

Announcing RCM's 2015-16 President, Dan Vliet

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee is pleased to announce that Dan Vliet will be RCM's 103rd President, serving 2015 – 2016.

"RCM's second century is off to an impressive start. The Rotary Arboretum demonstrates what we can do for our community. As we move forward, we need to focus on the challenges and opportunities facing Milwaukee and our Club's role in the future of the City."



Dan Vliet, Rotary President 2015-16

Dan has been a Rotarian since 2002. He has served as the Chair of the Personnel Committee for 5 years and served on the Board of Directors 2009-2011.

Dan has practiced labor and employment law in Milwaukee since 1985. In 2010 he and a number of other lawyers established Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson & Vliet, a boutique labor and employment law firm. His practice is focused on labor relations, employment discrimination and other employment issues facing employers.

Dan is a graduate of Marquette University Law School, University of Wisconsin – Madison and Wheaton College.

Dan is married to Susan, a photographer, who has photographed many Club events. They have two children, one cat and one dog.

Dan will succeed John Bernaden as president, who takes over from Kathie Eilers on July 1st. 🌀

Rotarians Travel to Guatemala to See RCM's Impact First-Hand



By Avi Lank

On January 21 members of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee sat down to their weekly lunch and learned about the upcoming Winter Olympics. Mike Plant shared his experiences as a world-class speed skater and Olympic official. At the same time, about 2,000 miles away, seven fellow club members were having decidedly different experiences in Guatemala. Some were visiting the hospital in Joyabaj, a city of about 20,000, mostly Quiche Mayas, while others were tramping through the woods in the nearby valley of the Motagua River. The Rotarians were in Central America to look in on several projects funded by Rotary or with other connections to Wisconsin.



The Rotary travelers.

Photo courtesy of Mike Paddock. More trip photos can be found on page 3.

In Joyabaj, high in the Sierra de Chuacús mountains, the Milwaukee Rotarians were meeting with hospital administrators and members of the Vista Hermosa Rotary Club from Guatemala City. They discussed implementation of a public health program to take advantage of a new water purification project. The day before, the Milwaukeeans had inspected a prototype of that project, which included \$41,000 in Rotary funding, and

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found it to be working well. For that reason, it will be scaled up to provide potable water to the entire community. At the Motagua, the other members of the group were investigating a possible water source for the 550 families living in the nearby village of Boqueron, a project that involves Wisconsin members of Engineers Without Borders.

The Milwaukee delegation – Rotarians Dan Fetterley, Jim Ford, John Hein, Avi Lank, Leni Siker, Jerry Stepaniak, and their intrepid leader, Mike Paddock, as well as Jim's wife, Judy – spent 9 days and 8 nights in Guatemala, visiting water treatment plants, bridges, schools, a medical mission and a micro-hydroelectric project. They also built considerable fellowship during hours in a van bumping over pothole-filled dirt roads, often with grades and hairpins that would make an Olympic skier blanch.

The day after visiting the hospital and Motagua, the Rotarians traveled north to the city of Nebaj. It served as a base for a visit to Visiban, a 52-family village at about 9,100 feet where residents are building a water system. Support includes \$15,000 from

various Rotary sources, as well as help from the Engineers Without Borders chapter at UW-Milwaukee. Village men were busy digging trenches for the distributions system when the Milwaukee Rotarians arrived, but stopped to meet with the group and say how proud they were of the project.

Other highlights included visits to a Rotary-funded medical clinic in Oliveros, and a bridge in Nueva Providencia designed and built by Marquette University students.

Throughout their trip, the Rotarians noticed simple schools in many communities. Education is required through the sixth grade in Guatemala, with the central government providing teachers where localities build schools. In the Joyabaj suburb of Chitom, local officials asked the Rotarians for a \$15,000 donation to help build an elementary school for which the 72 families involved have already begun to raise funds. Members of the delegation believe such a donation would be money well spent. For more information about the school, please contact Avi Lank at avilank@gmail.com. ☺

RCM Honors Leaders Making a Difference

Periodically, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee honors "Leaders Making a Difference" – members of the club or community who go above and beyond in contributing to the work of the Club in our on-going efforts to Make a Difference.

Recently, the Club honored three Rotarians for their work through the award of Paul Harris Fellow points.



John Walker



John Thiel



Phil Vollrath

The Club honored John Walker for his leadership in support of the Johnsons Park Initiative over the last 5 years. John deserves much of the credit for the continued momentum of this community project, which includes the Brown Street Academy schoolyard, funded by the Andrew Bell Grant of the RCM Community

Trust. For his tireless work on behalf of the Brown Street Academy schoolyard and the Johnsons Park Initiative, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee has made John a Paul Harris Fellow +2.

The club honored Phil Vollrath and John Thiel for their work on the Marketing & Communications committee. Time and time again, they have offered their talents and the time of their firms, Vollrath Associates and Thiel Design, to help Rotary put its best face forward. Phil and John donated the writing and design of our 2008 and 2010 Club Reports – and you can look for the 2014 version this spring. Phil and John were also instrumental in the Marketing committee's efforts to help us celebrate our centennial and open the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. John's design work appeared on materials throughout our centennial year, including the banners at our Tuesday luncheons. Phil and his Vollrath team played a large part in garnering the outstanding media coverage for the Arboretum opening.

For their marketing leadership, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee has made John Thiel a Paul Harris Fellow and Phil Vollrath a Paul Harris Fellow +2. ☺

PHOTO gallery

Guatemala in Photos

In January, Dan Fetterley, Jim & Judy Ford, John Hein, Avi Lank, Leni Siker, Jerry Stepaniak, and their intrepid leader, Mike Paddock, spent 9 days and 8 nights in Guatemala, visiting projects supported by Rotary funds. Read about the trip on page 1 of this newsletter, or learn more about the current project in Joyabaj on page 6.

Clockwise from right: John Hein entertains local children; a bridge built by Engineers Without Borders; Leni Siker and the group's guide in traditional garb; children prepare for a special performance for the travelers; two views of the water filter system similar to the Joyabaj project described in greater detail on page 6.

Photos courtesy of Mike Paddock.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 1st, join Done-in-a-Day for the annual **Food Pack for Worldwide Hunger Relief** at Usinger's Warehouse, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Once again the cost of the meals will be covered by the Orth Fund, a fund within the RCM Community Trust.

Join us for the **March Networking Hour** on Thursday, March 6th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Transfer Pizzeria and Cafe.

Save the date for the **2014 Scholarship Golf Classic!** This year, the golf outing will be held on Monday, June 16th at Ozaukee Country Club. Help support the RCM Scholarship Program and have some fun at the same time.

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

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

James Burke

Johnson Controls

Manufacturing - Temperature Controls

Proposer: Dave Bishop

Brent Nistler

Nistler & Condon, s.c.

Law Practice

Proposer: Janet Protasiewicz

Susan Taylor

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Healthcare - Pediatric Anesthesiology

Proposer: Harry Drake

SPEAKER *schedule*

MARCH 4th - Dr. John Felmy, Chief Economist of the American Petroleum Institute, one of the nation's foremost experts on energy, the environment and economics, will discuss the effects of America's domestic energy policies on our nation's long-term economic prosperity. Separating fact from fiction, Dr. Felmy addresses what has been reported by the media in recent years and highlights the latest research and data as it relates to safely extracting, producing and using energy derived from domestic sources. His presentation will also highlight the unique role of Wisconsin in our nation's effort to become energy independent given the state's abundance of silica sand used in the hydraulic fracturing process in places like Texas and North Dakota, as well as our manufacturing companies.

MARCH 11th - Alan Borsuk has been following and writing about the education scene in Milwaukee and beyond for about 20 years. He was an education reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel until 2009. Since then, as senior fellow in law and public policy at Marquette Law School, he continues to write a Sunday column for the Journal Sentinel about education. In a conversation with **Dave Edwards**, General Manager of WUWM, Alan will share observations on the departure of MPS Superin-

tendent Gregory Thornton, the future of MPS, accountability for schools of all kinds in Milwaukee, the Common Core controversies, and anything else members want to discuss. He will even attempt to correctly define what a charter school is.

MARCH 18th - Rotarian Rob Henken, President of the Public Policy Forum, will present the second phase of the Forum's research on Milwaukee's cultural and entertainment assets. Phase II focuses on the distinct dedicated funding approaches employed by five metro areas to support their assets, and creates a series of models that show how those approaches hypothetically could be applied in Milwaukee County. In addition to describing the distinct funding approaches and sharing the results of the Forum's modeling, Henken will discuss the pros and cons of different revenue mechanisms and how they would impact the local tax burden in Milwaukee.

MARCH 25th - Michael Murphy, recently elected Common Council President following Willie Hines' resignation, will talk about the opportunities and challenges facing the Milwaukee Common Council.

WELCOME *new members*



Angela Damiani

NEWaukee
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Angela Damiani is the president of NEWaukee, a social architecture firm that activates Milwaukee's talent to increase the vibrancy and national perception of the city. She studied public relations at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and started her career in Athens, Greece as a journalist for the International Press Service. After completing two special country reports for Newsweek and Fortune Magazines, she moved to Milwaukee to launch a boutique public relations agency. Her work with NEWaukee began as a passion project that quickly transformed into a new startup venture as the membership base and the demand for new engaging programming grew exponentially.



Dave Edwards

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Dave Edwards, General Manager of WUWM Milwaukee Public Radio, is returning to the Rotary Club. He was away from the Club for 5 years while serving as Chair of the NPR Board of Directors and spent substantial time in Washington DC. He has managed WUWM since 1985. Under his leadership, the station has expanded its local programming efforts, community based fund raising and partnerships with many organizations in Southeastern Wisconsin. He continues to serve as a consultant to radio stations around the country. Dave says he will always be grateful to the late Harry Franke for introducing him to Rotary.



Dan Jennings

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Dan Jennings was commissioned as a Lieutenant in The Salvation Army in 1994, and served in many capacities prior to his current post as the Divisional Commander for Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, overseeing the business and ecumenical ministries. Dan met his wife Dorene at the University of Kansas. He is a graduate of The College for Officers Training, Olivet Nazarene University and attended Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City Missouri. The Jennings have two daughters, and two grandchildren. Dan enjoys wood working and making fountain pens.



Neil Hoffman

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Joining MIAD in 2007, Hoffman brought with him a 25-year track record of successfully leading and transforming institutions of higher learning. He is also an expert in accreditation, in which he continues to participate for the Higher Learning Commission. A lifelong advocate for arts education, Neil has been highly involved in the communities in which he has served. In Milwaukee, his many leadership positions include serving as a board member of the Creative Alliance of Milwaukee, a council member of MiKE, and a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee and its Quality of Life Committee and Economic Development Committee.

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

Global Grant Water Project in Joyabaj, Guatemala

At the Rotary meeting on February 11th, member Mike Paddock took the club on a tour of how our Rotary club is making a difference in Guatemala. Our club has a history of supporting projects in Guatemala – and in the last several years, has deepened its connections to Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and water projects in the Guatemala highlands. Most recently, Rotary International approved a Global Grant for a water project in Joyabaj, Guatemala that will improve water quality for approximately 25,000 people.

The total monetary cost of the project is \$41,000. Through the Orth Fund of the RCM Community Trust, RCM provided \$10,000, which was matched by the Kohler Family Foundation. Our Rotary district 6270 provided \$4,100. The North Shore Rotary, and the Vista Hermosa Rotary Club (our local partner) in Guatemala also made contributions, and the Rotary International Global Grant completed the funds needed with \$15,000. Joyabaj itself is providing the land and labor, worth \$12,000.

The project takes advantage of EWB's experience and connections in Joyabaj, a municipality in the highlands with a majority of indigenous Maya residents. Most are subsistence farmers with some income from selling excess farm produce; many men and women supplement their family's income with work on the sugar-cane plantations on Guatemala's southwest coast from December through May. The average income in the area is \$2/day.

The Joyabaj town water system uses mountain streams as the source for a system serving 25,000 residents. The water becomes highly contaminated by runoff during the rainy season, causing acute waterborne disease to rise during the period from May to late September. It is primarily the town's lower income residents who suffer because they cannot afford to buy bottled water during the rainy season, but the health risk is present in all town homes.

The Global Grant project will fund construction of a roughing filter on the water source pipeline to reduce sediment contamination and allow ordinary treatment to be effective. Water will pass through a bed of sand in a 60' x 20' concrete tank, leaving a layer

of contaminants and sediment behind. This design uses gravity and avoids the use of mechanical elements that would need replacing, such as a pump.



A water filter in the Guatemala highlands similar to the Joyabaj filter that Engineers Without Borders will begin constructing March 20th.

To continue working properly, the filter will need to be cleaned of the sediment layer daily – a process achieved through use of a “backwash” tank. Use of the backwash tank will reverse the process and push water up through the sand, removing sediment and directing it away for irrigation use.

Construction will begin March 20, 2014 and is scheduled to be completed by September. EWB will oversee construction by the municipal public works staff and will provide training in filter maintenance and trouble-shooting to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

Rotary International recently revamped the Global Grant process, and this project is one of the first to receive a grant under the new, stricter guidelines. Rotary is indebted to Mike Paddock and to Doug Stahl, both members of the professional chapter of EWB and of Rotary, for their work in shepherding the project through the Global Grant process.

A group of Rotarians traveled to Guatemala in January to visit Joyabaj and other Guatemalan communities with projects supported by Rotary. You can read more about their trip on page 1 of this newsletter. ☼