



*Philip R. Hooper
2022-2023 President*

President's Message

As I put pen to paper, so to speak, for this edition of our Semi-Annual Report, we are deep in the final throws of our Santa Run. For all of the reminders and repetition of information regarding the event, I hope that during this Holiday Season we use it as a means to reflect on what our club does and has done for over 110 years – do good in and for the community.

The impact of the Santa Run is felt far beyond the confines of the Walnut Room at Bally's conference center complex, and I look forward to seeing the next round of grant applications come forward to see how our club can again facilitate important work in the community.

As I've written before for this publication, "We Do" was our club's first motto in 1913, and may we in 2024 use it as a guidepost to think how we can better and further make those words ring true in our community through Service Above Self, as we... as this year's Rotary International slogan states... Create Hope in the World.

It's been an honor to see our club this year involved in an increasing number of community events, where Rotarians have met people where they are, walked along side them, and shared the impact that Rotarians have across the world through over 46,000 clubs, 1.4 million members, in over 200 countries. From Main Street, Evansville, USA, to Tizimin, Mexico, our beloved Evansville club continues to strive to exchange ideas, build relationships, and take action.

As I stated in the last Semi-Annual Report, the networking that takes place at our noon luncheon is great... perhaps legendary... but it's not the Why of why we are here. Service of above self requires doing. Having ways for new members to get engaged is important for member retention. But 'get engaged' in what? Again, we need to do more to ensure that a platform exists for new members to create change, and hope, and engage new projects and ideas that they bring to the table. Helping new members get new things done will help our club maintain its thriving position in our community for decades to come. This is worth repeating, as I see it as the way of the future for our club.

Remembering the broad platform provided by the 7 causes of Rotary – promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, working with mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment – there will always be enough work to engage our community in new ways.

Having said all of this, one of my personal highlights so far this year is still, simply, the diverse range of topics covered at our luncheons, thanks to the hard work of Peter Hillenbrand, and the small opportunities for fellowship at events like the Rotary Garden Parties and district events like the Friends of the Rotary International Foundation that was held in February at Myriad Brewing Company in Newburgh.

May the New Year bring us new joy, new direction, new clarity, and new ways of welcoming all as we put service above self to DO for our community.



Friends of the Rotary International Foundation from throughout the district gathered at Myriad Brewing Company in Newburgh.



An August Rotary Garden party at Tim Black's home on Evansville's eastside attracted a fun-loving group of Rotarians.



Current and future Rotary District 6580 Governors pose for a picture at the Myriad Brewery gathering: 2025-2026 District Governor Nominee Kari Akin, 2024-25 District Governor Elect Mandy Lohum, and 2023-24 District Governor Shanon O'Toole.

Rotary's Mission

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Rotary Weekly Speaker Highlights

Pete Hillenbrand, President Elect

The challenging yet enjoyable task before the program committee is “make it fascinating”. Our club membership represents a wide range of talents and interests which we strive to celebrate through our program topics. It is a humble honor to face this challenge and, armed with an amazing group of Rotarians and input from you, I believe that we are meeting it!

Looking into the super-human; we heard from the criminal hunters of the Financial Crimes Division of the EPD, and the super-natural on Halloween with the ghost hunters. We illustrated the beauty of serving those in crisis when Granted publicly announced the groundbreaking of their House of Hope project.

We learned that water treatment can be functional and beautiful as Lane Young, Executive Director of the Evansville Water and Sewer Utility showed us the new wastewater treatment facility, featuring the cascade, which returns water to the river cleaner than when we drew it!

For the motivation we need when coming up short, NBA’s Luke Zeller told us to “pound the rock...get 1% better”! Kelly Coures revealed some tough history about our city related to our LGBTQ citizens, when he presented his new book “Out in Evansville.” Julie Burczyk, owner of Tools 4 Teaching, walked us through the success of a niche retail business. And, of course, we had a little fun at our Mayor’s expense!



Looking forward, we will be learning more about Artificial Intelligence from our own Rick Martin. We anxiously await Josh Armstrong’s report on riverfront development. We will celebrate Black History Month, with a look at The Tuskegee Airman of Indiana, and Women’s History Month, by looking at Vaneta Becker’s history in the Indiana Statehouse. We’ll learn more about plans for the \$30 million Promise Neighborhood grant and about how Jack Butram created a winning workforce culture in challenging racial times!

We want to make it interesting for you! Please let us know what you would like to learn more about!

The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility’s new cascade combines function and beauty to return water to the river cleaner than when drawn.



Motivational speaker Luke Zeller “Pounds the rock to get 1% better” in the NBA.

Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee

Ryan Bixler-Rigg, Committee Chair

Since forming our DEI Committee back in May, we have participated in the following events:

Members from all three Evansville Rotary clubs marched together in the River City Pride Parade.

Committee members helped hand out books at the WNIN Kids Fest.

We had a table highlighting our club’s involvement with Tizimin, Mexico at the Fiesta Evansville event.

We have supported diversity in our speaker series and moving forward we are looking at ways to make sure we are inclusive of those with disabilities including ASL interpreters for large events and making sure our meetings are handicap accessible. We are also looking forward to participating in other cultural events in our community.

Working with Committee members Philip Hooper, Karin Akin, Rick Moore, Randy Wheeler, Misti Alvarez-Cohen, Carrie Blackham, and Jim

Spath has been so rewarding. Each one brings a unique perspective, and I am so thankful for all of their support. If you are new to Rotary, I encourage you to reach out to our club’s DEI Committee and share any ideas you may have.



Rotary’s new DEI committee highlighted our clubs involvement with Tizimin, Mexico at the Fiesta Evansville event.

20 Under 40 Celebrates A New Generation of Leadership

Brian Burkett, Chair



20 Under 40 Celebrates a New Generation of Leadership

The 20 Under 40 Program for 2023 was a resounding success! This annual celebration of leadership in our community saw honorees from a broad cross section of industries and services and was well received by all who attended!

This year, the event underwent an upgrade of venue to Bally's Riverfront Event Center. A beautiful sunset over the Ohio River served as backdrop as the honorees and guests transitioned into the evening event. Everyone who attended felt it was a welcome change and a step-up for an occasion of such magnitude.

Rotary President Philip Hooper welcomed everyone with his opening remarks and Past President Kari Akin gave the invocation. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke then provided a Mayoral Welcome and congratulations to the recipients, and University of Evansville Head Men's Basketball Coach, David Ragland, provided some excellent thoughts and encouragement on leadership for today's generation.



20 Under 40 Banquet 2024 at Bally's Riverfront Event Center

20 UNDER 40

President Elect, Peter Hillenbrand then introduced each of the honorees as they crossed the stage to be recognized by our distinguished guests and Rotarians.

In follow up to the event, the honorees provided helpful feedback for future years to make the program even better. I would highly encourage our members to reach out to the recipients to invite them to an upcoming luncheon or, better yet, to apply for membership in Rotary!

A huge debt of gratitude to our 2023 Main Committee, Selection Committee, Narrative Committee, Leadership Team, Board of Directors and, finally, Executive Assistant Lee Dahlgren, for their exemplary leadership in making this a benchmark chapter in this magnificent story!

2024 Rotary District Conference Coming to Evansville

Make plans now to attend the 2024 Rotary District 6580 Conference to be held at Old National Events Plaza in Evansville on April 20, 2024. Enjoy a day filled with nationally known speakers, intriguing break-out sessions, networking at the house of friendship, an interactive service project with youth, and delicious meals. Sponsorships are available, please contact Randy Wheeler, District Secretary at WheelerLegacyVideos@gmail.com for more information and sponsor levels.



The Baird Berger Wealth Services Reading Rotarian program is moving from fall to spring for this Rotary year. *Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure*, the book featured in WNIN's 4-Way Test video, is being proposed for presentation. Rotarian Readers sign-up opportunities will be provided prior. For more information, contact Taylor Gogel, Chair.

<https://video.wnin.org/show/andy-and-elmers-apple-dumpling-adventure/>

Kari Akin Named District Governor Nominee

Congratulations to Kari Akin, Immediate Past-President of Rotary Club of Evansville, chosen as District Governor Nominee (DGN). Her Rotary year as Governor will begin July 1, 2025.

The Rotary International leadership structure consists of 535 District Governors serving over 1.4 million Rotarians in over 200 countries. District Governors have proven strong leadership skills. They provide leadership, support, and motivation to Rotary clubs in their district. District 6580 has 36 clubs in Indiana, south of Indianapolis.

Kari is the first Rotarian from our club to be in the Governor-line since 1994. She completed months of on-line training prior to the week-long in-person Zones 30 & 31 training in Memphis this past September with the 31 District Governor Nominees from the zones.



Learning topics included: public image, membership retention and engagement; reporting in DACdb and MyRotary; budgeting; and donations to the Rotary International Foundation. The DGN class had a friendly competition with the DGE class in building Shelter Box tents. Everyone won as both teams contributed \$1,000 each to Shelter Box to provide temporary housing to Ukraine and Syria and other communities hit by devastation. Kari's extensive training will continue through her Rotary year ending June 30, 2026.



Kari Akin chosen as District Governor Nominee

Kari's team of District Governor Nominees build Shelter Box Tents at training event.

Final Impact Report 2022 Santa Run Grant, WNIN Kids Fest

WNIN was the recipient of the 2022 Rotary Santa Run grant for \$25,000 to teach Service Above Self to Tri-State Youth and the Four-Way Test to a new generation of children. With the partnership, WNIN produced and used videos of Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventures for their 30th annual WNIN Kids Fest.

On September 23, 2023, Rotarians were asked to volunteer for this festival and passed out bookmarks, and over 1,000 copies of the Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure book by Andrew J. Shoup. Recognition of the generosity of the Rotary Club of Evansville was inside each of the books.

WNIN secured permission and original illustrative artwork from the publisher of Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure to produce a short film version of the book. Again, recognition was added to the credits on the film to the Rotary Club of Evansville.

We appreciate WNIN's mission of using public media to enrich people's lives and better our communities align closely with the mission of the Rotary Club of Evansville. The goal of this project was to use public media to encourage and foster the Rotarian ideals of service and kindness among Evansville youth.

There were many fun things to do at the WNIN Kid's Fest of 2023.



International Student Cultural Exchange and Mentoring Program

Kari Akin, Chair

A new school year brings new opportunities to share our American experiences with University of Southern Indiana's international students. This year started with a record number of 31 new student applicants for the Rotary International Mentoring/Mentee program.

The program kicked off with an informative picnic for mentors and mentees at USI's Eicher Barn on September 21st. Seventeen students enjoyed the Evansville Philharmonic opening pops concert on October 14th and thirteen Rotarian mentors and 21 mentees met at Hyatt Place for a meet-n-greet on October 17th. Rotarian Vicki Hubiak hosted workshops at USI to provide interview skills and resume writing for the mentees.

On an individual basis, Rotarian Bill Bohlen took his three mentees for flying lessons in a simulator from Mark Browning. Rotarian Pete Hillenbrand took his mentees Asuka and Haruna trick-or-treating with his daughter Caroline and her friends. They later interacted in world negotiations by making candy trades. Rotarian Kari Akin, took her mentee Yauheniya to Haynie's Corner pumpkin carving and decorating the fountain.

The goal of the Rotary International Student Cultural Exchange and Mentoring Program is to create lasting peaceful relationships across nations. Additional International Student applicants are expected to enroll and apply for participation in the program as 2nd semester begins in the new year. If you would like to serve as a mentor, please contact Kari Akin, Chair. Mentors and mentees find the program pleasurable and rewarding.



Hyatt Place hosts Meet-n-Greet for Mentees and Mentors



International Mentees join Rotarian Pete Hillenbrand, his daughter and friend for trick-or-treating.



International Mentees at Evansville Philharmonic Pops Concert.



Rotarian Bill Bolen took his three mentees for flying lessons in a simulator.



Rotarian Kari Akin and her mentee, Yauheniya, enjoyed pumpkin carving and decorating at the Haynie's Corner fountain.

Welcome New Members

On behalf of all the members and the board of directors, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to our newest members. We are delighted to have you and look forward to your creativity, enthusiasm and ideas.



Mary Allen
Owner
Sixth and Zero



Abraham Brown
Owner
La Campirana



Aaron Eich
Owner
Eich Brothers Automotive



Kendall Genet
Human Resources Manager
Matthew 25



Julie Shoulders
Director of Physician Operations
Ascension St. Vincent

**JOIN LEADERS,
EXCHANGE IDEAS,
TAKE ACTION.
BECOME A
ROTARIAN!**

Rotary's impact starts with our members – people like you who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Becoming a Rotary member connects you with a diverse group of professionals who share your drive to give back. Through regular meetings and events, you'll:

- Discuss your community's needs and develop creative ways to meet them
- Connect with other leaders who are changing the world
- Expand your leadership and professional skills
- Catch up with good friends and meet new ones

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an Evansville Rotarian, talk to a Rotarian or learn more at evansvillerotary.com. Click on **Become a Member** in the upper right corner of the home page for a membership application.

Rotaract and Interact Clubs

If you're between the ages of 12 and 35, you may be interested in joining one of our service clubs for young professionals and youth. Like Rotary clubs, Rotaract and Interact clubs give their members the chance to make friends, develop leadership skills, and create positive change.



The 10th Annual Rotary Santa Run Breaks Records

Cathy Renner, Chair

The National Guard's howitzer saluted the start of the tenth annual Rotary Santa Run on Saturday, December 2nd. With over 600 participants, our 10th run was our biggest yet. The Holiday festivity attracted individuals and families from throughout the Tri State and beyond, Santa Claus, the Boom Squad, Kyilindi Pipes & Drums (named for the tri-state – KyILIndy), and participating Santa runners and walkers were joyful and entertaining.

Since its creation in 2014, the Rotary Santa Run has generated over \$215,000.00 to give back to non-profits organizations in our community! The Rotary Santa Run is our club's major fundraiser. Thanks to the many Rotarians who worked to make the event possible and to our many generous sponsors. The Ronald McDonald's Care Mobile project is the 2023 recipient of \$25,000. The mobile care vehicle will deliver medical assistance to pregnant and postpartum women in their neighborhoods.



Consider Your Rotary Foundations For Seasonal Giving and Estate Legacy Giving

Our Rotary Foundations offer special opportunities for giving this holiday season to valued causes close to home and around the world. Having the power to improve other peoples' lives is a privilege and, for many, an obligation. Evansville Rotarians proudly support our Rotary Club of Evansville Foundation and our Rotary International Foundation through seasonal giving and estate legacy giving.

The Rotary Club of Evansville Foundation was formed in 1990 and is the local point of our club's community service activities. Gifts to our club's local foundation will continue to benefit our community for years into the future. The foundation funds ongoing programs like our Classroom Enrichment Program, the clubs own Tizimin, Mexico partnership projects, and a variety of special annual projects.

Our Rotary International Foundation is operated by our international Rotary organization, the distinction primarily has to do with geographic reach. The Rotary International Foundation addresses needs around the globe with a focus on the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty as set forth in its mission statement. Rotary's international polio eradication

program, water projects and other health initiatives are supported by the Rotary International Foundation. Rotary International Foundation donors of \$1000 or more through a single gift or a lifetime of giving are recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. How you might direct your Rotary giving is your choice – The Rotary Foundation of Evansville or the Rotary International Foundation. Donations may be directed through the club to either foundation and to the International Foundation through online giving. For more information, talk to a club officer, or our administrative assistant. Thank you for your consideration as the calendar year-end approaches.



Rotaract



Rotaract Updates

Syney Fritch, President

- Our last Family Free Night at cMoe was held on Thursday, December 7th, 2023, from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. cMoe was Rotaract's 2022-2023 Signature Grant Recipient.
- 2023-2024 Signature Grant Recipient will be announced by January 1st, 2024.
- Fiesta Night details will be announced soon.
- The 3rd annual Rotary Chili Cook-off will be on Thursday, February 29th, 2024, at the Ronald McDonald House Deaconess location. Marketing details will be sent out to club presidents as soon as details are finalized in January 2024.



Rotaractors present Signature Project check to Children's Museum of Evansville to sponsor Family Free Nights, supporting families who may not otherwise be able to access the museum.

Rotations

Rotary Club of Evansville

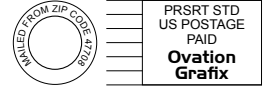


Charter #102 / Club #3435

A SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Winter 2023/2024

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CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally calls for Rotary to create hope in the world by working for peace and mental wellbeing. He urges members to engage in tough conversations and earn the trust that's necessary to realize these values.

DUTIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The governing body of this club shall be the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall manage the business affairs of the Rotary Club of Evansville.



Current Officers for 2023-2024

Philip R. Hooper, President	Taylor Gogel, Secretary
Pete Hillenbrand, President Elect	Bill Bohlen, Sergeant at Arms
Ashley Vezzoso Schaefer, Vice President	Kari Akin, Past President
John Perkins, Treasurer	

Board of Directors *Second of two terms

Term Expiring 6/2024

Andrew Alexander
Jeffrey Berger*
Abbey Foroughi*
Marcia Forston
Mark Gerst*
Pepper Mulherin*
Cathy Renner
Jim Spath
Andy Tharp*

Term Expiring 6/2025

Tim Black
Brian Burkett
Taylor Gogel
Pete Hillenbrand*
Arveneda McDonald
John Perkins
Kate Reibel

Term Expiring 6/2026

Kari Akin*
Misty Cohen
Fred Emory
Philip R. Hooper*
Steve Keck*
Ashley Vezzoso Schaefer*
Kim Spence
Grace Stevens
Jordan Whitledge*

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Lee Dahlgren

Administrative Assistant

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