

SPOTLIGHT

Kristine Hinrichs

(Member since 2011)



Kris Hinrichs career centered on government. She served as the city manager of Thiensville and the Chief Court Administrator for the city of Milwaukee's municipal court. Now retired, her government experiences prepared her well for the spirit of adventure she and long-time partner John Rodee (retired CFO of Journey House) take with them whenever they travel.

Immediately after her retirement from the city, Kris did some management consulting, including managing the Peachtown program for the Greater Milwaukee Committee. Peachtown was a welcome-wagon of sorts for new teachers within the Milwaukee Public School system. Started in 2013, the aim of the program was to encourage teachers to continue in the field. Kris assembled several gifts from local organizations

and merchants designed to show how teachers were valued. Memberships to various museums, social activities, etc. were included in the Peachtown package.

Since retiring, though, travel has become a passion for the couple. Generally staying on the North American continent, they try to take two to three big trips a year. Recently they traveled to New York city, Alaska, northern California and Canada. In December, Kris and John head for Costa Rica. The adventure in travel for them is going to places they've never been before and doing it differently than most. For example, when they went to Alaska they took the road less traveled, eschewing the train or cruise, rather they drove throughout the state on their own.

Kris has many interests and fitness, particularly running, has been at the top of her list. For more than 30 years, Kris is an avid runner. She took it up after attending a wellness program in Eau Claire and decided running was her thing. Since she doesn't do anything half way, throughout her "running career," she has completed 102 marathons and ultra-marathons. She ran a 50K and participated in a 24-hour run. (The goal was to run as many miles as you could within a 24-hour period; Kris logged 84)

It was mentioned earlier that Kris doesn't do much half way, that includes a more recent interest in photography. About eight years ago she read about a project to take and share a photograph a

day on the internet. The aim is to show the world in a good light and share experiences. Kris was smitten and since then she has expanded her interest and become an excellent photographer. She now operates a small photography business offering her fine art photography, for sale online, at private in-home galleries and a few local arts and craft shows in the area. (You can view Kristin's work at <https://kristinehinrichs.smugmug.com/>. She's very proud the Racine Art Museum selected two of her photos for their biennial exhibition. Kris was one of 52 statewide photographers to be showcased.

She uses an Olympus Mirrorless Digital SLR; it's small enough to carry in her purse but the optics are as sharp as larger Nikons or Cannons.

Kris first joined the Mequon/Thiensville Rotary more than 30 years ago. She enjoys the camaraderie and services. She and John enjoy the connection of Rotary nationally. "A few weeks ago we were in a small town of 3,200 people in northern California, and I saw the Rotary logo on a trash bin for the town. Most places we travel to we'll see the Rotary logo. Rotarians make an impact on a community. It makes me happy to see; feel good and proud to be a Rotarian."



Editor's Note:

Next week this column will feature Patrick Fennelly, Senior Vice President, Portfolio Management Director, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. Rotary Spotlight is written by RCM Board Member (and its Sergeant at Arms) Barbara Velez.