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### Rotary International's 2017 Convention

By Mary McCormick, Rotary Club of Milwaukee

Jerry Stepaniak and I recently had the pleasure of attending the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. For those of you have yet to attend a convention, this was five days full of workshops, plenary sessions and meeting and engaging with Rotarians from around the world. Some of the highlights:

First, the opening ceremony is always moving as students—with great pomp and circumstance—present the flags representing the 200 countries in Rotary.



Bill Gates

On day two, Bill Gates took the stage. Bill pledged the continued very generous support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation toward the eradication of polio. Beginning July 1st, the Gates Foundation will match Rotary's commitment to raise \$50 million a year over the next three years, two-to-one. That means another \$450 million will go to eradicating the disease by 2020. With this commitment, the two organizations will have together raised nearly \$1.6 billion to fight polio since 2007.

*"The vision of eradicating polio began with Rotary, and its support of that effort has been unwavering for more than 35 years," said Gates. "Rotary's commitment to raise \$150 million over the next three years to end polio forever is a testament to the compassion, generosity, and kindness of more than a million Rotarians around the world."*

And Bill Gates takes this commitment quite personally. He checks his email every day to see if there is a new case of polio reported around the world. At the time of the convention only five cases had been reported in 2017. However, in recent days there were 17 cases found in Syria at least four in Congo. In both countries, health officials are working with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to respond immediately to the outbreak.

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### On the Table Information: October 17th

*"On the Table offers a welcoming, accessible way for any and all people in our community to contribute their ideas and energy toward advancing a more vibrant and connected region."*

-Ellen Gilligan, President of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

You may have heard that on a single day this fall, people throughout the four-county region will gather in small groups to share a meal and engage in meaningful conversation about the individual and collective measures we can take to improve the quality of life in our community. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation has invited everyone to host or join a discussion as part of On the Table Greater Milwaukee – a unique opportunity to build relationships, generate ideas and ignite action for the benefit of our community and its future.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee will participate in a BIG way—we will open our lunch to selected individuals and organizations from throughout the community. We hope to have up to 100 guests. Lunch tables will include both Rotarians and visitors and an assigned facilitator will lead a conversation from 12:15 to 1:15. No podium speaker; everyone will have a chance to speak on October 17th at the tables.

We are still working on the logistics so more to follow.

Although we hope you will be at lunch on the 17th, you are also welcome to join or host other conversations. Perhaps you'd like to host a breakfast at your office or a dinner at your home? More information is available at [www.onthetableMKE.org](http://www.onthetableMKE.org). 



Rotarians JoAnne Anton, Mary McCormick, Janan Najeeb, and Griselda Aldrete gather with Greater Milwaukee Foundation leadership and fellow On the Table hosts.

## Live @ the Lakefront Ends on August 30th

Don't forget to join us for the tenth season of RCM's summer concert series, LIVE @ the Lakefront, held in the outdoor Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World. Concerts run from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm each Wednesday.

**August 2nd** - Los Ciegos del Barrio

**August 9th** - Mad Rocksteady

**August 16th** - Reverend Raven & the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys

**August 23rd** - VIVO

**August 30th** - Natty Nation

We would like to extend a big thank you to our 2017 sponsors! Our event sponsors include Park Bank, Beyond Vision/IB Milwaukee, Beauchamp Maleki Group, Laffey, Leitner & Goode LLC, and Fields Auto Group. Our season sponsors include Discovery World, Bartolotta's Events & Catering, and The Harbor House.

Discounted parking is available for \$8 in the Discovery World garage. Dock space is also available for boaters. All Rotarians and their friends, family, and guests are invited! For more information, go to [www.liveatthelakefront.com](http://www.liveatthelakefront.com). 🌀



*Milwaukee Rotary Amphitheater*

## Rotary International's 2017 Convention, *continued from page 1*

Nevertheless, my most memorable experience was one I did not expect. On the last day, I attended a session called "Hepatitis Zero: The World Eradication Project." Here I met Rotarians committed to identifying patients with viral hepatitis, guiding them and directing them to treatment as well as raising awareness of the disease to the general public.

I learned that more than a half a billion people worldwide have either hepatitis B or C and that viral hepatitis kills twice as many people as HIV/AIDS.

Most people do not know that they have the virus...but it can result in death. And it is 100% curable if diagnosed and treated. What are Rotarians doing about this?

A small group gathered for the first time at the Sao Paulo Convention in 2015. At this meeting in 2017, the committee leadership presented a strategy and business plan. And over the course of just 30 minutes, a dozen Rotarians from Africa and Asia stood up and described what their clubs had done since 2015 to address hepatitis issues in their communities.

I witnessed Rotarians learning about a problem and taking action to address it. Of course, there is much work yet to do but I saw the power and magic of Rotary.

The 2018 Convention will be held next June in Toronto. I hope you'll consider attending. 🌀



*Past President John Bernaden, Mary McCormick and Jerry Stepaniak at the Rotary Convention.*

## Welcome Future Milwaukee Leadership Fellow: Beau Sanders



Beau Sanders

For the last 13 years, RCM has offered a fellowship to a Future Milwaukee Leadership Program graduate. The fellowship is for a 3-year membership in the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, with the expectation that the fellow will participate as a full Rotary member – attending lunches, participating on committees, volunteering and continue as a Rotarian after the fellowship ends. The goal is to foster

an active relationship between Future Milwaukee and Rotary. We are excited to welcome our newest Future Milwaukee Leadership Fellow to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Beau Sanders.

Beau is an Associate at GRAEF, an engineering firm headquartered in Milwaukee. He has worked for the firm for 14 years and has managed projects across all markets including St. Augustine Preparatory Academy, Milwaukee Tool Expansion, and the 1433 Water St. Redevelopment. Beau has B.S. and M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Civil and Environmental Engineering and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He and his wife, Katie, live in Milwaukee with their three boys, Leo (10), Judah (8), and Graeme (5).

Welcome to the Club, Beau! 🌟

### SPEAKER *schedule*

**AUGUST 1st** - Public Policy Forum President **Rob Henken** will present his organization's recently-released report on the City of Milwaukee's revenue structure. The report – entitled *On the Money?* – finds sharp distinctions between Milwaukee and similar-sized cities when it comes to financing the workings of their city governments. That finding and a deeper review of four of Milwaukee's peers suggest that changes to the City's revenue structure should be considered to ensure better reliability, balance, and equity. Henken will present the Forum's modeling of different revenue frameworks and discuss what they would mean to taxpayers and City finances.

**AUGUST 8th** - **Dr. Nancy Zarse** is a licensed clinical psychologist and full professor in the Forensic Department at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She will present on the common elements of terrorism, suicide terrorism, and counterterrorism. The terror of terrorism lies in the unpredictable and uncontrollable gravity. She will discuss features of suicide terrorism and learn to differentiate suicide terrorism from suicide. **At the speakers request this program will not be recorded, so do your best to get here!**

**AUGUST 15th** - More information coming soon!

**AUGUST 22nd** - All great cities have a grand main avenue with distinctive art. Milwaukee now joins the ranks with its own urban avenue art experience. Sculpture Milwaukee features 22 breathtaking, massive and museum-quality sculptures. Join us to hear how **Steve Marcus**, CEO of The Marcus Corporation, brought this project to life, a project that springs from his passion to animate Milwaukee's exciting downtown.

**AUGUST 29th** - The Office of Violence Prevention for the City of Milwaukee provides strategic direction and oversight for City efforts to reduce risk of violence through linked strategies in partnership with government, non-profit, neighborhood, and faith organizations. **Reggie Moore**, director of the Office of Violence Prevention, will share strategies to reduce violence in Milwaukee.



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Throughout her 26-year career in business, Shontra has set her skills apart with world-class companies, including GE and JCI, and created the consulting business – MingoPowell LLC (2004 – 2007). Shontra further diversified her offer in governance leadership serving as the Chief Operating Officer for ASQ. Shontra serves on the board of directors for Golden Angels Investors, TEMPO Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. She is an advisor and board member of Urban Sports & Education of Wisconsin, founded by her husband Andre Powell. Shontra is an active member of the service sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha. Shontra has an Executive MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Business and a BBA in Finance from Loyola University of New Orleans.



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Jay Scott began his career in higher education administration serving at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse and University of Florida. He served as a trainer at the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change at the invitation of Coretta Scott King, as the Executive Director of the Fleck Foundation, and as the Executive Director of The Studios of Key West. He currently provides leadership for the RA Stevens Foundation and Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust. In addition to his work at the foundations he serves as Senior Development Officer for the University of Wisconsin La Crosse and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Philanthropy Network.

## Board Approves New Members

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed twelve new members—a Rotary record!

**Patricia Algiers**  
**Chemistry in Place**  
Architecture  
*Proposer: Mary McCormick*

**Danielle Bly**  
**We Energies**  
Public Utility  
*Proposer: Beth Heller*

**Kathy Clark**  
**Kathleen Clark & Associates**  
Consulting  
*Proposer: Beth Heller*

**Robert Gleeson**  
**MD 2 Leader**  
Coaching  
*Proposer: Mary McCormick*

**Gretchen Jameson**  
**Concordia University**  
Education  
*Proposer: JoAnne Anton*

**Janan Najeeb**  
**Milwaukee Muslim Coalition**  
Non-Profit  
*Proposer: Paul Mathews*

**Shontra Powell**  
Global Operations  
*Proposer: Mary McCormick*

**Jay Scott**  
**UW – La Crosse**  
Education  
*Proposer: Joel Brennan*

**Andrea Taxman**  
**1451 Renaissance Place**  
Venue Management  
*Proposer: JoAnne Anton*

**Andrew Warner**  
**Plymouth Church UCC**  
Religious Organization  
*Proposer: Ed Krishok*

**Sara Wilson**  
**Mayer | Wilson: Associates**  
Consulting  
*Proposer: Beth Heller*

**Dan Wycklendt**  
**FirstPathway Partners**  
Foreign Investments  
*Proposer: Josh Morby*



## **Pat Algiers**

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Through her company, Chemistry in Place – a WBE certified, design, branding and real estate firm, Patricia Algiers uses many disciplines to deliver client results. Her areas of expertise include visioning, interior design, real estate, placemaking, brand/market/communication strategy and project management. Passionate about giving back to her community, Pat serves on the board of directors for Seeds of Health, Inc. and the Shorewood Business Improvement District. She is also a member of Public Art Shorewood and she chaired the committee that was responsible for the Ghost Train project. Pat is also a WI licensed real estate broker.

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## **Tanya Atkinson**

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Tanya Atkinson is the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI), a state-wide healthcare organization established in Milwaukee in 1935. Tanya began serving at PPWI in 2004 as a community organizer, then field director, vice-president of public affairs and education, and chief external affairs officer. Previously, Tanya served as the Milwaukee director for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, legislative aide, social worker, professor, and touring comedian – keeping her day job. Tanya received her MSSW at UW Madison and BS at Carroll University. She is board chair for Diverse and Resilient. Tanya lives in Shorewood with her wife Laurie, a registered nurse, and Finley the wonder dog.

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## **Danielle Bly**

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Danielle was promoted Director Credit and Collections in July, 2015. She is responsible for the overall strategy and operations of credit and collections functions for We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, Minnesota Energy Resources and Michigan Gas Utilities. Danielle is a graduate of UW-Whitewater and serves on the board of directors of Danceworks and Professional Dimensions. Danielle is also a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy-Wisconsin chapter, the Milwaukee (WI) chapter of The Links and the Milwaukee chapter of Jack and Jill of America. In June of 2014 Danielle was recognized as a Woman of Influence-Community Supporter by the Milwaukee Business Journal.

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## **Gretchen Jameson**

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Gretchen Jameson has spent her career leading nonprofit organizations. Since 2001, Gretchen has held executive leadership roles with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (St. Louis, MO). She launched her own public relations consultancy, purePR in 2010. Gretchen joined Concordia University in 2014 as Sr. Vice President for Strategy and University Affairs. She remains active as a board member of the Wisconsin Technology Council (Madison, Wis.) and Lutheran Hour Ministries (St. Louis, Mo.), and enjoys being a troop leader with Girl Scouts of America. Gretchen, her husband Leon (a pastor at Hales Corners Lutheran Church), and their two young daughters reside in Muskego, WI.

## Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

*Join us at HKE MKE!*

Hike with us on Sunday, September 17th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm to benefit the Urban Ecology Center. The Urban Ecology Center is an environmental education organization with community centers in Riverside Park, Washington Park and in the Menomonee Valley. The Urban Ecology Center provides science education for over 60 urban schools, offers after school and summer programs for young scientists and naturalists, and works to ensure that public parks are safe, ecologically vibrant and accessible.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee is the title sponsor of their HKE MKE event. Beginning in Milwaukee's beautiful Riverside Park, you'll hike at your own pace through the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and along the East and West sides of the Milwaukee River. The 2.5 mile route is family-friendly and tailored to different abilities so everyone can participate.



*A great group of Rotarians (and pets) hiked through the Arboretum at HKE MKE 2016.*



*The Arboretum opened on September 28, 2013 to commemorate the Rotary Club of Milwaukee's 100th anniversary.*

Registration is free for all Rotarians and our goal is to get at least 50 Rotarians and guests out to hike. Please contact the Rotary office to register.

Rotary's sponsorship is provided by the funds of the RCM Community Trust. 



*Rotarian Beth Heller led a tour of the 3 Billion Year Walk, including nine cairns that are geologically significant over billions of years.*