

December 2015 - volume 102 - number 6

## RCM Earns Praise for Large Club Conference

By Liz K Euler

“Now I understand why you are keeping Milwaukee such a secret....you don't want others to invade such a beautiful community!”

This was just one of many comments by attendees of the Large Club Conference we hosted October 25th-27th at the Pfister. The executive directors and club leaders who joined us from large Rotary clubs all around North America raved about the people they met, places they visited and ideas they heard – and professed their desire to return to Milwaukee again.

The fun started at the airport, where RCM volunteers picked up attendees as they arrived and treated them to a tour of the scenic route to the Pfister. Transportation captains Jerry Stepaniak and Mike Graverson turned a travel chore into a delightful welcome.



Conference emcee Dan Vliet



Speaker Joe Cirincione

The theme this year was “Lead to Make a Difference” and we believe that attendees left Milwaukee inspired in new ways to make a difference in communities around the globe. President Dan emceed the conference with grace and humor, and the Pfister provided the perfect setting for leaders to engage with topics in keeping with Rotary International’s three primary goals:

- Support and strengthen clubs
- Focus and increase humanitarian service
- Enhance public image and awareness

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## Participate in the December Feeding America Food Drive

Rotary is pleased to support hunger relief in our community with a food drive benefitting Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. Bring nonperishable food items to our meetings on December 8th and December 15th to participate.



Members Mark Kannenberg, Pat Cronin, Mary McCormick and Paula Pennebaker at the November Done-in-a-Day food sorting event.

The most needed items include:

- Canned soup
- Peanut butter
- Canned meats
- Cereal
- Canned or dried fruit
- Macaroni & cheese
- Canned vegetables

We will learn more about the need and our impact at our December 15th meeting with a brief presentation from member Charles McLimans, Feeding America’s President & CEO.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin was founded in 1982 by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. Since then, it has expanded to serving 36 counties in eastern Wisconsin through partnership with 550+ agencies. Last year, Feeding America and its network helped 377,000 children, seniors and families facing hunger.

We have been strengthening ties with this important Rotary-founded organization through volunteer events and contributions from the RCM Community Trust, and this food drive is a great way to become involved with minimal effort! 🌟

## Large Club Conference *continued from page 1*

Presenters shared stories and started conversations on leadership, public relations, international projects, and more. We heard from national speakers:

- David Alexander of Rotary International on RI's brand
- Kellogg professor Harry Kraemer on values-based leadership
- Peter Drury of Independent Means, Inc on large-scale sustainable international projects
- Joe Cirincione of the Ploughshares Fund on the Iran nuclear deal

And we heard from our own members:

- Marketing committee members Tom Branigan, Dave Murphy and Bill Sheahan presented a case study of the committee's PR success around opening the Arboretum
- Past Presidents John Ridley and Jim Barry participated in a past presidents panel
- Margaret Crawford and Jon Dehlinger designed and led a leadership exercise
- Ian Abston gave a lively talk about millennials
- Doug Stahl and Mike Paddock introduced the group to our successful Global Grant projects in Guatemala

For the first time in the history of this annual conference, we incorporated social media into the mix. Attendees seized the chance to practice their skills and tagged their posts with #RotaryLCC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We saw over 100 tweets with the hashtag and attendees told us they are excited to keep practicing in the future as we all contribute to building Rotary's recognition online.

Throughout the conference, we brought attendees to some iconic Milwaukee locations and highlighted places connected to our club. Those arriving early on Saturday joined us for a reception and tours of the Grohmann Museum, personally led by member Eckhart Grohmann. Maja Jurisic and Beth Fetterley Heller provided tours of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Attendees took in spectacular views during dinners at the Pilot House at Discovery World and at the Harley-Davidson Museum.

Everyone's favorite event was a dinner hosted at the homes of three RCM members, with a different local menu and signature cocktail at each home! Special thanks are owed to Dan & Sue Vliet, Jim & Nora Barry, and Kristin Bergstrom & Lloyd Dickinson for opening their homes to us.



RCM members provided a warm welcome to attendees at Kristin Bergstrom and Lloyd Dickinson's home for the rotating dinner.

The conference was a rousing success, and we thank Past President Kathie Eilers and the entire committee for their work. The conference was paid for with registration fees and sponsorships—so a big thank you to our sponsors for their generous support:

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### **Silver**

Brewers Community Foundation • George & Julie Mosher

### **Program**

A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations

All Rotarians should be proud of the conference and their roles in creating a superior experience for our guests from around the United States and Canada. 🌐

*See more pictures from the Large Club Conference on page 3.*

# PHOTO gallery



Some conference attendees toured the Arboretum.



Rotary International Foundation Trustee Ray Klingensmith delivered remarks at the opening dinner at the Pilot House.



Doug Stahl presents on RCM's projects in Guatemala.



Nashville Rotarians discussed their "personal shields" drawn during the leadership exercise led by Margaret Crawford and Jon Dehlinger.



Dinner and tours of the Harley-Davidson Museum.

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RCM's Rotating Sponsors help ensure we have the resources to go beyond being a good club to being a great club. If you are interested in having your company's logo in front of our website visitors and captive Tuesday audience in 2016, contact the office today.

## Farewell from Liz

After six years as your Membership Services & Communications Manager, I am moving on from Rotary. My last day will be December 18th, and I look forward to closing out 2015 with you at our holiday luncheon on December 15th!



Pretty much the only photo of me at a Rotary event! With Rebecca Kiefer and Janet Protasiewicz at the October Networking Hour.

It has truly been a pleasure to get to know all of you, and I will miss greeting so many friends each Tuesday. I have learned so much about Milwaukee, the world, and the spirit of generosity in my time with Rotary. I'm proud that time included RCM's year-long centennial celebration, the opening of the Arboretum, winning the 2014 MANDI Award, and hosting the Large Club Conference – a pretty good run, wouldn't you say?

Thank you for your warmth, your wise counsel, and the laughs. Please keep in touch – Mary has my personal contact info and instructions to share it. We'll be introducing my replacement soon at a Rotary luncheon and I know you will give the "next Liz" the same warm welcome you gave me six years ago.

I won't be able to say "See you at Rotary!" much longer, but I hope to see you around Milwaukee! 🌻

## SPEAKER schedule

**DECEMBER 1st** - **Byron Franz** is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and has worked national security investigations for over 16 years. He currently serves as the Strategic Partnership Coordinator for the FBI's Milwaukee Division, where his job is to form partnerships with corporations, colleges, and universities to better protect intellectual property and trade secrets. Special Agent Franz has a B.A. in International Relations and Russian from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. He will speak to Rotary on cyber crime.

**DECEMBER 8th** - Violence begets violence. This is something we know intuitively... and we see it play out in our community every day. **Steve Walters**, Senior Producer of WisconsinEye, will interview three Milwaukee leaders who are taking action to mitigate the perpetuation of violence: **Kent Lovern**, Chief Deputy District Attorney; **Carmen Pitre**, Executive Director and founder of the Sojourner Peace Center; and **Tim Grove**, Chief Clinical Officer at SaintA, a national leader in Trauma Informed Care.

**DECEMBER 15th** - Join us for our annual holiday luncheon! Cash bar will open at 11:30 am for extra conviviality, and our program features a performance by the Milwaukee Rep Carolers.

There will be no Rotary luncheons **DECEMBER 22nd** or **DECEMBER 29th** due to the holidays.

# WELCOME new members



## **Patrick Ferry**

*Concordia University, Inc.  
President  
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Mequon, WI 53097  
patrick.ferry@cuw.edu  
(262) 243-4368*

The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry was elected the eighth President of Concordia University Wisconsin in July 1997. He began his faculty career at Concordia as an Assistant Professor of History in 1991. Dr. Ferry earned his Ph.D. in European History from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1996; his M.A. in history from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1989; his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, in 1987; and his B.A. from St. John's College, Winfield, KS, in 1981. Dr. Ferry is married to Tamara and they have five children - Peter, Hannah, Andrew, Rachel, and Stephen.



## **Roy Peterson**

*Concordia University  
Vice President of Advancement  
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Mequon, WI 53097  
roy.peterson@cuw.edu  
(262) 243-4533*

Rev. Dr. Roy Peterson serves within the administrative team at Concordia University Wisconsin as Vice President of Advancement. A lifelong resident of Wisconsin and alumnus of Concordia, Dr. Peterson began his business career in Milwaukee before launching a successful start-up company. Following the sale of the business his continued studies focused on higher education and service in the church and community. A past member of the Cedarburg-Grafton Rotary, he has also served on the board for the West Bend Chamber of Commerce and is active with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and other community groups.



## **Dennis Kois**

*Milwaukee Public Museum  
President & CEO  
800 W. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
kois@mpm.edu  
(414) 278-2746*

Dennis Kois joined the Milwaukee Public Museum as President and CEO in 2014. A Milwaukee native, Dennis returned to the area after twenty years in the art world. He previously served as the Assistant Chief Designer of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Chief Designer and Head of Publications and Digital Media of two of the Smithsonian museums, and most recently as Executive Director of Boston's deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. He also taught in the graduate program in Museum Studies at George Washington University. A Mequon resident, Dennis graduated from UWM (BA) and NYU (MA), and is married with three small children.



## **Keven Ringgold**

*WeycoGroup, Inc.  
Vice President of Design  
333 W. Estabrook Blvd.  
Glendale, WI 53212  
keven.ringgold@weycogroup.com  
(414) 908-1878*

Keven Ringgold is the Vice President of Design for Weyco Group Inc. He has been specializing in footwear design since 1995, designing and commercializing products in men's performance athletic, fashion dress, dress casual and casual footwear markets as well as in the protective sports equipment & apparel markets. Previously, Keven was the Sr. Lead Designer for Performance Running at NewBalance in Lawrence, MA. Keven co-founded two organizations: Ozaukee Lacrosse in 2009 and the Golden Eagle Elite lacrosse club – in partnership with the Marquette University Division I Lacrosse staff – in 2013. Keven and wife Stacy are both originally from Long Island, NY and currently live in Grafton with their two boys.

**Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:  
The Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum in Photos**

*Photos by Matt Flower*

