Rotary Club of Longmont Twin Peaks Member Spotlight

My wife, Charlene, joined the Rotary Club of Longmont Twin Peaks on December 20, 2018. That day was also our 49th wedding anniversary.

Where did you grow up? What’s one of the best things about that place?

I grew up on a dairy farm in west central Wisconsin near Black River Falls. My first six years of school were in a one room school house with an enrollment of 25-30 students. Growing up on a small dairy farm was an opportunity to learn many skills and to get used to hard work.

What was one of your favorite jobs? Why?

I enjoyed being a Systems Analyst / Computer Programmer. I liked the challenge of providing my associates with the information and applications that helped them with their work. It involved communication to determine what their needs were and how to best meet them. I especially enjoyed creating office and manufacturing workflows that allowed associates to complete processes and maintain documentation that was easily accessible and in a manner that eliminated duplication of effort.

What is one of your favorite memories associated with Rotary?

Creating a garden for a Women in Need shelter. We transformed a yard needing attention to include a flower and herb garden for the women to enjoy.

What’s one item on your bucket list you haven’t done yet, but hope to do soon?

A hot air balloon ride.

What’s your favorite dish that you cook?

Pizza. I like creating my own crust that includes whole wheat flour. We often involve friends and family, and everyone pitches in preparing the toppings and creating their favorite pizza. I usually end up being the only one with anchovies on my pizza.

What is a new activity/hobby that you tried recently?

We purchased a RV two years ago and are enjoying trips to see friends, family, national parks and other points of interest.

What is one of your favorite family traditions?

Getting together for the holidays.

What is one of the most interesting places you have visited?

Luxembourg, a small little country about the size of the Wisconsin county I grew up in. We were fortunate to meet a family from that country living in Eau Claire, Wisconsin when the husband was on a Fulbright teacher exchange where Charlene was an assistant principal. Our families became friends and we were later invited to travel to their home. Their country has lovely forest and hills. We were surprised by the number of memorials displaying American flags and tanks throughout the country; they are very thankful for the American involvement in WWII. Luxembourg City has a history as a fortress city and is now a very modern city. On one of our visits we were fortunate enough to be invited to a Mass in celebration of the Grand Duke’s birthday; it was very exciting to be allowed through the security lines!