

Introducing the 2016-17 RCM President, Nancy Sennett

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee is pleased to announce that Nancy Sennett will be the RCM's 104th President, serving in 2016-2017.



Nancy Sennett

"I am humbled and honored to have been chosen to lead the Club. RCM is currently positioned to be an important catalyst for seizing new opportunities to help steer Milwaukee into a truly important global city. Whether through our weekly meetings with exceptional speakers who inform us so well about the challenges and opportunities for our region, our committees and their participants who are willing give their time, talent and treasure, or our general

'can do' attitude of club members, we are a special group that will impact Milwaukee's future. I look forward to working with each of you during this exciting time for our Club," said Nancy.

Nancy has been a Rotarian since 1997. She has served as the Chair of the Program Committee, on the Board of Directors, and on the Rotary Person of the Year and the Leadership Committees.

Nancy is a partner at law firm Foley & Lardner where she is a member of the Litigation Department. Her work includes commercial and financial matters with a focus on securities, tax, fiduciary, corporate, and licensing disputes. She has served the firm as a member of its Management Committee and as Managing Partner of its Milwaukee Office. She has been recognized by the Milwaukee Bar Association as its Lawyer of the Year, the Legal Aid Society for her pro bono work with the Equal Justice Medal, by Professional Dimensions with its Sacagawea Award, and by the UW-Madison with its annual Alumni Award. Nancy is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and UW-Madison.

Nancy is married to John, an investment adviser. They have three grown children, Amy, Laura and Andrew.

Nancy will succeed Dan Vliet as president, who will succeed John Bernaden as president on July 1, 2015. 🌐

Rotary Travelers Enhance Partnerships in Guatemala

By *Avi Lank*

One week before Milwaukee Rotarians listened to Mayor Barrett outline his future plans at their March 10 meeting, a delegation from the club was in the Guatemala highlands hobnobbing with Mayor Florencio Carrascoza about the future of his municipality, Joyabaj. RCM, in partnership with the Vista Hermosa Rotary Club in Guatemala City and Engineers without Borders (EWB), has developed a long-term relationship with Carrascoza. In the past year, a \$40,000 global grant has helped to build a water filtration system for the city, which the Rotarians had come from Milwaukee to inspect. But they were also there to help with construction of an elementary school in Chitom, a small community half way up a mountain about 20 minutes from Joyabaj via pickup truck, also under Carrascoza's jurisdiction.



Rotary travelers in Guatemala. See more photos from the trip on page 3.

During a visit from Milwaukee Rotarians last year, Carrascoza suggested building the school, which will serve a community of mostly Quiche Indians though the sixth grade. The Milwaukee club members responded by raising \$15,000 for the project, and the EWB student chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) added its talents. The results were plain to see, especially to Rotarians Avi Lank and Jerry Stepaniak, who had been in the 2014 trip, but also to the other members in the delegation -- Eric and Mary Isbister, Joan Kessler, Julilly Kohler, Kris Martinsek, Mary McCormick and Doug Stahl. Also in the Rotary delegation were Jessica Boling of Rotaract and Kris' friend Roger Kay.

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Rotaracters Socialize with District Youth Exchange Students

In February, the Rotaract Club of Milwaukee held their first “Social in the City” with District 6270 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) students.

RYE students from nine different countries living in Elkhorn, Oshkosh, Slinger, Kenosha, Ripon, Fond du Lac, Neenah, Mequon, and Sheboygan met up with Milwaukee Rotaract members at the Menomonee Valley branch of the Urban Ecology Center for an active morning of snowshoeing and interacting with resident reptiles. After working up a big appetite, the students convinced the “adult planners” that lunch at Culver’s was preferred to the original plan of a healthier lunch at Whole Foods -- it was also taken as a great indicator that the students were acclimating well to Wisconsin food favorites like cheese curds and custard.

After lunch, it was time for the “Skywaukee Tour,” a tour of Milwaukee via the skywalk system, provided by a very knowledgeable tour guide from Historic Milwaukee, Inc. Everyone enjoyed great views of the city while learning a lot about the early history of Milwaukee.

Before we knew it, it was time to say goodbye and send the students back to their respective host families. Hugs all around,

we promised to connect via Facebook and share pictures of our adventures together. Rotaract member Rahul Dubey said, “It was great to make a personal connection with the students; talking about their country and culture in a short span of time. In the end, it’s all about loving & admiring each other as human beings.”

The Rotaract Club of Milwaukee hopes to make the “Social in the City” with RYE students an annual event. 🌟



Rotaract members with RYE students

Rotary Travelers Enhance Partnerships in Guatemala *continued from page 1*

Stahl, an MSOE professor, led the group. He also coordinated work at Chitom by the EWB-MSOE student chapter, and 7 students from the school were there working there when the Rotarians arrived. The Milwaukeeans were greeted by warm hugs from the approximately 50 students who attend an existing windowless, tin-roofed school on the site, along with a luncheon prepared by their mothers. Then it was to work, wielding drill, pick axe, wheelbarrow and shovel and cutting wire to make rebar cages to reinforce concrete for the school, restroom building and septic system.

The Milwaukee and Vista Hermosa clubs, along with contributions from the Rotary Clubs of Wauwatosa, West Allis and Milwaukee North Shore are working on another Global Grant which will improve economic conditions for farmers in the small communities of Patio Bol and Saltire near Joyabaj. This project

will mobilize the EWB-MSOE and Marquette chapters to construct two foot bridges over the Rio Arco to provide better access to markets in the city of Joyabaj. Also included in the grant proposal is training in agricultural practices. Stahl and Rotarians from the Milwaukee and Vista Hermosa met with community leaders near the site of the Salitre bridge to finalize details of the agreement.

While the trip was centered around Rotary’s partnerships Joyabaj, members of the delegation were also able to develop their fellowship during long rides over often steep, unpaved, dirt, potholed mountain roads, as well as at a wonderful dinner the last night hosted by members of the Vista Hermosa club in the city of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage site. By the end of their time together, they were already discussing a third trip to Guatemala in 2016. 🌟

PHOTO gallery



Rotarians enjoyed a tour of the Mid-West Energy Research Consortium's Energy Innovation Center.

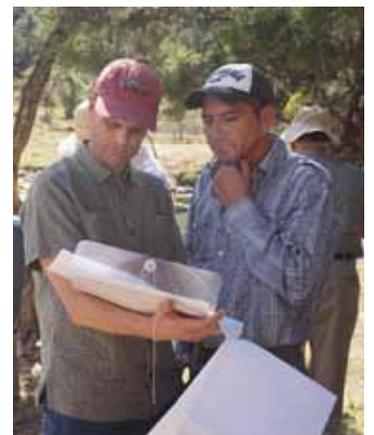


Kathleen Sebelius drew a near-capacity crowd at the joint luncheon hosted by Rotary and the Center for International Health

Rotarians in Guatemala



From left: the group visited the 2014 water filter project in Joyabaj; members of the Vista Hermosa Rotary Club hosted them in in Antigua; Julilly Kohler receives a local makeover.



Eric Isbister (left) helps dig a foundation for the new school in Chitom (right).

Doug Stahl (left) led the trip.



Dani Cortes

Third Year Student at Columbia College

Majoring in Documentary Filmmaking

Mentors: Tracy Sparrow and Bert Davis

Scholar Corner

Each month in the WAVES, get to know an RCM Scholar in the “Scholar Corner!”

WAVES: What surprised you most about your college experience?

Dani: What surprised me most about college is how open minded it makes you, even if you already considered yourself a pretty open minded person. You get to meet people from different places, be opened to new mindsets and ways of thinking, and you also get learn about so many new things.

WAVES: If you’ve landed on a career goal, tell us “what you want to be when you grow up” and why.

Dani: I do believe I have realized my career goal. I would love nothing more than to travel the world telling the stories of people who otherwise might never be heard. I want to continue my path towards social justice by not only following stories of injustices around the world, but also helping out my community in Milwaukee, my hometown. I want to tell stories that are greater than my own. I want to be a documentary filmmaker.

Dani’s mentor Tracey Sparrow says: Dani is a delightful, hard-working student who is serious about making an impact in her world. 🌍

SPEAKER schedule

APRIL 7th - Rotarian **John Franke**, Partner with Gass Weber Mullins, will speak on “The Price of Political Speech & Campaign Finance Regulation.” John will discuss current Wisconsin campaign finance law, its Constitutional uncertainties, and the difficulties we face in regulating spending in the political arena. John was appointed to the Government Accountability Board (GAB) in June of last year. The GAB is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Wisconsin’s Election and Campaign Finance laws.

APRIL 14th - Former Congressmen **Tom Petri** from Wisconsin’s 6th Congressional District and **Dave Obey** from Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District will speak to Rotary as part of their Civic Participation Lecture Series. The congressmen will speak on advocacy without partisanship and the state of the current political landscape. This lecture series is supported by the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

APRIL 21st - **Stan Stojkovic**, Dean and Professor of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, will deliver a presentation on the topic of prisoner re-entry and the issues that must be addressed for it to be successful within communities. Professor Stojkovic will provide particular emphasis on the re-entry needs of returning offenders and how an effective re-entry program can be initiated and maintained. His presentation will conclude with the major obstacles facing communities when starting a re-entry program.

APRIL 28th - Internationally renowned scholar and MacArthur Memorial Museum Archivist **James Zobel** will present the stories of three generations of MacArthurs in Milwaukee. Arthur MacArthur was elected Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin and later served as a Circuit Court Judge and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. His son, Arthur Jr., led the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, and won the Medal of Honor for bravery at the Battle of Missionary Ridge. His son Douglas, also a Medal of Honor recipient, led American forces in WWI, WWII and Korea.

WELCOME new members



Darienne Driver

*Milwaukee Public Schools
Superintendent
5225 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
driverdb@milwaukee.k12.wi.us
(414) 475-8002*

Dr. Darienne Driver was appointed Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools in October. Darienne joined MPS in 2012 as the district's first Chief Innovation Officer. Prior to joining MPS, Darienne served in leadership positions for school districts in Philadelphia and Clayton County (GA). She began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. Darienne holds a doctorate from Harvard University in Urban Superintendency, master's degrees from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and the University of Michigan, and an undergraduate degree from Spelman College.



Charles McLimans

*Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
President/CEO
1700 W. Fond du Lac Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53205
cmclimans@feedingamerica.org
(414) 831-6302*

Charles McLimans is President/CEO of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, the largest hunger relief organization in Wisconsin, serving 36 counties. Charles previously served as President/CEO of Loaves & Fishes Community Services in Naperville, Illinois, where he was a member and officer of the Rotary Club of Naperville. During his time there he transformed Loaves & Fishes into one of the leading safety-net organizations in metropolitan Chicago. He previously served as Executive Director of a family foundation in New York. Charles grew up on a dairy farm in Grant County, is an avid Packers fan and happy to be back in Wisconsin.



Mark Mone

*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Chancellor
10 E. Hartford Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211-3165
mone@uwm.edu
(414) 229-4331*

Dr. Mark Mone was named UWM's ninth Chancellor in December. Mark has been with UWM since 1989, serving for more than 15 years as the Associate Dean for Executive Education & Business Engagement. Prior to UWM, Mark taught at Washington State University and at HotelConsult in Le Bouveret, Switzerland, and spent over 10 years in management in the hospitality and food service industry. He holds degrees from Central Washington University, Idaho State, and Washington State. He and wife Dr. Sara Swanson have two college-aged children, Eric and Emily, and a dog, Max. Mark is an avid cyclist, athlete and gourmet cook.



Thomas Reynolds

*Hansen Reynolds Dickinson Crueger
Managing Partner
316 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
treynolds@hrdclaw.com
(414) 273-8470*

Toby Reynolds is a founding member and managing partner of Hansen Reynolds Dickinson Crueger LLC. Toby litigates patent cases throughout the U.S. Before founding HRDC, he was an equity partner with a large Milwaukee law firm. He combines his legal training and engineering background to serve Fortune 500 companies in all areas of industry, including industrial machinery, electronic systems and biomechanical devices. Toby holds an Sc.B. in mechanical engineering from Brown University and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He lives on the east side and is a trustee for the Historic Water Tower Neighborhood.

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed three new members and expressed thanks to the proposers:

Jacquín Davidson BizStarts

Consulting - Entrepreneurship
Proposer: Joe Miotke

Hulyñ Farr

Louisville Downtown Partnership
Consulting - Economic Development
Proposer: Chris Muellenbach

Jon Scholz

Gilbane Building Company
Construction
Proposer: Jean Casey

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust: YWCA Transitional Jobs Program

By Paula Penebaker, Rotarian and Executive Director of the YWCA

Just a few months ago, RCM announced the creation of the new Inclusion, Racial Equity and Jobs Committee, formed by Rotarians with a common interest in leveraging Rotary resources and influence to better connect residents to meaningful employment. The first initiative of this committee was to recommend RCM's participation a project developed by the YWCA to assist community members with criminal histories in finding stable jobs.

The YWCA was among seven agencies in the country to receive a grant from the US Department of Labor to operate a transitional jobs (TJ) demonstration project, the Supporting Families through Work (SFTW): Enhanced Transitional Jobs Project in 2011. A four-year grant, the project ends on June 30, 2015.

The purpose of a TJ is to give a person with a spotty work record and other barriers to employment, i.e. contact with the criminal justice system, an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to meet an employer's expectations of good performance. For the SFTW project, the YWCA recruited 1000 individuals: 500 for the program group and 500 for a control group. The program group members were non-custodial parents who were offered the enhancement of establishing child support agreements or addressing arrearages. They were paid an hourly wage—the program paid wages—up to \$10 per hour with a portion being directed to Child Support for up to four months, the length of the TJ placement.

One of the companies where the YWCA placed TJs was Quad Graphics in Sussex. Because their contact at Quad was so pleased with the quality of workers the YWCA provided during the project, he offered a matching grant of \$20,000 to recruit additional TJs specifically for Quad. Quad/Graphics agreed to provide TJ placements for up to 10 of our participants. They have agreed that those who successfully complete their subsidized work period will be offered a full time position with benefits. The RCM Community Trust contributed \$15,000 toward making the match.

Upon receipt of match funding, the YWCA began recruiting candidates for the Quad positions. Fifty men and women showed up for the recruitment event. Of those 50, 33 were interviewed for the positions; 18 were selected for the pre-employment drug test; 14 passed the test; 13 started work on March 9. Of the 13 who started work, two are women. These are excellent results.



Maurice, a participant of the YWCA program hired by Quad Graphics.

We will conduct (at minimum) weekly check-ins with the workers and Quad management to assess the TJs' performance and provide the committee with a full report on project outcomes, including the number of participants who receive permanent full-time employment. In addition, we will evaluate the factors that kept other participants from obtaining a full-time position. We will also track the referrals made for each participant that are designed to help them remain employed.

The YWCA hopes to develop and grow its own TJ employment program, one that is separate from programs that are subsidized by federal funds. The agency has strong staff that can identify and work with talented men and women who have the ability to be successful. They need only the support of staff who understand the barriers they face and can help them navigate the employment landscape to experience success. 🌟