



Who Am I?...Why Am I Here?

Price Finley, District Governor

Hard to believe it's been over 30 years since Admiral James Stockdale, running mate to Ross Perot, uttered this memorable phrase (with comic intent) during a vice presidential debate in 1992. Admiral Stockdale, a decorated war hero, used this phrase to try to lighten the mood and address questions about why someone with no political experience would be a vice presidential candidate. While Stockdale's intention was to lighten the mood of the debate, these words underline important existential questions that all of us have likely asked ourselves.



Many great minds have suggested that we're here to serve others and that it may be our essential purpose. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. suggested, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged us to "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

This notion of our purpose being to serve others is deeply embedded in the DNA of Rotary. Arthur Frederick Sherman, an early member of the Rotary Club of Chicago (Rotary's first club), coined the phrase that became an early motto for Rotary: "He profits most who serves best." Our current motto, "Service Above Self," tells us to make service to others our highest priority.

The times that I have felt my deepest emotional connection to Rotary have come from service projects. I've written and spoken about my trips to Guatemala where I've met young women like Ana Florinda, who graduated from a trade school funded by a Rotary Foundation global grant where she

learned to sew and do needle stitch to support her family. I've also been overwhelmed with joy looking into the eyes of a five year-old child learning to read and being nourished in a preschool started by Rotary. Serving meals to families at the YWCA Family Center in the east side of Columbus or delivering a bed assembled by Rotary members to a home in the Linden area where the children had been sleeping on the floor - the feelings I am left with after a Rotary service project keep me connected to this great organization and the wonderful people who make it so special.

I think that Rotary's vision statement gives us important insight into the reward we get from serving others:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

How many of us have had the experience of feeling like we're just a little bit happier that we're on this planet when we finish work on a Rotary service project? The answer is - All of us!

When I was getting ready to start my year as District Governor, I was able to spend some time with Past District Governor, Nelson French. Nelson was Governor in 1987-88. (Nelson was District Governor when Rotary was just launching its effort to eradicate polio. Under Nelson's leadership, our District 6690 contributed over \$2 million to the PolioPlus fund that year.) But before Nelson served as District Governor, he served as president of the Rotary Club of Columbus in the mid 70's. During our visit, Nelson talked fondly of his time leading the Columbus Rotary Club and how he had tried to emphasize the significance of serving others. In order to highlight the intrinsic value of service, Nelson asked a fellow Rotary member to draw a character that represented the feelings we have when we serve others. He named the character "Warm Fuzzy." Here's a picture of the original drawing -

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What a fun characterization of how we feel when we help others!

So I really do see service as being essential and fundamental to our existence, as I believe you all do as well - it's why we're here on this planet. One last quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. - "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

May you each find your opportunity to serve others this month - with a soul generated by love... and get a warm fuzzy in the process!

Chat GPT-Generated Article on the Importance of Service

You've probably heard about the rise of artificial intelligence to generate term papers and other written content. If you're like me, you're curious about how that would work and whether the content would be any good. I tried it this month in connection with my newsletter article - I created a Chat GPT account and typed the prompt:

"Write an article including use of humor that explains the value of service as a Rotary member and helps us answer the existential question of 'Why am I here?' Include quotes about the value of service."

I'm providing below the article that Chat GPT generated in under sixty seconds so that you can evaluate for yourself which article is better. I have to confess that there are a couple of points in the computer-generated article that would have been interesting to include in my Price-generated article if I had thought of it, including the Ferris Bueller quote!

"Why Am I Here?" The Existential Question Answered by Rotary Service

If you're feeling lost and searching for meaning in life, it might be time to answer the age-old question of "Why am I here?" with a simple yet powerful answer: service. And what better way to serve others than as a member of Rotary International?

As the great philosopher Ferris Bueller once said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." So, take a moment to look around and consider the value of service. By serving others, you not only make a difference in the world, but you also find purpose in your own life. And as a member of Rotary, you get to do just that.

Rotary is an organization dedicated to connecting people from all walks of life and empowering them to serve their communities and the world. Whether it's through projects that address issues such as poverty, disease, illiteracy, or environmental concerns, Rotary provides opportunities for its members to make a positive impact.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." By serving others, you not only fulfill your purpose in life, but you also get to have fun while doing it! That's right, serving others can be enjoyable. Imagine spending your time with a group of like-minded individuals, working together to make a positive impact on the world. It's like a party with a purpose!

But the benefits of being a Rotarian don't stop there. You also get to be part of a global network of individuals who share your passion for service. You get to connect with people from all over the world, learn from their experiences, and work together to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. And as the famous author and speaker Zig Ziglar once said, "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."

So, to answer the question of "Why am I here?" The answer is simple: you're here to serve others. And by becoming a member of Rotary International, you'll have the opportunity to fulfill your purpose, have fun, and make a difference in the world.

In conclusion, if you're feeling lost and searching for purpose, look no further than Rotary. Join us and become a part of a movement of individuals who are dedicated to making the world a better place, one service project at a time. And who knows, you might just find the answer to the meaning of life while you're at it!

So, the next time someone asks you why you're here, you can confidently say, "I'm here to serve others as a Rotarian."

I also asked Chat GPT to "write a humorous limerick about Rotary service," and here's the best one it came up with:

There was a Rotarian named Sue Whose service was always brand new She twirled and she spun Till work was all done And with a smile, said "what's next to do?"







125 CLUB

Recognizing Rotarians who contribute \$100 or more to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund and \$25 or more to PolioPlus for the 2022-2023 Rotary Year.

Two Options to Give

Log into your My.Rotary.org account using your Rotary ID and contribute \$100 or more to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund and \$25 or more to the PolioPlus Fund;

or

Use the District's giving app by going to

2 https://givebutter.com/125_club or scanning this QR Code

(Note: Givebutter applies a \$5.33 credit card convenience fee)



- When you receive your District 6690 125 Club pin, WEAR IT PROUDLY!
- Encourage fellow Rotary members to join the 125 Club! Last year, over 800 Rotarians in District 6690 joined the 125 Club will you join this year?









(Pins will be distributed by Assistant District Governors periodically throughout the Rotary year)

Project Update: Polio Plus

Gearing up to stop polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan

In October 2022, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Afghanistan and Pakistan met in Muscat, Oman, to conduct a thorough review of ongoing polio eradication efforts in the remaining polio endemic countries.

Members noted the **high level of sustained political commitment** to polio in both countries. In Afghanistan, since the political transition, nationwide campaigns have allowed the polio program access to almost 10 million children, 3.5 million of whom were previously inaccessible. In Pakistan, intensified vaccination activities and strategic approaches were used to reach missed children.

In Pakistan, the virus is endemic only in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and in Afghanistan both cases have been reported from the eastern region. In addition to the limited geographical spread, the biodiversity of the genetic clusters is also



at an all-time low: down from 8 in 2020 to 2 in 2022 in Afghanistan and from 11 in 2020 to one in 2022 in Pakistan.

Given the promising epidemiological trends seen in 2022, the TAG noted the possibility of full interruption of polioviruses this year.

Stay Tuned for news - How YOU can make a commitment to help:

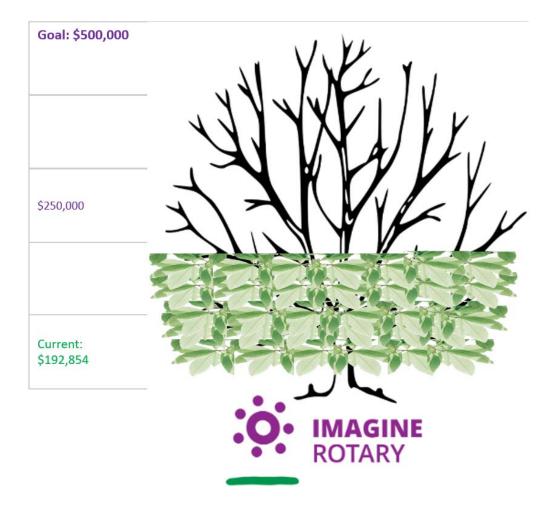


The Rotary Foundation

Progress toward District 6690's Foundation Giving Goals

Here's how we're doing so far this year -

Foundation - EREY



Foundation - Polio Plus



Rotary Direct allows you to help year-round by automatically giving each month, quarter, or year.

Donating to Rotary means clean water and sanitation. Health and hope in areas that were once ravaged by diseases like polio. Economic development and new opportunities. Your financial help makes all this happen, and

more. 90.8 percent of donations go straight to supporting our service projects.

The Winners!

District 6690 sponsored a contest to raise donations for PolioPlus. District-sponsored Happy Hours in Q2 awarded to two clubs for top results in these areas:



- 1. The Club with Highest overall PolioPlus giving was the Westerville Sunrise Club with a total of \$8,720
- 2. The Club with the highest per capita giving was the Tri-Village Club with a total of \$77.71 per capita.

These clubs win \$250 toward a Club Happy Hour or Social event for their efforts!

Look for another Foundation contest in Q3! There's still time to raise the roof (with money!)

UPDATE: District TRF Matching Point Program

The District TRF committee is announcing that we will NOT be sponsoring a District wide recognition point matching program this February. We have decided to focus on other promotion and recognition efforts - the district has exhausted our reserves of Foundation recognition points, and the district matching points are not fully recognized by The Rotary Fund's (TRF) program.

We still encourage Clubs to run their own matching point campaign or implement other creative efforts to incentivize giving.

While we know this announcement will come as a disappointment to some, we hope that every Rotarian will continue to find a way to support the Rotary Foundation. We are striving for 100% participation in the District 125 Club. (Donations can easily be made through the Give Butter app.)

Thank you for your continued support of Our Rotary Foundation and Our Rotary programs!

The District would like to send a Big Thank You to Bill Shorthill from the Reynoldsburg/ Pickerington Club for his efforts to coordinate the Matching Point program the past 3 years. This program is a huge bookkeeping effort and Bill made it look easy while encouraging a lot of annual fund giving.

-Larry Jenkins, District Foundation Chair

In early December, Clubs were invited to pitch service project ideas to a District 6690 review panel.

The purpose behind this program was to encourage new thinking about service projects:

- Increase knowledge of and alignment to Rotary areas of focus
- Provide funding to valuable projects that may otherwise have resource issues.
- Provoke deeper thinking about where to find resources, partnerships, and expertise.
- Critical thinking about project goals, scope & planning.
- Opportunity to invite guests to experience Rotary Build membership by getting more community involvement.

Two projects were awarded district grant funds to execute their project ideas:

- 1. Congratulations to the Rotary Clubs of Circleville Sunrise and Circleville Noon Rotary! The two clubs partnered on their pitch and have been awarded the first place, \$5000 grant to carry out their project. We summarized their project in the January newsletter.
- 2. Clintonville Rotary received the runner-up award of \$3000 for their project. More below:





Seniors Struggle Without Power

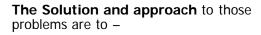
Clintonville Rotary - Pitch Summary:

Imagine the scene ... a weather event, utility outage or god forbid another pandemic causes senior citizens to be homebound for an indefinite period ..

• **Project objective #1** is to prepare seniors to be ready for local disasters that result in isolation - That's

the tactical problem we're addressing.

 Project objective #2 is more qualitative. There is a lack of corporate participation in the local community, no relationship between corporate organizations and community organizations. We have two large headquarters in our neighborhood, and we have many residents who work for large corporations in Columbus. We'd like to see more partnership with them.



- Build and deliver emergency preparedness kits to as many seniors as possible.
- 2. Use corporate venues to engage staff to build those kits as a teambuilding event.



... The result being not just the kits themselves, but more awareness of our partner, CRC as a beneficiary, more awareness of Rotary as a partner, and hopefully a longer term relationship of working together.

Partners:

- CRC Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center provides care for senior citizens, among other programs.
- Local corporate employers.
 We have identified corporate

partners. As of January, still finalizing which we will work with as hands-on volunteers.

 Corporate Donors. We are looking for additional budget and in-kind donations from area corporate sponsors.



Aligns with Rotary Areas of Focus:

- Fighting disease.
- Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. ...
- Growing local economies.

Budget:

Between the district grant and donations committed so far, we have raised \$5000. We are still looking for sponsors to contribute funds or items that would reduce the unit cost of \$90/ kit.

Public Image:

- · PR will consist of traditional and social media
- We will also look to our corporate partners to share the story with their employees via corporate newsletter, website or intranet, social sites like LinkedIn – to raise awareness or attract new participants. Those avenues for promotion will be more effective than promotion to the general public.

The club sees this idea as being robust, scalable, and repeatable. It enables Rotary to demonstrate our leadership in the community, and we expect it will spark better corporate participation in community service.

Environment

A Rotary first - Rotary Pledges to Protect Pollinators Throughout Ohio

In a show of unity, all five Rotary Districts throughout the state of Ohio have stated their intention to help "protect the little things that run the world" - our precious pollinators - by signing onto Operation Pollination. Recently, all five Rotary District Governors (backed by their respective boards) signed individual Districtwide



Pollinator Resolutions that Simply state two things: 1) pollinators are declining in numbers AND 2) Rotary can take action to help improve their dire state. This is the first time in Rotary history where an entire state has collectively said, "Pollinators are important for the future health of our planet. Rotarians can help them!" Congratulations Ohio Rotarians!

Pollinators have received a lot of press lately due to their declining numbers. Since the 1970s (a mere 50 years of evolutionary history), scientific research tells us that pollinators have declined by more than 40% across the globe. In some areas of the world, this decline is even more severe. For example, since the 1990's, the iconic

Monarch Butterfly that graces our Ohio yards in Summer and Fall has declined by more than 80%. 80%! Pollinators are critical to life on planet Earth. More than 85% of the world's plants need insect pollinators for their reproductive success. If you like to eat, you need to thank the insect pollinators who, by their actions, are directly responsible for more than 30% of the food in grocery stores. That's right, more than one-third of the food we eat is thanks to these "little things that run the world."

In 2021, Rotary added a 7th Area of Focus - Support for the Environment - to its portfolio of interests to support. The Operation Pollination environmental framework is an ESRAG Initiative. ESRAG is the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group, a Rotary

Action Group (RAG) that helps Districts/Clubs develop, implement, and track environmental projects around the world - from cook stoves, to reduction of carbon footprints, to plant rich diets, to solar, to plastic solutions, to pollinators (and many more issues). With the signing of these five *Pollinator Resolutions*, Ohio Rotarians are helping lead the way in pollinator protection. Your District Governor's signature on your Districts' *Resolution* covers all Clubs in your District. Now, every club throughout the state should take action. Now, all that a Club needs to do is sign an individual *Pollinator Pledge* to be an integral part of the *Operation Pollination framework*. The *Resolution* and *Pledge* can be found here under *Operation Pollination* - https://esrag.org/pollinators.



Pollinators - ESRAG - Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group

Support 'No Mow May' Early spring before many of the plants have flowered is a critical time for wild pollinators. plants in your lawn are an important early food source. Allowing the plants in your lawn to bloom before the first mowing, nourishes pollinators in the spring.

esrag.org

F P P S r r a a a

For this winter, your Ohio District Governors respectfully request that ALL Club Presidents consider signing a *Pollinator Pledge* ON-LINE at the web site above. It's so simple. A few clicks and you're done. PLEASE discuss ideas with your respective clubs, get buy-in, and sign the *Pledge* this winter, so you'll be ready to act this Spring.

Operation Pollination is an inclusive framework where everyone (Rotary and other organizations) are invited to participate. PLEASE use your incredible networking

skills to recruit other organizations to join you and also sign their own *Pollinator Pledge*. These organizations can be large or small, government or non-government, for profit or not-for-profit. EVERYONE. Please also know that there is never any judgement about your project and that your signing a *Pledge* is based only on Rotary's Four Way Test. No one will ever come to check up on your project. From planting three milkweed seeds to restoring a prairie (and everything in between), all projects are treated the same. No judgement. These projects are all based on your capability, capacity, and interest in pollinator protection. **PLEASE JOIN OPERATION POLLINATION TODAY.**

Service

Rotary Club of Athens

The Rotary Club of Athens is seeking clubs that would like to partner in the Global Grants project for construction of an Irrigation System Infrastructure.

The project's objective is to deliver a means of collecting spring water from the mountainous slopes in the highlands to be distributed to the communities through a pipeline network system for sustainable production to improve the community's quality of life and health.

Outcomes:

 At the community scale, the completion of the project will directly improve food security and the nutritional condition of 75 local rural families in the communities of Bellamaria, Chaquizhca, and Guara in Ecuador, thereby reducing malnutrition.

- The development of networks and associations between families of these communities will grow, gaining better access to markets and getting fair prices for the products they cultivate.
- Women's empowerment will be promoted by increasing their chances of having an income source. Women primarily manage the productive gardens located close to their homes.
- WSII looks forward to improving access to fresh food in nearby communities and creating new jobs for those involved in the transportation and commercialization of agricultural products to nearby towns and regional markets.

The project is currently in its funding stage. The Athens Rotary Club is looking for partner clubs to make this project a success.

We want to thank District 6690 Rotary Club's constant support for our initiatives to help underserved communities in Ecuador. For questions or comments about this and other projects, please feel free to contact us at grijalva@ohio.edu

Submitted by: Mario J. Grijalva, Ph.D. - Rotary Club Athens (noon)



Try Your Luck!



Check out this mega-fundraiser from Dublin-Worthington Rotary! They're thinking big!

Peace



Update... Rotaract PeaceBuilder Clubs:

RD6690 Peace Committee will host a Zoom Meeting in February 2023, date/time TBD Topic: "Becoming a Rotaract Peacebuilder Club – Information Meeting"

RD6690 Peace Committee will host a World Rotaract Week - Special Event

- Week of March 13-17, 2023...date/time TBD
- Collaboration with Rotarians & Europe)
 Rotaractors from RD6690 & Company RD2483 (Serbia, Europe)

Stephanie Freas, RD6690 Rotaract Chair is coordinating Rotaract Club initiatives. For more information, contact Stephanie Freas, at: stephanie@muskingumlibrary.org

"Empowering Peacebuilders" Peace skills online series

- Aligns Nonviolent Communication (NVC) & Rotary 4-Way Test
- Open to Rotarians, Rotaractors from RD6690, and others from the Western Hemisphere
- Sundays, March April 2023, 12:00 pm, 1:15 pm, Eastern Time USA

Tom Carlisi is coordinating Empowering Peacebuilders" online series. For more information, contact Tom Carlisi, at: carlisiandassociates@gmail.com

RD6690 is promoting a district-wide Rotary Peace Pole Project Initiative.

- Currently, an estimated 10+ RD6690 Rotary Clubs are implementing Rotary Peace Pole Project
- We envision creating a RD6690 Peace Pole "Map"...to feature community Peace Pole sites in RD6690
- Highlight: Westerville Sunrise Rotary are working with Westerville Schools to install 6 Rotary Peace Poles, this year.

Maryjane Shackelford, RD6690 Past DG, is coordinating this RD6690 Rotary Peace Pole Project Initiative. For more information, contact Maryjane (MJ), at: mj@barnesadv.com

RPF Peace Symposium Series & International Peace Conference

RFP Peace Symposium – Information Meeting, Zoom Sun., Feb. 19, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm EST

Tom Carlisi, RD6690 Peace Chair, is on the RPF Peace Symposium - Planning Committee. For more information, contact Tom, at: carlisiandassociates@gmail.com

Support the RD6690 Peace Candle

- Supports RD6690 PB Clubs Peace Projects
- RD6690 receives 50% of gross sales
- The RI theme for February is "Peace and Conflict Prevention Resolution.

Make a Great Valentine's Day Gift!

Tim Shear, Peace Committee rep. is co-coordinating this Peace Candle Initiative. For more information, contact: Tim Shear, at: timothy.s.shear@gmail.com



Youth Exchange - Inbound Students!

Meet the Rotary Youth Exchange Inbound Students!

Some of the inbound students have recorded short videos to introduce themselves.



You can find these videos by visiting the <u>D6690 Facebook Reels</u> or by visiting the <u>Youth Exchange Youtube channel</u>.

Find out more about hosting an inbound student or how to become an outbound Rotary exchange student: http://6690exchange.com

Our communities deserve strong, vibrant Rotary Clubs.





Our district welcomed 50 new members in to our 26 clubs in January!

A special **THANK YOU** to the following Rotarians who shared Rotary and expanded our capacity to do good in the world by sponsoring new members last month:

Amanda Crabtree
Brian Dunlap
Calloway Roberston
Carol Faulkner
Carol Grubaugh
Christie Maurer
Christopher Nemeth
Dana Moore
Daneka Hedges
Daryl Wolfe
Eric Stoll
Greg Rokoff

Jack Seibert
Jayme Fountain
JoAnne Sexton
Jodie Phayer-Prince
Joe Meyer
John Oleyar
John Trapp
Kristi Johnson
Michael Limer
Mike Throne
Mollie Crooks
Ron Pusateri

Scott Brown
Scott Whitlock
Stephanie Conn
Steve Brown
Susan Bibler
Todd Belt
Tom Downard
Tracy Kelly
Trevor Donaldson
Tyrus Ankrom
Vince Hirning

Events



Events

February

14th - Official DG Club Visit - Mt Vernon

15th - President Elect Virtual Training

- 16th Official DG Club Visit Grove City
- 18th District Leadership Training
- 25th 6th Annual Olentangy Euchre Tournament

March

- 2nd Official DG Club Visit Marietta
- 4th Music In the Round
- 10th Pre PETS session for PEs
- 21st Official DG Club Visit Sunbury Galena
- 29th **Dublin-Worthington Rotary After Hours**

April

- 17th Official DG Club Visit Granville
- 22nd Chillicothe Rotary Buck Fifty checkpoint
- 28th District Conference
- 28th District Four-Way Test Speech Contest

District Leadership Team



District Governo Contact

Club: Zanesville Daybreak

District Rotary Foundation

Club: Westerville Sunrise



DG-Elect Contact

Frances M. Veverka

District Executive Secretary Club: Delaware

District Youth Service

Club: Dublin-Worthington

Contact

Contact



DG-Nominee and AG Club: Newark



Club: Hilliard



District Public Image Chair (Columbus)

Club: Upper Arlington

Contact



nny Rebekah Stotts

Club: Athens Sunrise

Pickerington



District Training Chair Contact



Aget Goy (Area 2) Club: Upper Arlington Contact



Club: Dublin-Worthington

Contact

Asst Gov (Area 5) Club: Olentangy Contact



sst Gov (Area 6) Club: Logan Contact



Asst Gov (Area 7) Contact



Club: Circleville Sunrise



Thomas Downard Club: Wellston



Edward M. Mowres Asst Gov (Area 11) Club: St. Clairsville



Mark Edwin Bisang Asst Gov (Area 13) Club: Athens Sunrise Contact



Wendy Powell Gorrell Asst Gov (Area 14) Club: Malta. McConnelsville Contact



Gary A. Moll Asst Gov (Area 15) Club: Zanesville Daybreak Contact



TRF Annual Fund Chair Club: Marietta Contact



TRF PolioPlus Chair



DCO-District Comm Club: Olentangy



Asst Gov (Area 20)

Newsletter Contributions

Tell the rest of the district what your club or committee is up to! If you would like to submit a story to the newsletter, please add it <u>HERE</u> by the 20th of the month. (Newsletter publication is the first of each month.)

Find previous newsletters here: https://rotary6690.org/our-district/newsletter/

Social Media

Does your club use hashtags when posting on social media? Using **#RD6690** on your posts will enable the district to search and repost/retweet your messages. Let us help you reach a larger audience!

Follow District 6690:















Central and Southeast Ohio

Yours in Rotary Rotary District 6690 Public Image