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The Madison, WI Rotary News for October 16, 2020

a publication of the Rotary Club of Madison

Upcoming Rotary Programs (subject to change)

- **October 28**
Darin Harris
This is Not TV: Networking and Best Practices in Zoom
- **November 4**
UW-Madison Prof. David Canon
Election 2020: Now What?
- **November 11**
BG Joane Mathews
National Guard's Support of Wisconsin During This Crazy Year

Next Wednesday's Online Speaker

October 21 Speaker: Eileen Harrington on Restructuring City of Madison Government



How well does the structure of Madison's city government allow and encourage resident engagement? Does the structure of our city's government pick winners and losers? Does it promote or reduce inequities in our city? Next week's Rotary guest speaker, **Eileen Harrington**, served as Chair of the city's Taskforce on Government Structure ("TFOGS"), which spent nearly two years, held more than 90 meetings around the city, and a year ago issued a report calling for significant change and better oversight. In her presentation, she will highlight several TFOGS' recommendations and share her thinking about how our city government can and should be restructured.

Eileen Harrington retired from the Senior Executive Service of the United States Government at the end of 2012 after a distinguished twenty-eight year career protecting American consumers and leading change and programs in two different federal agencies. From 2010 through 2012, Ms. Harrington served as Executive Director of the Federal Trade Commission, the senior career staff position at the FTC. Before that, she served as Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Small

Business Administration.

In 1997, President Clinton gave Ms. Harrington the title of Distinguished Executive in the Senior Executive Service for "sustained extraordinary accomplishments" in organizing and leading interagency enforcement, education and regulatory efforts to halt consumer fraud. This is the highest distinction that can be conferred on a member of the Career Civil Service. In 2004, she was awarded a Service to America Medal for her work creating the National Do Not Call Law and Registry.

Review of Most Recent Program Speaker

Ethical Leaders in Government – What Can We Do?

This week's presentation was by Lee Rasch, the Executive Director of LeaderEthics Wisconsin, a non-profit that promotes ethical leadership in elected officials and develops ideas and programs that enable individuals and groups to support achieving that goal.

As we all are fully aware, America's political divide has become a chasm in recent years, and digital media has played a critical role in developing and exacerbating the problem. To counteract that trend, Rasch's group emphasizes that ethical leadership involves truthfulness, transparency and a dedication to unification of the populace, not polarization.

While most of us are often nonplussed when asked what each of us can do individually, he provided several examples of practical actions Rotarians can take to address this growing societal problem. Some of these suggestions were: 1) make personal efforts to promote government transparency; 2) identify misinformation whenever it arises and follow websites that identify and rate media for factual accuracy and bias; 3) support those individuals who do ethical work, regardless of their political affiliation; 4) learn about and support organizations that are committed to ethical contributions to society (e.g. Rotary); 5) reach out to and support ethical next-generation leaders; and 6) most importantly, vote for candidates that will provide ethical leadership and let them know you expect them to meet that expectation.

Given the fractionated state of our nation, we all have much to do in order to get us on a course leading to ethical leadership in government, but Rasch emphasized the time to start is now. Hopefully, every Downtown Rotarian will begin by voting in the upcoming election and starting individual efforts that will lead to a more ethical and unified government for our country.

Our thanks to Lee Rasch for speaking to our club this week and to Linn Roth for preparing this review article. If you missed our meeting this week, you can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/hi9q0Ves07s>.

We apologize for the technical difficulties experienced during this week's speaker presentation when we were testing the use of Skype. We realize now that the internet can be too unpredictable, so we will use a pre-recorded video for any future speaker who is unable to appear at our livestreamed meeting.



Annual Community Grants Campaign Begins

Our annual Community Grants Campaign kicked off this week with an announcement during our October 14 online meeting by campaign chair **Ellsworth Brown**. All members received a mailing about this campaign to their home addresses this week.

Ellsworth says, *"In times like these, everything changes everything, challenging Madison Rotary to respond to community needs we never anticipated, adjustments for which we were not prepared, and actions we never considered. We have a long tradition of providing funds for direct support of children who through no fault of their own are in critical need of food, shelter, clothing and health care services, and childcare. Our Club strengthens the safety net that is now stretched beyond precedent."* Our club is an anchor for children and families in our community, and there is desperate need during the pandemic.

Our campaign runs until mid-January, and we hope those who can give more than last year will do so because we also understand we have some members who are facing economic challenges due to the pandemic and won't be able to give at the level they did in the past.

With your stretched support, we can demonstrate our commitment to those who need us most in this challenging time of change.

Here are your options for making contributions to this year's Community Grants Campaign:

- Fill out the [pledge form](#), and send it to the Rotary office at 2 S. Carroll St., Ste. 255, Madison, WI 53703 or
- Use our online contribution option to pay via PayPal or your debit or credit card: Click [Online PayPal Option](#) or
- Simply call our office at 608-255-9164 to make a contribution using your credit card (Visa or Mastercard)

In the coming weeks, we'll highlight some of the organizations that have received funding last year so you can see first-hand the types of grants we are able to provide to those in need in our community. It is also noteworthy that 100% of your gift goes directly to grants provided to our community and beyond. Contributions received for our community grants

campaign are deposited into our Madison Rotary Foundation checking account as well as interest earned on our General Endowment Fund and distributed to organizations once they submit a receipt for the purpose of the grant.



Club Director Nominees

12 Nominees Announced for Club Director 2021-2023 Term

This year's **Director Nominating Committee** announces 12 members who have agreed to place their names in nomination for the six openings on our club board of directors for a two-year term starting July 1, 2021. The nominees are:



Deb Archer



Brian Basken



Herman Baumann



Sandy Gehler



Jenni Jeffress



Anita Mahamed



Charles McLimans



Valerie Renk



Jen Savino



Scott Strong



Martha Sullivan



Rob Van den Berg

Our nominees will be individually introduced at upcoming online Rotary meetings, and photos and biographies of each candidate will appear in our November 6 newsletter.

These 12 members are leaders in our club, and we thank them for agreeing to place their names in nomination. On November 11, the membership will select six of these leaders as new club directors.

Because of the pandemic, our club board adopted an emergency resolution to allow for our election to be held electronically this year. An email will be sent to all members on November 11th, and members will need to click on the link and complete the ballot by noon on November 12. We'll also send the ballot out to any member without an email 10 days before the election so they have sufficient time to get the ballot back to us.

The 6 newly elected members will join the following continuing board members for 2021-2022:



Mark Clear



Stephen Ehlke



Jorge Hidalgo



Mark Moody



Mary O'Brien



Leigh Richardson



Cheryl Wittke

Our club bylaws also provide for the possibility of additional nominations. “Any twenty voting members may nominate an additional candidate or candidates. Such nominations shall be in writing, signed by the members making them and filed with the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the election” (by October 28).



Have A Question? Ask Jorge

History of Birthday Gifts

Club President **Jorge Hidalgo** is continuing with his monthly series of “Ask Jorge” during the second Wednesday Rotary meeting. He has asked some club members to help with responses to questions he is asked by members.

This month, here is the question that has been asked of President Jorge: **Hey, Jorge, what is the deal with birthday gifts. Why am I asked to give to our Madison Rotary Foundation for my birthday?**

When we first started asking for birthday gifts, 75 percent of members participated. Last year, only 55 percent made a contribution on their birthdays, so we wanted to bring it up again. There is some good history on the topic, and thanks to **Melanie Ramey**, our past president who started the birthday giving campaign, for helping out with responding to this question which you can view as part of our October 14 online video (<https://youtu.be/hi9q0Ves07s>).

Here is a summary of Melanie’s response: Birthday giving started in 1998, and we have raised a total of \$563,528 through June 30, 2020. Funds are deposited into our Community Grants Endowment Fund with the interest used to fund our community grants program. The funds are going back into our community to help people in need. Members can provide a quote to be read during the meeting when their birthday is mentioned. It’s a win, win. You give a contribution and you help your community, so please participate when you receive the pink birthday notice in the mail. Thank you!



Join in UW Rotaract Meetings

Alex Vitanye chairs our club’s Rotaract Advisory Committee and invites Rotarians to consider joining in the upcoming UW Rotaract Club meeting on Monday, October 19, at 7pm. **This month’s featured presenter for the students will be our esteemed club president Jorge Hidalgo.** If you’d like to attend, simply join the Zoom meeting at this link: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/91229280175>.

You can also contact Alex if you have questions or would like to be a future presenter for the group: 608-263-9093 or avitanye@badgersportsproperties.com. Thank you.



Socktober! Donate Socks for Homeless

It’s Socktober! Winter is coming. A small act of love, like donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference for our neighbors who are homeless. Join your fellow Rotarians in donating socks through the month of October. In addition to socks, Porchlight is looking for new travel size hygiene items.

Drop off: You can drop off items at the following locations. If you would like a receipt, please include a note with your name and address.

Porchlight Drop Off Main Office
306 N Brooks
St Madison, WI 53715
Mon-Fri: 8:30am-4:30pm

Commercial Kitchen
1704 Thierer Road
Madison, WI 53704
Mon-Fri: 8:30am-4:30pm

Grace Episcopal Church's Food Pantry
116 W Washington Ave
Madison, WI 53703
Tues-Thurs : 1-3 pm and Sat:10am – noon
Parking on W. Washington by entrance
Use clearly marked container on site

Porchlight strives to reduce homelessness in Dane County by collaborating with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing, and supportive services that eliminate barriers and empower the individuals and families they serve.

ALSO—Join fellow Rotarians at Socktober Happy Hour at Genna's Lounge, 105 West Main Street, on Oct 21 from 4-6pm. It will be a time to safely say hello, share a drink and donate socks for Porchlight.

Questions? Contact Maggie Porter Kratz – mpkratz@madisoncollege.edu or 814.777.4896

Thank You!



Volunteer Opportunity

Assembling Thanksgiving Baskets on November 19 and 20 for Families in Need

Our **Community Projects Committee** invites Rotarians to join them for volunteer opportunities at the Goodman Community Center Gym on Madison's east side as follows:

VEGETABLE SORTING/BAGGING NOV. 19 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm: Prepare for distribution by helping unload bulk vegetables (potatoes, carrots, and onions), sort out any expired or damaged produce for composting, and assemble individual portion produce bags by weight. 5 Slots available.

DONATION SORTING NOV. 20 – 2:00 – 5:00 pm: Help unload and organize the food donations that will make up the Thanksgiving Baskets. Volunteers will be lifting, carrying, and sorting food products throughout their shifts, and some work may involve being outside - bring a coat and gloves. 10 slots available.

All volunteers will be required to wear a mask during their shift. To sign-up, click on the following link: <https://forms.gle/X7ktMkDx3fkvLbXFA> or contact the Rotary office. Deadline to sign-up is November 10.



Members in the News

- Congratulations to **Andrea Kaminski** who has recently been selected to serve on the Dane County Redistricting Commission.
- **Oscar Mireles** was included in *In Business's* Street Smarts column this month, responding to the question, "What piece of advice did you receive from your parents as you headed off to college?" *Nov 20*
- **Martha Sullivan** wrote an article about dealing with work related stress. *In Business Nov 20*



Happy Birthday, Rotarians!

- **Oct. 18 -- Paul Riehemann** -- Adm. Date: 2/5/2003 Government-State. WI Dept of Revenue Sgt. At Arms 2007-08; Director 2008-10; President 2011-12 PHF (2)
- **Oct. 18 -- Joe Sensenbrenner** -- Adm. Date: 3/21/1990 Consulting. Rooted Director 1997-99 PHF (2)
- **Oct. 19 -- Paul Fleer** -- Adm. Date: 11/1/1972 Consulting-Retired. PHF (2)
- **Oct. 20 -- George Gialamas** -- Adm. Date: 11/11/1974 Real Estate. The Gialamas Company Director 1988-90
- **Oct. 21 -- Marci Henderson** -- Adm. Date: 5/2/2012 Community Services. Girl Scouts of WI, Badgerland Council Former member Syracuse, NY 2000-01 PHF (2)
- **Oct. 21 -- Laura Peck** -- Adm. Date: 4/5/2000 Law. Axley Brynelson, LLP Director 2007-09; MRF President 2005-06. PHF (3)
- **Oct. 21 -- Ernie Stetenfeld** -- Adm. Date: 9/5/2018 Community Services. Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- **Oct. 21 -- Charles Tubbs** -- Adm. Date: 11/6/2013 Consulting. Dane Cty Emergency Mgmt Director 2016-18
- **Oct. 22 -- Joan Ziegler** -- Adm. Date: 10/7/2015 Professional Design. ZDA Inc.

Madison Rotary Foundation vs. The Rotary International Foundation

Madison Rotary Foundation Mailing Vs. Email From The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International

Some of our members received an email from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International this week, and we don't want you to confuse it with our local Madison Rotary Foundation campaign.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International sends its email out to all Rotarians around the world, but we hold a separate fundraiser for the international foundation each spring.

At this time of year, our club's focus is on our own local Madison Rotary Foundation, so please respond to the mailing you received from our Madison Rotary Foundation and not the email you received from The Rotary Foundation (of Rotary International).