

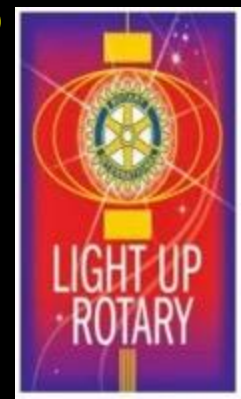
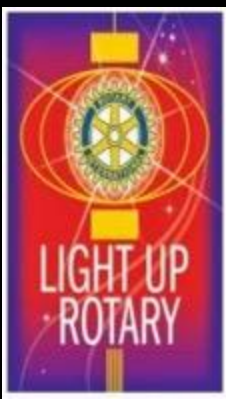


**TWO YEAR COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
EACH SCHOLARSHIP WORTH**

**\$1250**

**THANK YOU  
LAFAYETTE ROTARIANS**

**2015**





**Today is a very special day  
in the life of some  
outstanding students and it  
is also special for the  
Lafayette Rotary Club as  
we witness the results of  
one of our local projects**

**The awarding of the Two-  
Year Rotary Scholarships.**



**It has been an enriching experience for those of our membership who have worked on this committee and I would like to recognize those who have served. Will you please stand as your name is called.**

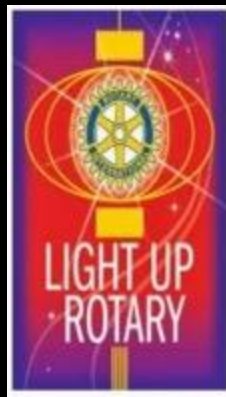


# **COMMITTEE**

**Patti Truitt, CoChair;  
Barbara Reif, CoChair,  
John Barrett,  
Caroline Briggs,  
Christine Burr,  
Floyd Garrott,  
Jean Jackson,  
Leta Kelley,  
Mariellen Neudeck,  
Eldon Ortman,  
Tom Pearson,  
Dennis Saviano.**



# JUAN ESTEBAN BUENO



## Barb Reif introduction:

The desire to help people plus a love of science has led Juan Esteban Bueno to seek a degree in biotechnology. He wants to eventually specialize in plant genetics in order to get plants to produce more fruits and vegetables in arid zones around the world. This can help fight the battle of hunger that many countries struggle with.

Juan moved to West Lafayette from Colombia in 2012 along with his mother and a sister into the home of a new step-father. He enrolled at Harrison High School in his junior year and immediately became involved in school activities. He swam for the swimming team and because of his good grades was inducted into the National Honor Society, where he participated in their volunteer program. One of the biggest challenges in moving to the US was leaving a large family behind. In Colombia, where family is very important, they gathered most every weekend and Juan has missed that since moving here.

He enrolled in Ivy Tech in the spring of 2014 and hopes to graduate a year from now. He plans to transfer to IUPUI to obtain a bachelor degree. Juan was nominated to the Ivy Tech's Ambassador Program where he continues his volunteering by helping at Food Finders. In our conversation together he was eager to know how he could help Rotary with our projects. When he found out about our Backpack Program he immediately asked if he could volunteer when we resume in the fall. He also asked about how to become a member of Rotary – information we were glad to share.

Right now he is busy balancing his academic training with an interesting job. Juan works for “gh”, a company here in Lafayette that designs different tests. They produce braille tests and books and Juan is part of their quality control system. His responsibility is to see that the braille dots are correct and any unnecessary dots are scraped off, as they might change the meaning of the words or confuse the readers.

Juan is attending Ivy Tech with help from grants and the money he makes at his job. He said that at the beginning of this past semester he did not yet have a job so he was not able to purchase books, a factor that somewhat complicated his learning progress. The Rotary scholarship will help alleviate that situation for summer school.

His letters of recommendation describe him as “a mature young man who is striving to create a bright future for himself and his loved ones,” and as having the “commitment and dedication to become a leader in the community.” His academic advisor predicts that with his positive attitude, ability to manage time and inherent intellectual ability, he will complete his degree on time with excellent grades. After that we will look for Juan to make a positive impact as he works in his chosen field of plant genetics.

Celebrating with Juan today are his mother, Martha Rebellon and his step father, Jeff Pavese. Will you both please stand.

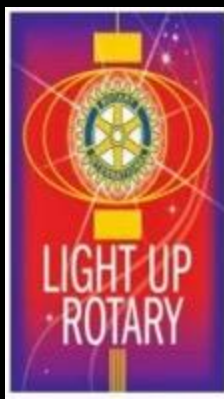
Congratulations Juan!







# KIMBERLEY BURNS





## Leta Kelly introduction:

Working fulltime and balancing the busy lives of three daughters, ages 14, 13, and 12 doesn't seem like an easy scenario but Kim Burns is doing just that. When you add into that going to school part time you know that this single mom is one that steps right up to challenges. Kim says that she like challenges and always tries to live up to expectations of her parents, her girls and herself. She really tries to be a great mom and a role model to her girls who are busy in volleyball, soccer and swimming.

This wasn't exactly how she expected her life to be played out. A divorce three years ago has made many changes in her life. Kim has an associate degree in Travel and Tourism and worked in that field for 18 years, but when 9/11 happened she chose to leave that profession behind and to devote her life to the family. Eight years ago she went to work at Purdue and currently is in a relatively new position as the Project Assistant for the Human Research Protection Program. I already mentioned this is a full time job.

Kim contemplated going back to school many times but it never seemed quite right. Then in 2013 she sat her girls down and explained to them that she really wanted to explore the idea of going back to school to get a degree in paralegal studies with a possible goal of going on to law school. Bailey, Abigail and Courtney were behind her 100% and the journey began. This meant a lot of juggling, flexing work schedules to attend necessary classes and trying to work in the girls' sporting events whenever possible. With all of them being students they often do homework together – mom and girls.

Besides all of this Kim is an active citizen in the Monticello community, having served as PTO President, coordinating the school carnival, as well as being a team parent to support the various sports the girls participate in. Kim also has participated in Relay for Life, United Way, Spirit of Monticello Festival. Kim says, "It helps me feel good that I am giving back...and it makes my girls feel proud."

Law has always been an interest for Kim. Her grandfather also told her she should be a lawyer because she never backs down on what she believes. One of her professor nearly echoes that sentiment in saying, "Kim was never afraid to ask questions nor to raise challenges to material that didn't appear to square with her understanding." She goes on to comment on Kim's enthusiasm for law in saying that despite not having her in class this semester, "Kim has kept in touch with me to discuss different developments in the law and interesting legal journal articles that she has come across on her own and I sincerely enjoy those exchanges."

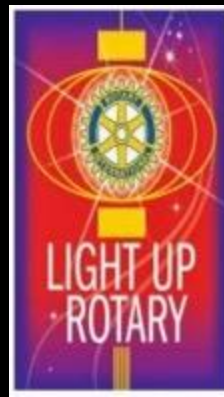
Kim has with her today two persons who have been a constant support to her, her mom and dad, Jean and Bud Mummert and also her advisor, Linda Kampe. Will you all please stand.

Congratulations Kim!





# PETER CELESTE



## Barb Reif introduction:

Some persons know at a young age what they would like to do in life and Peter Celeste was one of them. From an early age all he wanted to do was work on an ambulance. He earned an EMT by age 16 and was continuing to learn and was loving his job when, as he says, “I found out that life can turn on a dime.” In 2001, he broke his back while lifting a patient and he became paralyzed. Surgery and months of physical therapy followed, before he could walk again.

Returning to the work world, he tried jobs in retail, hotel management, and even real estate, before he got a job as a paraprofessional in a local middle school and discovered his real love. As fate would have it, the “No Child Left Behind” program made him disqualified, so he went back to other jobs just to pay the bills. Then another back injury and a stroke in 2013 prompted him to reassess once again. Peter decided to go back to school to seek a degree in education, the field he loved, knowing that even with a disability, he would be able to teach.

Peter found that going back to school after 20 years is a challenge and also a journey of self-discovery. Not only has he learned a lot educationally, but also about himself. With the help of a trusted advisor, he found that his initial goal of teaching science was not the best fit for him. Instead he chose educational administration as a major. Peter’s wife, who is pursuing an online master’s degree, has been the sole provider for the family since he has returned to school which has made his being a full time student easier. Being the parents of two children in the home and one on the way, plus work and school is a balancing act that keeps them very busy.

Nevertheless Peter is active in the community as a Boy Scout leader, even going with the boys to camp. He is also active in the young men’s group at church. When his medical issues subsided a bit, Peter joined in many campus activities including Ivy Tech Day at the Indiana Statehouse and a Leadership Symposium workshop on campus. Peter has been involved in campus leadership events and has also helped develop a certificate program in Conflict Resolution and Global Awareness that will be added to the Ivy Tech curriculum this fall.

Peters’ determination and persistence has put him on track to graduate from Ivy Tech a year early. Then he hopes to earn a Bachelor Degree at Purdue and a Masters at Ball State. He says, “I have two goals I am aspiring toward. The first is to receive a K-12 administrator’s license. The second is to teach at the college level.”

One of his professors has said, “Peter’s experienced prior to becoming a student, his role as a father, and his service to the community and in his church, informed his academic habits in ways beyond the reach of most of my students. While some may have been satisfied with their own success, Peter genuinely cared about and developed success in others. He understands the power of presence, hard work, and diligence in the face of adversity: his own and others.”

Today Rene Celeste and a friend, Mathew Mathias join Peter in this celebration. Will you please stand.

Congratulations Peter!

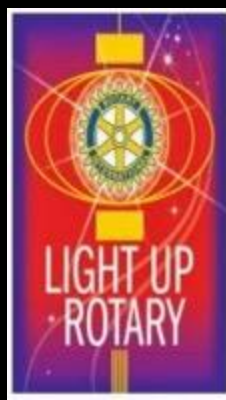








# TIFFANY EVANS



## Leta Kelly introduction:

Being a young mother of five boys, ages 2 to 8 years, is a challenge in itself without deciding to pursue a degree that heads toward a career in nursing. But that is what Tiffany Evans ventured forth to do last August when she enrolled in Ivy Tech in Crawfordsville. Her boys are her biggest inspiration to do better for herself and for them, according to Tiffany.

Tiffany has always loved school and wanted to get back, but marriage and children postponed that for a while. So last fall, with both excitement and fear, she began that adventure. It doesn't mean that the road has been easy. Moving to Crawfordsville meant moving into a two bedroom apartment with her mom, a small space for nine persons. Then other situations arose, including her husband losing his job, eviction from the apartment and all the heartaches that come with little income. Thanks to a Pell Grant, a student loan and her husband finding a new job, things took a turn for the better.

But then right after Thanksgiving, Mark, Tiffany's husband, had a heart attack, had triple by-pass surgery and was out of work for several weeks. Thanks to help from family they made it through. While all this was happening, Tiffany still received all A's in her five courses at the end of that semester and was able to enroll for the spring. She enjoys her courses, says it is an opportunity to do something away from home and that school is easy compared to all she does at home.

Tiffany has always wanted to do something in the medical field. She has a real desire to help people. Mark has been a big encourager for her to continue her schooling and has made accommodations in his work schedule so she can attend classes. Even with the setbacks that occurred this year Tiffany is determined. She states, "I knew at the time how important it was for me to get back to school so I pushed all the problems out of my mind and kept telling myself that it is only for a short time so I can get my degree."

Tiffany's goal is to finish her prerequisites and get into the nursing program. Her dream job for the future would be to work as a pediatric nurse since she has experienced it all – emergency C section, natural childbirth and planned C section and could certainly relate to childbirth patients. One of Tiffany's nominators said she "Is to be applauded for pursuing a nursing degree because she does not come from a back ground where higher education has been pursued." Another said Tiffany "was a natural leader, helping and encouraging other students to try a little harder to reach their potential." That same nominator says that Tiffany's commitment to school while raising her school-age children was an inspiration to her.

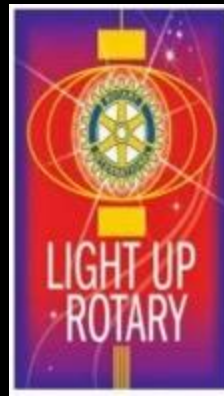
We are pleased that Tiffany's husband Mark is here with her today. Mark will you please stand.

Congratulations Tiffany!





# FRANKLIN GARLAND



## Barb Reif introduction:

It is undeniable that divorce brings lots of changes to life, especially to children. Franklin Garland was just eight when that happened in his family. The oldest of four boys and raised in Cairo, Georgia, it was his job to step up and help his mother. Even though he was active in football and band at school, by the time he was 16 he was working full time to help support the family. Although his mother had instilled in him a love of learning and he had a great desire to go to college, it was not to be at the time. His mother needed his assistance to help raise his three younger brothers.

After graduating high school and while working as a supervisor at Hardees he was approached by the sheriff to think about law enforcement. He spent 15 weeks at the Police Academy and was hired by the local police department and later as a deputy sheriff. Franklin loved enforcing the law and took great pride in helping others. Putting himself in the line of duty to protect the lives of others taught valuable lessons. None was more difficult than having to break the news to his mother that his brother had been killed in a motorcycle accident.

Franklin moved to Indiana about 15 years ago to join relatives located here. For over five years he worked as a Group Leader for Wingard Wheel Works, part of the Toyota network here in Lafayette. However, working second shift made it difficult to spend time with his children, William, who is 14 years old and Olivia, who is 12. As a single father with full custody, he wanted more time to spend with the children and to give them the attention they needed. Part of his decision to return to school at Ivy Tech was to help them to understand the value of a college education. He says, "I want my children to understand that we all face adversity, but it is important to continue to persist through adversity. I want them to understand that it is never too late to realize your dreams."

One of the first things Franklin talked about when we met was how excited he was about the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." He said he had been sharing that with everyone. Wouldn't it be great if all Rotarians were so enthusiastic!

Franklin originally sought a general studies major but is changing to a degree in visual communications. He plans to go on for both Bachelor and Master degrees. He has a passion and gift for photography, as you can see from his pictures in the Power Point. He says photography captures the beauty in everyday life and is part of all major life events. He is currently owner of a photography and video business.

His letters of recommendation are glowing. One said, "Franklin with a GPA of 4.0 has strong academic ability across the board, yet he has an easy-going, personable and humble way about him. He is positive, engaged, respectful (of classmates and the teacher), insightful, thoughtful and humorous. It was the combination of his excellence and humility – as well as just being a likable guy that made the biggest impression on me."

Today joining us to congratulate Franklin as a Rotary Scholarship recipient is his friend, Roshan Khosravi. Will you please stand.

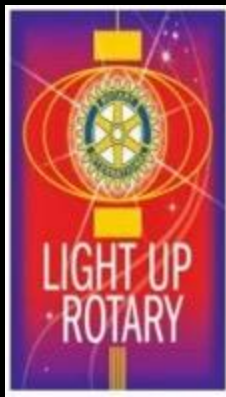
Congratulations Franklin.







# ELISHA HOLLANDBECK



## Leta Kelly introduction:

Elisha Hollandbeck opens her scholarship application with these words, "If you had told me a few years ago that I would be applying for a scholarship today, I would not have believed you. I was married, with two kids, working a good job with good pay and no desire to return to school." She goes on to relate that circumstances changed when in the same month she lost her job, her husband left, and she and her children had to move into her parents' basement. She knew she had to rebuild her life to make things better for her two children, her family and herself.

The journey forward moved her from what had been her growing up world, where she had little sense of community or the world around her. She relates she had never attended church, played in school sports or was ever involved in afterschool programs. Moving out of that bubble to a job in a bookstore, she started saving money but never dreamed of owning a house of her own. Then the bookstore owner, our Rotary member Tom Frey, told her about Habitat for Humanity and urged her to check it out. Doing just that proved to be the best decision she has ever made.

Elisha applied, was accepted and fast forwarding a year or so, she is now the proud owner of her very own home. She rose to the commitment of spending a year of her time working 250 sweat equity hours and attending classes. But she gained more than a new home.

She found a renewed sense of self, a newfound sense of community and friends she will have for a lifetime. She says, "These people took me in like I was family and genuinely wanted to help me and mine. We shared meals, laughed, cried, learned and shared our experiences. Here it was, every opportunity I wanted and needed, to build my life, given to me by people who were kind enough to volunteer their time. It was the most challenging experience of my life."

It was the Habitat experience that gave Elisha the courage to go back to school. Her initial goal was to obtain a degree in Business Administration partially to increase her skills as an Administrative Assistant in her new job at the Oscar Winski Company. She enrolled in three classes, one being Business Law because the Landlord/Tenant project detailed in the syllabus intrigued her. She enjoyed the class but what motivated her to change her major was her stint in jury duty. She was called for a week long criminal case and she was fascinated by every aspect. She says, "I had not been that passionate about anything in a long time and the feeling was too strong to ignore. I decided to become a paralegal. It will give me an opportunity to succeed in life doing something I will genuinely enjoy."

Here to congratulate Elisha on her accomplishment as a Rotary Scholarship winner is her sister, Denys Hollandbeck. Will you please stand.

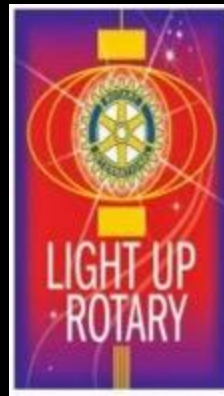
Congratulate Elisha!







# Zhelin Liu





## Barb Reif introduction:

Zhelin, whom we can call Sherry, came to the United States in 2011. In China, where she was born under the “one child family” to a middle class family, she was fortunate to have had a good education, finishing a bachelor’s degree and then entering a top medical school. The school was far from her hometown and the rigorous coursework and competitive atmosphere was difficult. Only the love and continuous encouragement from her parents and family kept her going. She received her two year resident training, mostly in internal medicine, in a hospital co-founded 1906 by Yale University.

Of this training she says, “The experience of facing various shortcomings and the frequent feeling of helplessness in the developing Chinese healthcare system, especially when dealing with devastating diseases occurring children and elders, inspired me to seek opportunities to further my knowledge in face to face caregiving.”

It was at that point in time, she accompanied her Purdue bound husband to our community, still eager to enter the realm of caregiving but now in a totally new environment. She discovered that the ASN nursing program at Ivy Tech would be a great starting point to prepare for this challenge. Ivy Tech proved to be a welcoming community where she could continue her quest to prepare for a medical career. Her advisor notes that “Zhelin knew that becoming a physician here in the US would be a long process, so she desired a shorter path to providing patient care.” She realized that she needed to broaden her vision in western culture and our highly regulated healthcare system, both of which are covered in the Ivy Tech program.

Sherry began her prerequisite courses last fall and with her excellent grades was nominated to the Dean’s List. But her personal challenges were many. She says, “As an international student who is not a native English speaker, the difficulties are manifold. Initially, due to the societal, cultural and political differences, the US was like a totally new world to me. With different languages, western-style foods, people of various personalities and a dissimilar education system, every day was like a box of chocolates, and I never knew what I was going to get.”

Sherry has amazing insight as to how she can use the skills she is gaining. She realizes that she may be especially equipped to serve an growing immigrant population that are part of our country. Even now as she lives in student housing, where 70% are international students or scholars, she serves as consultant, translator and interpreter in minor health issues. Her motivation stems from a willingness to help people, to improve people’s health and patients’ outcomes. Her advisor says, “With her clear sense of direction, willingness and ability to work hard and learn, and her buoyant attitude, I have no doubt that Zhelin will succeed in reaching her goals.”

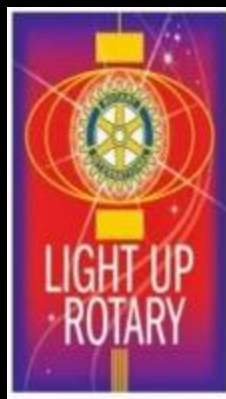
Zhelin was overjoyed to hear that she was selected to receive this scholarship, almost unable to believe that it would be awarded to her. Her husband, Yi Cui, a research assistant at Purdue, is here with her to celebrate. Will you please stand.

Congratulations Zhelin!





# ERIKA SMART



## Leta Kelly introduction:

Erika Smart is a young woman on the move. Not only is she taking online classes at Ivy Tech this semester, she is also working at this time at Walt Disney World in Florida through the Disney College Program , serving as a lifeguard at one of their resorts. That is why she is not here today. She will be recognized at a later club meeting and will receive her scholarship for the fall semester at that time.

Erika, who hails from Morocco, IN, still lives with her parents but she is totally responsible for her other expenses. This includes her college costs, as well car payments, gas and insurance for the car that she drives in her 80 mile, one way commute to Lafayette for school. Fortunately she is a good student so she has received some scholarship help in the past.

Maybe Erika's early medical emergencies helped her choose her current major, which is surgical technology. At 17 she was diagnosed with Lupus anti-coagulant disorder. She had awakened one night unable to breathe, and rushed to IU Arnett ER, where pulmonary emboli were found. She was then life lined to Riley where they discovered that a blood clot from the heart had broken free and was at the brain, causing her to have a seizure and code. Fortunately doctors revived her but she was at Riley ten days. The residual effect is that she has some memory loss and now has to work harder than other students to retain information.

Erika was the first in her family to aspire to a college education because she wanted to be able to financially support herself and a family in the future. She tried Indiana State for a year but found that Ivy Tech was a better fit for her. While at ISU she participated in their Leadership Learning Community and now at Ivy Tech, has graduated from the Student Leadership Academy, where she proved to be one of their best and brightest students according to the coordinator of that program. Some of this comes from her previous high school experience where she played volleyball, ran track and participated in swimming as well as being a class officer and a District Vice President for a State Leadership Conference.

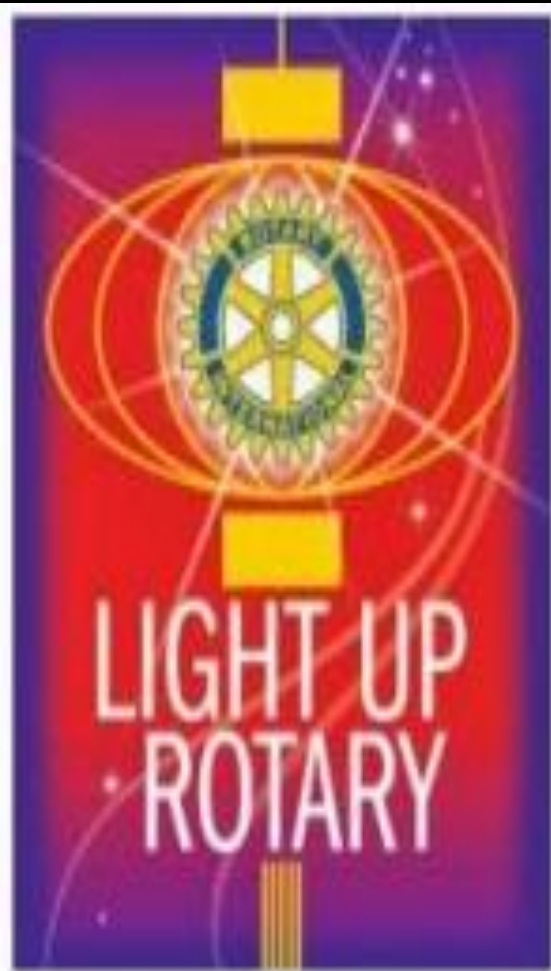
At home in Indiana Erika has also found time to work as a Beaver Township lifeguard and manager and as a cashier at the Rensselaer Wal-Mart. She volunteers on Thursday nights after class at the IU Arnett ER where she was rushed at age 17. She says, "While I am a very busy person, I always try to balance my work life, school life and social life the best way possible.

We are happy to be able to award Erika Smart a 2015 Rotary Two Year Scholarship, an award well earned.





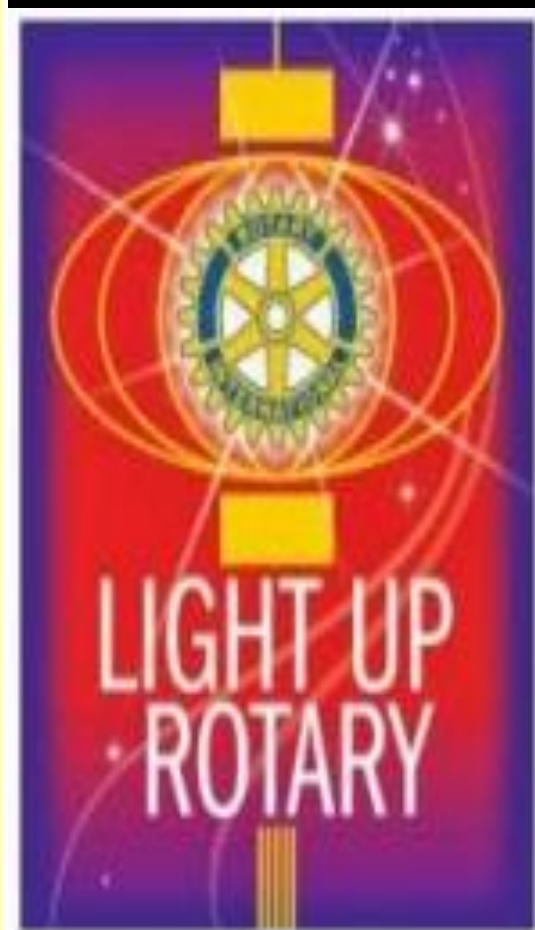




# The Rotary Four Way Test



1. Is It Truth?
2. Is It Fair To All Concerned?
3. Will It Build Goodwill And Better Friendships?
4. Will It Be Beneficial To All Concerned?





**END  
POLIO  
NOW**