

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last Week, Josephine "Jo" Crenshaw, District Governor, of our own Rotary District 5100.

Jo was born in a small farming town near Memphis to sharecropper parents. She is the thirteenth of sixteen children (dang, I need to stop boasting of being one of six!).

At a young age she moved to live with an elder sister in Chicago following the untimely death of their mother.

It was in Chicago that she married. They later moved to San Francisco and she took a job with United Airlines. That position led to a relocation to Washington, DC before returning San Francisco.

After losing her husband to cancer she would remarry and change her twelve year old career.

She joined McDonald's corporate staff after moving to Portland and has owned as many as five restaurants.

She joined Rotary after her first restaurant to gain a foothold in her community.

She would later serve as club president, is a Paul Harris Society (\$1,000/yr commitment) member, participated in a 21 day Rotary Friendship Exchange to South Africa, and is now our District Governor.

She knew she wanted to do more in her community and her world. Rotary became that opportunity for her.

Jo opened her Zoom presentation with some positive news on our progress in defeating Polio.

New Members. Echoing Rotary's president, we can and must grow our membership. However, if we don't keep them, it's a waste of our time and theirs. We must continue to focus on how we get new members to stay.

"Each of us have our own reasons for why we join, and for why we stay. As for me, I

joined to get to know my community. Then I stayed because there were so many avenues of service for the things I wanted to do, and had been doing. Rotary meant I could do the things important to me at a better and faster pace."

"Whenever I saw a project on which I had invested my money or time, I could walk away and say yay, I was there."

We, as humans, tend to forget that in order to move ahead we all have to participate. We can't win the battle ... alone.

When we come out of this pandemic, we will all be better people because we have been able to communicate with each other and still make our world a better place. "I didn't think I would ever be speaking to our clubs in a virtual meeting."

When we are out in our community delivering food, trimming someone's yard, talking to the elderly, or just enjoying a glass of wine with someone. You are still serving the ideal of Rotary. We work as well alone as part of a group.

We are still working to rid the world of polio and fostering peace in our world.

When you are out in the world and someone learns you are part of Rotary. How are you able to answer?

Do you answer with "Rotary is..." or with "Rotary does..."? If you can tell someone what Rotary does, they will then know what Rotary is.

"One thing I like to ask, because it reminds me why I'm in the company of Rotarians, is why you joined and why you stay?"

Ken Austin: "I joined almost 30 years ago when I was a young man and my dad was in Rotary. I got involved and enjoyed it. But I raised my hand one time to many and "got stuck" starting a club. Part of the new club was to make it easier to keep perfect attendance. I stay more for the fellowship and the service with my fellow Rotarians."

Rachell Powell's husband, John, had been an Early Bird for many years. There was a need for a Community Chair. She had already been heavily involved and our club president asked her to join and lead the committee. That was four years ago and, "I stay because I love doing this."

Rod Federwisch (past President) has been a Rotarian for over 30 years. At the time he was a young principal of a "Title 1

School" which meant most of his students were economically and/or academically disadvantaged. "We couldn't do these fancy fundraisers because no one had money. So I was moaning and groaning when one of my friends said, "well join Rotary because those guys have really deep pockets.""

"What I learned instead was that they're just really wonderful people. If they didn't have deep pockets, they had big hearts." His dad always told him that if you want to look like a genius, surround yourself with geniuses.

He stays because he loves Rotary and this group of Early Birds.

Brian Doyle moved from New York to Newberg 26 years ago. He was aware of Newberg, but not real involved. He got his neighbor to introduce him to the two clubs. The Newberg Club and the not yet chartered, not yet named, Early Bird club.

"I recognized one guy in that morning meeting. That was Jeff VanBergen." Brian would become one of our charter members. "And I stay the people and the community involvement."

Linda Sandberg, 18 months a Rotarian, joined because she was involved with schools and Chamber, but not the greater community. "I love that I can be "one and done." I can help Rachel with a Community Service project then be done."

Casey Hostetler joined "because Kristen is in Rotary and she's cool and she said I should join." So she joined because it's the cool thing to do. I thought it was networking but was service, which she loved, and stayed because "it's family!"

As Jo has noticed, in the last thirty clubs she's visited, that our people are genuine and we share a common story.

In Hood River, a member thought she would be short term, unable to afford to stay. Now she says she'll never leave.

What we do in our community is what makes us known.

If you want to move your world forward join a group that gets things done.

President Bill wrapped up with slides and images of what our club does and has done. Those include Little Pantries, wrapping parties with the Fire Dept, Playgrounds, High School fence project, Tree Planting, La Plata sanitation partnership, Community Barbecue, and so many more.