

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Patricia (Pat) Algiers

President, Chemistry in Place

algiers@chemistryinplace.net

(Member since 2018)



Pat Algiers' late father had an adage that served as an informing principle throughout her life. Dr. James Algiers, who embodied service above self, told his children, "Life is an equation. What you are given is on one side and what you give is on the other."

Pat learned from an early age the moral value of keeping that equation balanced.

"My father instilled the importance of community service in us, and that's why Rotary was very appealing to me," Pat said. She was prompted to join the club by her neighbor Mary McCormick, Executive Director, Rotary Club of Milwaukee, and when a longstanding, work-related commitment (Tuesdays at noon) wrapped up a few years ago, she eagerly joined the organization that perfectly aligned with her goal of doing her part to create a better, kinder world.

Born in Milwaukee, Pat was raised in Hartford, Wisconsin, where her father and mother devoted themselves to each other, their five children and the betterment of their community— expanding local medical resources, building the Schauer Arts Center, the Jack Russell Memorial Library, an adult daycare facility and other significant projects and causes. In fact, her mother, Dorothy, was named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow for spearheading the construction of the 35,000-square-foot library. Her brother, Timothy Algiers, an attorney, is the current president of the Hartford Rotary Club.

As a child in Hartford, Pat spent hours building cities in the sandbox, demonstrating an early passion for design and planning. Family trips to big cities afar and daytrips to Wisconsin towns sparked an enduring curiosity and fascination with buildings, environments and diverse lifestyles. When she left for college, Pat found the small, private school she initially attended too confining and transferred to the University of Wisconsin—Madison, where she earned a bachelor's degree in interior design.

"When I felt stifled at the private college, my father said, 'education is three things: people, places and things, and your exposure to those things will greatly influence you and your career.' And that's precisely why Madison ended up being such a good fit for me."



Pat and her family at the Goldbug Golf Classic – the tournament was founded by her father --- the family attended in his honor in July as he passed away this May

After graduation came a series of work experiences where built environments, marketing and public relations came together as integral components of design. Pat recognized the similarities between interior design and urban planning—something she had always been passionate about—and took advantage of numerous continuing-education experiences that connected those two disciplines. Her professional and educational journey revealed the importance of having experience and knowledge across diverse disciplines and led to the creation of her business, Chemistry in Place, a design-driven consulting firm with an interdisciplinary approach.

“Good design is chemistry in place—it works and flows together,” the noted problem solver and creative thinker said.



Pat (third from the right) with the Chemistry in Place team

Chemistry in Place helps clients locate and design facilities to enhance their interests, their organization and their brand. Its six-person team offers skill sets in design, real estate, marketing, branding, urban planning, community engagement and project management. From commercial interior design, to site selection, media strategy to home relocation services, Chemistry in Place offers a vast range of services focused on practical and sustainable solutions.

“We’ve also developed an expertise in communications and two of our team members are bilingual, which enhances our clients’ ability to express their needs and goals. That’s become one of our strong suits.”

Notable projects include Quarles & Brady office space redesign projects in Milwaukee, Chicago, Washington D.C., and other locations; the Ghost Train public art project in Shorewood; and the branding campaign for the Milwaukee Harbor District.

Inspired by her parents’ example, Pat maintains an active role in the Shorewood community, including public art, the Business Improvement District, Seeds of Health, Inc. and various civic boards and committees. Outside of work and volunteering, she still enjoys the daytrips reminiscent of her childhood to explore cities and towns throughout the state, as well as going on trips, walking, hosting small gatherings and reading.

Pat’s philosophy is that no matter what the challenge, “if you have qualified people at the table who are respectful of others and want to do the right thing, together they can evolve our way of life in a positive direction and create a better, kinder world in which people thrive. That’s how I approach my work with my team and my clients. And it all relates back to Rotary and its Four-Way Test.”

And it’s that: people coming together for a common good that she finds most fulfilling about being a Rotarian. “What I enjoy most is people from many different backgrounds and from a diverse range of professions and experiences coming together. When you sit down to eat lunch together on Tuesdays, people jump right into meaningful conversations, providing a glimpse of the community that I had not seen through the lens of any other organization in town.”

Editor’s Note: Rotary People of Action is a bi-monthly series written by a group of Rotarians. This feature was written by Mary Bolich. The October 16th Rotary People of Action will feature longtime Rotarian Paul Meyer, written by James Madlom.

