

Midland Rotary News

Founded in 1920 by 26 charter members on a mission to make lasting change

May 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello and happy May, Rotary family!

Coming off an inspiring weekend at the District 6310 Conference, I am so encouraged by all of the wonderful Rotarians and events happening in our club, District, and community. Our District Governor, Jeff Leipprandt, and team did an incredible job planning the conference, including a fun first night complete with a live band and dancing. Saturday featured our annual business meeting, yellow rose ceremony to honor Rotarians we've lost, dynamic breakout sessions, and concluded with keynote speaker, retired US Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills, who delivered an unforgettable and inspirational message. At the conference, Jeff shared that of the 21 Districts in (our) Zone 28, our District is leading the way in membership growth year to date. We are up nearly five percent, while the average for the Zone is 0.7-percent. This is FANTASTIC! Thank YOU for bringing guests to club meetings and introducing them to Rotary. If you haven't had a chance to bring a guest yet, do not worry! We will have an opportunity with our membership-focused spring social event planned later this month on May 24th. You can read more details on the social on page nine and about the conference from a first-time attendee on page seven!

by Dallas Rau



It is fitting that May is Youth Services month, since in a few short weeks, our Youth Exchange program will be rebooted after a two-year hiatus. We've also brought a new Short Term Exchange Program into our club and will be welcoming a student from abroad to our community (and hopefully to a club meeting!). Camp RYLA is currently accepting applications from high school seniors and juniors to participate in a camp that introduces them to Rotary, the Four-Way test, and leadership skills. I was inspired by a quote I read from Mary McLeod Bethune that says, "We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends." The youth programs that Rotary offers provide the unique opportunity to expose youth around the world - and right here at home - to Rotary. Read more about Camp RYLA on page 12 and you can find out more about Rotary's youth programs by following the link here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-programs>.

See **PRESIDENT** • Page 5

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Be a People of Action



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PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

Robert "Speed" Malecki +1	Steve Wilde +7
Leroy Smith +3	Jeanne Lound Schaller +2
Sharon Mortensen +3	Gail Hoffman +3
Reva Curry +2	Tim Dyste +2
Jon Lynch	Kate Hessling
Michael J. Flint	Sam McKenzie
Kathy McCready (non-member)	Jeanne Schaller +1
Judy Timmons (non-member)	Dr. Jim Bakeman +6

MAJOR DONOR

Dr. Tom Lane and Jim Brozzo

ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND LINKS

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

Official logos/Rotary Global Rewards:

<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

Club Website

<https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org>

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

May 5

Update from the City of Midland

May 12

Corteva

May 19

Scholarship Committee

May 26

Savant Group

June 2

Preston Jones photography

June 9

Wellbeing through Communication and Connection

June 16

Update from County of Midland

June 23

TBA

June 30

Address from Outgoing President

July 7

TBA

Our membership goal: 200

YOU CAN EASILY VIEW NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS ONLINE BY FOLLOWING THE EASY STEPS BELOW!

Rotary Engagement Via E-Resources

Midland Rotary Club's Website: <http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

From our Club's website, you have two options:

1. My Rotary (RI): Click for access to tools, information, and resources OR to make online donations.
2. DACdb: Click on Member Login, <https://www.dacdb.com>, Login, My CLUB Shortcuts, Club Members icon to see our Club Officers, members' contact information, your profile, and your Club membership.

To view New Member Applications:

- Follow the DACdb steps above and click on Club Files instead of Club Members icon
- Click on Secure Files and scroll down to see apps.
- Click on Nomination Forms



Rotarians participate in highway cleanup

Our Supporting the Environment Committee organized an Earth Day clean-up event, headed by Robbie Waclawski and Sam McKenzie. Everyone met the morning of April 23 at the Home Depot Parking lot in Midland, and went on to clean Elisenal Drive, which is between Joe Mann Boulevard and Commerce Drive.

Meet our newest members!

April



Renee' Deckrow

Sponsored by Sharon Mortensen
 Owner/operator: Live Oak Coffeehouse



Janice Hernandez-Elefanio

Sponsored by Amy Conner and Dallas Rau
 Sales Manager: Brookdale Senior Living



Heather Watkins

Sponsored by Amy Jaster
 Owner of Heather's Daycare

March



Jeanny Figueroa

Sponsored by Amanda Oster
 Self employed — Independent Beauty Guide Limelife by Alcone

Who will you bring?

Who we are: A global network

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world.

Summer host family sought

Midland Morning Rotary Club is seeking a home to host a Russian foreign exchange student from Northwood University for the summer. If interested, email Lance Lewis at lewisln@northwood.edu.



We're social

Please follow us!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/>

Instagram:

[Midlandnoonrotaryclub](https://www.instagram.com/midlandnoonrotaryclub)

Twitter: @NoonRotary



President, continued...

We have many wonderful service opportunities and events coming up within our club and community this month with Grove Park clean-up, Midland Blooms, a membership-focused social, and other events from organizations that are near and dear to us. These events typically get planned at the committee level, so if you're looking to get involved and haven't signed up for a committee yet, please reach out to see how we can help you find the right one. We also have some incredible programs planned to round out the rest of the Rotary year. I look forward to seeing you at our weekly meetings or out and about, enjoying all our community has to offer as we "Serve to Change Lives".

Yours in Rotary Service,

Dallas Rau

Youth Services is Rotary focus for May



Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service.

Some of the Youth Services programs Rotary offers include:

- Interact clubs: These bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities.

- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards: RYLA is a leadership development program for young people who want to learn new skills, build their confidence, and have fun. Events range from one-day seminars to weeklong camps.
- Rotary Youth Exchange: Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.
- New Generations Service Exchange: New Generations Service Exchange is a short-term, customizable program for university students and professionals up to age 30. Participants can design exchanges that combine their professional goals with a humanitarian project.

All of our youth programs are connected to a Rotary club. For more information, visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-programs>.

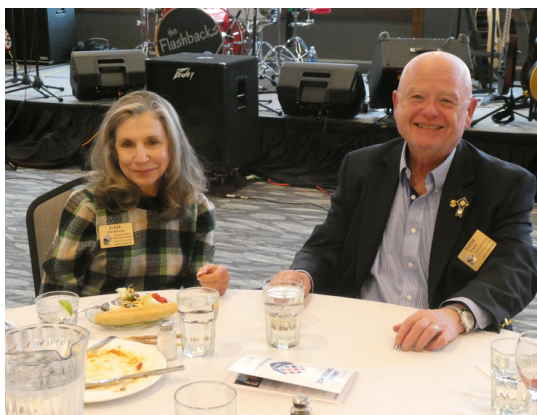
Service opportunity: The Focus on Youth Committee is looking for new co-chairs. Please let Dallas know if you are interested!

Effort continues: Relief for Ukraine

Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Europe and around the world have taken swift action and are working with members nearby to provide food, water, medical equipment, and shelter for refugees.

The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for Rotary members and other donors around the world to contribute funds to support relief efforts underway by Rotary districts. The Foundation has designated the Disaster Response Fund as the main avenue for this. The fund, to date, has received more than \$10 million in contributions.

You can help [here](https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund): <https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund>



Rotarian inspired by her first district conference experience

Joining Rotary has always been a goal of mine. The idea of serving my community, a community I have grown up and lived my whole life is just one of the reasons. I also knew that I would be in the company of so many wonderful people who would teach me so many things. I attended the April 29-30 district conference with the idea of being able to mingle with "like-minded Rotarians," not just from my club but from the district.

I had no preconceived notions other than I was hoping to continue to be inspired to serve my club, my community, and beyond. From the minute I reserved my ticket, we were kept up to date on the events of the weekend. Traverse City is an amazing city with LOTS to see and do and eat. The entire weekend was FUN. Jeff Leipprandt, our district governor, and his staff made it the mission (in my opinion) to make this weekend about the fun of Rotary. Opportunities to socialize, work out together, have meals together and explore TC on our own were great. We had amazing speakers on leadership, courage, and perspective Travis Mills and Vic Vershereau were the two that I heard, and all were designed with the idea of service above self.

I am so grateful for what was not only an inspiring weekend but also a fun social weekend spent with my fellow Midland Noon Rotarians.

Written by Amy Jaster/Photos by Tawny Nelb

TAKE ACTION: WWW.MIDLANDROTARYCLUB.ORG

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

A discussion about equity

By Sharon Mortensen

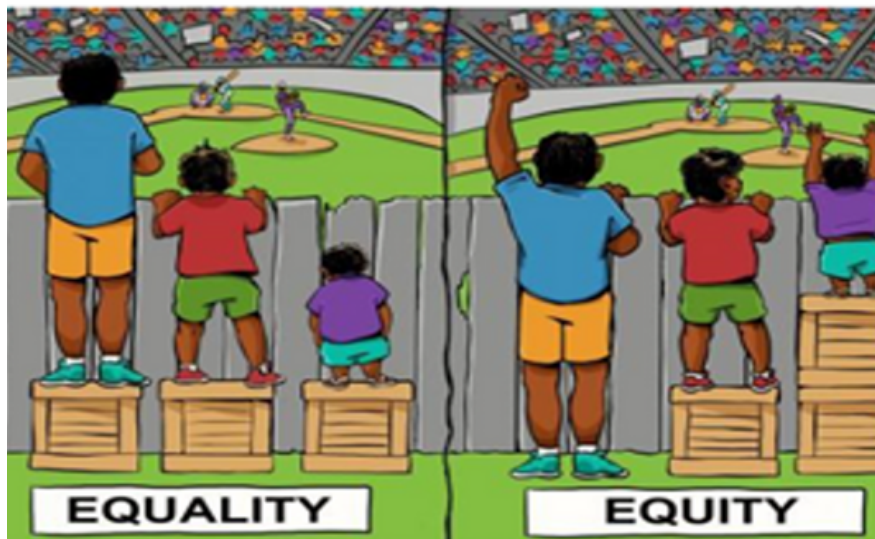


Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Equity

Rotary strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. According to Rotary's website, "we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision." How can we build this kind of culture in our club?

Let's explore the concept of equity in this article and look at how that applies to our club. Equity is the state, quality or ideal of being just, impartial and fair. Equity is aligned with fairness and justice. Working to achieve equity acknowledges unequal starting places and the need to correct the imbalance.

Equality, on the other hand, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things. The illustration below does a beautiful job illustrating the difference between equality versus equity.



Practicing equality by giving everyone the same thing in the picture at the left does not bring about a fair or just outcome. However, providing the resources needed for each individual brings an equitable outcome. Those of us who are parents with more than one child may relate to not doing everything equally for our children but, rather, providing what each child needs to be successful. The four-way test provides a great way to look at equity.

The question, "Is it fair to all concerned?" strikes at the heart of equity. Rotary is committed to providing equitable opportunities for fellowship, service, and leadership. Have we removed barriers for all members to participate in our meetings, service activities and leadership?

A few equity questions posed at a recent Rotary DEI training may help our club.

- Is our meeting location accessible to all with necessary accommodations for those who may be differently abled?

See EQUITY • Page 11



Memorial set for Harry Grether

A memorial has been set for Rotarian Harry Grether, who passed away in December 2021. The event is set for 3 p.m. June 12, 2022, at Dow Gardens. A cookout and s'mores will follow at the Midland Country Club. His family wanted to be sure his fellow Rotarians were invited to attend and know that all are welcome.

Calendar alert: Midland Blooms & Club Social in May

SAVE THE DATE! BRING A GUEST!

We are partnering with the Midland Morning Club for a membership-focused social event taking place on Tuesday, May 24th from 5:30 – 8:00 pm in the Sloan Building Atrium on the Midland campus of Northwood University. Tickets will be \$10 per attendee and include a cookout-style dinner with an available cash bar. Stay tuned for more details, but start thinking about who you'd like to bring to introduce to Rotary!

Who will you bring?



The Midland Business Alliance is once again coordinating Midland Blooms, an annual beautification project for the community. As in years past, Rotary is having a team help the effort to plant on both sides of Eastman Avenue for a two-and-a-half mile stretch. However, we may need to make adjustments pending the status of the pandemic. The event is scheduled to take place from 8 a.m. to noon May 21. Volunteer planters are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. on May 21st at their designated section. Carlos Uribe is the contact person for our club, and he can be reached at ceuribe@hotmail.com. You can sign up at <https://bit.ly/37Dcqt>.

TAKE ACTION: WWW.MIDLANDROTARYCLUB.ORG

Q&A: Rotary Training

Want to learn more about Rotary's different roles, topics and policies and procedures? You're in luck, as there are a number of online resources on www.myrotary.org to get you the training you desire.

The following briefly breaks down some of the training opportunities you can partake in by visiting myrotary.org and clicking the "Learning & Reference" tab on the site's top navigation bar.

Q: What are some trainings I can do to learn about Rotary Roles?

A: There are trainings for new members; club roles; trainers; district roles; and district committees

Q: How can I learn by topic?

Myrotary.org allows users to learn by the following topics: Membership; fundraising; projects; starting a club; public relations; awards; Rotaract; Interact; and youth protection

Q: What if I want to learn about Rotary itself?

A: Trainings about Rotary include: Our Priorities; Action plan; our structure; leadership; diversity equity and inclusion; our partners; history; financials; and official directory

Q: What if I want to learn more about our policies and procedures?

Myrotary.org offers trainings about governance documents; and councils on legislation and resolutions.

Great news: In-person Rotary Youth Exchange will resume in July!



It's hard to believe that two years have passed since in-person exchanges were suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, thousands of students have participated in engaging virtual exchanges, and club and district leaders have maintained their commitment to the program. Many districts are now preparing to resume in-person exchanges in 2022-2023. Visit the [Rotary Youth Exchange page](https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-exchanges) (<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-exchanges>) to learn more about the program and how to get involved.

Grove Park Cleanup scheduled to take place May 7

Rotarians are invited to bring their families out to help with our spring cleanup efforts at Grove Park. Come help us beautify this Midtown park, starting at 10 a.m. May 7! Please bring gloves and rakes, if able. Trash bags will be provided and refreshments will be served. Sign up [HERE!](#)



Equity, continued...

- Is our meeting/membership accessible to all in terms of cost?
- Is there an ethnic bias to our meetings/menu?
- Do we offer hybrid meetings?
- Are our meetings non-political?

While the answer to many of these questions may show equity, we need to continually reevaluate, especially through the eyes of new members and members who may come from marginalized groups. A former Midland Rotary president (and now incoming governor in his current North Carolina Rotary district) recorded a podcast nearly two years ago that speaks to some of the inequities he experienced. The Visibility Project podcasts bring awareness to unseen and unheard populations in our community. Scroll down to the second podcast (001) to hear Kevin Kendrick's story.

<https://soundcloud.com/thevisibilityprj>

As we greater explore and understand the concept of equity, we can live into the Rotary's vision and commitment of "creating supportive environments that foster open communication and shared learning."

"It has been so exciting to see Rotary members come together at the presidential conferences to share ideas about using our areas of focus to bring about big, lasting change in the world. The past and upcoming presidential conferences are looking at our new area of focus — the Environment — and how our work to protect our planet must also support our efforts to grow local economies, especially in places with the greatest poverty. This is a very exciting time in Rotary, a time when the world needs us most. As we Serve to Change Lives, remember that we are also changing ourselves. We are becoming the world's great change-makers and peace-builders. The world is ready for us. It's time to rise to that call."

Shekhar Mehta, President, Rotary International

“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”

Paul Harris, Rotary Founder



Nominations sought for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Written by Eric Curtis

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) can be summed up in two words: “Life changing.” The five-day experience for District 6310 high school sophomores and juniors is designed to introduce youth to the Rotary Four Way Test, leadership skills, and new adventures. Each day will feature a keynote speaker, touching on topics such as crisis leadership and the value of empathy. Students will be placed into cohorts outside of their school, to provide for exchanging of ideas and making new friends. Groups will participate in camp activities, including shooting sports, initiative and team-building games, rock wall climbing, zip-lining, and more. A “cell phone diet” is encouraged, allowing youth to connect to nature and their peers. For 2022, The Midland Noon Rotary Club has approved sending three youth to this year’s camp, which take place Sunday June 12 through Thursday June 16. If you would know a student going into their sophomore or junior year of high school who could benefit from the experience, or if you have any questions about RYLA, please contact Eric Curtis at eric.curtis@scouting.org, or 989-274-0975.

TAKE ACTION: WWW.MIDLANDROTARYCLUB.ORG

Club on track for best fundraising year in 5 years

But more EREY pledges are needed

By Christian Velasquez, Foundation Committee Chairman

Our club progress for the 2021-22 year for Rotary International (RI) is on track to be our best year in at least five years. Thank you to all members who have given generously to Rotary International this year! As of April 25, our club members have donated \$11,555 to the annual fund, exceeding our goal of \$8,750. Members have contributed \$3,617 to the Polio Plus fund, exceeding the goal of \$2,500 and our contributions of \$3,375 last year. That is a total giving of \$15,172 to RI for this Rotary year.

We are not making good progress on our Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) goal, as only 25% of our 176 members have contributed to RI. The Every Rotarian Every Year initiative asks every Rotarian to support The Rotary Foundation every year. For total club giving for this Rotary year, we are currently at second, but as the largest club, we are 13th in average giving per member. We are doing better than recent years, but we still have a lot of room to grow to achieve EREY goals and to become an exemplary leader in the district. Giving to the MRF by current members is a new metric which is great, and we will have totals for the MRF gifts and the giving challenge for the year in May.

Interested in becoming an EREY? Visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/donate> to make an annual pledge of as little as \$25. You also can become a sustaining member by allowing RI to charge \$25 to your credit card each quarter.

It is easy to give:

- Visit your "My Rotary" page (myrotary.org) and click on the Donate button.
- Use the Rotary Foundation Contribution Form. You can give by check or credit card. Just drop the form into the mail along with your donation.
- Hand a check payable to The Rotary Foundation to Christian Velasquez or any of our Club's officers at a weekly meeting, and they will do the paperwork for you!
- Visit your "My Rotary" page and sign up for Rotary Direct to have an amount taken directly from your charge card or bank account every month, quarter, or year.

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES