

RCM to Host Annual Large Club Conference in October

By Liz Keuler

This October the Rotary Club of Milwaukee will be hosting the annual Large Club Conference, a gathering of the president-elects and executive directors of 60 large clubs across the country. This is our first time hosting the conference and a unique opportunity to show off the great work of our club – and the city of Milwaukee.



Rotary Large Club Conference

Milwaukee 2015 - 2016
Lead to make a difference

successes, and develop goals. Retired CEO of BaxterLabs Harry Kraemer, who spoke to our club this past April on values-based leadership, will provide the keynote address on Monday, and on Tuesday, we'll move our regular Rotary luncheon to the Pfister for a program by Joe Cirincione of the Ploughshares Fund.

We are also drawing on the expertise of our own members to help with dynamic programming, including a workshop and a case study presentation by our Marketing & Communications committee on their success with public relations outreach around the opening of the Arboretum.

Social events will include tours of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and Lakefront Brewery, along with evening events at the Pilot House at Discovery

The conference will be held Sunday, October 25th to Tuesday, October 27th at the Pfister Hotel. Attendees will gather to exchange ideas, share

Thank you Large Club Conference Sponsors

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Milwaukee Rotaract Club Celebrates Successful Year

On Thursday, July 16th, current and prospective Rotaract members gathered at Casablanca on Brady Street to celebrate a successful year and introduce the newly elected board.

Rotaract held 40 total activities in the past fiscal year, with many impressive speakers, meaningful volunteering events, and fun and dynamic socials. 2014-15 President Janine Kolbeck inducted five new members into the Club, bringing the total membership to 24 individuals. "We are extremely proud of the fact that membership has grown three-fold since this time last year. It's been a group effort, and our hard work is paying off," stated Janine.



Past Rotaract President Janine Kolbeck (right) with five new Rotaract members.

The newly elected board for the 2015-2016 fiscal year will be led by Laura Kisse, a familiar face at the Tuesday luncheons. Rotarians are always welcome and encouraged to attend Rotaract events, as well as talk about their business, philanthropic ventures, or other relevant topics at Rotaract's monthly speaker events. And on August 12th, join Rotaract and Rotary's Under 45 group at LIVE @ the Lakefront for a joint social!

For more information, please send an e-mail to rotaractmilwaukee@gmail.com. 

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Scholar Corner



Kelsey Wilkerson

5th year student at UW-Madison

Majoring in Marketing and
Textile & Apparel Design

Mentor: Eric Isbister

Each month in the WAVES, get to know an RCM Scholar in the “Scholar Corner!” This month’s featured student is pictured in one of his own creations.

WAVES: Tell us about one of your biggest challenges or greatest successes in your college career so far.

Kelsey: During the most challenging time of my college career, I transitioned from pursuing Mechanical Engineering to Textile & Fashion Design. I lost my annual summer internship at Rockwell Automation, Badger studentship for a year, 90% of scholarships and grants - but I created a plan to follow my desired dream of being a designer and entrepreneur and was reinstated at UW-Madison after a semester at Madison Area Technical College.

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

Kelsey: As a designer, I want to create brands of clothing and accessories that gives the consumer pride, joy, ambition and identity. Once I receive the status of a top designer, I want to utilize my platform and rally my customers to invest in education.

Welcome Future Milwaukee Leadership Fellows

For the last 11 years, RCM has offered a fellowship to a Future Milwaukee graduate, chosen by the Community Leadership and Development (CLD) committee. The fellowship is for a 2.5-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.

This year CLD conducted interviews with four very strong applicants and elected to offer two Fellowships. We welcome our new Future Milwaukee Fellows to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee.



Antonio Avery has been in education for over 25 years; specifically within the Milwaukee Public School District as a passionate and dedicated special education teacher. Antonio is currently the Director of Programs for Junior Achievement; he oversees programming for several school districts throughout the metro Milwaukee area supporting financial literacy, work readiness and

entrepreneurship. Antonio has been the recipient of numerous community service awards. He recently completed the Marquette University Future Leadership Program and is currently pursuing his graduate degree. Married with four children, Antonio is most proud of being their number one educator and role model!



Charles Alexander Birts’ fundraising work has opened doors for him and allowed him to advocate for making a difference in the lives of Milwaukee’s central city youth. He joined Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee in 2012 after stints working in the Parliament of South Africa and U.S. Senate. During the past 3 years, Charles has been very successful in helping to secure grant awards in government and private funding for the Clubs. Charles enjoys playing basketball at the Milwaukee Athletic Club and graduated from Marquette University in 2010. 🌟

PHOTO gallery



Construction has just been completed on the school in the Joyabaj, Guatemala suburb of Chitom, funded by donations from Rotary travelers and the RCM Community Trust.



The Mark Croft Band rocked LIVE @ the Lakefront in July.
Photo by Chris Winters



Rotarians enjoyed a presentation and tour at the recent GE Healthcare Tyrotarian event.



Past President Kathie Eilers presents now-Past President John Bernaden with the traditional plaque and gavel at the June 30th Toast.

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World – overlooking the Rotary wheel inlay at the Amphitheater – the Harley-Davidson Museum, and in the homes of our members.

We'd like to thank the members of our planning committee who have been working hard the last 18 months, along with our

generous sponsors. And as we get closer to the event, we'll need YOUR help to welcome our guests and provide an engaging, enriching conference experience. To volunteer to help with airport transportation, hospitality or other conference activities, please contact the office. ☎

Board Approves New Members

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

Dale Egan
American Appraisal Associates
Law Practice
Proposer: Brad Kalscheur

Barbara Haig
Haig/Jackson Communications, Inc.
Marketing Services
Proposer: John Bernaden

SPEAKER schedule

AUGUST 4th - You are surrounded by people whose daily decisions impact results you are counting on. On the flip side, many are counting on the decisions you make in business...and life. Breakthrough research into understanding how our "inner entrepreneur" works sheds light on how we make decisions in business environments - and it has very little to do with our personality traits! **Joe Abraham**, author and founder of BOSI Global, who has been featured twice on the TEDx stage, will present an insightful talk packed with real-life stories and case studies to lead you to a deeper understanding of your pre-wired tendencies in business - as well as a methodology of how to identify the entrepreneurial DNA of those surrounding you.

AUGUST 11th - Rotarian **Rob Henken** will present the Public Policy Forum's recent report on municipal marijuana policy. The report finds that few Milwaukeeans who are cited for first-time, small-scale marijuana possession spend time behind bars for failure to pay fines, though jail time for subsequent offenses is much more common. It also explores ways that other big cities

have changed their marijuana laws, which offer a range of potential options for local policymakers. Henken also will discuss the Forum's follow-up research, which is digging deeper into justice system data to provide greater insight into the impacts of Milwaukee's existing marijuana legal paradigm.

AUGUST 18th - TBD

AUGUST 25th - Dr. Howard Fuller is a nationally known civil rights activist, academic and relentless advocate for education reform. His career includes many years in both public service and the field of education. Dr. Fuller is a Distinguished Professor of Education, and Founder of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University. Dr. Fuller's long history and deep involvement in the pressing issues of race and income inequality that have continued to trouble Milwaukee give him a unique perspective on what the citizens of Milwaukee need to do to make a difference.

WELCOME new members



Jennifer Dirks

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Jen Dirks serves as President & CEO of TEMPO Milwaukee – an organization of approximately 300 professional women leaders who hold CEO, executive and leadership positions. She is a communications/public relations executive with 15+ years of corporate and agency experience within business-to-business and business-to-consumer markets. Her prior positions include stints at Clifton Gunderson, Zeppos & Associates, Bader Rutter and Nelson Schmidt. Her experience also includes an extensive background in television broadcasting. Jen serves on the Boards of Thrivent Financial and the Milwaukee Art Museum Friends of Art. A native of St. Charles, Illinois, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communications from Illinois State University.



Christopher Hamilton

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Chris Hamilton is a VP of Commercial Banking at US Bank. He takes a consultative approach with companies in an effort to offer creative and traditional financing options. He also acts as the primary point of contact for customers to other areas of the bank, including credit, treasury management, international, risk management, investment, and private banking. Chris received an MBA from Marquette University and an undergraduate degree from UW Stevens Point. He resides in Waukesha with his wife Laurie and his two sons Ethan (5) and Connor (2).



Johannah Karstedt

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Johannah Karstedt is a Senior Consultant and the Managing Director at G. Strategies, a Milwaukee-based firm that works with non-profits, policy makers, entrepreneurs and community projects to bring great ideas to life. She specializes in political and non-profit development programs. Her portfolio includes directing or advising fundraising programs of mayors, congressman, senators and non-profit campaigns. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating with bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Legal Studies and a minor in Women's Studies.



Magda Peck, ScD

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Dr. Magda Peck is a leader for the public's health, whose Milwaukee-based consulting group MP3 powers social innovation and leadership development for healthier communities. As Founding Dean of UWM's Zilber School of Public Health (2012-2015), she translated bold vision into solid foundations for Wisconsin's first school of public health. With masters and doctoral degrees from Harvard's School of Public Health, she founded CityMatCH, launched Nebraska's first College of Public Health, and co-created the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute. She is engaged in communities to promote women and children's health, and eliminate persistent inequalities in health, income and education in Milwaukee and beyond.



Scott Ramlow

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Scott Ramlow is a partner at Uihlein/Wilson Architects and has been with the firm since 1992. His work is focused on primary education, including both public and private schools; higher education, including Alverno College and the MSOE University; and corporate and light industrial projects, including Bostik Adhesives and Goodwill of Southeastern Wisconsin. His past service has included his local plan commission, church board of directors and coaching youth football. Scott and his wife Brenda have two children, Elena (19) and Sam (16). He is a curious US traveler, avid skier and novice golfer.

Member Contributions Grow the RCM Community Trust

Each month in this space we shine the spotlight on a particular program supported by the RCM Community Trust. But every so often, we like to tell the story of the Trust itself. Founded in 1968 with a transfer of \$12,248 from the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, today the RCM Community Trust is valued at over \$3,400,000—the growth exclusively from members or gifts made in honor of a member.

From modest beginnings, the Trust boasts eight endowed funds. Proof of our recent dynamic growth, each fund beyond the main fund was created in the last decade. Those who find financial calculations thrilling may be interested to know that annual distributions from each fund are 4.5% of the rolling three year average. Here are some quick facts:

Main Account

Current Value: \$2.3 million with annual distributions about \$100,000

Supports local charitable giving primarily through RCM Committees: Partners in Education, Reading Is Fundamental, Military Service Support, Environment & Ecology, Community Leadership Development, and Inclusion and Jobs. Members are encouraged to contribute \$50 with each dues statement. Memorial gifts are sometimes made for deceased members. Those who contribute \$1,000 are recognized as Harry Franke Fellows.



2014 UN Day speaker Joe Cirincione with Joan Robertson, wife of the late A.D. Robertson.

A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations

Current Value: \$272,500 with annual distributions available of \$12,000

Established by Robertson Family in 2005 to promote education about work the United Nations and the important relationship between Rotary and the UN. Some example gifts include: stipends

for Rotaract members to attend Rotary Day at the UN, funding of UN connected speakers at Rotary and in the community.

Philip Orth Family Fund

Current Value: \$320,000 with annual distributions available of \$13,000

Established in 2011 through the estate of Phil and Mariette Orth to support the local and international work of the club. Example gifts: Guatemala water system and pedestrian bridges—a collaboration with Engineers without Borders.

Gordon and Elizabeth Smith Scholarship Fund

Current Value: \$116,000

Established in 2012 by Tom and Genie Smith in honor of his parents. The first scholarship was awarded in 2013.

James I. Miller III Scholarship Fund

Current Value: \$27,000 (Cash value of life insurance policy)

Established in 2013 by Rotarian James Miller II in honor of his son. The first scholarship will be awarded once the value reaches \$50,000.

William Adams Scholarship Fund

Current Value: \$50,000

Created in 2013 by the family and friends of Bill Adams. The first scholarship was awarded in 2014.

RCM Scholarship Fund

Current Value: \$26,000

The first scholarship will be awarded when the value of the fund reaches \$50,000. (Note: Most of our scholarships are funded by the proceeds of the RCM Scholarship Golf Classic on an annual basis.)

Andrew Bell Charitable Trust

Current Value: \$300,000

Each June since 2006, the Trust has been the recipient of an annual gift from the estate of Rotarian Andrew Bell. Past Andrew Bell funds have funded the restoration of the Brown Street Academy Schoolyard and are currently committed to fulfill Rotary's \$100,000 pledge to the restoration of Johnsons Park. 🌟

