

Midland Rotary News



President's Message

Happy February, Rotarians!

February is a month of transitions. The Super Bowl on February 12 marks the end of football season. In Major League Baseball, pitchers and catchers report for spring training on February 13.

These transitions get us looking forward to the surest sign of spring: March Madness. Bring on spring!

February is very special in the Rotary calendar because it includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, the date now designated as the World Understanding and Peace Day. Peace in this context is as local as it is global; it means we do our part to engage in reconciliation of broken families and relationships, and we consider how we can live in peace with our neighbors and their families.

In our club, February will include programs about Rotary International Foundation and Midland Rotary Foundation, Wellbeing, Kim Baczewski's Classification Talk, and will cap off with the best Thursday night of the Rotary year – the Pancake Supper.

As always, thank you for all you do to make our Club and our community great. See you soon!

Have a great month!

Jon Lauderbach



IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2...Upcoming meetings
- 2....What's new on social media?
- 3.....Pancake Supper preview
- r.....Nominate a Rotary Hero
- 4.....Member termination procedure
- 5-6....Diversity, equity and inclusion essay
- 7....Save the date for District Conference
- 7.....February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention month

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

Jim Bakeman
 Jeff DeHaven
 John Zimmerman (+1)
 Michael Goad
 Lee Smith (+4)
 Kristin Stehouwer (+9)



**IMAGINE
ROTARY** |

ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND LINKS

Facebook [www.facebook.com/
MidlandNoonRotaryClub/](http://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/)

Twitter <https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/
midlandminoonrotary/](http://www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/)

Official logos/Rotary Global Rewards:
<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb. 2 MRF and RI	March 2 Ajay Middha Classification	March 23 Stephen Persyn
Feb. 9 Wellbeing	March 9 Jennifer Grace Classification	March 30 Brad Blanchard Classification
Feb. 16 Kimberlee Baczewski	March 16 Missie Freier Classification	April 6 TBD
Feb. 23 Pancake Supper		April 13 Tony Stamas Classification

WHAT'S NEW ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

There are a lot of exciting features to follow on our social media pages, thanks to the hard work of Rotarian Amy Jaster.

In addition to regular meeting previews and recaps, Amy posts a number of weekly and monthly series, including Motivation Mondays. The most recent post reminds us a true Rotarian does not work for credit. We work for social impact.

Other series include monthly birthday shoutouts; features about how our Rotarians stay physically active; and Carlsen Horn spotlights.

Make sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for all of the above and more.

And if you have any content ideas, make sure to reach out to Amy Jaster at amjaster@gmail.com!



Club gears up for Pancake Supper

We are looking forward to our 43rd Annual Pancake Supper!

This is our club's largest fundraiser and all Rotarians are expected to attend from 2 to 8:30-9 p.m. on Feb. 23.

The actual event will take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the H.H. Dow High School Cafeteria. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, applesauce, butter and syrup, milk and coffee.

We will not be holding a regular meeting on this day and need all Rotarians to report to Dow High by 2 p.m.

To sign up for a volunteer assignment, visit <https://bit.ly/3Yc8RQB>

Assignments may be shifted depending on the actual number of volunteers and event needs. Please wear your Rotary T-shirt (or provide your size on the sign-up sheet if you do not have one yet). Rotary hats and disposable gloves will be provided and must be worn by anyone handling or working near the food.

Please consider engaging with our Facebook event and sharing it to help promote it within our community. The link to the Facebook event is <https://bit.ly/3WRMC1p>.

If you have questions about the pancake supper, please check with Mark Bone or Todd Gambrell, our Pancake Supper committee co-chairs.

Thank you all for making this a great event!

Nominate a Rotary Hero today!

What is a Rotary Hero? A Rotary Hero is someone who is a member of our Rotary club who is committed to making our community and the world a better place to live, work, and play. Some may even call them Superheroes...

Superheroes don't just exist in comic books and luckily we don't need to put on a cape to be effective. Each of us, through our own community, has the power to do good in the world and to make a difference in the lives of others.

If you would like to nominate someone to be a Rotary Hero, please email Missie Freier at missief@1ststate.bank.

Within the email, put the person's name and why you feel they would be a good candidate to be a Rotary Hero!



Pictured is Tawny Nelb, the 2022 Rotary Hero.

Committee pens member termination process

The Membership Committee recently approved a termination procedure.

Per the new process, when a Rotary member needs to terminate his/her membership, the member is asked to:

- Send an email (or letter) to the club president to notify her/him of your intention to leave the club. Copy your sponsor on the email (or send a copy of the letter to your sponsor).
- Send an email (or letter) to the membership chair(s) to notify her/him/them of your intention to leave the club.
- Consider donating your Paul Harris points in recognition of deserving Club members. The points must be donated to a member or members, not the club.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Loving our enemies

By Sharon Mortensen



February is the month when many celebrate Valentine's Day. Traditionally, Valentine's Day is when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. It is easy to love those who love us. How do we respond when someone does not show love but rather dislikes us?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. talked about this in his speech entitled *Loving Your Enemies*. He stated, "...others aren't going to like you because your skin is a little darker than theirs. So that some people aren't going to like you. They're going to dislike you, not because of something that you've done to them, but because of various jealous reactions and other reactions that are so prevalent in human nature."

When we think about diversity, equity and inclusion, it means leaning into conversations with those who may dislike us, not because of anything we've done but because of biases they may hold. Biases are prevalent in human nature.

The understanding and goodwill we can build through Rotary can allow us to better recognize and overcome those biases.

One of Rotary's causes is promoting peace. That may mean learning to love our enemies. The Rotary International website states that we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life.

The website goes on to say that Rotary creates environments of peace. Rotary has stepped into situations where groups have traditionally been enemies of one another. Creating environments of peace takes authentic conversations with those different from us.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. offered some further insights in his speech. He states, "There's another reason why you should love your enemies, and that is because hate distorts the personality of the hater. We usually think of what hate does for the individual hated or the individuals hated or the groups hated. But it is even more tragic, it is even more ruinous and injurious to the individual who hates. You just begin hating somebody, and you will begin to do irrational things. You can't see straight when you hate. You can't walk straight when you hate. You can't stand upright. Your vision is distorted. There is nothing more tragic than to see an individual whose heart is filled with hate."

[See DEI • Page 6](#)

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. The Rotary International website states we believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, 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. Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. 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.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Our 4 roles in promoting peace

Rotary and its members are:

Practitioners: Fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.

Educators: Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.

Mediators: Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

Source: Rotary International

DEI, continued...

We seem to come back time and again to the Rotary four-way test. Living that test does not leave room for hate. If it is the truth, if it is fair to all concerned, if it builds goodwill and better friendships and if it is beneficial to all concerned, there's no place for hate in that kind of living.

Dr. King summed this all up beautifully when he stated, "Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, 'Love your enemies.' It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. That's why Jesus says, 'Love your enemies.' Because if you hate your enemies, you have no way to redeem and to transform your enemies. But if you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. You just keep loving people and keep loving them, even though they're mistreating you. ... That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative."

As Valentine's Day is celebrated this year, let's look for ways to transform our communities by showing our love and care for those around us. As Rotarians, let's live out our value of peacebuilding by being inclusive of others.

Save the date! March 25 is district conference

The District Conference will be held this spring right here in Midland!

On March 25, this year's District Conference will be held at Dow Diamond. The keynote speaker will be Nicole Lynn Lewis, author of the book *Pregnant Girl* and founder of the non-profit, Generation Hope.

To register, visit <http://bit.ly/3HLsEkv>

FEBRUARY



“The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions.”
Thich Nhat Hanh



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Be a People of Action

