

PEOPLE OF ACTION

James T. Barry, III

President, The Barry Company

(Member since 1994)



James T. Barry, III and family in Grindelwald, Switzerland

For more than 20 years, James T. Barry, III has served as President and CEO of The Barry Company. (President of this family-owned company isn't his only presidency, Jim served as President of our club in 2007-08 and his father James W. T. Barry served on the RCM BOD from 1941-46.)

The Barry Company has been a part of southeastern Wisconsin's landscape for close to 100 years.

The Barry Company helped shape the commercial real estate industry, conceiving the ideas for what are now some of Wisconsin's largest business

parks. Starting with the New Berlin Industrial Park, The Barry Company was responsible for the development of the Menomonee Falls Business Park, the Bishop's Woods Office Park and many other developments including the initiation of the city of Milwaukee Land Bank. The firm was started by Jim's grandfather in 1921 and during WWII he was part of the group assigned by the US government to find industrial buildings for the war effort. That launched the firm's concentration from residential to commercial real estate.

The Barry Company remains family-owned and family-run Jim's younger brothers, Kevin and David are also members of the company's management team. (Jim's sister is a school teacher in Milwaukee).

Like his grandfather and father before him, Jim is an active member of the community. He serves on the Board of the Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation, the Boys & Girls Club, the Wisconsin Policy Forum and this year will help lead the annual United Performing Arts Fund campaign.

Prior to joining the family business, Jim graduated from the University of Chicago Law School and clerked for the US Court of Appeals 9th Circuit and practiced general law for three years at Foley & Lardner, LLP. Jim graduated from Marquette University High School and attended Georgetown University before heading to Chicago to study law.

A civically responsible and successful businessman and lawyer, Jim is also a devoted husband and father. Jim and his wife, Nora, also a lawyer, are the parents of four children, Joan, 13, James IV (Jimmy) 11, Ellen, 9 and Danny, 7. All of the children attend St. Monica Catholic School where Nora is very active. Joan will attend Divine Savior Holy Angels High School in the fall. Nora has shepherded the family's love of music and each of the children play an instrument. Often, one or two of Jim's children accompany him to community and RCM events.

The family are avid skiers and members of the Heiliger Huegel Ski Club (German for Holy Hill) and take to the slopes in Grindelwald, Switzerland annually. Travel to the Adirondacks to visit Nora's parents and Naples, FL to visit Jim's dad add to the family's busy lives. The family also enjoy tennis and golf, although Jim will tell you he plays barely well enough to participate in the RCM Scholarship Golf Classic.

Jim remains active in RCM and is proud of what was accomplished during his tenure. "I was privileged to serve when the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum Project at the Riverside Park branch of the Urban Ecology Center was started, and it remains the Club's largest investment. The RCM Scholarship Committee was formed and it's wonderful to watch how its impact has grown. The membership continues to grow, and the level of engagement is expanding. I believe we are gaining a great wide cross section of the community. Everything I see is a positive trajectory for RCM."

This active Milwaukee native also sees a positive future for the city. "I think Milwaukee is on a roll. We have very significant projects completed; we're seeing a renaissance of the downtown neighborhood. More young people are returning to Milwaukee. The new Bucks Arena is doing very well and come 2020 we'll host our very first political convention. Our economic growth needs to rev up. We have racial challenges we must continue to mend. When I left Milwaukee to go to college, our city wasn't growing; now we are rebuilding in a very big way."



Editor's Note:

This year we will feature the popular Spotlight series bi-monthly, however, we have changed the title of the series to Rotary People of Action in keeping with Rotary International Foundation's marketing language. The week of April 26th we will profile RCM President-Elect Steve Chevalier. Rotary People of Action is written by RCM Board Member (and its Sargent at Arms) Barbara Velez.