

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 Notes:

Greetings, fellow Rotarians!

I am thrilled to address you all in my first Presidential newsletter as we embark on a new Rotary year. I would like to thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to lead you in 2021-2022 as we look to get back to the closest sense of "normal" we have felt in a very long time! I am excited for our upcoming events and getting back to in-person meetings on August 5th.

I would like to thank Carly Lillard for her leadership and focus to continue with virtual meetings in an effort to keep us connected. Carly did a wonderful job of navigating the pandemic and finding our club projects that aligned to Rotary's areas of focus, provided some much needed fellowship, and kept us safe. She also met with me MANY times over the last six months to support our transition and help prepare me for the role. Thank you, Carly, for your selfless leadership this past year! I would also like to thank the Board of Directors, all the committees, and the meeting team that works so hard to support the club every meeting and every year. With the work and talents of so many, the good work of Rotary can be done. Thank you ALL!

As I look ahead at this upcoming year and our new theme, "Serve to Change Lives", it makes me remember why I became a Rotarian. I wanted to serve. I wanted to help others and my community. I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. This club afforded me the opportunity to do that and I am so grateful. We as Rotarians have a chance through our committee work, service projects, and fundraisers to help so many in our community and around the world. After unveiling the theme for his Rotary year, 2021-2022 Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta said that, "Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity. Service became a way of life for me and I, like many others, adopted the guiding philosophy that 'Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant of this earth.'" I remain inspired by his words and his theme, and welcome your ideas of thoughts on ways we can "Serve to Change Lives". We have some great club goals that align to our District as well as Rotary International and are included in this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments on these, please feel free to contact me.

Your opinion is very important and as a way to foster engagement, I kindly request your participation in a very brief survey. You can access it by following the link [HERE](#).
Thank you in advance for your input!

I am honored to be serving as your President and look forward to a wonderful year as we seek ways to increase and diversify our membership, re-engage in meaningful ways, and serve our community.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Dallas Rau

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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Did you know?

1. Rotary's 1.2 million members volunteer over 47 million hours annually!
2. Rotary's full-time equivalent volunteer workforce is nearly 50X larger than its 563 paid staff.
3. The economic impact of Rotary volunteering is greater than \$850 million a year (9X larger than RI's annual budget).

Reference:

Haddock, Megan; Salaman, Lester; Sokolowski, S. (2019) "The Scope and Scale of Rotary Volunteering". John Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies.

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

- 07/01 Coztal Ixil Language Books
- 07/08 Kevin Scorsone Classification
- 07/15 Great Lakes Loons
- 07/22 Youth Voice for Peace
- 07/29 MADD
- 08/05 Downtown Development and Events
- 08/12 Myron Greene Classification
- 08/19 Meet our New Members
- 08/26 Midland Mentors

Rotary Club of Midland Paul Harris Fellows Recipients



Gail Hoffman +1
David C. Smith +1
Tawny Ryan Nelb +2
Lee Smith +2
Bill Betts +3
Dr. Jim Bakeman +5
Dick Dolinski +6
Bill Hargreaves +7
Tom Lane +10

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!

June		<p>Teresa George Sponsored by Carly Lillard Associate Executive Director, SVSU Foundation</p>	February		<p>Laura Vosejka Sponsored by Dave Smith Executive Director, Creative 360</p>	
	April			<p>Terri Johnson Sponsored by Jenee Velasquez President / CEO, Midland Community Centers</p>	January	
		<p>JD Geisler Sponsored by Mark Bone Vice President, Geisler Warehouse</p>	October			<p>Stacey Gannon Sponsored by Sharon Mortensen Vice President, Senior Account Advi- sor, Huntington Private Bank</p>
		<p>Lisa Thompson Sponsored by Eric Curtis Director and Founder Self Love Beauty</p>				<p>Nicole Ford Sponsored by Carly Lillard Chief of Police, City of Midland</p>
March		<p>Ann Manary Sponsored by Michael Beale Midland County Clerk, City of Mid- land</p>	September		<p>Tony Stamas Sponsored by Sharon Mortensen President & CEO Midland Business Alliance</p>	
		<p>Tara Mager Sponsored by Gail Hoffman High School Principal, Meridian PS Midland Business Alliance</p>			<p>Jeff Bennett Sponsored by Jonathan Laundra Retiree, Northwood University</p>	
		<p>Amy Jaster Sponsored by Gail Hoffman Adjunct Professor, Delta College</p>			<p>Brad Blanchard Sponsored by Jenee Velasquez Environmental, Health and Safety Spe- cialist at SK Saran</p>	

Announcement: Return to In-Person Meetings

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we will be returning to **in-person meetings on Thursday, August 5th, 2021** at the Midland Country Club (1120 W. St Andrews Road - Midland, MI 48640)! Meetings will be held in the same banquet room and a lunch buffet will be available, if you choose, for \$15/person. Every effort will be made to “stream” the program if feasible and low cost from the Midland Noon Rotary Facebook page via Facebook Live. We will remain virtual up to that point and continue to meet via Zoom.



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

By: Carly Lillard

With the board of directors, I have developed The President's Award. This award is to be given on an annual basis to a member (a super Rotarian, an unsung hero) of the President's choosing (with board support). The awardee will receive an award and a donation in their name of \$500 to the Rotary International Foundation. The awardee will have the option to donate the Paul Harris points if desired.

Congratulations to our very first recipient, Dr. Thomas H. Lane. Tom's contributions to Rotary in time, talent and treasure are likely unmatched by any current member of our Club. He has provided leadership on committee and boards locally and district-wide. He invests his own money every year. Technically retired, Tom could put his feet up and enjoy each day knowing he has done a stellar job as a Rotarian, yet he chooses to continue leading, sponsoring and mentoring people locally, throughout the district, and internationally. He actively participated in local, district, and international service efforts and conferences. He is an exemplary model for a lifetime of Service Above Self.



Tom received his undergraduate education in chemistry at Purdue University, a master's degree from Central Michigan University, and his Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry from The Open University in England. Both Purdue and CMU have recognized Tom with their Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to science, education, and his community. Tom also received The Open University's highest recognition for his contributions to Education, the Arts, and the Sciences with an honorary doctorate degree (Doctor of the University), which was presented at a special ceremony in Versailles, France.

He worked at the Dow Corning Corporation for 35 years where he achieved the rank of Research Scientist and Global S&T Director within the Corporation for his technical and leadership contributions. In addition, he has held academic positions in both the US and the UK. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, an American Chemical Society Fellow, a Sequoyah Fellow of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, a Life Member of the Society for the Advancement of Hispanic/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science and a number of other professional organizations.



The National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers has recognized him with their service award for outstanding contributions to the National Secondary Education Science Program and his continued support for all STEM students.

Tom was the elected president of the American Chemical Society (2009), and later joined the staff of Delta College as Chief Academic Officer and Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. In retirement, Tom remains active in the American Chemical Society and is also serving as the elected Associate Central Regional Director for Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society. For fun, Tom enjoys photography. He specializes in medium and large format black & white film photography and digital rangefinder cameras.

Again, congratulations! It was truly an honor to present this award for the first time.



Midland Rotary Goals

<u>Goal Category</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021-2022 Goal</u>
Club membership		200
Service participation		100
New member sponsorship		15
Rotarian action group participation	Rotary Action Groups My Rotary	3
Leadership development participation		5
District conference attendance		18
Rotary fellowship participation	More Fellowships Rotary International	3
District training participation		5
Annual fund contributions		\$8,750
PolioPlus fund contributions		\$2,500
Major gifts		0
Bequest society members		0
Benefactors		0
Service projects		7
Rotaract clubs		1
Interact clubs		1

Inbound youth exchange students	No RYE for 2021-2022 year	0
Outbound youth exchange students	No RYE for 2021-2022 year	0
RYLA participation		0
Strategic Plan		Yes
Online presence		Yes
Social activities		2
Update website and social media		30
Media stories about club projects		10
Use of official Rotary promotional materials		Yes
Conduct a member classification study		Yes
Club members talking with media		2
Collaboration with non-Rotary partner		1
Establish new committee with fellow Rotary Club	<p>The main outcomes will be:</p> <p>1. Within Rotary: To increase Rotary membership through recruitment, retention, and engagement using the framework of Wellbeing at the Me, We, and Us levels (*Creating Wellbeing Certificate designed by Team Orange, Master of Applied Psychology, University of Pennsylvania).</p> <p>2. Within our Community: To help us develop tools and strategies to use in difficult, uncomfortable conversations with each other, within our groups, and within our community.</p>	1

June Programs Overview

Jun 3—We heard from our Scholarship Committee chair, Reva Curry, as she presented the recipients their scholarships. They were invited to attend the meeting and offer a brief introduction. A total of six scholarships were awarded from the following categories:

Emma VanDongen, Meridian High School, C. A. Campbell Scholarship: \$1300
Madison Greene, Midland High School, Herbert H. Hardy Scholarship: \$2500
Isabel Velasquez, Dow High School, Herbert H. Hardy Scholarship: \$2500
Nathaniel Striebel, Midland High School, William Dixon Scholarship: \$1200
Emma Massey, Midland High School, William Dixon Scholarship: \$1200
Owen Gibson Gornicki, Dow High School, William Dixon Scholarship: \$1200

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

Jun 10—A meeting favorite, we had a classification speech and were able to learn more about member, Abby Scherzer. She was born on November 11th at Midland Hospital to Dennis and Jill Keeley. She grew up on Wixom Lake and has one older sister and one younger sister. When she was in High School her parents divorced and each remarried giving Abby another sister and two brothers. Right after High School Abby joined the United States Army where she spent 13 months deployed to Guantanamo Bay Cuba. She and her husband Steve were married on November 12th, 2005. In 2011, Abby gave birth to her first daughter Avonlea Anne, and in 2015 she gave birth to her second daughter, Emilia Rose. In 2016, Abby suffered a great loss in her life when her best friend of 30-years passed away at the age of 32. From this tragedy Abby learned to grow in personal and physical strength through her grief. Abby is a graduate of Northwood University, Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy, and Great Lake Bay Regional Institute for Leaders. She is also a reigning title holder as Mrs. Michigan Universal, as she competes in many pageant systems to promote dementia awareness and education. Abby is employed by the Alzheimer's Association and manages three Walk to End Alzheimer's Events throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

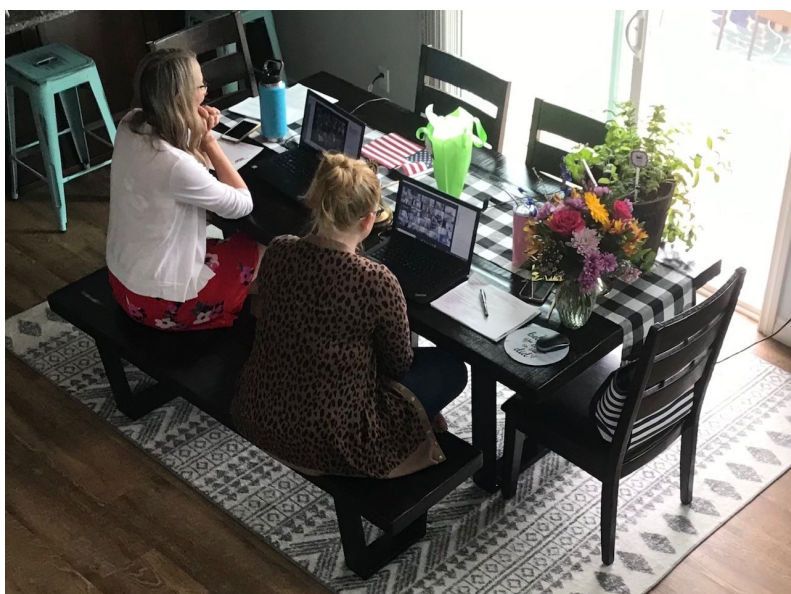
Jun 17—We heard from Chris Chandler, the Executive Director of the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, which is an annual week-long series of events to celebrate the region and make it an even better place to live and work. The invitational partners with local businesses in order to sustain economic growth all while telling Dow's story through the power of science and technology. The event runs from July 12th through July 17th with a \$2.3MM purse. The impact to the region is far-reaching with many activities planned and volunteer opportunities available throughout the community, for youth, Veterans, and local businesses. Voted Tournament of the Year in 2019, we are so fortunate to have this amazing event call Midland home and look forward to another successful tournament!

Jun 24—The final meeting of our Rotary year is always reserved as a special time to reflect, offer our appreciation, and honor our outgoing President. As the year ended, President Carly Lillard offered some reflections from her year of leadership and the membership took some time to honor her as well. As is tradition, the gavel was passed to President-Elect, Dallas Rau. Please see our full story and some "behind-the-scenes" pictures from our passing of the gavel event in this newsletter back on page 5!

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

JUNE 24, 2021

Our meeting on June 24th marked a special tradition in the world of Rotary: The passing of the gavel. Our new Rotary year begins on July 1, so today we honored our 2020-2021 President Carly Lillard with many well wishes, memories from the last year, flowers, and a special mint plant because she “mint so much to our club”. Immediate past President Sharon Mortensen arranged a special meeting to honor Carly’s love of family, Christmas, and service. Another past-President, Scott Withrow serenaded her with a customized rendition of Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing” only to be followed by a visit from Santa Claus himself from his workshop at the North Pole! Carly’s leadership this past year has been tremendous, navigating the pandemic and keeping us connected through virtual meetings, but still finding safe ways to keep our focus on serving our community and the values of Rotary. We were able to honor young leaders in the community through a Spirit of Rotary ceremony, ring the bells for Salvation Army fundraising, clean up our adopted Grove Park and a huge watershed project affected by the flood and dam breach, and plant flowers for Midland Blooms.



We extend our sincere congratulations to Carly and are thankful for her leadership this past year showing that “Rotary Opens Opportunities”. We are also grateful to our immediate Past-President, Sharon Mortensen who has completed her term

and provided valuable leadership and insight along the way - as well as our outgoing Directors, Jesse Lillard and Amanda Oster who provided their support and service to the Board and club the last three years. As we head into a new Rotary year next week, we wish Dallas Rau all the best on her year ahead as we “Serve to Change Lives”.



Photo provided by Tawny Ryan Nelb

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE ABOVE SELF—by Gail Hoffman

Now that we have finished our **Civility** pilot, we are ready to share next steps with all of you. 😊

The project is entitled **Wellbeing through Communication & Connections**. We have had three planning meetings since the pilot ended on April 1 during which we received Board approval to form a new committee. In partnership with Morning, the new committee includes the trainers, participants from the Creating Wellbeing Certificate, and other interested Rotarians. There are two objectives: one within Rotary to increase membership and one within our community to encourage meaningful conversation. We believe that the possibilities are endless in terms of recruiting new members, engaging new and current members, and retaining all members--as well as taking it into our community where there is an opportunity for meaningful conversations.



JOIN US!

Please consider joining our Creating Wellbeing through Communication & Connections Committee. If you are interested, please choose a date/topic that works for you, and email Gail at gailhoffmanhome@gmail.com

We envision small teams consisting of a contact person, a support person, a Midland Rotarian, and a Morning Rotarian. By combining the curriculum developed specifically for Midland with the curriculum used in the Creating Wellbeing Certificate, we have substantial content. Already on our Rotary 2021-2022 calendar are eight pre-programs and four programs. Our Topic/Date Table is attached; you will see who has signed up for what. (Outside speakers will be used for the full speakers, increasing the opportunity for social bonding and bridging.) Your help is needed!

WELLBEING THROUGH COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

Monthly Topics for Pre-Programs/Programs (tentative)

Based on Curriculum Designed Specifically for Midland and Used in the Train-the-Trainer Pilot (Team Orange, Master of Applied Psychology, University of Pennsylvania) and Drawn from the "Creating Wellbeing Certificate" (Master of Applied Psychology, University of Pennsylvania)

NAMES *Lead (Trainer)	TOPIC	DATE
*Matt Laming (Midland) Sharon Mortensen (Midland/Support) Angela Cole (Midland) Jeanne Schaller (Midland) Mamiko Reeves (Morning) Marty Hill (Morning) [Gail Hoffman (Midland)]	Understanding Conflict, Part 1 (Pre-Program) Understanding conflict – Connection to healthy relationships (WB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment on conflict • Reflection on conflict style • Connection on managing conflict to healthy relationships 	07/08/2021
*Matt Smith (Midland) Lynne Mischley (Morning/Support) Mamiko Reeves (Morning) Reva Curry (Midland)? [Gail Hoffman (Midland)]	Understanding Conflict, Part 2 (Pre-program) Understanding conflict – Connection to empathy and curiosity (WB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict fuels change • Necessity for intellectual, emotional, and moral growth • Importance of empathy and curiosity in conflictual situations 	08/12/2021
Outside Speaker Reva Curry (Team Leader) Gail Hoffman (Support) Loyce Brown?	Relationships, WB (Program)	09/10/2021
*Sharon Miller (Morning) Gail Hoffman (Midland/Support) Tara Mager (Midland)	4-Corners Activity, Part 1 (Pre-program) Setting ground rules for difficult conversations - Connection to mindfulness (WB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying attitudes and actions important to you • How to agree on rules for conversation • How to handle others (or yourself) not following ground rules 	10/14/2021
*Shelly Bartosek (Midland) Sharon Mortensen (Midland/Support) Mamiko Reeves (Morning) Holly Miller (Midland) Reva Curry	4-Corners Activity, Part 2 (Pre-program) Connection to listening skills and mindfulness (WB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice skills learned in conflict lesson • Model civility skills for others • Listen for understanding 	11/11/2021
Outside Speaker Team Leader and/or Support Person?	Mindfulness, WB (Program)	12/09/2021

NAMES *Lead (Trainer)		
<p>*Lead Lynne Mischley (Morning/Support) Amy Jaster (Midland)</p>	<p>"This I Believe", Part 1 (Pre-program) Identify values (in preparation for "This I Believe" exercise) - Connection to meaning and purpose (WB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of values • Discuss values giving meaning to each individual • Share one value with the group 	01/13/2022
<p>*Lead Gail Hoffman (Midland/Support) Mamiko Reeves (Morning)</p>	<p>"This I Believe", Part 2 (Pre-program) "This I Believe" exercise - Connection to meaning and purpose (WB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of your personal beliefs, of the values which rule your thought and action • How belief affects your interactions in group settings • Handling when beliefs are challenged 	02/10/2022
<p>Outside Speaker <i>Team Leader: Holly Miller</i></p>	<p>Meaning and Purpose, WB (Program)</p>	03/10/2022
<p>*Leader Sharon Mortensen (Midland/Support)</p>	<p>Community Building Activity (Pre-program) Connection to sense of belonging (WB): Answer two questions: 1. When and how did you become part of the Midland community? 2. What do you value most about the Midland community and why? Share common interests discovered in the group</p>	04/14/2022
<p>*Leader Lynne Mischley (Morning Support)</p>	<p>Community and Connections (Pre-program) Discuss four questions (using an appreciative inquiry approach):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you value most about our community, and about the level of communication and connection we have with one another? 2. What do you wish for our community regarding improved communication? How can we get there? 3. What do you wish for our community regarding increased connections? How can we get there? 4. What actions can we take today to bring us closer to our desired future state? 	05/12/2022

Rotary International Convention

By Kevin Kendrick

There is nothing better than being face-to-face with 20,000 people from around the world, who share your values, coming together to share ideas on how to make this world a better place. And no one does these events better than the folks who organize Rotary International conferences. Even though we did not have the opportunity to meet in person for the conference this year, it was nevertheless, a great platform for sharing ideas and information on how Rotary can make our world, our communities, our clubs and ourselves, better through our work.

We heard some very dynamic speakers, including RI President Holger Knaack, PE Shekhar Mehta, PN Jennifer Jones, and General Secretary John Hewko. We also got to participate in some interactive projects and be entertained by some incredible performing artists. All-in-all, it was literally the next best thing to being at an in-person conference and we got to participate from the comfort of our own homes!

President Holger began the convention with some very inspirational words, reminding us of what we had gone through as an organization during some very challenging times. He stressed, however, that what made this year so special is how we turned those challenges into opportunity. He reminded us that we live in very dynamic times and that if Rotary fails to adapt, we risk obsolescence. Our new normal will not be business as usual but taking advantage of our new flexibilities such as utilizing virtual technology. We heard too, from President Elect Shekhar on the value and importance of service. He reminded us that “service above self” is at the center of all that we do and as such, our theme for 2021-2022 is so important: “Serve to Change Lives”.

One theme repeated during the Convention was our need to leverage our resources in a more comprehensive way, from identifying different generations and cultures to join our Clubs to using Rotaractors and Interactors in a more meaningful and productive way. President Holger in fact, said we must engage the “full family of Rotary” in everything we do to ensure we are being inclusive of fresh ideas.

Many of the speakers mentioned the need for Rotary to grow its diversity. PN Jennifer said that no matter our background, we are drawn to one another as Rotarians because of our commitment to service. She reminded us that we are in a “season of outreach” and we have to continue to find new ways to connect with others.

Secretary Hewko shared some numbers with us including the following:

- Our membership of Rotarians and Rotaractors is 1.4 million in 48,000 clubs. We have a very strong DE&I statement now and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to diversity through groups like the DE&I Task Force.
- Our Rotary Learning Center took on increased importance in the year of the Pandemic and was utilized in great numbers.

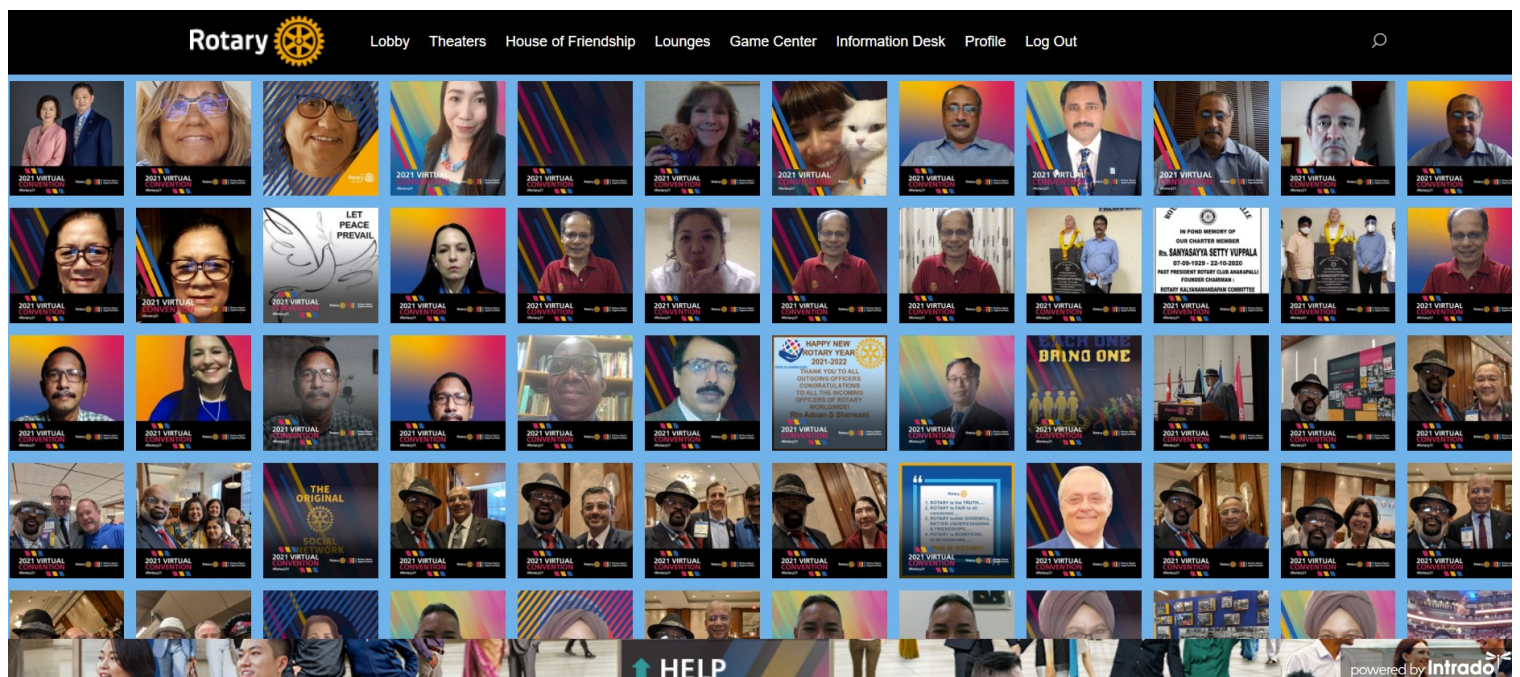
Rotary International Convention

By Kevin Kendrick

As of 1 May, The Rotary Foundation awarded 1,683 global grants, exceeding last year's total of 1,359.

Of course, there was time for fun and laughter as well. The Convention allowed participants to upload a photo of themselves onto the Wall of Rotarians and select an appropriate frame. A great many Rotarians from around the world were able to connect via this fun application. In addition, attendees were treated to performances by several artistic groups including "The Filharmonic", an a cappella group; Idris Goodwin, a breakbeat poet and a United States Artists Fellow; and DDC Breakdance, a Germany-based dance group.

All-in-all, the Convention was fun, educational and very worthwhile of the time we invested!



[Registration is open for the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas!](#)





Rotary

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

Rotary Fellowships consist of members who share a common interest in recreational activities, sports, hobbies, or professions. These groups help expand skills, foster vocational development, and enhance the Rotary experience by exploring interests while developing connections around the world.

OVERVIEW

- Help participants make lasting friendships outside their own club, district, or country
- Advance Rotary's public image and identity
- Serve as an incentive for joining Rotary and for maintaining active membership

ORGANIZATION

- Function independently of Rotary International by establishing their own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure.
- Are open to Rotarians, their family members, as well as participants and alumni of all Rotary and Foundation programs.

STARTING A NEW FELLOWSHIP

If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented by Rotary's current Fellowships:

- Join a [discussion group](#) or start a new one on My Rotary. It's a great way to share your interest with other members.
- Use Rotary's presence on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to promote your idea.
- Attend the Rotary International Convention or other Rotary events to network and find others that share your interest.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit www.rotary.org/fellowships for additional resources on Rotary Fellowships.

Contact rotaryfellowships@rotary.org with questions.



JOIN LEADERS: www.rotary.org/fellowships