

CEO Rex McKinney Gives Annual Presentation on DCMH



Decatur County Memorial Hospital CEO and Greensburg Rotarian Rex McKinney gave his annual update on Decatur County's only hospitals during the 04 March Greensburg Rotary meeting.

With over 650 positions on its payroll, including 415 full-time jobs, DCMH is one of Decatur County's largest employers and that, along with the \$6M in charity care the hospital provides each year, means DCMH has a large and significant impact on economics in the region.

However, the economics of running a regional hospital are tricky in the current fiscal and regulatory climate, with payments not always matching costs. "No one pays full price in healthcare," Rex quipped, repeating an oft-spoken mantra in the industry. Indeed, in 2023 DCMH posted \$80M in "insurance discounts" - the gap between the medical bill and what insurance companies actually paid. Following a \$7M loss in 2022, DCMH saw just a \$500k in 2023 - an amount much lower than many community hospitals are seeing in a time when average losses remain in the millions. Despite the current fiscal climate, or perhaps because of it, DCMH continues to find ways to reach out to the community of Decatur County. This includes not on the 3600+ hours of volunteer service DCMH staff provided in the community in 2023, but also a series of over 80 community events addressing the health and wellness of residents - this includes residents who might otherwise not be able or willing to seek health care, especially screenings that provide early detection of treatable illnesses. "The philosophy of connecting with the community is a 'must-have,'" said Rex as he stressed that community hospitals close when they lack community support. He also said that competition with other hospitals can drive a community hospital to closure, but that instead of competing with other, nearby hospitals, DCMH has sought to team up with them to cross-support each other with services and expertise. Rex spent some time boasting about the hospital's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) partners who provide ambulance services in the county. "In rural healthcare, it's really important to have a great system in place to get a patient to higher level care," he said. He went on to celebrate that the EMS services for DCMH were ranked #1 rural service in the nation with a 19-minute average patient-to-ER time. "We have a great collaboration with our townships," he continued, "and that leads to making sure our community has service at the highest level."

Rex also said that staff turnover rates improved in 2023. During COVID, staff turnovers doubled from the norm, reaching about 32%. Last year rates returned to a more normal 17%. This is important not only in DCMH being able to fill positions and provide services, but also in reducing the costs in training new staff.

Another topic Rex spoke to was DCMH opening up a paid intern program in the summer of 2024. This will include both nursing and business support internships that are expected to highlight DCMH and the community and bring a new stream of talented professionals into the county. Along side the internship program, DCMH has a medical student program, set up by Rotarian Mandy Lohrum, in which the hospital foundation supports \$20k/year for a medical student who, in turn, promises to come and serve Decatur county.

Rex highlighted the arrival of several new doctors to the DCMH team saying, "I'm proud to say we were able to hire new physicians (because) it's extraordinarily difficult to find any physicians who want to be in our smaller environment." Though, he said, for at least one of the new hires, the slow, conservative Decatur county lifestyle was the change they were looking for when they decided to leave California last year.

With growth in staff, facilities, and services, DCMH remains on task to continue to support and provide for the Decatur county community.

GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

In a recent meeting we were blessed with the opportunity to hear many of our seasoned Rotarians speak about why they joined the Rotary Club of Greensburg. Hearing them speak reminded me again as to why I love being a Rotarian. One common theme was that Rotary becomes more than a weekly meeting but a place we gather as friends and family. I challenge each of you to remember your "why" through your daily life by applying our principals to all that you do and continuing to spread the good of Rotary. I am extremely blessed to be your president and thankful for all of you. God bless you all, Rob

ROTARY CALENDAR

Apr 01 - Barb Jakad—Indiana Survive Oars
Apr 08 - ECLIPSE—NO MEETING
Apr 15 - Phillip Deiwert—Visit Greensburg
Apr 18 - Board Meeting (8am The Branch)
Apr 20 - District Conference
Apr 22 - Earth Day Cleanup
Apr 29 - TBD

OFFICERS 2023-2024

Robert DeHoff	President
Alex Sefton	Past President
Lora Williams	Secretary
Linda Simmons	Treasurer
Jeff Emsweller	Public Relations
Tami Wenning	Vocational Service
Daryl Tressler	Sergeant-At-Arms
Emily Steele	Club / Youth Service
Jerry Fox	Int'l Service
Kelby Owens	Membership Director
Larry Moore	Rotary Foundation Chair
Nathan Vandrey	Disaster Response Chair
Mandy Lohrum	Asst District Governor



ARCHERY TOURNAMENT RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12/13
CLICK ON THE LINK [HERE](#) TO SIGN UP AND SUPPORT!!!

Greensburg Rotary Club Membership is Surging with Three More New Rotarians!!

(By Jeff Emsweller) Greensburg Rotary Club #3437 District 6580 President Rob DeHoff had the honor of inducting three new members at the Monday Rotary Club meeting. The newest Rotarians in the world are (left to right) Bailey Yeager, Centra Credit Union; Gary Bailey, Greensburg Community School (Retired); Jake Mattox, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance Jake Mattox Agency. Congratulations and Thank You for joining forces with more than 1.2 million other Rotarians worldwide, performing Service Above Self. The Greensburg Rotary Club meets at 12 p.m. on Mondays at the Branch Coffee House and Gathering Place in downtown Greensburg. Sponsoring the three new members were Rob DeHoff, Jeff Emsweller, and Steve Freeman.



Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions Continue to Roll in for Greensburg Rotarians!



Two more Greensburg Rotarians were honored with Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions in the past month.

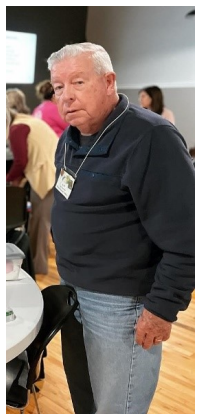
Lora Williams (at left with DG-elect Mandy Lohrum) received her fifth Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. Lora has been a member of Rotary since 2005 and is a practicing attorney in Greensburg.

Art Turner (at right) received his Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. Art has been a member of Rotary since 1991 and is a retired educator.

Established in 1957, the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition acknowledges individuals who have contributed \$1000 (or had \$1000 contributed in their name) toward the Rotary Foundation.

For more information on the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, click [HERE](#).

For more information on the Rotary Foundation, click [HERE](#).



To contribute to the Rotary Foundation, see Greensburg Rotarians Mandy Lohrum or Larry Moore.

Getting to Know You - GBurg Rotarian Art Turner Leads Club in Networking Exercise



During the 18 March weekly Greensburg Rotary meeting, Art Turner led a getting-to-know-you networking session. A regular exercise led by Art, this networking and fellow-Rotarian-familiarization activity entails club members sitting in groups of four to five members. Each member then gets one to two minutes to introduce themselves and talk about their background, career, or just interesting life facts. The other members then have an opportunity to ask that members additional questions about them. This has been a fun fellowship activity for Greensburg Rotarians, letting new members learn

about the other members in the club, and even on occasion surprising long-time members with something they didn't know about each other! Thanks again to Art for talking the lead!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ON PAGE 1,

THE ARCHERY TOURNAMENT HAS MOVED TO 12/13 APRIL
AND WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO SUPPORT
GREENSBURG ROTARY'S LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!!

CLICK ON THE LINK [HERE](#) AND SIGN UP TO
SUPPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



Greensburg Rotary March Service Project - Stuffing Easter Eggs for New Directions



(By Jeff Emsweller and Nathan Vandrey) Kelly Wampler, Executive Director of New Directions of Decatur County, presented the program at the March 11 Greensburg Rotary Club #3437 District 6580 meeting. As part of the program, Rotarians helped fill plastic eggs for the New Directions Annual "Egg"stravaganza event.

New Directions of Decatur County's mission is "to increase social consciousness about domestic violence and to assist individual victims by helping them break free from the cycle of physical and emotional abuse."

The staff at new directions acts as advocates who strive to "increase social consciousness about domestic violence and to assist individual victims by helping them break free from the cycle of physical and emotional abuse." They also reach out to with teen programs at local schools

to engage the younger generation in vital conversations about healthy relationships and dating abuse. "By providing education and resources, we strive to equip students with the



knowledge and tools to foster respectful relationships and prevent the perpetuation of abuse."

The Eggstravaganza event is an annual fundraiser for the organization. For a donation, volunteers will leave pre-filled Easter eggs in your yard for Easter morning. The number of eggs is tied to the donation amount, with a top-tier of just \$60 resulting in a yard strewn with 96 eggs!



ROTARY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES!!

You Can Still Register: District 6580 Annual Conference, 20 April in Evansville, Indiana

The Annual District 6580 Conference is scheduled for 20 April 24 in Evansville, Indiana. Registration is \$139 through 20 March and \$150 after that. You can register online at: <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77667018&NoCaptcha>

This year's Keynote Speaker is Floyd Lancia, a past Rotary International Director who spearheaded Rotary Foundation grant projects that provided free eye surgeries in Nicaragua and clean water for communities in Mexico, in addition to other humanitarian projects in Brazil, India and Africa. Floyd is a member of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club.

There will also be a House of Friendship silent auction, with each club in the district submitting a basket for the event and all proceeds going toward the Paul Harris Foundation!

If you have questions about registration or about hotel reservations, please contact Mike Crumbo at 317-777-1710 or at mike.crumbo@gmail.com.

Rotary International Convention, 25-29 May 24 in Singapore

This year's Rotary International Convention is scheduled for 25-29 May 2024 in Singapore at the [Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre](#). There is a discount for early registration, and the Rotary International Convention website includes information

about registration, accommodations and transportation, interpreters (as needed), and event schedules.

You can access the Rotary International Convention information and registration [HERE](#).

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024	1 APRIL 2024 TO 29 MAY 2024
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$595	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$100

HAPPY DOLLARS & 50/50 UPDATE: There is now a cashless option to pay for your Happy Dollars and 50/50 tickets; simply mark the number of tickets and happy dollars on the meeting attendance sheet, and they will be added to your quarterly bill!

Remembering Paul Alexander, who lived 70 years in an iron lung

(Reprinted from Rotary.org - Story by Arnold Grahl) *Paul Alexander, a 78-year-old man from Texas, USA, who spent most of his life in an iron lung, died on 11 March. Alexander contracted polio in 1952, when he was just 6 years old. The disease paralyzed him from the neck down so he couldn't breathe on his own. He earned a law degree, passed the bar exam, and practiced law in Dallas for a time. He was also briefly a member of a Rotary e-club.*

The following is a story we reported in 2015.



One might think a man living with polio in an iron lung would know about Rotary. But it wasn't until Paul Alexander had a business meeting with a member in Duncanville, Texas, earlier this year that he learned Rotary fights to eradicate the very disease that left him almost completely paralyzed.

"I was completely blown away by the idea. For all these years, I didn't know the work they were doing," says Alexander, a practicing attorney in Dallas. "It's such a perfect fit for me."

Alexander contracted polio during a major U.S. outbreak of the disease in the late 1950s when he was six years old, and almost died in the hospital before a doctor noticed he wasn't breathing and rushed him into an iron lung, an airtight metal tank that encloses all of the body except the head and

uses regulated changes in air pressure to force the lungs to inhale and exhale. Alexander is among a small number of people in the world today still using an iron lung to assist his paralytic polio. The need for the 800-pound machines declined dramatically after the polio vaccine became widely available in the early 1960s.

In October, Alexander became a member of the Rotary E-Club of District 5810 during an induction ceremony held in his home, attended by Rotary's President Gary C.K. Huang through an online connection. Alexander is writing a book about his experience and wants to be an ambassador for Rotary promoting the benefits of eradicating polio.

For 10 years, Alexander never left the device or his house. But then he had a breakthrough, teaching himself to breathe on his own by forcing air into his lungs. That allowed him to get around in a wheelchair for up to eight hours.

"The first day I was outside the house was extraordinary. It was a 100 percent improvement," he recalls.

Determined to go to college, he moved onto campus and with the help of a nursing assistant attended classes, earning a degree from the University of Texas. He eventually went on to earn a law degree, passed the bar, and practices civil and criminal law.

He has a computer keyboard and a touchtone phone by his head which he can manipulate with a plastic stick held in his mouth. When he goes to court for a case, he has assistants who help him. He's traveled farther from his home on rare occasions. The iron lung, which has wheels, is shipped to meet him at his destination.

His father was president of a Dallas Rotary club in the 1960s, but Alexander says he doesn't remember it. His introduction to Rotary began when he met Duncanville member Alexander Peralta. Peralta told the Rotary District 5810 governor, Bill Dendy, who immediately decided Alexander would be the perfect subject of a video his wife was making on polio eradication. Alexander agreed, and a film crew from the district's e-club came out to shoot the interview.

"I visited him weekly after that," Dendy says. "One day, I said to him, 'Paul, you could be a contributing member of Rotary.' He asked me how that would be possible. And I told him with an e-club, which meets online, it would be very possible."

Since joining Rotary, he's become a popular speaker in the Dallas Rotary community. He's already addressed two large gatherings and is scheduled to speak at the next district conference. The Waxahachie Rotary Club, which builds wheelchair ramps as a project, built him a new one when they heard he transports his iron lung to the hospital or for longer trips.

"It means so much to me to belong to this organization," Alexander said during a phone call to his home recently. "I'm having a great time and staying awake at night thinking of ideas. So many people have come into my life. I never knew there were so many caring people out there."

Greensburg Rotary - Out & About

Larry and Bev Moore, will be (fittingly) the subject of the last "Greensburg Rotary - Out & About" posting.

Larry and Bev continued their Florida travels with a visit to the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Leesburg Sunrise Rotary. Profits from this event are used to support the club's Interact Club.

Chartered in 1981, the Leesburg club also hosts a "Beast Feast" BBQ fundraiser for local children's arts programs, a Fried Turkey sale in November, and Adopt-a-Highway



NOTE: This will be the last "Greensburg Rotary - Out & About" entry for the monthly bulletins