

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Janine Kolbeck

Marketing & Business Development

Engberg Anderson Architects

(Member since 2015)



Janine has been a person of action from birth. Born in Virginia the daughter of a Naval Submarine Captain and homemaker/dedicated Red Cross volunteer mother, she lived in Connecticut, Rhode Island, California and Nebraska before returning to Virginia for high school and college. After graduating from Virginia Tech, Janine's move to her father's home state of Wisconsin began when her oldest sister married and moved here. Soon the siblings migrated to Wisconsin and the parents rejoined the family after her father's retirement from the Navy and subsequent career with a defense contractor.

Since Janine was born with a degree of "wanderlust," it isn't surprising this involved Rotarian has been bitten by the travel bug. While earning her degree in Marketing, with a Global Business minor, Janine spent a year studying abroad in Italy at the CIMBA semester abroad program in Paderno del Grappa at the base of Mt. Grappa just outside of Venice. She took advantage of her location and traveled to most European countries. Her interest in travel went into high gear when gifted a trip to Mexico for her college graduation. Thus far she has visited nearly 15 countries, including Thailand, Cambodia and Kenya. She and three

friends hope to visit Greece this Fall and her future travel wish list includes Viet Nam, South America, the Philippines and more.

"There are more countries on my to-do list than not. Travel opens your eyes that there are many ways to live and so much out there we don't see on a regular basis."

Janine's professional trajectory has been equally varied. She has been a realtor and café/wine bar owner while honing her business development skills. She has worked for Goodwill Industries and Ewald Automotive Group. She loves her role at Engberg Anderson Architects as it embraces her creative marketing skills and relationship building talent.

She leads the business development at Engberg. The firms' varied specialties include multifamily housing and libraries as well as expertise in interior design and corporate and culture projects.

"Engberg Anderson is very fortunate that during these uncertain times, everyone is set up with in-home offices so the transition to at-home productivity has been relatively seamless. During the stay-at-home confines, the construction industry was deemed essential, so we continue to plug away."

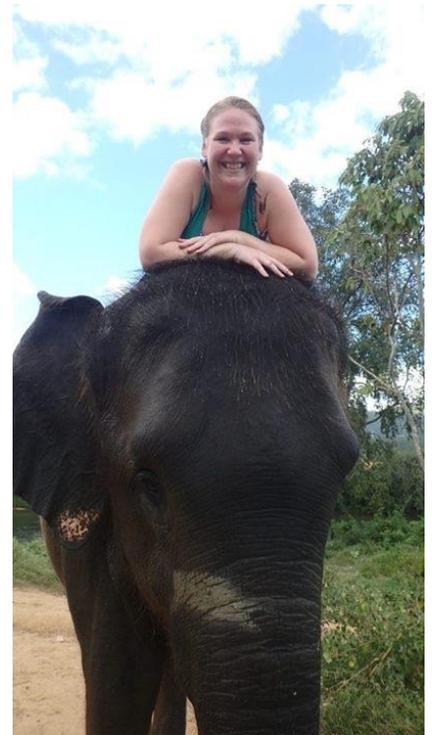
In addition to travel, this multi-layered young woman is also studying French and paints for relaxation and a form of expression. Her art is as diverse as her interests, currently she is working on a large cloudscape and a portrait of an elephant!

Janine serves as president of Artists Working in Education (AWE). This nonprofit organization provides programming to help young artists in Milwaukee and she is also helping to lead the McKay Christmas Club and will assume the chair in 2021.

Janine's Rotary roots run deep. Her father was president of a Rotary club in Virginia and Janine is the first Milwaukee Rotaract member to become a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Milwaukee.

She traveled to Ecuador with Rotaract and Guatemala as a Rotarian. She serves on the District Board and is co-chair of the Rotary International Polio Appeal.

"I've seen the Rotary force of impact globally and locally. I view Rotarians as good people who want to make the world better. We have a wonderful network of Milwaukee leaders in RCM and my career has benefited because I've been able to tap fellow Rotarians for professional resources. I've made lasting friendships through my membership as well."



Editor's Note: We feature the popular Rotary People of Action series bi-monthly. The week of May 22 will profile Karen Hung. Rotary People of Action is written by RCM Board Member (and its Sargent at Arms) Barbara Velez.

