

Rotary



District 6670



Rotary Opens Opportunities

District Leaders

Gregory A. Birkemeyer
District Governor

Carol Hughes
DG-Elect

Frank H. Scott
DG-Nominee & DRFC

Shannon Graham
District Membership Chair
(DMC)

Heidi E. Schiller
District Public Image Chair
(DPIC)

Donald Stewart
District Treasurer

Lisa Crachiolo
Assistant Governor

Stanley A. Evans
Assistant Governor

Ronald F. Hollenbeck
Assistant Governor

Elizabeth C. Huber
Assistant Governor

Megan Manuel
Assistant Governor

Stephen D. Naas
Assistant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Nenninger
Assistant Governor

James M. Perry
Assistant Governor

Boyd A. Preston
Assistant Governor

Susan J. Taylor
Assistant Governor

SUSAN WILKINSON
Assistant Governor

Events

December 15th
RLI - Part I/Session 3
(Must be registered for 12/1)

February 3rd
District Grants Seminar

A Message from your District Governor



Happy Holidays fellow Rotarians,

Rotary's theme for December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month. In past years, when I thought about disease, I would have likely referred to our Polio eradication efforts. Clubs involved in international projects and global grants focused on disease spread resulting from access to clean water and sanitation. Today, I suspect most of us are thinking of disease in terms of COVID-19 pandemic. I think it is fair to say that we are all tired of COVID-19, but given the magnitude of the situation, I hope we can all agree that COVID-19 has reminded us of our mission to help our local and global communities in disease prevention and treatment. Thank you to each and every Rotarian for doing your part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the vaccines when available.

For those that subscribe to the *Dayton Daily News*, did you see the article in the HISTORY EXTRA section of the 11/26/2020 Thanksgiving edition titled Vintage photos from past holidays capture timeless spirit of the season? The article included a 1970 photo of Santa Claus speaking to the children at the Club's annual Children with Disabilities Holiday party. Springfield Rotary had held this event annually since 1923! You can find the photo at <https://www.springfieldnewsun.com/local/vintage-photos-from-past-holidays-capture-the-timeless-spirit-of-the-season/BCLZ3ISVWFGGPNNWSV5O142JXO/>. I had the privilege of attending the event in December 2020 and it was a wonderful experience. The children were provided a meal, escorted by a Rotarian to participate in various activities suited to accommodate their disabilities and each received an individualized present from Santa. I know the Club is disappointed they could not host their annual event, but the article is a great reminder of Springfield Rotary's service to the community.

Those attending my club visits have heard me ask the question Are You Greatly Interested in Rotary? In my talk I ask Rotarians to share with Rotarians and non-Rotarians why they are members of Rotary. One such Rotarian that has chosen to share his Rotary experience with me is Dayton Rotarian Surendra Singhvi. Surendra recently wrote an article that he submitted to Rotary Magazine for publication. While I don't know whether it will actually be published, I wanted to share with you portions of the article which you will find later in this newsletter. Surendra has been a longtime member of Rotary but he could not attend weekly in-person meetings due to a medical condition. He has, however, attended every virtual Dayton Rotary meeting since COVID-19 started. He is also attending virtual District and Zone training session and events. I often say that I believe virtual meetings *Opens Opportunities* and Surendra is the epitome of taking advantage of the opportunity to be engaged with Dayton Rotary and the larger Rotary world. I also gained a new opportunity as I never met my fellow Dayton Rotarian prior to him attending our club's weekly virtual meetings. In just a few short months, I learned that he had lunch with Dr. Martin Luther King, he met the Dalia Lama and also met 2000-2001 Rotary International President Frank Devlyn. Surendra and I share the experience of meeting PRP Devlyn, although our experience was 20 years apart. Do you have a Rotary story or even a few words you would like to share about why you are greatly interested in Rotary? If so, send them to me at gbirkemeyer.rotary@gmail.com and I will do my best to share them in upcoming District newsletters.

In this month of December, as you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanza, best wishes to you and your families for a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season and New Year 2021.

DG Greg Birkemeyer



District Governor Club Visit Schedule

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Thank you to the following clubs for hosting me at a recent Club meeting:

Williamsburg	Centerville
Germantown	Miamisburg

Upcoming Visits:

Club	Date	Format*
West Chester / Liberty	12/8/2020	Virtual
Cincinnati Eastside	1/6/2021	In-person
Tipp City	1/13/2021	In-person
Wilmington AM	1/14/2021	Virtual
Vandalia	1/21/2021	In-person

*Meeting format subject to change pending COVID-19

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My Rotary Experience

by Surendra Singhvi

When I was in high school in Jodhpur India my relative Dr. Laxmi Mal Singhvi was sponsored by the Rotary Club to study law in England. Later he was appointed as the high commissioner of India to England so I became curious to find out about Rotary Club. In those days we did not have access to Google search so I went to library and read books on Rotary. It is a service club to give back to society in terms of donation for charitable causes and volunteer work to help needy people after learning about the Rotary Club mission and motto is Service Above Self, which interested me in participating in Rotary Club of Jodhpur India in 1965. I attended the Rotary club in my native place Jodhpur India as a guest of my friends' father and spoke about my experience in the USA.

I joined the Rotary club of Portsmouth New Hampshire in 1963 while teaching at the University of New Hampshire. After joining Armco Steel Corporation in Middletown Ohio in 1970, a colleague of mine Mr. Howard Phillips encouraged me to join the Middletown Rotary Club to develop professional contacts in the town. I attended my first weekly meeting at Manchester Inn owned by my employer it was in walking distance.

Later I learned that by donating \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation I can become a member of the prestigious Paul Harris club. Since I was the only foreigner and Asian Indian and a professor I was elected as a member of the board of directors and the director for International Activities. The first thing I did was to organize international night program once a year for foreign students studying at Miami University in Oxford Ohio. I knew the foreign students' adviser Mr. Donald Nelson who was very excited to bring about 50 students from different countries. He hired a school bus and brought these students since they did not have their cars they were requested to dress up in native dress and present cultural programs such as songs dances musical instruments and show slides of their native land.

I then moved to St. Louis and joined the Rotary Club located within walking distance of my office. I often spoke to the club on India.

I then moved to Dayton Ohio to start my own management consulting business. In 1995, I joined Dayton Ohio Rotary Club at the request of my client Mr. Jerry Hauer. I was active until my stroke which I suffered in May 2002. The stroke resulted in my losing my driver's license driver license and confined to a wheelchair. I was club treasurer and chairman of the chairman of strategic planning committee and the vocational exhibition committee. I spoke to the club on India's future after Mrs. Gandhi declared emergency in India.

I met president of Rotary International Mr. Frank Devlyn at a Dayton Rotary meeting and felt very good to have photograph with him. He is a very humble person. Mr. Devlyn asked a lot of questions about India and my coming to USA. I was sad to learn that he recently passed away.

Rotary has benefited me by giving me the opportunity to contribute to the society in terms of money and volunteer time such as fund raising for hats and coats for poor students raising funds for pandemic affected people. It is with pride to tell my friends and relatives that I am a Rotarian. I enjoy reading Rotarian Magazine every month and learn the service activities in the world. I enjoyed attending the virtual International Convention in 2020. I enjoyed attending District 6670 leadership training program. As a management consultant I got a lot of clients from Rotarians. I developed confidence in public speaking, enjoyed meeting celebrities and politicians who spoke at the weekly meetings and learned a lot. Learnt a lot from



speakers about healthcare education and diversity topics and developed contacts with experts.

Frank Devlyn RIP 2000-2001 & Dayton Rotarian Surendra Singhvi

Rotary Club of Cincinnati Camp Allyn Work Day



Camp Allyn Workday ◆ November 14

We had a great turnout at our Camp Allyn workday on November 14 and accomplished a lot! Our Rotary Club has been involved with this camp ever since we started it in 1921, and the camp program, now run by Stepping Stones, is continuing to help children and adults with disabilities ◆ as well as their families. Thirty-seven Rotarians and family members cleared brush, cut back hedges, raked, and did a lot whole of painting of buildings and structures. Thanks to all who helped! And a special

thanks to a Corporate member of our Club, Huntington Bank, and Rotarian Shana Stiver, for providing lunch for everyone; and as well as to Club member Bryan Vielhauer for providing breakfast for all. And thanks to our Hands-On Service Committee Chair, Bill Stille, for coordinating and leading this very productive and fun effort.

Dayton Rotary Sponsors Virtual Peace Exhibit

The 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords, the landmark treaty that ended the violent hostilities of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, occurred on November 21, 2020. Until 2019, there had been no permanent exhibit in the Dayton area to commemorate this achievement and educate the public on 1) the context of the war; 2) the issues that made its violence so horrific; 3) the heroic efforts of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base personnel to set the stage for, and of members of the U. S. State Department to conduct, negotiations to bring peace to that region; and 4) the aftermath of the war which has made true and lasting peace there a still-elusive goal. The Dayton International Peace Museum produced its first permanent, interactive exhibit to



ONLINE EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY



The 1992 war in the former Yugoslavia was the first conflict since WWII to be formally judged as genocidal in character. Many of the participants were charged with terrible war crimes.

In November 1995, it was in Dayton, Ohio, that the world community — led by the U.S. State Department — brought the leaders of the three warring nations to the table for peace negotiations.



accomplish these goals in November 2019.

With the pandemic closing museums in early 2020, innovation was needed to appropriately commemorate the 25th Anniversary. The Dayton International Peace Museum partnered with the Rotary Club of Dayton to digitize the exhibit and offer it online throughout the world to visitors, researchers and students, even those who may never be able to visit Dayton, Ohio in person. By offering the interactive exhibit online, it is even easier to use as curriculum material for educators. As such, the Magnificent 17 (Rotary Club of Dayton members lead by the Dayton Club's Peace Committee) raised \$3,000 to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of the online exhibit, which can be viewed by visiting <https://accords.daytonpeacemuseum.org/>

West Chester/Liberty Club Holiday Service Activities

The Rotary Club of West Chester/Liberty is participating in two service projects this holiday season. Every year, our club partners with Reach Out Lakota, a local organization that provides basic necessities to families in need. On December 12th, our club is distributing boxes of food to families for the holiday break.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an organization that coordinates builds, delivery, and assembly of beds for kids that are currently sleeping on the floor and was our 2020 District Grant Recipient.



Our club



built beds in October & November and is looking forward to delivering and assembling beds in homes on December 18th, just before Christmas.

Looking for a Speaker?

Dayton Rotarian Kim Bramlage along with 48 other Rotarians from the US, Canada and Barbados, went on a 10 day journey to India in January of this year. The trip combined participation in India's National Polio Immunization activities, interaction with local Rotary clubs and their projects and visiting some of India's most extraordinary sites. Kim is willing to speak to clubs, virtually about her experiences in India and with Polio Immunization. Kim can be contacted at kim.bramlage@frhc.org



Mason Deerfield Rotary Provides Food to Families in Need



The Mason Deerfield Rotary has an annual tradition of providing Thanksgiving dinners to various people and deserving groups. With the help of the local schools families in need of assistance are identified and then several members met on Thanksgiving morning at our local Kroger.

We loaded up cars with pre-cooked Thanksgiving meals including pie and sparkling juice and delivered to 19 Mason families. In appreciation for our first responders this year we added deliveries to Deerfield Township Sheriffs Post, Mason Police Department and Mason Fire Departments #51 and #52. This came to a total of around 111 people fed this holiday.

We hope that we brightened the holiday for those families in need and we wanted to give thanks to the men and women of the police and fire that faithfully serve our community.



West Milton Rotary Activities

Although the Rotary Club of West Milton is not meeting in-person, our members were able to

complete two, major fundraising projects for 2020. Following Veteran's Day, we collected and completed our American Flag project, and we will reorganize to continue this work for Spring 2021. We were also able to assist the Miami County Board of Elections in deploying and returning voting materials for the November Election.

Since meeting in-person has not been a possibility, organizing holiday projects has been challenging. In typical years, club members purchase gifts anonymously for children based on family needs and "wish lists." Also, the club typically "adopts" between 14 and 18 families based on anonymous community recommendations in delivering food items to sustain children, parents, and caregivers over the holidays. Delivering gifts and groceries has always been a very powerful experience for our members. Families are overwhelmed by this kindness, and our members have always looked forward to this work.

However, this year, we are partnering with the Milton-Union Council of Churches to make a sizable donation in support of their "Holiday Food Baskets." Their work is similar to Rotary in that families are anonymously recommended for donations, and dates and times are arranged for families to pick-up items in person at one of the local churches. Assisting the Council of Churches will allow our members to donate their time in support of the project as well, so working together, our members can still experience the awesome power of giving during this challenging holiday season.

Without question, we hope 2021 brings a definitive change across the country and world in terms of the pandemic as well as a general increase in care and concern for one's neighbors. With the new year, the Rotary Club of West Milton hopes for normalcy, and our members look forward to working with our local school district on the Four-way Speech Competition and student scholarships.

Best wishes, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays to our fellow Rotarians everywhere!

West Clermont High School Interact Club Brings Holiday Cheer to Seniors

The West Clermont High School Interact Club, sponsored by Cincinnati Eastside Rotary, helped bring holiday joy to senior citizens in the community by creating and delivering Christmas wreaths to the Forest Hills Care Center in Union Township, OH. Because of COVID restrictions, residents of the senior center had not been allowed to welcome visitors so receiving the wreaths helped lift spirits and spread holiday cheer.



The project was led by Interact Club leader, Shelby Pairan, who recruited other Interact members, as well as members of the West Clermont Art Club and Bell Choir, to create the wreaths. An added challenge for Pairan was organizing the project amid virtual learning at West Clermont. Pairan clearly demonstrated service above self by leading this expansive team and seeing the project through to completion and even assisting in delivering the wreaths to the center.

From left, Alison Taylor, Past President and Interact Club Liaison, Cincinnati Eastside Rotary; Linda Mehas, Career and College Counselor, West Clermont High School; and Shelby Pairan, West Clermont Interact Club deliver Christmas wreaths to the Forest Hills Care Center.