



ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND | NEWSLETTER

Midland Rotary Club was founded in 1920 by 26 charter members on a mission to make lasting change.



President's Note:

Happy December, Rotarians!

Once again, I cannot believe we are entering a new month - and the last one of 2021! This time of year can feel different for many; Whether some find it joyous and full of hope and generosity, or some may find it difficult as they miss loved ones or have endured some sort of hardship. It is my hope that you extend yourself some 'space and grace' this holiday season and take time to recharge. Fill your cup and find ways to indulge in self-care, whatever that means to you.

In This Issue:	
Upcoming Meetings	2
New Members	3
Reminders & Opportunities	4
Rotary Foundations Challenge	5
The Bridge Service Opportunity	6
Uganda Global Grant	7-8
International City of Peace—Midland	9-10
December 23rd Holiday Program	11
Why I Joined Rotary	12
Grove Park Cleanup Summary	13
D6310 Rotary Foundation Gala	14
District Conference Save the Date	15

Photo courtesy of Tom Lane

We have an exciting month ahead with great programs, service opportunities, and a fundraising campaign kick-off (check out page 5 for more information!). This month we will hear from youth impacted by COVID-

19, a classification speech, hold our Annual Business meeting on December 16th, where we will vote on club leadership for the 2022-2023 year, and then a special holiday program as a gift to all of you and your families on December 23rd. Since we are not meeting on December 30th, an optional service opportunity has been arranged for Rotarians to serve at The Bridge Food Center in Midland.

Beginning this weekend (December 4th) and next (December 11th) we will be ringing bells again at Kroger to raise money for the Salvation Army in Midland, which is a wonderful way to give back and positively impact our community. Thank you so much to those who have signed up to offer their time to support this! Want to hear some exciting news for our beloved city of Midland? Check out pages 9-10 to learn more about an amazing accomplishment our club was able to partner on!

Rotary International recognizes December as Disease Prevention and Treatment. To better explain, I pulled a quote from the RI site that says, "We believe good health care is everyone's right. Yet 400 million people in the world can't afford or don't have access to basic health care...Our members combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.". We have the opportunity to participate in these efforts through giv-



ing to the <u>Rotary Foundation</u> or efforts to <u>END POLIO</u> now. Dick Dolinski's work on an \$80,000+ global grant we were recently awarded for a school in Uganda will have a positive residual impact that will benefit the health and well-being of the students at Muko High School and their families. Read more about this grant on page 7-8!

Thank you for all you do each and every day to make a difference in our community. As we seek to "Serve to Change Lives", there is certain-



ly no shortage of opportunities this month to live out the Four-Way Test. Please consider bringing a colleague or friend to a meeting to expose them to the great work we do as Rotarians each and every day. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and appreciate the opportunity to work with you all in Rotary service.

Yours in Rotary Service,



Upcoming Meetings

12/02 Focus on Youth Committee

12/09 Jen Acosta Classification

12/16 Annual Business Meeting

12/23 Empty Canvas—Holiday Program

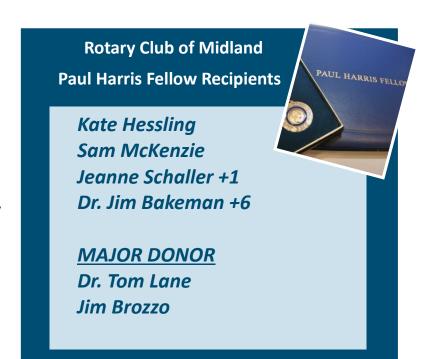
12/30 No meeting—The Bridge Service Opportunity

01/06 STEM Initiative

01/13 Elizabeth Lumbert Classification

01/20 MiHOPE

01/27 Northwood University



Midland Rotary Club Links

Website

https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org

Facebook

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

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/

midlandminoonrotary/

Official Logos Page:

RI Brand Center

Rotary Global Rewards:

http://midlandrotaryclub.org

OUR 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL IS 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

Meet our Newest Members!

NOVEMBER



Alina Warner
Sponsored by Amanda Oster
President and Health Coach, Wellness
Within You



Michael Goad Sponsored by Dick Dolinski CEO, Dow Chemical Employees Credit Union



Alan Stottlemeyer (Returning Member) Sponsored by Mark Bone Research Engineer, Dow

OCTOBER



Amy Conner Sponsored by Dallas Rau Business Development Coordinator, Brookdale Senior Living Tri-Cities



Weikang "Ken" Wang Sponsored by Jeff Rekeweg Associate Professor, Northwood University

SEPTEMBER



Jennifer West Sponsored by Jenee Velasquez Managing Director (GLBR), Greenleaf Trust



Nathan Rapanos Sponsored by Mark Bone Realtor/Investor with Broadleaf Investments—Century 21



Jenni Wontorcik
Sponsored by Shawn Weiss
Admissions Director, Brittany Manor



Katey Brown
Sponsored by Sharon Mortensen
General Practice Director & Therapist,
Partners In Change

JUNE



Teresa GeorgeSponsored by Carly Lillard
Associate Executive Director, SVSU
Foundation

Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta has challenged Rotary District and Clubs to increase membership to 1.3 million by July 1, 2022 through his *Each One, Bring One* initiative, which asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary within the





Reminders and Opportunities for Fellowship and 'Service Above Self'

Please pay your dues! Invoices were emailed with an option to pay online with a credit card. Please see announcement below if assistance is needed for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Consider signing up to inspire and support others by providing an invocation at one of our upcoming meetings; Please contact Jane Johnson (jane.johnson@primroseretirement.com).

Salvation Arm Bell Ringing—Taking place this weekend on December 4th and December 11th at Kroger in Midland. Please review the sign-up sheet HERE for your shift information.

Special December Service Opportunity—There will be no meeting on December 30th, but we will have a service opportunity available for club members and their families. Check out page 6 for more information!

Newsletter Editor—If you're looking to get involved with the club, this is a FANTASTIC way to have the pulse on club news and events. The newsletter editor would join the Public Image committee and work with the President to create content and assemble the monthly newsletter—no experience necessary! Please contact Dallas Rau if you are interested.

Attendance—Every one, Bring one! Our lunch buffet has been adjusted for average attendees dining during the meeting. If you sponsored someone and notice they are not attending, please consider checking on them and see how they are doing.

Annual Club Dues Announcement

The Board of Directors recently voted to continue financial assistance for annual club dues in light of the continued disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with the remaining funds that were donated in 2020-2021 to members that may have difficulty paying their dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Requests for assistance must be received to club Treasurer, Kellie Bos (kellie.bos@ahpplc.com). As originally designated in the 2020-2021 plan, any remaining monies will be sent to Rotary International at year's end.

Rotary Foundations Challenge for our 2021-2022 Year

By: Christian Velasquez

Midland Noon Rotarians, It is the perfect time. It is the giving season and we are a giving group of individuals. We have been through a challenging eight-

een months and giving to the Rotary Foundation dropped tre-

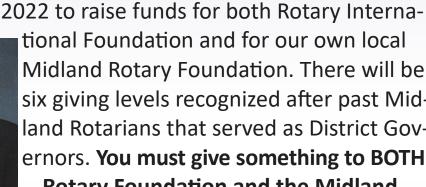
Ralph Hyde, DG 1950-1951

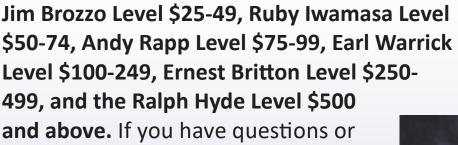
Earl Warrick, DG 1980-1981

mendously. As much of those gifts come back to us for local projects, we are limiting our ability to do great service projects in future years. So, we are launching a giving challenge for this Rotary year that will end in May of

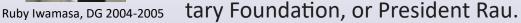
six giving levels recognized after past Mid- Ernest Britton, DG 1974-1975 land Rotarians that served as District Gov-

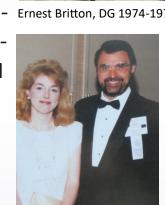
Rotary Foundation and the Midland Rotary Foundation. The levels will be





need help contributing, please contact Christian Velasquez, Chair Rotary Foundation, Tim Dyste, Chair of Midland Ro-





Andy Rapp, DG 1991-1992







Jim Brozzo, DG 2009-2010

December 30th Service Opportunity at the Bridge Food Center

In lieu of a meeting on 12-30-21, we are offering an optional service op-



portunity to membership. Please sign up during one of the shifts below to assist with stacking/organizing shelves, cashiering, helping in the back room, etc..

Pies for Polio 2021

Congratulations! Our club—and community—successfully raised \$230.00 to donate to END PO-LIO for World Polio Day on October 24th.

Many thanks to our partner, Grand Traverse Pie Company in

Midland for their efforts and support of this annual event!



Children are welcome to participate, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Many thanks to Matt Granzo for organizing this opportunity!

You can sign up for your shift by following the link <u>HERE</u>

Rotary International Global Grant Awarded for Two Schools in Uganda

By: Dick Dolinski

Rotary International recently approved a Global Grant of \$83,800 to a consortium consisting of four Rotary Districts and four Rotary Clubs across two states and two continents to support Sanitation, Solar Power, and Teaching/Learning technology projects for two schools in rural Uganda. The collaborating partners are Rotary Clubs located in Kabale, Uganda, Petaluma, California, Traverse City, Michigan, and the Midland Noon Club along with their respective Districts. The funds came from the individual Rotary Clubs, matched by their respective Districts, and the District funds in turn were then matched by Rotary International to add up to the \$83,800 total. The principal Rotarians involved were Pascal Bizimana of the host Kabale Club, Linda Racine from Traverse City, Jo Thornton of Petaluma, and Dick Dolinski of Midland.

The two schools that will benefit from the various projects are Muko High School (MHS), a predominantly boarding school educating about 250 students located in southwestern Uganda about 10 miles from the Rwanda border and Divine Mercy Elemen-

tary School (DMS) with approximately 200 students in grades K-6 located in Kanungu about 20 miles north of Muko. All the funds raised by the Midland and Petaluma Clubs and their Districts will be used for the projects at MHS and DMS respectively while those from the Traverse City Club and their District will be split between the two schools. The funds from Rotary International will also go evenly to both schools.

The Global Grant process began with a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) conducted by the local Kabale Rotary Club. They identified the needs at MHS were for reliable electric power, menstrual hygiene management, and improved adult literacy in the region. The DMS CNA identified the lack of reliable electric power and basic sanitation, inadequate toilet facilities, and in-

sufficient desks and other furnishings at the school as needs. The grant application Aerial view of Muko High School Campus elaborated on the specific identified needs. It presented plans for installing the





Inadequate menstrual hygiene pit at Muko High School

necessary equipment with well documented designs and specifications along with competitive bids from quality suppliers for both the equipment and its installation. The MHS grant money also included resources to train teachers in computer literacy and software use, using the internet for both research and as a virtual library, and using technology for remedial tutoring and teaching.

The grant will also support a new effort in teaching adult literacy in the Muko area. The availability of electricity will enable adult classes in the evening after work. The CNA indicated that the local literacy rate averages 74.4%; 81.8% for men and 68.6% for women versus an average rate of 94.5% in the capital city of Kampala where electricity is available. The ability to provide adult literacy classes is already creating a very positive "buzz" in the area among the residents. Teachers also have formed a "Community of Teacher Practices" that is a shared learning and peer tutoring group of teachers to facilitate improvements in teaching and learning. This will prove to be useful as the modern technology will enable moving away from the commonly used traditional rote learning practices to more critical thinking and problem-solving methodologies. Training also will be provided to all women, students, and staff, on menstrual hygiene practices including use of the new sanitation facilities that will be installed from the grant funds.

Rotary International Global Grant Awarded for Two Schools in Uganda, continued...

In addition to the installation of solar cells, DMS will receive two new latrines on the site along with basic sanitation facilities for students, staff, and nearby residents. DMS will also purchase and install desks and other classroom furnishings in four classrooms. DMS too expects to be able to provide adult learning classes after work thanks to the availability of electricity and lighting at the site. The MHS projects are being completed in partnership with ACT Uganda, a US and Ugandan non-profit with whom Rotary has collaborated in the past to install a highly effective potable water system. It's based on capturing rainwater

and storing it in large tanks during the rainy season. The water is pumped to a tank positioned on the top of a tall tower (the pump's power is supplied by a solar cell on the peak of the water tower) and distributed from there to the various areas of the school campus. ACT Uganda has been providing management services to MHS as well as providing a local health care clinic, assisting with agricultural technology and practices, and other improvements in the area.

The Rotary International Global Grant promises to provide important infrastructure that will result in multiple benefits to the students at both MHS and DMS as well as for their teachers, parents, and others living in the area. Rotary's current theme of





Divine Mercy School in Kanungu

"Serve to change lives" certainly captures the collaboration between the participating Rotary Clubs, the Districts across two continents, and Rotary International. The grant provides the students, staff, and villagers a marvelous opportunity to flourish and thrive and it promises to dramatically improve the quality of life for the people in the area. It will indeed be "Beneficial to all Concerned!"



Lack of desks and classroom furniture at Divine Mercy School

Rotary Club of Midland Active in Efforts to Designate Midland as International City of Peace

By: Gail Hoffman and Kate Hessling

Great news for global peace! As of Oct. 15, 2021, there were over 340 International Cities of Peace in 70 countries on all six continents. On Nov. 30, 2021, Midland was designated as the 343rd International City of Peace!

An International City of Peace is a city recognized, through a formal application to the International Cities of Peace, as one on its way to "becoming" a more peaceful city. Establishing a community as a peace city recognizes past achievements, encourages current initiatives, and inspires future generations for practical peacebuilding. For more information, see http://internationalcitiesofpeace.org.

Effort Was a Partnership Involving Midland Rotary

Midland's recent recognition as an International City of Peace was the result of a strong, ongoing partnership between Nonviolent Peaceforce Midland Chapter (NPMC) and the Rotary Club of Midland (Noon). In essence, it combines NPMC's vision of "Transforming the World's Response to Conflict" with Rotary's 2021 theme of "Serve to Change Lives."

The collaboration between NPMC and Midland Rotary began under the leadership of 2015-16 Rotary President Kevin Kendrick and was reinforced through Tawny Ryan Nelb's 2016-17 presidency. Recognizing that Rotary International is an international service organization, club leadership created awareness of the importance of serving both locally and globally in its motto of "service above self."

In 2018, the club chartered the Peace & Conflict Resolution Committee, soon renamed Peacebuilding Committee, to more accurately describe the work. At its core, "peacebuilding" is fundamentally about dealing with the reasons why people fight in the first place, while also supporting societies to manage their differences and conflicts without resorting to violence (https://www.infocore.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/def_peacebuilding.pdf).

Under the leadership of Jeanne Lound Schaller (NPMC) and Gail Hoffman (Peacebuilding Committee Chair, Midland Rotary), the two organizations have worked closely together since 2015. Tangible evidence of the strong relationship can be found in jointly sponsored peacebuilding and conflict resolution training, work on a Global Grant for Peace in South Sudan (currently on hold due to the pandemic), and a recent event at Creative 360 celebrating Midland City Council's Sept. 13 Proclamation to proclaim "Sept. 21, 2021, as City of Peace Day in the City of Midland and encourage citizens to foster positive expressions of peace, allowing humanity to flourish and providing avenues for more people to achieve their full potential."

Since January, a group of four women — Jeanne Lound Schaller, Gail Hoffman, Judy Timmons and Kathy McCreedy — have spent countless hours drafting and finalizing the application to designate Midland as an International City of Peace. The requirements included a signed letter of intent; a vision, mission, and goals statement; photos and captions of local events; a photo and biography of Jeanne Lound Schaller (liaison); and a statement about our Midland community. Although the application process has come to a conclusion, the peacebuilding work will be ongoing.

Rotary Club of Midland Active in Efforts to Designate Midland as International City of Peace, continued...

Promoting Peace Is a Focus Area for Rotary International

"Promoting Peace" is one of Rotary International's seven areas of focus.

According to the RI's website: As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of RI's mission.

"We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect...our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources...we are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved," the website states. "Rotary creates environments where peace can happen."

How Our Club's Members Have Been Involved in the Process

Jeanne Lound Schaller helped initiate the NP Midland Chapter in 2011. In 2015, Jeanne became a Rotary Peace Fellow and received a Professional Development Certificate in Peace and Conflict Resolution after studying at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. She is now an Honorary Rotarian. It was at this time that the partnership between NPMC and Midland Rotary got underway.

As an international NGO serving vulnerable and conflict-affected populations, Nonviolent Peaceforce offers programs in the Philippines, Myanmar, South Sudan, Iraq, and the United States. As part of her program, Jeanne worked with individuals from South Sudan. Her passion became doing a Global Grant for Peace within South Sudan. The partnership with Midland Rotary was greatly strengthened as influential Rotarians including District 6310 leadership worked together on the grant application.

The need for peacebuilding in South Sudan is huge. In its annual 2021 Global Peace Index, the Institute for Economics & Peace ranked 163 nations on "peacefulness." South Sudan was fourth from the bottom (most warlike) at 160. Recognizing the need, the grant received strong support from Nonviolent Peaceforce Headquarters; NPMC; Rotary District 6310 leadership; and Rotary clubs in Bay City, Saginaw, and Midland. Unfortunately, the work has been on hold due to the pandemic.

Opportunities for More Rotary-NPMC Partnering

Because of the formal recognition of Midland as an International City of Peace, there will be plenty of opportunities for Midland Rotary to continue the work with NPMC, as well as with other like-minded individuals and organizations. Part of our application included a list of 19 entities with which we are building connections for peacebuilding in Broader Midland.

Midland City Council requires that the proclamation be renewed annually. Working together, we will create awareness and encourage action to "foster positive expressions of peace, allowing humanity to flourish and providing avenues for more people to achieve their full potential."

Never Doubt a Small Group of Thoughtful Committed Citizens Can Change the World

In January of 2021 a small group of dedicated women decided they wanted to do a "community event" for the annual United Nations International Day of Peace — something educational, collaborative and inclusive. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." The "community event" turned into a successful application whereby Midland is now formally designated as an International City of Peace.

~Kate Hessling, Editor, Midland Daily News

Gail Hoffman, Peacebuilding Committee Chair, Midland Rotary

December 23rd Holiday Program

By Kate Hessling, Public Image Committee

As a gift to our member and their families, the board has decided to bring in Empty Canvas for the holiday program on December 23rd, featuring brothers Mike and Scott McMath.

During the show, lead singer Mike McMath will complete an entire painting based on an image chosen before the show.

Empty Canvas prides itself on making beautiful works of art — not a splash painting or spinning wheel image completed in a few minutes. See the accompanying images for examples of paintings completed during previous performances.

During the actual performance, Mike will bring members of the audience up on stage to

add their own strokes to the painting, according to the Empty Canvas website. Crowds are always amazed when they realize Mike's not only painting during the show, but singing too.

Once the performance is over, our club will auction off

the painting. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to local projects. Other organizations have had much success from auctioning these pieces, as paintings done by Empty Canvas have generated more than \$70,000 in the past three years!



We are bringing Empty Canvas to our Dec. 23 meeting as a gift to our members and their families. The event will be causal, and holiday/festive attire is encouraged!

These are examples of some of the paintings Empty Canvas has completed in previous performances.

Follow the link below to view their live performances:

http://emptycanvas.live/video



Why I joined Rotary

By Kate Hessling, Public Image Committee

The Midland Noon Rotary Club was one of the first organizations I was introduced to when I came to the Midland area two years and some change ago.

Sharon Mortensen was president at the time, and she was very warm and welcoming, as were so many members that day, including Jenee Velasquez, who hosted me as her guest that day and soon after became my sponsor. That day as a visitor, I was really taken with everyone's positive outlook, fun sense of humor, and dedication to helping others (far and away). I knew I wanted to be part of this great club.

That's my story about why I joined Rotary. Recently, our we asked members to share their story on our Rotary Club of Midland Facebook page, and we'd like to share what they said with you in today's newsletter.

- Teresa George said she joined because of the members.
 - "I didn't know that by joining an organization I would gain a family that not only believes in serving others but also takes care of each other no matter what the circumstances are," Teresa wrote.

"To serve my community," wrote Amy Jaster.

"Yes," agreed Shelly Bartosek.

"I wanted to meet new people and get more involved in community projects," commented Carly Lilliard.

"Yes, meeting new people is a bonus!!" Amy Jaster agreed.

Christian Velasquez said he joined for fellowship with people he greatly respects outside his normal circle.

Why did you join Rotary? Feel free to share your story on our Rotary Club of Midland Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub

Grove Park Clean Up, by Sharon Mortensen

Approximately 35 Rotarians along with some friends from the Kiwanis, Lions and Zonta Clubs

joined together for the fall Grove Park clean-up day on Saturday, October 9. In a brief two hours of time, the park was transformed as trees were trimmed, weeds were pulled, sidewalks including the new promenade were edged and mulch was spread in various areas of the park. Children and grandchildren of Rotarians especially enjoyed helping to mulch the playground area. Live Oak provided refreshments for the clean-up day and some of their team helped during a portion of our time at



Grove Park that morning.



Midland Rotary Club adopted Grove Park in 2018 and, since that time, have conducted clean-up days twice each year at the

park. In addition to adopting the park, our club has conducted activities at Gather at Grove (prior to the pandemic)

and has invested in the renovation of the children/youth area at Grove Park as part of our 100th anniversary gift to the community. The anniversary gift included construction of the pavilion near the recently renovated playground and the basketball



court. These new assets



serve children, youth and their families. Grove Park has been transformed into an area of pride for the Midtown neighborhood and has become a well-utilized park.

Midland Rotary will continue to provide our labor to keep Grove Park looking

its best at our fall and spring clean-up days. Be watching for a clean-up date in either late April or early May of 2022. Many thanks to all who assisted with Grove Park clean up this fall!



District 6310's Rotary Foundation Gala on November 5, 2021

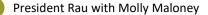
By: Dallas Rau

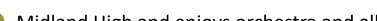
Recently, Rotarians from all over District 6310 gathered at Zehnder's in Franken-

muth to celebrate giving and recognize individual and clubs for their generosity to the Rotary Foundation and efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. Our club was recognized for our efforts to fight polio under past-President Carly Lillard's leadership in the 2020-2021 year. It was a pleasure to sit with and learn more about our STEP (Short Term Exchange Pro-

gram) student, Molly Maloney, that our club is sponsoring.

She is a student at





- Midland High and enjoys orchestra and all
- things engineering. I am hopeful we can have her as a guest at an upcoming meeting soon so you can meet her too! One thing is for sure, the members in our District are generous and our funds are making an impact here and worldwide.



Award for participation in support of the End Polio Now

Campaign in 2020-2021









Attendees at the Annual Gala were (from L-R): Jenee and Christian Velasquez, Jeremy and Dallas Rau, Gail Hoffman and Tom Lane, and Dallas Rau with Midland Morning Club President, Lance Lewis



The Park Place Hotel and Conference Center in Traverse City will be the location for our District Conference in 2022.



We will be building good will and better friendships at the historic Park Place Hotel in Downtown Traverse City and their newly opened Conference Center. In addition to personal and professional development and the annual business meeting, we will enjoy music by the Classic Rock group "The Flashbacks". There will be fine dining and fun break-out groups like



cooking demonstrations, bourbon tasting or wine tours, exploring the lakes and trails around TC, shopping, and other activities we haven't even thought of yet. This will be a warm and friendly event for Rotarians, their spouses and families. Come with us for a weekend in Pure Michigan.