

ROTARY District 6490

newsletter • JANUARY 2022



www.rotarydistrict6490.org



District Governor, Heather Stoa



“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” — Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

2021 was definitely a year of challenges and questions! As we begin 2022, Rotarians have opportunities to look for new ways of serving others in our clubs and communities – here and around the globe.

Time will tell if the actions we take answer the needs of those we serve.

Rotarians' vocations and service are intertwined. The ideal of vocational service is an integral part of who we are as individuals and as an organization. As we celebrate Vocational Service Month, there are many ways to encourage and foster vocational service.

- *Begin with membership.* While Rotarians are no longer bound to job classifications for membership, reviewing classifications ensures clubs have good representation from businesses and organizations in our communities. Welcome members from under-represented occupations. New members bring new ideas and talents to clubs.
- *Network!* Club meetings are an ideal time for members to talk about their work and to learn about fellow members' careers. Consider making a five-minute vocational talk a regular part of your meetings. Host Rotary meetings at your workplace. Tour businesses and organizations in place of a traditional meeting as the Arcola Club has done, an opportunity for Rotarians to learn more about companies in their area and for businesses to learn more about Rotary.
- *Share your skills with others.* Collaborate with community

organizations to meet local needs. Reach out to unemployed and underemployed residents to offer training as the Normal Club has done.

- *Help young people achieve their goals through mentoring.* The CU Illini After Five Club, Champaign, and Bloomington Clubs are doing this with Empowering Girls programs. Work side-by-side with Interactors on service projects as the Sullivan Club has done. Talk to kids about ethics. Read *Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure* to elementary age students and offer situational dilemmas to teens to demonstrate how to apply the Four-Way Test as the Fairbury Club has done.

Bring vocational service to life. It is the essence of Rotary and serves as

the foundation from which we serve. To learn more, [CLICK HERE.](#)

In Friendship and Rotary Service,
Heather Stoa, District Governor 2021-22



Urbana Rotary Club members PDG Chris Scherer, left, and John Muirhead, right, present PDG Al Griggs owner of Colony Square Cleaners with the club's 2021 Vocational Achievement Award.

CU Sunrise Rotary Club District Grant

Champaign Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club members partnered with Central High School Interact Club members to assemble 400 hygiene kits [toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, razor, etc.] for our homeless friends at C-U at Home. A \$2000 Rotary District grant provided the funds for the project.



100 in 100 Anniversary Celebration

During visits to clubs, District Governor Heather Stoa asked clubs to put the “International” in Rotary International. One of the easiest ways for clubs to do this is to participate in a 100 in 100 project to celebrate Mexico’s 100th Anniversary in Rotary with 100+ projects in Mexico supported by 100+ clubs in Zones 30-31. This special anniversary creates opportunities for Rotarians in both countries to meet each other and engage in service.



During the 2020-21 Rotary year, Casey was the first club to sign on to a 100 in 100 project! The club purchased wheelchairs for 40 individuals with mobility needs in the Cancun area. Champaign, Paris, and Rantoul partnered on a project to provide vocational training in sewing and culinary arts. Decatur is working with Rotarians in Coatzacoalcos to bring safe drinking water to two elementary schools, and Bloomington-Normal Sunset is helping disabled students learn to make and market pastries.

The 100 in 100 project is continuing during 2021-22. To learn more about available projects, [CLICK HERE](#). The excel spreadsheet in the lower right-hand corner lists projects. Project amounts are generally greater than one club can handle on its own, so by pooling our funds, clubs in our District can tackle larger projects. 100 in 100 projects cover a wider range of needs than Global Grants for smaller amounts of money and are a club-to-club initiative. Financial oversight is provided by FURMEX, the Mexican Rotary Foundation. Two proposals needing partners are a project that will purchase beds and linens and install clean water in a women and children’s shelter in Tijuana #4100.5 and a wheelchair project in San Miguel de Allende #4140.76. If clubs are interested in supporting either of these projects or others on the list, please let District Governor Heather Stoa know and the amount a club is willing to contribute. Once partners are in place, a Zoom call between clubs will be scheduled. An interpreter is provided, and the call is the initial opportunity for club members in both countries to meet and learn more about each other’s clubs and the proposed project.

A New Ambulance for Sagar, India!

A Global Grant between District 6490 and District 3040 culminated on December 26th with the dedication of a new ambulance for people in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, in central India. Before the ambulance was delivered, most seriously ill patients were transported privately to hospitals in Bhopal or Jabalpur three to four hours away. Because of travel time and the lack of services, many patients lost their lives. Recognizing the need for rapid response, the Sagar Phoenix Rotary Club partnered with the Normal Rotary Club on the grant which was approved and completed in record time!

Congratulations to the clubs for helping to save lives in Sagar and the surrounding rural areas! Kudos to 6490 PDG Surinder Sethi and 3040 DG Gajendra Narang for their collaboration on the grant. The total amount of the grant was \$57,425. District 6490 contributed \$12,000 in District Designated Funds (DDF). Our portion of the grant funding was possible because of donations from individual Rotarians to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you to all who give to prevent and treat disease.



Gibson City Rotary Club Flood Relief Appliance Project

Gibson City Club received a \$25,000 Disaster Relief Grant to aid the community following the August 12th flooding. Additional donations were received from other Rotarians and generous donors to assist in our recovery project.

This grant money has enabled the club to provide a total of 57 appliances to 32 different homes. This included washers, dryers, refrigerators and freezers to people who lost theirs during the flood. The club purchased the items and delivered them to the homes of those in need.



Champaign Club African Workshops

In conjunction with Healing Hands International, the Champaign Rotary Club sponsored survival gardening workshops in Kenya and Zimbabwe for more than 100 people. Participants in the workshops learned to make a compost pile, construct raised planting beds, install drip irrigation, and mulch completed beds. The methods they learned will help conserve water and increase crop production. The supply of vegetables will improve nutrition and reduce hunger. Raising vegetables will not only feed families, but additional produce will be sold to help support families. Trainees received a certificate and a drip irrigation kit to use in their gardens.



Gibson City Rotary Club Annual Fundraiser

What was once a calendar sale has transitioned into a Raffle Ticket project.

You can purchase one \$20 ticket or 6 for \$100. Normally, raffle tickets are \$20/chance, but these tickets offer the chance to win a \$100 prize 67 times throughout 2022.

They draw for a winner every Wednesday evening and 15 other BONUS draws throughout the year. There is still time to get in on this year's raffle, as the club still has a few tickets unsold.

If you are interested, contact Susie Tongate at susietongate@hotmail.com and make arrangements to purchase your ticket.

Welcome to New Members

Thank you to their Sponsors! Each One, Bring One!

Andrea Arduini, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Evan Baird, Champaign
Ryan Barrick, Sullivan
Kevin Bewley, Champaign West
Carter Billingsley, Champaign
Jacklynn Boatman, Decatur
Carl Bridges, Danville
Rachel Brown, Effingham-Sunrise
Aly Delatte, Decatur
Mary Diana, Urbana
Elizabeth Fagrell, Champaign West
Bradley Fitch, Casey
Amanda Galloway, Danville
Marcellos Gray, Rantoul
Christopher Grogan, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise
Sydnie Hanscel, Mattoon
Lucinda Hart, Effingham
Laura Hatch, Mahomet
Worth Johnson, Danville
Michael McNamara, Decatur
Paige Patel, Metamora-Germantown Hills
Bobby Pierce, Hoopston
Glenn Rauh, Metamora-Germantown Hills
Danny Schahrer, Fairbury
James Schroeder, Decatur
Earle Steiner, Danville
Andrew Vigna, Dwight
Ken Welch, Champaign West
Daniel Wen, Casey

A Tax-Saving Way to Support The Rotary Foundation

Make a difference today and save on taxes. It's possible when you support The Rotary Foundation through your IRA. A special opportunity is available for those 70½ years old and older. You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as The Rotary Foundation without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference at the Foundation. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.



Contact Planned Giving at (847) 866-3100 or planned.giving@rotary.org to discuss using your IRA to support The Rotary Foundation and our mission. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

CU Sunrise Club Visited by Former Ambassadorial Scholar

Submitted by Mary Hodson

On December 9th, members of the CU Sunrise Rotary club were honored to hear Ellen Miller, a former Ambassadorial Scholar to Senegal speak about Rotary and the impact it has had on her life. Ellen grew up in St. Charles, Illinois. Her family hosted Rotary Exchange Students and Ellen was a Youth Exchange student to Brazil in 2000-2001. She received a BA in International Studies from DePaul and an MA in International Human Rights Law from the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Rotary took Ellen out of her comfortable suburban life. Her year as an exchange student was "the best year of her life". She had six new parents and six new siblings. She danced and became fluent in Portuguese. While in Brazil, she visited Victor Martinez, her former host brother from Argentina. After 11 months in Brazil, she "didn't want to come home". Next, she studied International Studies and Cultural Anthropology at DePaul and participated in two studies abroad: one in Spain and one in Mexico.

Her first job out of college was with World Relief in Chicago. She left that job which she loved to become a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Descartes, Senegal. Ellen remembers that her Rotary sponsor told her that the money they were giving her would be enough to build a well that would provide water for 5,000 people for the rest of their lives. Instead, Rotary was giving the money to her as an investment in the future. As an Ambassadorial Scholar, Ellen learned French and met Ambassadorial Scholars from around the world.

Ellen spent two and a half years in Cairo and was there during the Arab Spring. She had a downtown apartment in the middle of the revolution. The US government offered to evacuate her to Turkey but would not provide any additional support. Her then boyfriend's family took her in and for the first time in her life, she felt like a refugee herself.

After completing a graduate diploma in Psychosocial Community based Interventions, Ellen left Egypt. She then worked contractually as a UN child protective officer in Central America. During this time, she met Victor again. Ellen returned to Chicago and began working for the Heartland Alliance National Immigrant Alliance as a pro-bono manager. She connects legal consul with clients who need help with the immigration process. Ellen also volunteered as a mentor to girls in the foster care system.

In April, after having known each other for 22 years, she and Victor were married. To be with her new husband, Ellen moved to Tijuana, Mexico. They are living just 14 miles from San Diego and 1k from the border, but her husband cannot cross. To apply for an immigrant visa, Victor must be vetted. This includes extensive documentation and an interview. The wait for an interview is at least 10-12 months.

Ellen said Rotarians are active in Tijuana. They donate supplies to the shelters for refugees in the US and for those who must remain in Mexico. At this time of year, Ellen asked Rotarians to remember that the holy family were once refugees just like the refugee families at our border.

Ellen thanked Rotarians for the opportunity to speak and said that Rotarians give her hope for this world.

Happy Anniversary Rotarians 25+ Years

January is the most popular month of the year to join Rotary! Thank you for sharing your lives with Rotary!



Adebayo Adanri, 27 yrs.
Kenneth Albrecht, 36 yrs.
Kenneth Amtower, 34 yrs.
Charles Ayers, 35 yrs.
Monte Bartels, 40 yrs.
Scott Bauknecht, 25 yrs.
Robert Bender, 29 yrs.
Bruce Bergethon, 32 yrs.
Douglas Bock, 37 yrs.
Mark Bolander, 35 yrs.
Carl Borngasser, 37 yrs.
James Bowers, 32 yrs.
David Bragg, 40 yrs.
Rex Brown, 28 yrs.
Thomas Brown, 39 yrs.
William Caisley, 30 yrs.
Kevin Childers, 37 yrs.
Jeffrey Clements, 38 yrs.
Donald Cler, 31 yrs.
Thomas Conry, 34 yrs.
David Coopridge, 49 yrs.
Gregory Cozad, 34 yrs.
Robert Cranston, 27 yrs.
William Crutcher, 28 yrs.
Stephen Cullison, 35 yrs.
Susan Curtiss, 28 yrs.
Michael Daugherty, 27 yrs.
Charles Davis, 33 yrs.
Terry Davis, 26 yrs.
Franklin Dowler, 31 yrs.
Ruppert Downing, 28 yrs.
Harold Drake, 28 yrs.
John Evans, 47 yrs.
Robert Faust, 44 yrs.
Robert Ferguson, 30 yrs.
Matthew Ferguson, 31 yrs.
Carol Flessner, 25 yrs.
Jon French, 51 yrs.
Daniel Fry, 41 yrs.
Tom Gaff, 30 yrs.
Rob Glover, 33 yrs.
Thomas Gooding, 33 yrs.
Alvin Griggs Sr., 29 yrs.
David Gross, 49 yrs.
Janet Grove, 32 yrs.

Gene Gudeman, 42 yrs.
Leslie Hall, 43 yrs.
Daniel Harrod, 38 yrs.
John Heap, 50 yrs.
Tom Henderson, 38 yrs.
Elizabeth Hendrick, 30 yrs.
Richard Hiatt, 45 yrs.
Kathleen Holden, 31 yrs.
Jeffrey Holmes, 47 yrs.
Joan Hood, 32 yrs.
Peter Hood, 37 yrs.
Jeffery Hudson, 40 yrs.
Kevin Huffman, 38 yrs.
Terry Ijams, 50 yrs.
Thomas Iorio, 39 yrs.
David Jackson, 39 yrs.
Vaughn Jaenike, 47 yrs.
Stanley Jarecki, 55 yrs.
Doug Johnson, 29 yrs.
Richard Johnson, 41 yrs.
Janet Johnston, 27 yrs.
Gene Jonty, 26 yrs.
John Kay, 34 yrs.
Linda Keys, 27 yrs.
Sidney Kibler, 31 yrs.
Ronald Kiddoo, 44 yrs.
James Kleiss, 39 yrs.
Phil Knox, 49 yrs.
Charles Knudson, 43 yrs.
Karl Konrad, 35 yrs.
John Lamb, 42 yrs.
Phillip Lamkin, 43 yrs.
Norma Lansing, 28 yrs.
Edward Layden Jr., 30 yrs.
Keith Leesman, 33 yrs.
Donald Lemme, 36 yrs.
Jon Liebman, 40 yrs.
Judith Liebman, 40 yrs.
James Livesay II, 48 yrs.
Damian Macey, 46 yrs.
Jay Markwell, 35 yrs.
Newlin Martin Sr., 54 yrs.
Russ Marvel, 52 yrs.
Thomas McCarty, 36 yrs.

William McCarty, 64 yrs.
Mike McCollum, 28 yrs.
Michael McCaughan, 28 yrs.
Dennis McMillan, 36 yrs.
Leroy McPherson, 35 yrs.
John Meek, 43 yrs.
Anna Merritt, 28 yrs.
Tim Metzger, 30 yrs.
Art Mier, 41 yrs.
Bryan Mikeworth, 41 yrs.
Sallie Miller, 26 yrs.
Scott Mosher, 35 yrs.
John Muirhead, 32 yrs.
Lloyd Murphy III, 39 v
Michael Murphy, 27 yrs.
Bill Myers Jr., 40 yrs.
Peter Nichols, 30 yrs.
Pat Niebrugge, 41 yrs.
Harold Nordin, 35 yrs.
Robert Nussbaum Jr., 37 yrs.
Louis Ochs, 40 yrs.
Miley Palmer, 27+ yrs.
James Paternoster, 37 yrs.
Dan Patton, 26 yrs.
Roscoe Pershing, 36 yrs.
Ed Pool, 45 yrs.
Kip Pope, 45 yrs.
Tim Reeser, 42 yrs.
Randall Rice, 30 yrs.
John Rich, 36 yrs.
David Ring, 35 yrs.
Carole Ringer, 27 yrs.
Dean Robinson, 32 yrs.
Ray Ropp, 47 yrs.
Karen Sanders, 26 yrs.
Richard Sanders, 35 yrs.
Gregory Sapp, 28 yrs.
Dean Sasse, 27 yrs.
John Schaer, 50 yrs.
Charles Schafer, 49 yrs.
Pamela Schahrer, 27 yrs.
Christian Scherer, 38 yrs.
Linda Schneemann, 28 yrs.
Joseph Schroeder, 45 yrs.

Robert Schultz, 26 yrs.
Michael Sehy, 36 yrs.
William Semlak, 26 yrs.
Surinder Sethi, 31 yrs.
Steven Seymour, 38 yrs.
Joshua Shofner, 21 yrs.
Robert C. Smith, 40 yrs.
Norbert Soltwedel, 35 yrs.
Jeffrey Speer, 27 yrs.
Roderick Stevens, 47 yrs.
Louise Stewart, 26 yrs.
Steve Stombaugh, 42 yrs.
Judith Story, 32 yrs.
Duane Streitmatter, 35 yrs.
John Szabo, 29 yrs.
Edward Tanton, 31 yrs.
Wayne Taylor, 49 yrs.
Joseph Taylor, 50 yrs.
Douglas Thompson, 35 yrs.
Ronald Timmerman, 37 yrs.
Dale Timmermann, 44 yrs.
John Trefzger, 60 yrs.
Brian Trower, 30 yrs.
Donald Uchtmann, 41 yrs.
Thomas Vance, 30 yrs.
Carson Varner, 28 yrs.
Iris Varner, 28 yrs.
William Volk, 36 yrs.
Jerry Watson, 29 yrs.
Michael Watts, 27 yrs.
Lawrence Weaver, 28 yrs.
Mary Ann Webb, 34 yrs.
Stephen Weeks, 37 yrs.
Rick Weger, 32 yrs.
Rodney Weigelmann, 31 yrs.
Terry Weir, 28 yrs.
Timothy Weitekamp, 30 yrs.
Patty Whitworth, 29 yrs.
Edgar W. Wills, 31 yrs.
Steve Wilson, 40 yrs.
Bruce Wintersteen, 34 yrs.
Robert Wiseman, 56 yrs.
Eric Zeller, 26 yrs.
Drake Zimmerman, 39 yrs.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit items for future newsletters to Jerry Johnson via email at jerry_e_johnson@comcast.net.

Please begin subject line with ...
ROTARY NEWSLETTER.