



## The Madison, WI Rotary News for March 20, 2020

a publication of the Rotary Club of Madison

### **IN-PERSON ROTARY MEETINGS CANCELED THROUGH APRIL 8**

The Board of Directors has **suspended the Rotary Club of Madison's weekly luncheon meetings through April 8<sup>th</sup>** as a way to help cut down the spread of the coronavirus. No make-ups are required during this time period.

**Committee meetings and Fellowship Group events are also canceled during this time period.** Some committees may decide to meet via teleconference if issues need to be discussed prior to returning to our normal activities. Committee chairs will be in contact with their committee members about any teleconference meetings being scheduled.

In early April our board will evaluate this issue further to determine whether additional meetings should be canceled. Our Program Committee will work to reschedule upcoming speakers.



### **Sign-Up for Committees and Fellowship Groups for 2020-2021**

It is time for the annual sign-up for committees and fellowship groups. **Note that your current committee and fellowship group assignments do not continue after the end of the Rotary year (June 30), so use these links to complete fill-in forms:**

- [2020-2021 Committee Sign-Up Form](#)
- [2020-2021 Fellowship Sign-Up Form](#)

Please return your completed forms to the Rotary office via email to [rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org](mailto:rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org); fax 608-255-9007 or mail them to Rotary Club of Madison, 2 S. Carroll St., Ste. 255, Madison, WI 53703.

Our **Member Engagement Sub-Committee** also encourages new members to talk with their sponsor or friends in the club if you need any additional information on the committees/fellowship groups. We also encourage Rotarians who already enjoy participating in various committee/fellowship groups to consider inviting a member they sponsored, or a new Rotarian you've met at a meeting, to join you in your favorite fellowship group event—it is nice for new members to receive a special invitation to attend. Thank you!



## Connecting With Members

During this time when we cannot have in-person meetings, we plan to feature a short interview with a member each week so you can get to know some of our members better. This week's interview:



**Interviewee:** **Paul Hoffmann** (left) is president of Monona Bank. He has been a member of our Rotary Club since 2012. He currently serves on our club board of directors.

**Interviewer:** **Rich Leffler** (right) is Deputy Director and Co-Editor Emeriti of the Center for the Study of the American Constitution at UW-Madison and a member of our Rotary News Committee.



**Summary of Interview:** Paul and his wife, Sharon, recently traveled to Europe to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while also watching their daughter compete in the Junior World Championships for Ski Jumping. They flew into Munich and, after a few days, drove to Oberwiesenthal, then to Prague and finally to Venice. Cell phone coverage was very limited, and no news was in English, so they were not receiving updates on COVID-19.



*Photo 1: Paul & Sharon Hoffmann in Prague, Czech Republic; Photo 2: The Charles Bridge in Prague which would normally be bustling with many tourists; Photo 3: Paul & Sharon with their daughter, Anna, at a ski jumping event in Oberwiesenthal, Germany*

By the time they arrived in Venice, there were quite noticeable changes – all tourist places were closed, and they had an easy time getting into restaurants where there are normally long wait times. Their daughter called them at 3 am the next morning and told them the border to Germany was going to be closed, and they needed to get to the airport and back home asap.

After a challenging process of securing airline tickets and getting to the airport, they made it home Friday night, two days earlier than planned. Paul remembers the kindness of strangers along the way who helped guide them on their journey home. They are now self-quarantined at their home for 14 days.

You can listen to the 25-minute audio interview and hear Paul describe in detail how they had to discern pieces of information and determine what was accurate and make the best decision and just move forward with a plan to get home with many unknowns.

Click [here](#) to listen to Rich's interview with Paul.

We hope you enjoy connecting with these two Rotarians through this interview.



## In Memory of Lowell Creitz

We are sorry to report the death of long-time Rotary member **Lowell Creitz** who passed away on March 13 at the age of 89. He was a Cellist with the Pro Arte Quartet and was Associate Director for UW-Madison School of Music.

Lowell joined our Rotary Club in 1974. He was very active in our Rotary Youth Exchange Program, and he served as club president from 1986-1987. He was also a Paul Harris Fellow.

We extend our sympathies to his wife, Joan, and to his family.

Our Rotary Club of Madison has made a \$100 gift to our Madison Rotary Foundation to establish a Memorial Fund in Lowell's name. Anyone wishing to make a gift to this fund may send their contribution to the Madison Rotary Foundation, 2 S. Carroll Street, Suite 255, Madison, WI 53703.

## Need Help Getting Essentials?

During these uncertain times, we want fellow Rotarians to know that the **Caring Committee** is available to assist with the needs of our members. We are available to pick up grocery items, prescriptions or run other necessary errands. Isolation can sometimes be debilitating, but know that your fellow Rotarians are here to help when and where needed. Please do not hesitate to contact the Rotary office, [rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org](mailto:rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org) or 608-255-9164 who will in turn notify one of the Caring Committee members should you need anything. Members of our club's Caring Committee include: **Kris, Ashe, Donna Beestman, Ben Blagooee, Mike Engelberger, Karl Gutknecht, Donna Moreland** (chair), **Tom Popp, Joy Rice, Larry Smith, Sally Jo Spaeni, Becky Steinhoff** and **Mark Westover**.



## Do You Know of Volunteer Opportunities?

Our **Community Projects Committee** is interested in any volunteer needs within the community where we could help and also abide by social distancing recommendations/requirements. If you learn of a need in our community for volunteers to help out, contact our Rotary office at 608-255-9164 or [rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org](mailto:rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org). We'll see if we can get some volunteers to help out.



## Members in the News

- **Karl Gutknecht** was pictured and quoted in a cover story of *Your Family* magazine: "Coming Home, Veterans Path to Reintegration: Life After Military Service." *Spring 20*
- **Sharyl Kato** was interviewed by Carol Koby on WHIT's radio program, "All About Living" on March 14 about the importance of creating a safe, healthy and nurturing world for children and families.
- Congratulations to **Chris Ivanov** who has recently been promoted to Director of Forecasting and Optimization at Madison Gas & Electric.
- **Michelle Orge** was interviewed on WMTV Channel 15 on March 14 about how organizations are stepping up to help the community amid coronavirus closures.
- **Ernie Stetenfeld** was pictured and quoted in an article titled, "International Vincentian Leader Visits Madison." *The Catholic Herald 3/12*



## OUR SYMPATHIES...

**Jim Ahearn's** wife, Ann Ahearn, passed away on March 10. We extend our sympathies to Jim and to their family.



## Happy Birthday to You!

Music Committee Chair Casey Oelkers plays Happy Birthday to you this week! Click [here](#).

- **Mar. 23 -- Joan Collins** -- Adm. Date: 11/2/2005 Advertising, Publicity & Public Relations. Joan Collins Publicity, Inc. PHF (4)
- **Mar. 23 -- Janine O'Rourke** -- Adm. Date: 12/5/2018 Communications. Thermo Fisher Scientific Former Rotarian at Fitchburg/Verona 2008-18 PHF (3)
- **Mar. 23 -- John Wiley** -- Adm. Date: 12/5/2018 Honorary.
- **Mar. 24 -- Regina Millner** -- Adm. Date: 6/15/1994 Consulting. RMM Enterprises, Inc. Sgt.-At-Arms 1996-97. Director 2003-05. President 2006-07. 100% Attendance since 1/2/2003 PHF (8)
- **Mar. 25 -- Jim Christensen** -- Adm. Date: 6/7/2006 Consulting. StatOrg Services, LLC Director 2010-12 Formerly member of Club 1985-1998 PHF
- **Mar. 25 -- Steve Landry** -- Adm. Date: 9/28/2016 Construction. JP Cullen Former member 2009-14
- **Mar. 26 -- Tom Grantham** -- Adm. Date: 3/25/1981 Brokerage & Investments-Retired.
- **Mar. 26 -- Ken Loving** -- Adm. Date: 7/13/2011 Health Services. Access Community Health Centers, Inc.
- **Mar. 26 -- Joy Rice** -- Adm. Date: 4/2/2003 Health Services-Retired. PHF
- **Mar. 27 -- Ellsworth Brown** -- Adm. Date: 6/1/2005 Government-State-Retired. MRF President 2011-12; Director 2012-14; Club President 2015-16 PHF (5)
- **Mar. 27 -- Diane Everson** -- Adm. Date: 2/4/2009 Printing & Publishing. Edgerton Reporter
- **Mar. 27 -- Boris Frank** -- Adm. Date: 6/9/1976 Consulting. Boris Frank Associates Director 1982-84 and 1994-96 Formerly Rotarian at Madison West and Curacao, Netherlands Antilles PHF (3)
- **Mar. 28 -- Linda Dolezalek** -- Adm. Date: 5/2/2018 Accounting. RSM US LLP
- **Mar. 28 -- Pat Guttenberg** -- Adm. Date: 12/7/2005 Community Services-Retired. Former member at Jefferson 2002-05

### A Reminder About Another Way to Stay in Touch

Don't forget to sign-up to receive email alerts when items are posted on our club's blog. Visit our blog posting page [here](#).