



# IMAGINE ROTARY

## Rotary Heroes Recognition

**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

**District Conference**  
Firekeepers Casino  
Battle Creek, Michigan, USA

**Rotary**  
District 6360





**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**





## Albion

### **Vivian Davis - "Dedicated, Dependable, and Resourceful"**

Vivian was selected because of her unrelenting dedication to the Rotary Club of Albion and the Albion community. She has been a member of Rotary since November 30, 2017, and has served the local community and the state of Michigan as a Public-School Educator for 48 years.

She provides meritorious service to Rotary that spans from President Nominee, President-Elect, and President for two years. She provided technological expertise for members to resume a regular meeting schedule via zoom during the COVID pandemic and has the resources to recruit excellent speakers and programs throughout her tenure in Rotary. She serves as Assistant Governor, participates in highway clean-up, plants flowers in the cemetery, participates in community-wide clean-up, donates time and resources to the Albion Food Pantry, provides financial support to community projects to enrich the lives of children through senior citizens. Vivian is a member of the Albion City Council, Calhoun County Board of Health, Bohm Theater Board, President of Calhoun County Michigan Education Association-Retired, and serves in many other community leadership roles. Her exemplification of servant leadership in all capacities is exceptional. She has a willingness to always give her best regardless of challenges. Her dedication and service above self is respected and admired by all.



## Battle Creek

### **Teresa Allen - "Energizer Bunny"**

Teresa is our "Energizer Bunny" hero nominee for the Rotary Club of Battle Creek. As the Executive Director of Charitable Union, the longest continuous non-profit in Battle Creek, Teresa is a tireless champion for the downtrodden and marginalized. She works ceaselessly to create access for children to have clothing that makes them feel stylish and accepted. Her organization even provides free prom dresses to the community. Teresa spearheads a huge winter coat drive with Rotarians every year, providing hundreds of people with new or gently used winter gear in our cold climate. Teresa never seems to run out of energy, and her enthusiasm as the chair of the Club's Service project and events committee is contagious. We honor Teresa Allen, our "Energizer Bunny."



## Benton Harbor Sunrise

### Jim Gendernalik - "Active Rotarian"

Dr Jim Gendernalik hails from New Baltimore, MI. He attended the University of Michigan for his undergraduate degree followed by Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine for medical school. Following medical school, he served on active duty in the US Navy, first completing an internship at Naval Medical Center San Diego and then serving as the flight surgeon for Carrier Air Wing 2 aboard the USS Lincoln. After 5 years of active duty, Dr Gendernalik completed Family Medicine residency at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago and has been board certified in Family Medicine since 2015. He and his family moved to Southwest Michigan where he joined the practice of Family Physicians of St Joseph.

Dr. Gendernalik is married with two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys rooting for all University of Michigan sports, kitesurfing on Lake Michigan, and teaching his girls to ski.



## Cereal City Sunrise

### George Bratcher - "Inspirational Leader"

The Rotary Hero for Cereal City Sunrise is George Bratcher. George chaired the club's largest fundraiser in our 30-*plus* years and serves as President this year. George is an inspirational leader for the club. He follows through on the clubs projects and keeps committees active. George reorganized our weekly meetings allowing some weeks for committee work time and other weeks for just social time. He doesn't hesitate on calling special meetings to work on organizing a project. The club was asked for nominations via email and the top three nominations were voted on by the members via email.



## Charlotte

### Gregg Guetschow - "Articulate Rotarian"

Gregg was a member of the Owosso Rotary Club in District 6310 where he served as club president and served as the District Trainer. When he moved to Charlotte to serve as City Manager, he joined the Charlotte Rotary Club on July 1, 2008. He served as the club membership chair for many years and just recently became an Assistant Governor for Area 9, and as typical he also agreed to take over the District Treasurer's job starting next year.

He conducts the finest and most articulate induction ceremonies our club has ever experienced for new members and Paul Harris Award recipients. If you need someone to get something done, he is always willing to help.

Gregg has served as a patient and knowledgeable mentor for our club's leadership and new members alike. His work in the formation of our satellite club, and as a longtime membership director are largely important in the vibrance and success of our local club. His dedication to Rotary and his local community serve as a prime example of the ideal Rotarian and human being.



## Coldwater Township Sunrise

### Tom and Sharon Shenefield - "Compassionate Thinkers"

Compassion: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it. For the past 34 years, Tom and Sharon have carried the Rotary wheel well and have been stunning examples of *"Service Above Self"*. Their contributions and support to Rotary have been seen on local, regional, and international levels such as physically and financially assisting with hundreds of local community projects, leading the charge in our club's support of the Rotary International Bio-Sand Filter project, tirelessly working to build the foundation for the current domestic violence shelter house that has made an everlasting impact in our community, and even stepping up to coordinate and help serve Rotary breakfast on behalf of the Methodist Church each week. Like their involvement in the free Mary Martha Dinner that is served weekly at their church, Tom and Sharon never hesitate to give of their time or resources to those in need, and they go out of their way to find ways to help.



## Delton Area

### **Shawn McFall - "DEI Champion"**

Shawn has handcrafted and donated handmade canoes, children's rowboats, and painted denim jackets to Rotary Club fundraisers as well as other local non-profit organizations that support our most at-risk residents. He has helped raise thousands of dollars with his amazing one of a kind items. Shawn has also spear-headed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative within our club by developing a survey and spider web chart to bring awareness of our strengths and weaknesses as compared to the rest of our community. Shawn has taken time to not only develop the tools to increase our club's diversity, but also has spent many Zoom hours presenting our findings to the Rotary District's DEI Committee. Our Club is truly honored to have our very own DEI Champion!



## Dowagiac

### **Jennifer Ray - "Willing Helper!"**

Jennifer Ray has been the Secretary of Dowagiac Rotary Club for many years and has always been a real asset to the Club. Jennifer always follows through on club projects and helps get things done! She is also a member of the PolioPlus Society. Jennifer is always willing to help out our members and our club and we are proud that she is this year's Club Hero. Thank you, Jennifer!



## Delta-Waverly

### **Britt Slocum - Gentle “Jersey” Giant**

Recognizing an individual within our club as Rotary Hero is to place special appreciation for leadership skills that motivate, excite, and encourage our members to action. The Delta-Waverly Rotary Club proudly selects Britt Slocum as our 2023 Rotary Hero.

Britt's participation in club activities, weekly happy dollar exclamations, and of course his exceptional record of club project participation exceeds all others. His enthusiasm for Rotary is constantly displayed and as a result, our club embraces him and follows his lead. While we formally recognize 100% in meeting attendance, Britt would be recognized for 100% participation in all club projects if we had such recognition.

Britt has been a member of our club since February 20, 2010. He has served our community as an owner of Jersey Giant Subs and a former Waverly High School Board Member. Britt has been in business since 1979 and carries on a tradition of giving back to our community. They have opened businesses throughout Michigan, including Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Detroit. Britt has supported Delta-Waverly Rotary in many ways, but we will name a few to show why we want to honor him today. First, when the chairperson of our annual golf outing stepped down after our event in 2021, Britt did not hesitate to step up as the chairperson. He has provided Jersey Giants subs for all the golfers since he has been a part of the club. In 2022, we netted over \$10,000 (the highest revenue in history) under Britt's leadership. Second, we needed a chairperson to organize volunteers for The Salvation Army's annual bell ringing. Once again, Britt took swift action and led this initiative. Lastly, and most reflective of his caring personality, Britt drives a fellow Rotarian, the club's charter, and oldest member, weekly to and from each meeting.

In addition, Britt also put community above all else. He has fed thousands of groups, teams, and individuals at no cost. He understands that food connects us all and freely gives of his time, money, and subs to so many. He is a shining Star among a powerful group of Delta Waverly Club Members.

Britt displays the true meaning of Service Above Self and exemplifies the Four-Way Test with his selfless commitment to our club by building goodwill and better friendships. Congratulations on being recognized as our Club Hero, Britt!



## East Lansing

### **Ody Norkin - "International Humanitarian"**

The East Lansing Rotary would like to nominate Ody Norkin as our 2023 Hero. Ody has truly served as a selfless Rotarian committed to assisting multiple individuals who have been impacted by the war in the Ukraine. On his own effort, Ody has been able to facilitate a response to obtain ambulances, medical supplies and resources to those in need. He truly embodies the Rotary crede of *"Service Above Self"*.



## Grand Ledge

### **Todd Baum - "The Bomb"**

Grand Ledge Rotary proudly nominates Rotarian Todd Baum as their 2023 Rotary Hero nominee. Todd has been a member of the Grand Ledge Rotary Club for over 30 years. During that time, he has served on the Board of Directors as the club's treasurer for over 20 years. When it comes to volunteering, there is no need to ask Todd to "pick up the shovel" as you will already find him digging. Todd has supported all our community efforts throughout the years including fundraising, community service, and member engagement. He has also taken top honors in our annual Rotary Chili Cook-Off! Todd is a hardworking, selfless, friend to all and we are so very fortunate for dedication to our club as well as our community.





## Gull Lake

### Mike Gallagher

#### - "Slippery Mike with the Irish Smile"

"Slippery Mike" owned his nickname this year as he traveled with his wife, Kathy, and visited all the clubs in District 6360. District Governor Kathy Gallagher is happy to have his solid support as they attended conferences, trainings, and just about everything with the name "Rotary" attached to it.

With his "Irish Smile" and positive attitude, Mike encourages every Rotarian to become the best version of themselves. As one fellow club member commented "He has found joy in Rotary and also in retirement." That plays out many times over in his weekly club interactions with fellow members and guests.

He serves as greeter, then becomes the techie and Zoom host for club meetings. As Zoom commander, he often pops a Rotary video on the screen to inspire and motivate his club members. Mike has done just about everything for the club: he served a term as president, the "Pie Guy" when we needed a new fundraiser during the pandemic, the volunteer recruiter for the South Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek, and the man with shovel and spade for a construction project. This year, he's all about finding new members. His volunteer spirit is contagious.

Mike is the epitome of everything that is great and good about Rotary and therefore Gull Lake's Rotary Hero for 2023.



## **Harbor Country**

### **Rita Watson - "Mover & Shaker"**

Rita is our club's mover and shaker because she came into our club and took things by storm. She immediately brought us a service project to make fleece blankets to distribute to people in our community. We have donated them to first responders such as police and firefighters, cancer patients, Ronald McDonald House patients, and added them to a crate of donations to Ukraine that Rotary in Lansing was able to send. She assembled a cadre of community members to work on the blankets weekly. Also for the first time, we were able to include the blankets in food baskets that we send out at the holidays to fifty (50) needy families in the community.

As well as the blanket project, Rita has helped with Community Meals, Literacy projects at the schools, Mum Sales, and Food Baskets. Whenever there is a call for someone to join a project, Rita jumps into action. For this reason she is truly a hero in our club.



## **Haslett Okemos**

### **Chris Silker - "Energetic Volunteer"**

Chris Silker is our nominee for Club Hero of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club. Chris is one of our most reliable Rotarians. He energetically serves our club as co-chair of our major service project, to clean up the Red Cedar River water pathway in coordination with four neighboring Rotary Clubs. This project will open miles of navigation path through four communities into our State Capitol.

He has been instrumental in early planning efforts of our club's involvement in this project and generates enthusiasm within our club to get outdoors in service to our community. Chris also lends his technical expertise to hosting the Zoom option for our weekly meetings for those who cannot attend in person. This option increases our meeting attendance. He recently co-chaired a successful \$275 million school bond campaign for our local school district. We are pleased to recognize Chris Silker as our Club Hero for his tireless *"Service Above Self"*.



## Hastings

### Norman Barlow - "Music Man"

With the Rotary classification of "Greenhouse & Flower Farming," Norm Barlow is the second longest serving member of the Hastings Rotary Club, becoming a member in 1969. During his time as a Rotarian, Norm was the club president for the 2010-11 Rotary year and has served on the Fellowship and Chaplin Committees, often giving the invocation at the start of the Club's weekly meetings. Norm is an accomplished pianist, accompanying the singing at Club meetings, and regularly has provided music for District 6360 events Norm indeed personifies "*Service Above Self!*"



## Hillsdale

### Bill Barron - "Steadfast Supporter"

Bill Barron is a Rotarian that emulates "*Service Above Self*". He has quietly served in many roles of the Hillsdale Club some of which include leadership roles such as Club President and serving on the board of directors. For more years that we can count and as a true steadfast member of our club, for the entire calendar year, Bill has taken on the responsibility of managing the finances at each and every club meeting and makes timely deposits of those funds to the club bank account. In addition to these weekly duties, he creates, delivers and manages the dues and meals invoices for all of our members whether they are on quarterly, semi-annual or annual pay. Bill reports the weekly finance activity and member payments to our club treasurer so they are able to reconcile and prepare the monthly Treasurer's report. Bill is a Paul Harris Fellow and next year will celebrate 50 years in Rotary. The Hillsdale Rotary Board of Directors unanimously nominates William "Bill" Barron, lovingly referred to as *The Master of the Coin*, as our 2023 Rotary Hero and also makes their voices heard.



## **Jackson Breakfast**

### **Al Mellinger - "All Around Rotarian"**

The Jackson Breakfast Rotary Club has nominated Al Mellinger as our 2023 Rotary Hero, he also is our president elect for 23-24. Al spearheaded our "Around Town Again" fundraiser that netted over \$3,600 benefiting our student leader fund, Jackson Interfaith Shelter, Salvation Army and the Cascades Humane Society. Al is really a people person and energizes everyone for a common cause, he is the owner of the nonprofit Marketplace Manna store in downtown Jackson.



## **Kalamazoo**

### **Jim Cupper - "Past Everything"**

Jim Cupper, our Rotary Hero has done it all. His nickname "Past Everything" is perfect because Jim Cupper has done (and does) everything; he has been club president, District 6360 Governor, organizer of the 2022 Great Lakes Rotary PETS and Foundation Chair for several years running. Jim volunteers in the Kalamazoo Public Schools reading regularly to elementary students and is a Rotary Strive Mentor at the high school level. Jim helped his current Strive mentee interview a Western Michigan University professor to find a path into an apprenticeship program.

Jim is a true "Super" Hero exemplifying the Rotary ideal of *"Service Above Self."*



## **Kalamazoo Sunrise**

### **Bruce Justin - "Dedicated Service to Rotary"**

Bruce Justin became a Rotarian in 1988. As a CPA (now retired), he has served many terms as our Treasurer. He will also serve a second term as Club President this coming Rotary year. Bruce is currently the chair and organizer of our Kalamazoo Valley River Trail clean-up project. For many years, he has been in charge of the annual Memorial Day service at Riverside Cemetery that takes place immediately after the City of Kalamazoo Memorial Day parade, also co-sponsored by our club. Bruce is a valued member of our club, a hard working Rotarian with a wry sense of humor... and a very enthusiastic Michigan State fan!



## Lakeshore

### Jeff Hannan - "Membership Generator"

Jeff Hannan has been a member of Lakeshore Rotary since December 31, 1999. He has previously served as club president and for the past several years, he has been the Membership Chair for our club. As Covid affected our membership, our club was shrinking. Over the past two years, Jeff has been able to recruit 6 new members for our club. In addition to this, Jeff arranged for our entire club to attend a South Bend Cubs game where we were guests of the United Federal Credit Union in a private suite at Four Winds Field on the 4th of July. Complete with an All-American Buffet and Fireworks to conclude the evening. Jeff is truly a Rotary Hero for our club.



## Lansing

### Kurt Guter - "Engineering Service"

Kurt Guter is Lansing's Rotary Hero for his decades of service above self to our club, our community, and our world. Kurt has been an active and engaged member of Rotary since joining in 1990. He has put his professional expertise as an engineer and entrepreneur together with his Rotary friendships to the benefit of numerous organizations across the globe. His Rotary passion has been international service projects as demonstrated by his work on numerous Rotary grant projects including, but not limited to, life-changing work in Nepal, Ecuador, South Africa, and Tanzania. Closer to home, Kurt remains a co-coordinator of the New Member Orientation Committee for the Lansing Club. His personal goal - which is almost always met— is that no new member leaves the orientation without a committee assignment. Kurt is a welcoming presence at meetings, an encouraging mentor to other members, and a true Rotary Hero to our community and world.



## Lansing-Dewitt Sunrise

### Harold Mondol - "Grant Guru"

The Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club has chosen Harold Mondol as our Rotary Hero. Harold has been a Rotarian for 18 years. He has served as president, and international chair. Harold is very passionate about international causes. He has been instrumental in bringing several service projects to fruition. Harold manages each project in its entirety, including writing and applying for grants. Most projects Harold and his wife Dottie travel to their destination to meet and bond with the community. Harold is a prime example of someone who lives each day according to the 4-way test. The LDSR is proud to select Harold Mondol as our 2023 Rotary Hero.



## Marshall

### Barb Gray - "Ray of Sunshine"

Marshall's choice for the Hero Award this year is Barb Gray – Our Ray of Sunshine.

She is always the first one to volunteer for whatever project the club takes on...and with great enthusiasm. Barb sells tickets and volunteers for Dream Dollars, one of our major fundraisers of the year. She sells ad space every year in the Rotary Extra; volunteers for service projects like the Farmers Market, fire hydrant painting, the Marshall Rotary Christmas Parade float and as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. She serves on the Marshall Rotary Board and the Foundation, serving as Treasurer. Spearheads various events like cookie sales to raise funds for our Community Action Fund, works as our liaison with MACS, the Food Pantry, collects clothing for various entities and recycles our plastic bottles...helping the environment. From offering to pick up and deliver our box lunches when needed, to providing the funniest and crazy fellowship times ever... she does it all with a smile.



## Mason

### **Joe Lessard - "Volunteer *Slash* Poet Laureate"**

Joe is one of the first persons you meet when attending our meetings as one of our Co-Sergeant-at-Arms. He greets you with a smile and a hearty Hello to welcome you to our meetings. He manages our Queen of Hearts drawing as well as initiates and manages our Happy Bucks. He likes to include an impromptu poem or limerick each week which is always amusing to the members in attendance. In addition to these duties, he manages the meeting collections and manages our weekly bank deposit. He can always be counted on to organize volunteers for various projects including Duck Race ticket sales and volunteer coordination for our annual golf outing. Joe is always willing to volunteer for service projects without ever an expectation of thanks. We are appreciative of his attitude and living the values of Rotary. He is a 13 year member, Past-President and Paul Harris Fellow. He epitomizes what it means to be a Rotarian in living by the motto of *"Service Above Self."*



## Paw Paw Lake

### **Ric Seager - "Mr. Leader"**

Ric has served as club President for two years. He has always stepped up when needed, his tactical knowledge has helped the club take advantage of zoom to help improve attendance and keep the club going. He encourages us and pushed us to start a Interact Club in a local High School. Ric is a true *"Service Above Self"* Rotarian.



## South Haven

### **Angelica Gallegos-Dickerson - "Tech Guru"**

Angelica has worked many hours the past year, both before and during meetings. She has taken on the task of ensuring that all our technology works as intended and has "made it so" in the words of Captain Picard. She sets up the Zoom meeting connection, ensuring that it works for our members unable to attend live meetings. She has maintained the platform, making it feel normal as members travel, and includes them in the presentation material. She has dealt with a vast variety of electronic material that presenters bring her, and made it appear on our monitors. While some presenters are kind enough to supply the information beforehand, many times she is scrambling at 6:53AM (prior to the 7 AM meeting time) to interpret a variety of software, and translates it to speak to our laptop. She is in the room early and often last to depart.

She also delivers the morning donuts and sets up banners. All in all, a great effort to make meetings flow smoothly. In addition, Angelica has taken over the role of all communication with the program chairs, the newspaper for Community Calendar and sending out the weekly reminders of the meetings.

In a very short time, Angelica has made herself an indispensable part of our Club. She very much deserves the title of "Club Hero"



## St. Johns

### **Jaccii Maylee - "Most Important"**

Jaccii was selected by our club as our hero because she one we can count on to keep things organized and on track. She has been the club secretary for a few years and fills in as our club treasurer when needed. She keeps everything organized from setting up the lunch meetings to keeping us all updated with monthly newsletters, weekly reminders as well as finding a good rotation of local business that we have our monthly social! When she joined the club in 2018, she jumped right in on our biggest fundraiser and has been a major part of that every year following. She has proven to be someone the club knows they can count on to jump in or fill in where it's needed.





## St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

### Lynn Kellogg - "Compassionate Leader"

Recognition is due for long time Rotary member and Past President, Lynn Kellogg. Lynn (our club's second female president) was the initial exposure to Rotary over the last two decades to dozens of new members when she - and sidekick Christine Vanlandingham - took turns giving orientation. First impressions are so important, and these orientations put new members, as well as our club, on the right track.

Lynn has attended the International Rotary Conference and brought back that inspiration and energy to our club. As a curious world traveler Lynn has immersed herself in exciting adventures and brought these travels back in programs for the club so we could live vicariously through her.

Currently Lynn Kellogg is the International Committee Chair and is directing efforts to better the world. Our club is exploring ways to help Uganda harvest water, provide prothesis in the DR, and to help aid the Ukraine. She is always willing to lend a hand when needed and is a constant source of leadership and service within our club.

A recognized leader in the community for championing the concept of creative and engaged aging, Lynn has testified before Congress pertaining to the condition and needs of the elderly. Our local Agency on Aging has even named their Campus for Creative Aging after Lynn and her husband. This wonderful building is made available to Rotary for meetings for free.

Lynn Kellogg is the embodiment of Rotary ideals and deserves this honor.



## **Three Rivers**

### **Elena Meadows - "Outstanding Human"**

Elena is not just an outstanding member of the Three Rivers Rotary Club, she is an active member of our community. In addition to her many duties as a Rotarian, she has served as a board member of the St. Joseph County United Way. She is a gifted writer and was the Managing Editor of the Three Rivers Commercial News for many years. While she currently serves as a board member of our club, she is also the editor of our weekly "Rotary Reporter" that she redesigned. Every week a copy is emailed to each member the next day. Included in the Reporter is a recap of the program, upcoming community events, announcements, and who is on deck for the next two weeks. If those activities were not enough, she also schedules and hosts our monthly Zoom board meetings and emails members a weekly reminder before our club meeting. While she might be very quiet and doesn't especially like the limelight, she takes care of our club and keeps us on track.



## **Union City**

### **Ray Batterson - "Always Ready!"**

Ray Batterson is our Hero this year. Ray is our club's first honorary member he has held this position for many years. Ray is always eager to help with any and all projects and fundraisers. He is the driving force behind our syrup project. He helps in the tapping of trees and he coordinates all sap pickups from lining up drivers and volunteers for the pick up of sap to stocking the sap wagon with the daily needed items. Ray also helps with all sap shack preparation for upcoming season from helping with bag preparation set up of equipment for cooking the sap to the tear down and cleanup of the sap shack and all equipment at the close of sap season. Ray is also instrumental in the sales of our famous maple syrup. He volunteers at the weekly farmers markets and all other festival events we attend. Ray also helps with our 4th of July fireworks project. He helps with concession stand and cleanup after and anything else he is asked to do. He is a top salesperson for our "Here's the Meat" raffle we hold each year. He helps with our annual Chuc k-a-Puck fundraiser at Wings Stadium, our annual golf outing and our annual Gal's Night Out Quarter Raffle. He is generally available wherever he is needed on any and all projects. We often ask ourselves what would we do without Ray.open minded and a wonderful asset to our club.



### Vicksburg

#### **Jim Bird - "Need Help? I'll Be There!"**

The Vicksburg Rotary Club proudly selects JR Fulton as its Rotary Club Hero. JR is the most tenured and dedicated participant within the membership committee. He is constantly looking to bring in new members, passing along business cards to promote new membership, and is often welcoming folks into his home to host fireside chats. JR is dedicated to attendance and long standing record, and is always showing up to participate in service projects.



### Williamston Sunrise

#### **Steve Terry - "Treasurer Extraordinaire"**

The Vicksburg Rotary Club proudly selects JR Fulton as its Rotary Club Hero. JR is the most tenured and dedicated participant within the membership committee. He is constantly looking to bring in new members, passing along business cards to promote new membership, and is often welcoming folks into his home to host fireside chats. JR is dedicated to attendance and long standing record, and is always showing up to participate in service projects.

- > **SMART**
- > **COMPASSIONATE**
- > **PERSEVERING**
- > **INSPIRING**

**Rotary**  
District 6360

