

Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever.



**PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION**



**DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**



**WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE**



**MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH**



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



ENVIRONMENT

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

Rotary
District 6360

