

Midland Rotary News



President's Message

Dear fellow Rotarians,

During this time of year, the sentiments experienced by individuals can vary greatly. Some may find it to be a joyous and hopeful season, for others, it can be challenging, as they may be missing loved ones or have faced personal hardships. In light of this, I hope that each of you can find a sense of peace and solace.

I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season. It has been my absolute privilege and honor to collaborate with each and every one of you in our shared Rotary service this year.

Yours in Rotary,

Angela Cole
2023-2024 President



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PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

- JENNIFER WEST +1
- LARRY WASHINGTON +1
- REVA CURRY +3
- MATT LAMING
- JON LYNCH +1
- TAWNY NELB +3
- CHRISTIAN VELASQUEZ +2
- JENEE VELASQUEZ +3

IMPORTANT ROTARY/LINKS

Facebook facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/

X twitter.com/MidNoonRotary

Instagram: instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/

Logos/Rotary Global

Rewards:

<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

ClubRunner Login:

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

Jen Acosta 12/6
katey Brown 12/8
Angela Cole 12/12
Stacey Gannon 12/21
Caleb Hortop 12/20
Karl Kamena 12/1
Jesse Lillard 12/6

December Birthdays

Tom McArdle 12/8
Holly Miller 12/11
Tina Queary 12/20
Jeff Rekeweg 12/13
Kristin Stehouwer 12/28
jenee Velasquez 12/20
Shawn Weiss 12/2
Bev Wenzel 12/5
Paul White 12/12
Scott Withrow 12/1

Rotary Midland 

Midland Noon Rotary Club

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dec. 7

Annual Business Meeting

Dec. 14

White Christmas Cast

Dec. 21

Holiday program — Monarch Academy

Dec. 28

No Meeting; Volunteer Opportunity at Bridge Store

Jan. 4

Classification — Jen West

Jan. 11

Classification - Dr. Dale Davis

Jan. 18

Classification — Jeff DeHaven

Jan. 24

Classification — Bob Brentin

Feb. 1

Classification — Eric Fridline

Feb. 8

Paul White

Feb. 15

Toni and Trish House

Feb. 22

Youth Peacebuilding in South Sudan

Feb. 29

Pancake Supper/No Lunch Meeting

March 7

Holy Cross - Carly Lillard



Thank you, Kellie Bos!

A heartfelt shout out to Kellie Bos, the exceptional Treasurer of the Midland Noon Rotary Club! Your dedication and passion for service truly set you apart. It's evident that you go above and beyond, putting in countless hours to ensure our club's financials are in order and bills are promptly paid. But your impact doesn't stop there!

You're not just a numbers wizard; you're also one of the first to roll up your sleeves and lend a helping hand in service projects like Riverdays, Pie for Polio, Pancake Supper, and Grove Park Clean Up.

Your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment shine through in every task you undertake. Whether it's crunching numbers or getting your hands dirty for a good cause, you always give it your all.

Your genuine care for our community is truly inspiring. You consistently embody the Rotary spirit and show us what it means to be an exemplary member.

Your infectious enthusiasm and selflessness motivate others to follow in your footsteps.

Your witty reminders to pay our dues never fail to bring a smile to our faces, making a sometimes unpleasant task a bit more enjoyable.

Kellie, your dedication, skill, and energy are invaluable assets to our Rotary Club and the community we serve. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do to make our community and club a better place.

Thank you for being an extraordinary Treasurer and a shining example of service above self.

Birthday Boxes

In the spirit of giving, we wanted to highlight another organization who recently received funding through our Midland Rotary Foundation grant for “birthday boxes.” These boxes are given to foster children so they have a very special birthday complete with banners, toys and baked goodies! This project is a wonderful collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Midland County Juvenile Justice Center and the Midland County Foster Closet. We are so honored to help!



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



GET TO KNOW THIS
ROTARIAN
JIM GALL



ORIGINALLY FROM: Flint (Montrose) area and with the short exception in the late 1990's I've lived in Midland since 1985.

SPONSOR: Michelle Vannest

OCCUPATION: Owner/President at Right at Home - Northern Michigan.

CURRENTLY WATCHING: For All Man Kind, MSU sports (thankfully, football is almost over, lol!).

FUN FACT: I'm blessed to have been able to travel to a lot of different places around the world (and still do), I was a pretty good homebrewer back in the day, and chaired Midland's Walk to End Alzheimer's event the last six years.

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: I'm in a position with my business to have time to become more active in the greater Midland community and saw Rotary as great way to do that.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Community events and making new friends!



When you give back by connecting with your community you are creating hope in the world.

This is what Rotary does.



You can be a part of this. Contact us:
<https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org>





GET TO KNOW THIS
ROTARIAN
ANNA MERILLAT



**Midland
Rotary
Foundation
awards grants**

In the spirit of giving, we wanted to highlight two organizations who recently received funding through our Midland Rotary Foundation grant.

The Midland Rotary Foundation makes grants to benefit disadvantaged youth in Midland County. Priority is given to projects as ongoing operations is not typically funded.

Self Love Beauty received a grant to help with their 2024 Affirmation Day. Self Love Beauty works with helping young people with their confidence and success.

The Open Door also received a grant to help with a covered bike shelter to be built at the new women and children's facility. They plan to partner with the Greater Michigan Construction Academy for the build out.

The link to the grant application can be found here:
<https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org/grants-awards>



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

ORIGINALLY FROM: Sanford, MI - Born, raised, and lived here my whole life.

SPONSOR: Angela Cole

OCCUPATION: Self-employed

CURRENTLY READING: "Court of Thorns and Roses" series which is a MAJOR commitment!

FUN FACT: My family is four generations deep in Sanford businesses.

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: I became acquainted with Rotary when my youngest received a scholarship and really loved the energy of the meeting and thought it seemed like a positive thing to be involved in. I remembered that my good friend, Don Taylor, used to be a Rotarian - and I really enjoy Angela Cole - and she was at the meeting so I figured it would be a neat thing to be involved with.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Making some new friends, learning more about my community, and getting new opportunities to make a positive impact in the place I call home.



GET TO KNOW THIS
ROTARIAN
ADAM WITTBRODT



ORIGINALLY FROM: Midland, born and raised!

SPONSOR: Dallas Rau

OCCUPATION: Owner at Level Up Fitness and Training

CURRENTLY LISTENING TO: A podcast by Dr. Peter Attia, titled "The science of longevity".

FUN FACT: My wife, Amanda, and I were born 32 hours apart (I'm older). Also, I have four awesome bonus sons!

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: I absolutely love what the organization stands for - and does. My purpose in life is to help people, and by joining Rotary I am able to fulfill my purpose in another outlet.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: There are two aspects I am most looking forward to; The first is being part of an organization that has such a positive impact on the community. The second is the fellowship that comes with being around individuals who have the same mission, to positively impact those around us.



GET TO KNOW THIS
ROTARIAN
LORI CHRISTIANSEN



International Convention registration open now

Imagine walking into the world-renowned Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, surrounded by thousands of like-minded people of action from around the world, all gathered to inspire one another and create lasting change.

This is what you can expect from the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore, May 25-29.

Join us in discovering this Garden City while making meaningful connections with global changemakers, attending inspiring breakout sessions, and exchanging fresh ideas on service projects and international initiatives.

To secure your spot at this exceptional event, register and pay in full today before the discounted rate expires on Dec. 15, 2023.

Register online at <https://bit.ly/4a69ZvV>.

- The event website includes:
- Hotels and accommodations
 - Airfare discounts and transportation
 - Visa requirements
 - Host Organization Committee
 - A portal to relive memories from past conventions



ORIGINALLY FROM: I was born and raised in Saginaw. We moved to Gladwin half way through high school. As an adult I've lived in Oregon and Iowa for several years.

SPONSOR: Jim Nigro

OCCUPATION: Realtor at Century 21

CURRENTLY READING: I just finished up "The Lost Apothecary" and am re-reading "Organizing For The Creative Person".

FUN FACT: All three of my children are redheaded and left handed. My daughter is actually ambidextrous. We're not a fun group to invite for a day at the beach.

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: I have a love for a sense of community and working/volunteering where everyone benefits. I believe that we all have something of value to offer and when we work together and support each other, we become a stronger community.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Meeting new people in our community through rotary. I find that volunteering is a great way to meet others that I may or may not have crossed paths with otherwise.



GET TO KNOW THIS
ROTARIAN
PAIGE LAPEEN



ORIGINALLY FROM: Grayling, Michigan. I lived in Flint Township for 15 years where I met my husband. We moved to Midland in January of 2015 with our two children.

SPONSOR: Missie Freier

OCCUPATION: Assistant Vice President, Mortgage Lender at Mercantile Bank

CURRENTLY READING: High Trust Selling by Todd Duncan.

FUN FACT: I love Disney World. We plan trips over spring break and in November during their Christmas celebration.

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: I have a desire to actively contribute to my community.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: The opportunity to make a positive impact in my community through various service projects and initiatives. Contributing to these efforts alongside a dedicated, ethical, and passionate community truly resonates with me.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Sharon Mortensen

Celebrating the Holidays

The holiday season is a time of togetherness, celebration, and traditions for many. In a survey conducted in October 2023, U.S. consumers were asked if they were celebrating Christmas this year. The survey showed that 88% of the respondents stated they were going to celebrate Christmas in 2023. As part of that celebration, Americans will spend more money. Gallup's preliminary reading on the 2023 holiday retail season finds Americans predicting they will spend an average of \$923 on Christmas or other holiday gifts.

Christmas is widely celebrated in our culture and is the dominant holiday. How, though, do we keep this time of year joyous and inclusive for all including those who do not celebrate Christmas? In addition, how do we support those who may be struggling with mental wellbeing during this season?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness found that 64% of individuals living with a mental illness felt that their condition worsened during the holidays. Holiday-related stress is affecting all sectors. According to the American Psychiatric Association, 40% of healthcare workers and 37% of office/admin workers are anxious about working long hours during the holiday season. Nearly half of all retail/service employees report that their stress levels increase during the so-called happiest season of all.

Let's look at ways to address both inclusion and mental wellbeing. Here are some ideas to build greater inclusion during this season.

- Realize that not everyone celebrates or celebrates in the same way. Be open to learning.
- Food is an important part of any celebration and sends a strong message about inclusion. Make sure food is inclusive of the cultures and faiths among the group.
- If you have a party-planning committee, make sure it includes individuals with various backgrounds and religious beliefs.
- Until you know someone well enough to understand how and if they celebrate this time of year, use greetings that include all.

And for those who may be struggling with loneliness, sadness, or anxiety during this time of year, these tips may help.

- Reach out to those around you. Strengthening connections with others can build deeper relationships and a supportive network.
- Practice self-care, whether a walk outside, reading a book, engaging in a hobby, or learning something new.

See HOLIDAYS | Page 10

Rotarians do bell-ringing for Salvation Army





HOLIDAYS | From Page 7

- Have realistic expectations about the season. Movies often portray this time of year as somehow perfect.

As we think about building greater belonging, we can look for ways to welcome and include all voices and to support those who may be struggling during this time of the year.



DECEMBER IS



Photo by Joseph Tan Meng Joo, © Rotary Club of Alton, Region 11401, © Robert Chen

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, supporting studies to helping immunize people to improving drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure.



TAKE ACTION: Join a Project