

May 2024

Midland Rotary News



Dear Rotary Members,

As we welcome the month of May, a season of renewal and growth, I want to take a moment to reflect on the essence of connection that lies at the heart of Rotary.

Spring brings with it a sense of freshness and vitality, symbolizing the potential for new beginnings and the power of collective action. It is during this season that we, as Rotarians, are reminded of our mission to make a positive impact in our communities and the world.

To make a positive impact, the value of connection becomes even more significant. It is through our connections with fellow Rotarians, community leaders, and partners that we find strength, inspiration, and the ability to create lasting change.

As we move through this month, I encourage each of you to embrace the spirit of connection. Reach out to your fellow Rotarians, engage in meaningful conversations, and collaborate on projects that will make a difference.

Together, we can achieve far more than we could ever accomplish individually. Remember that Rotary is a global network of individuals who share a common purpose: to serve humanity. Let us harness the power of our collective efforts to create a ripple effect of positive change in our communities and beyond.

May this month be a time of growth, connection, and renewed commitment to our shared values. Thank you for your dedication to Rotary and for being part of this incredible journey.

Yours in Rotary,

Angela Cole
2023-2024 President

TAKE ACTION: WWW.MIDLANDROTARYCLUB.ORG

May Birthdays

Rotary
Midland



Midland Noon Rotary Club Birthdays

Chris Velasquez (5/11)

Amy Jaster (5/11)

Lee Smith (5/12)

Terri Johnson (5/15)

Hunter Keim (5/21)

Anna Merillat (5/23)

John Van Dalen (5/24)

Shelly Bartosek (5/25)

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Announcements

If you have an announcement for a club meeting, email President Angela Cole to be added to the agenda. To keep our meetings on time and give speakers as much time as possible, announcements should be limited to Rotary-related events or projects, and be no more than 30 seconds. If your non-profit wishes to advertise information or events, please feel free to place flyers on the tables.

IMPORTANT ROTARY/LINKS

Facebook: [facebook.com/ MidlandNoonRotaryClub/](https://facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/)

X: twitter.com/MidNoonRotary

Instagram: [instagram.com/ midlandminoonrotary/](https://instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/)

Logos/Rotary Global Rewards:

<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

ClubRunner Login:

<https://admin.clubrunner.ca/5732/User/Login>

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

JENNIFER WEST +1
 LARRY WASHINGTON +1
 REVA CURRY +3
 MATT LAMING
 BILL HARGREAVES +8
 DUSTIN SMITH
 MELINA BUCCI +1
 ROBBIE WACLAWSKI+1
 JON LYNCH *1
 TAWNY NELB +3

CHRISTIAN VELASQUEZ +2
 JENEE VELASQUEZ +3
 CHUCK SHERWIN +3
 AMY JASTER
 ABBY SCHERZER
 TOM MCARDLE
 STEVE WILDES +9
 JAMES BAKEMAN+9

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 2

Law Day with Honorable Thomas L. Ludington

May 9

Classification — Amy Jaster

May 16

Protecting the Environment Committee

May 23

Scholarship Presentations

May 30

Moody Foundation with Sue Moody

June 6

MyMichigan Health Sleep Disorders Lab with Devin Fenner

June 13

Flag Etiquette by Brad Blanchard and Matt Smith

June 20

Recovery Court with Judge Michael J. Beale

GROVE PARK CLEAN UP

Families and children are welcome!

Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 10:00am

Please join the Midland Rotary Club and neighbors to help beautify Grove Park in Midtown! Please bring gloves and rakes; trash bags will be provided and refreshments will be served!

For more information, visit "Midland Noon Rotary Club" on Facebook!

GET TO KNOW THIS

ROTARIAN

ADEM ALTHOR



ORIGINALLY FROM: I grew up in New Hampshire's "Seacoast" area

SPONSOR: Kristin Stehouwer

OCCUPATION: Dean of International Affairs at Northwood University

CURRENTLY READING: I love to read but I rarely finish books. I'm reading about five different books right now including, *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis

FUN FACT: My family loves to travel. My wife grew up in Japan. My father's family is from Yemen

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: To make a positive difference in the community in which I work

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Getting to know fellow members



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



Why Our Friends & Colleagues Should Join Rotary

Here are nine reasons – courtesy of the Keizer Rotary Club in Keizer, Oregon – why your friends and colleagues would benefit from joining Rotary.

- 1. Friendship:** In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: Friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.
- 2. Business Development:** This is the second original reason for Rotary's beginning. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross-section of every business community. Our members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.
- 3. Personal Growth and Development:** Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.
- 4. Leadership Development:** Rotary is an organization made for leaders. At Rotary, we learn how to motivate, influence, and lead.

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5. Citizenship in the Community: Rotary makes one a better citizen. The average Rotary club consists of active citizens of any community.

6. Continuing Education: At Rotary, you learn about what is going on in your community, nation and world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers and a variety of timely topics.

7. Fun: Rotary is fun, a lot of fun. Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun. Serving others is fun.

8. Public Speaking Skills: Many individuals who join Rotary are afraid to speak in public. Rotary helps develop their confidence and public speaking abilities — each meeting can be a great opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.

9. Citizenship in the World: Every Rotarian wears a pin that says “Rotary International.” There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome — even encouraged — to attend any of the 46,000 clubs in over 200 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one’s own community and in the world community.

There you have it, nine reasons to join Rotary. Want to make it an even 10? Tell them they will get to spend quality time with you every Thursday!

Rotary Awards Funding to Labor of Love

Our Community Needs Committee recently awarded grant funding to Labor of Love.

Labor of Love MidMichigan was founded in 2012 with the design to walk alongside pregnancy and birth for those who do not have support during the birth of their baby. The group’s desire is for all growing families to be supported at their birth. Sometimes, Labor of Love is able to serve families that have support for the birth, but desire to have additional support and are willing to be a training model for an aspiring doula.

To learn more about Labor of Love, please visit <https://www.lolmm.org/>



Rotary to Help May 18 Midland Blooms

Our club will be participating in the May 18 Midland Blooms, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Thanks to Rotarian Carlos Uribe for organizing our volunteer efforts. Organized by the Midland Business Alliance, Midland Blooms is an annual beautification project that typically brings over 500 community residents and businesses together for a one-day volunteer service project planting flowers on Midland's Eastman Avenue corridor. The following is a throwback to prior years our Club has participated in Midland Blooms!

— Throwback Photos —



Top left, Velasquez Family, 2018. Top middle, Robert Iwamasa, 2017. Top and middle right, 2017 planters. Middle left, 2022 group. Lower right, 2017 group. Lower left, Myron Greene, 2019.



Focus on Mental Health and Inclusion



Sharon Mortensen

Discussing the Importance of Storytelling

Our Rotary district conference featured a skilled storyteller, Phil Eich. Phil talked about connection and storytelling as the keynote speaker at Saturday's dinner. As Rotarians, we want to build an atmosphere of trust and connection in our clubs. Storytelling can help us do so.

This year we've been exploring topics that help with inclusion and mental health. Storytelling positively impacts mental wellbeing and belonging. Storytelling allows us to share a part of ourselves with others. Stories can

generate empathy, build trust, and establish common ground with others. Storytelling enables us to foster deeper and more meaningful relationships with those around us.

There is a Native American proverb that speaks to the value of storytelling, "Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." Stories stay with us and help to connect us with one another.

As Phil explored connection, he shared that consistency creates cohesion. Consistently sharing our stories and listening to one another builds strong relationships. Storytelling helps us develop empathy as we see the world through the eyes of others. Developing empathy is crucial for establishing relationships and behaving compassionately.

The Psychology Today website states, "some surveys indicate that empathy is on the decline in the United States and elsewhere, findings that motivate parents, schools, and communities to support programs that help people of all ages enhance and maintain their ability to walk in each other's shoes."

One way we hear one another's stories and enhance our ability to walk in each other's shoes in Rotary is through classification speeches. Getting to know more about our fellow Rotarians' stories can help to build cohesion in our clubs. In his speech, Phil defined storytelling as any intentional interaction motivated by a desire to be known or know someone better. Classification talks fit this definition. For those who have been members a long time, could you invite them to share a short update about themselves with the group?

Ideas to build storytelling into our meetings could be as simple as posing a question that people discuss briefly at their tables. Phil shared a few tips to help us when we listen to the stories of others. (1) Be open. (2) Be curious. (3) Be listening.

As we work to build a welcoming atmosphere that promotes wellbeing in our clubs, let's look for ways that we can invite and listen to the stories of others and can, in turn, share our stories with our fellow Rotarians.



Pictured from left, Dallas Rau, J.D. Brooks, Tim Dyste, Saralyn Temple (Open Door), Melissa Barnard, Jim Nigro, and Tawny Ryan Nelb.

Rotary Foundation Honors Tim Dyste

*By Tawny Ryan Nelb
President, Midland Rotary Foundation*

Midland Rotary Foundation this year, the Rotary Foundation Board presented an unsolicited award of \$500 to Open Door, a group long supported by Tim and on whose board he serves. Saralyn Temple, Executive Director of the Open Door, accepted the check, and we appreciated her coming to help honor Tim in this way.

Happily, Tim remains on the Foundation Board. His unsung work has not only guided funding to numerous nonprofits over the years, but he also led the effort to begin the renewal of Grove Park as part of our Club's 100th anniversary celebrations.

Jim Nigro, one of our board members, commented on Tim's even-keeled temperament, calling him "Mr. Steady Eddy." He continued, "his calm and mild manner has made him extremely effective at getting things done, and he has offered outstanding leadership."

The Rotary Foundation Board is grateful to Tim for the difference he has made in the lives of so many.



Tim Dyste and Saralyn Temple. Photos courtesy of Amy Jaster.

GREAT LAKES

Loons

Admission
\$27
/person



ROTARY AT THE LOONS! DISTRICT 6310

Details

- Rotary District 6310 is inviting all mid-Michigan Rotary clubs to join them for an amazing night of Loons Baseball under the Northern Lights Pavilion
- Includes buffet and soft drinks
- Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 7:05pm

Location

Dow Diamond
825 E Main St
Midland, Michigan 48640

Register here

<https://fevo.me/24rotary>

RI President Calls for Empathy, Peace

“These are times that cry out for peace. The Middle East is in its most volatile condition in years. The war in Ukraine is the largest in Europe since World War II, and there are armed conflicts in Sudan and parts of Central Africa. Nearly every continent is experiencing a major armed conflict.

Rotary has a vital role to play in advancing the cause of peace....It’s the spirit found in our vision statement: Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

It is in times of crisis and despair that we need empathy most of all. Empathy is the most powerful tool of peace; and it is vital if we are to take the first brave, humble steps to Create Hope in the World.”

— R. Gordon R. McNally, President, Rotary International

MAY IS



**YOUTH
SERVICE
MONTH**

“We cannot talk about the future without talking about children. They are our future.” - PRIP James L. Lacy 1998-99



www.rotary.org