



CONNECTING

REFLECTIONS ON 2019

As members of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, we are very proud of our strong history of **Connecting People and Resources for Common Good** and supporting projects that benefit the entire community. Projects such as the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum at the Urban Ecology Center – visited by more than 100,000 kids and grownups each year, and the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World – where every summer nearly 10,000 people enjoy the Live @ The Lakefront music series. And we’ve made strategic investments to restore Johnsons Park and the playground at Brown Street Academy.



Planting trees in the Rotary Centennial Arboretum

In 2019 we gathered for lunch with top notch speakers each week, enjoyed monthly Tyrotarian adventures and connected socially at the end of the day. Sadly, we mourned the loss of many dedicated Rotarians: By Foster, George Mosher, Past President Dan Switzer, Bob Haig, Jim Barry, Jr., Robert Spitzer, Art Wasserman and Henry Monaco.

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2020 RCM SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH

On January 4th, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee Scholarship Committee hosted its annual brunch at the Pfister Hotel. The event is an opportunity for all involved with the program to gather together and reflect on the importance of the RCM Scholarship Program.



Current and Alumni Scholars

Scholarship recipients in attendance (*pictured above*) were joined by their parents/guardians, mentors, the RCM Board of Directors, the RCM Scholarship Classic Golf Committee, and RCM Scholarship alumni. Together the group celebrated and shared experiences from the last semester.



Frank Lewis was the keynote speaker

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SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH (CONT'D)

They heard from Frank Lewis, a recent Master's in Social Work graduate of UW-Milwaukee and author of the just-published book, *Omari*. He offered insights on growing through challenging experiences.

Those in attendance were truly wowed by the scope and impact of the RCM Scholarship Program as it currently provides critical assistance to 25 students at 12 universities, most of whom are the first in their families to attend college. To get involved, please contact RCM Scholarship Committee Chairs Margaret Crawford or Jon Dehlinger.



Above: Alexis Edwards reports on her breakout group's discussion

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

January 7th - Rotarian John Franke

A Non-Partisan Guide to Impeachment

Is it possible to have a non-partisan discussion about impeachment? Former Circuit Court Judge John Franke believes the answer is "yes," and will ring in the New Year with a cheerful look at the ultimate check and balance given to us by our Constitution. The President cannot fire Congress; why is it that Congress has the power to send the President packing? In what ways is an impeachment quite different than a criminal proceeding? What should we expect of our elected representatives in what has been a highly partisan process? We will have a highly non-partisan discussion about the history and development of our impeachment procedures and consider why an impeachment need not so divide us.

January 14th - Sara Walker, Regional Director of Investments with BMO Wealth Management

Procrastinate and Flourish! This was a favorite saying of Former Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. Using his career as a reference point, we will discuss the changing role of global Central Banks and the expectations and limitations they face. This backdrop will create the foundation for an economic and capital markets

review and outlook. Consumer activity will be under the magnifying glass in an effort to separate noise from outcomes as we begin 2020. All of this is designed to help inform business decisions and personal investment decisions as well as answer any questions audience members may have.

January 21st - James Hedrick 3D Printing

James Hedrick, Co-Founder and CEO of Azul 3D, was recently named to the 2020 Forbes 30 under 30 in the Manufacturing and Industry category. He will talk about the surge of developments in 3D printing and what it means - tailored for a lay audience. This will be a joint program with the Kellogg and Harvard Business School alumni groups.

January 28th - Joel Brennan, Secretary, WI Dept. of Administration

WI Department of Administration Secretary Joel Brennan will discuss the first year of Governor Tony Evers' administration. In addition to highlighting the work from 2019, he will share insights from the January 22nd State of the State Address on what to expect for 2020.

THANK YOU PROPOSERS

Thank you to the following members who proposed one or more new members in 2019.

JoAnne Anton
Todd Bentley (2)
Kristin Bergstrom
Brett Blomme
Richie Burke
Leanne Buttke
Dave Carter
Steve Chevalier

Bill Coleman
Jordan Curnes
Ryan Daniels (2)
Lloyd Dickinson
Lilith Fowler
Tom Gale
Jeff Garretson
John Hein

Kristine Hinrichs (2)
George Hinton
Karen Hung
Matt Hunter
Kimberly Kane
Mary McCormick
Darren Miller
Maggey Oplinger

Paula Penebaker
Janet Protasiewicz (2)
Kate Raab
Jamie Reeve (2)
Jeffrey Remsik
Bill Rotter
Steve Ziembiec



Jamie Reeve, Richie Burke, new member Saj Thachenkary, and Toby Reynolds at the 2019 RCM Scholarship Golf Classic



Center: New member Jeff Smoller at our On the Table in Johnsons Park in October

RCM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

This year, the RCM Scholarship Committee has moved the application process online! This simplifies the process for students to submit their application.

The RCM Scholarship program is based on a holistic approach to serving students who have the motivation and drive to seek higher education. In addition to a financial award, scholarship recipients receive study skills coaching prior to enrollment as well as the support of a mentor throughout their scholarship experience.

RCM mentors give guidance, career and personal advice, and help in navigating the college experience. They are the program's greatest resource and are committed to building a supportive relationship with their scholars.

The amount of a financial aid is determined on an annual basis. Recent awards have ranged from \$2,500 and \$4,500 per academic year. With satisfactory academic achievement, scholarships may be renewed annually.

Applications for the RCM Scholarship are to be submitted electronically via the link on the Rotary website by March 1, 2020.

Applicants must:

- Have achieved a GPA that will qualify them for entry into an appropriate institution. (Rotary does not have specific requirements for academic achievement.)
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Live in the City of Milwaukee.
- Complete the application in full, include letter(s) of reference, and an original essay.

Do you know someone who might qualify for a Rotary Scholarship? Please share this information or contact the Rotary Club of Milwaukee office at 414.276.4425 or info@milwaukee Rotary.com with any questions.

REFLECTIONS ON 2019 (CONT'D)

Throughout the year, the club leveraged the resources of the **RCM Community Trust** and:

- Joined other community leaders to develop programming for MKE Urban Stables and prepare for an early 2020 opening.
- Awarded 25 scholarships. Raised over \$80,000 through the Scholarship Golf Classic.
- Learned that Mike and Christy Kellman included our scholarship program in their estate plan. Celebrated a \$50,000 increase in the Gordy and Elizabeth Smith Scholarship.
- Hosted five Serbian public officials to learn about best practices in waste water management.
- Completed our pledges of \$50,000 for the restoration of Milwaukee Soldiers Home and \$50,000 for the renovation of the Grand Theater—the new home for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.
- Committed \$50,000 to a major campus renovation at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.
- Planted 100 trees in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Sponsored HKE MKE—a community walk through the Arboretum.
- Sponsored a film, *Give Me Liberty*, at the Milwaukee Film Festival.
- Continued a strong partnership with Engineers without Borders. Saw the completion of a rural water system and grade school. A dozen Rotarians traveled to the highlands of Guatemala.
- Donated \$11,000 for hurricane relief in the Bahamas and over \$12,500 to eradicate polio.
- Distributed 10,000 books to students in 5 schools. Tutors worked with students at Brown Street Academy.
- Hosted an energized On the Table discussion in October at Johnsons Park.
- Cleaned up the Milwaukee River, rang bells for the Salvation Army and packed food at Feeding America.
- Provided financial support and volunteers for the McKey Christmas Club.
- Hosted 750 guests at our lunch meetings and welcomed 40 new members.
- Found new ways to tell the Rotary story including partnering with the BizTimes and GoGedders to grow distribution of our weekly program podcasts.



Rotarian Richie Burke interviews Joe Solmonese, CEO of the 2020 Democratic National Convention Committee at a Rotary lunch in August

How have we done all of this this? We mobilized our personal capital — our passions, our time, our influence — and our financial resources. We built important partnerships and collaborations across the community. We **Connected People and Resources for Common Good**. Thank you for all you have done.



The Reveling Rotarians at the Holiday Luncheon

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



WAYNE WIERTZEMA

Capri Senior Communities
Senior Vice President of
Development
20875 Crossroads Cir., Ste. 400
Waukesha, WI 53186
wwiertzema@
capricommunities.com
Phone (262) 289-2709

Wayne is the Senior Vice President of Development at Capri Senior Communities, and is responsible for the long-term development and growth of the senior community portfolio. Previously fulfilling roles with Wangard Partners and Piggly Wiggly Midwest, he has been involved in real estate development in Southeastern Wisconsin for many years. He grew up in the Milwaukee area and is a graduate of Concordia University with a degree in Management and Communication. He has served as a member of various Boards for local organizations and has been deeply involved in his church's leadership and growth. Wayne resides in Cedarburg with his wife, Kerri and daughter Megan.



PAUL HICKERSON

GE Healthcare
Head of Business Value
Optimization - US & Canada
9900 Innovation Dr.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
paul.hickerson@ge.com
Phone (414) 779-1101

Paul Hickerson is a twenty-year veteran of General Electric and currently serves as the Head of Business Value Optimization for US and Canada. Paul is a native of North Carolina and holds undergraduate degrees in Electrical Engineering and Physics, as well as a master's in Systems Engineering. Paul is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and currently serves on the Executive Board of its Milwaukee Alumni Chapter. He's a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He serves on the Board of Trustees for Rocketship Schools. Paul is also an Honorary Chair for the Milwaukee Fellowship Open, an annual fundraising event to support Milwaukee youth.



MATT MATSON

Strang Inc.
Senior VP of Business
Development & Marketing
W238 N1610 Busse Rd.
Ste. 102
Waukesha, WI 53188
mmatson@strang-inc.com
Phone (262) 875-6771

Matt currently is the Senior Vice President of Business Development & Marketing for Strang, Inc. Strang is a fully integrated, 85-year-old, architectural, engineering and interior design firm employing 65 professionals in their Waukesha and Madison offices. In addition to his position at Strang, Matt is an adjunct instructor at UW Milwaukee where he teaches an undergraduate course in entrepreneurship. Matt has been married to his wife Sue for 31 years. They have four grown children, Josiah, Benjamin, Rachel and Peter. Benjamin is currently serving as an infantry captain in the USMC and Rachel as a 1st Lt. combat rescue helicopter pilot in the USAF.



JAMES BURNETT

Kane Communications Group
Director of Strategic Public
Relations
250 E. Wisconsin Ave., Ste.
1200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
james@kanecommgroup.com
Phone (414) 635-7004

James Burnett is the Director of Public Relations for Kane Communications Group, an integrated business communications firm founded by long-time Rotarian Kimberly Kane. James counsels client executives on public messaging, thought leadership, and crisis communications. Before joining Kane, James held various communications leadership roles, including North American director of media strategy for Paris-based MSLGROUP. Previously, he was an award-winning journalist for 16 years, primarily for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Miami Herald, and Boston Globe. James lives in Fox Point with his wife, Jill, an early childhood educator, their children Max, 8, and Sophie, 5, and their black lab, Leo, 12.



MATTHEW TAUB

Mutual of America
Account Representative
10850 W. Park Pl. Ste. 520
Milwaukee, WI 53211
matthew.taub@
mutualofamerica.com
Phone (414) 359-1221

Matthew Taub is an account representative with Mutual of America, a retirement company providing 401(k), 403(b), SEP, and Simple IRA plans from a single office to businesses and non-profits nationwide. Matthew was born and raised in New York City and attended American University in Washington D.C. where he majored in political science. He went on to obtain a law degree from New York University. Matthew moved to Milwaukee in 2015. He and his wife Kalli have two young children, Zeke (22 months) and Golda (1 month) and live on the east side of Milwaukee.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE RCM COMMUNITY TRUST

RCM COMMUNITY TRUST SUPPORTS THE MKE URBAN STABLES

In 2017 the Rotary Club of Milwaukee joined other community leaders to develop the Lincoln Avenue Stables—now known as MKE Urban Stables to highlight its location in the heart of our city.



Interior construction progress

MKE Urban Stables offers a unique opportunity to achieve three goals at once – a much needed home for the Milwaukee Police Department Mounted Patrol, a center for trauma-informed equine assisted therapy in the City of Milwaukee, and a platform for police/community relations using horses as a citywide draw.

The Stables facility will house up to 12 Milwaukee Police Department Mounted Patrol horses and up to 12 equine assisted therapy horses.



Exterior construction progress

Construction of the Stables facility began in April 2019, with the Stables **anticipated to open in early 2020**, when the Mounted Patrol will take up residence in the Stables.

The **equine assisted therapy** program is planned to phase into full strength over a three-year period beginning in 2020, with an initial focus on trauma informed therapy for veterans and other community members.

The Milwaukee Police Department plans to use MKE Urban Stables as a focal point for community relations and outreach efforts. Anticipated programming includes: (1) service learning programs built around the care of horses, for high school students with an initial focus on students in the JROTC program at Hamilton High School, (2) experiential learning programs built around horses, horsemanship, and the civic role of law enforcement, for elementary and intermediate school students, and (3) learning and dialogue programs for youth and police to promote community healing.



Youth and police discuss Stables programming

QUICK FACTS

Location: Located on the southeast corner of First Street & Lincoln Avenue on four acres donated by the city. The Stable will enhance the community connection in the Harbor District neighborhood.

Project Cost: The current estimate of total construction costs for the Stables project is \$5.65 million, with \$5.5 million (97% of the total) secured to date, including our Club's \$250,000 pledge. Fundraising efforts are ongoing for the balance of construction costs.

Governance: MKE Urban Stables, Inc., a non-profit corporation, will oversee the equine assisted therapy program and, in cooperation with the Milwaukee Police Department, will run police/community relations programs from the Stables. The Board of Directors of MKE Urban Stables, Inc. includes four of our Club members, along with other Milwaukee business and community leaders.

Volunteer Opportunities: Rotarians will be able to find meaningful ways to contribute their time and their talents including nonprofit board membership, assisting with equine-assisted therapy programs, and co-facilitating youth programming with the MPD.