



Club 21799  
Chartered April 30, 1984

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
4/26/19

*The Book of Our  
Stories*

## A Message from the President

Since its beginnings, Lincoln South Rotary has worked diligently to live up to the Rotary International motto of "Service above Self." Our members are a diverse group of people from our community who work in a wide variety of professions and are united in their desire to improve their community, their nation, and humanity across the world.

Lincoln South has a proud tradition of excellence and leadership in Rotary International District 5650. Our club has earned numerous district-wide awards with several of our members earning international recognition. Lincoln South Rotarians are among 1.2 million Rotary members in 33,000 clubs across 200 countries.

Our club serves its community through numerous ongoing projects. To name just a few, these include:

- Providing dictionaries to elementary school students.
- Collecting donations for the Food Bank
- Delivering Meals on Wheels to shut-in elderly community members.
- Awarding college scholarships to high school students.
- Providing grants to local nonprofit organizations, with an emphasis on children and education.

Most recently, in 2017, our Club held an event which allowed us to donate almost \$7,300 to Clinic with a Heart and added \$7,300 to our scholarship fund. In 2018, we did a Tribute to First responders honoring those who every day put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Through that event, we donated \$1,000 to Shop with a Cop in honor of the Police Department, \$1,000 to Safe Kids of Lincoln-Lancaster County in honor of the Fire Department, and we provided a grant of almost \$6,600 to Crime Stoppers for their work. Because we think it is important, our club will be doing a 2020 Tribute to First Responders. Also in 2020, we will start a 3-year project entitled Girls Leadership Institute, a program designed to teach middle school girls to view themselves as leaders and teach them leadership qualities to become leaders.

At the international level, we have been an active participant in the effort to eradicate polio world-wide . . . and we are almost there! We have an on-going relationship and mentoring program with people from the Republic of Georgia. And we have supported health, hunger, and water purification projects in Africa.

Lincoln South Rotary has a relaxed and casual atmosphere. The group has fun and genuinely enjoys the camaraderie we all share. Business meetings are very short, and we allow the weekly guest speaker adequate time to share with the group. Likewise, we have some fun social events throughout the year.

None of these special projects or the things we regularly do would be possible without the time, talent, and financial support of our amazing members. In everything we do, our guiding principle is the Rotary Four-way test:

### **Of the things we think, say, or do . . .**

- **Is it the Truth?**
- **Is it Fair to all concerned?**
- **Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?**
- **Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?**



*Suzanne Tyrrell, President, 2018-2019*

## A Bit About Our History

Lincoln South Rotary, "The Sower Club," was founded in the spring of 1984, and the Lincoln Downtown Rotary Club #14 was our club's sponsor. Our first club president was Gene Swinton, and he continues to be a member of our club today.

The club was founded as a morning club as many thought Lincoln needed that type of club. Initially, meetings were held on Thursdays at Crocketts (a restaurant which is now closed) located at 33rd and Pioneers Blvd. Later, the club moved to the Union College Cafeteria. One of the club members at that time was Fred Harder who was then Director at the college and was able to secure the facility. The club met here for nearly five years.

In 1989, the club changed the meeting and day to Fridays at noon. With this change also came the necessity to change the meeting location. After brief terms at K's Restaurant and Lincoln University Club, the club settled on Misty's Edgewood. This move in time and location resulted in increased membership and attendance, and it also contributed to additional weekly visits by other Rotarians. With the sale of Misty's, the club then moved to The Knoll's. In October of 2015, The Knoll's closed and our meeting was moved to The Venue.

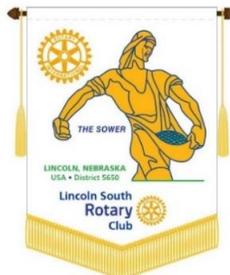
Club activities and projects have always been a strong part of our history. Though the specific projects have changed, Lincoln South continues to be very active in the community. Many members of Lincoln South Rotary have been Rotarians for a number of years, often joining different clubs as their lives took them to different cities or in different directions. But their feelings and dedication to Rotary and its principal of "service above self" remain strong. This is illustrated by the combined total of years of service by our Lincoln South Rotary members -- **812 years!**

Through our history, Lincoln South Rotary has been fortunate to have great leadership in its club presidents and by all the people that have served either on the Board of Directors, led a committee or special project, or served on the Lincoln South Rotary Foundation Board. Each of these people have had an important impact on the success of our club and our club's projects.

In addition, while serving as our permanent club secretary, Nicki Klein has also served as our Executive Administrator. Her dedication to our club and its principles, and her wealth of knowledge about our Rotary District 5650 as well as Rotary International, are a great asset to our club and its members. Nicki is an important part of our history, and our club is grateful for her dedication and loyalty not only to our club, but to the guiding principles of Rotary.



Nicki Klein, Executive Administrator, Lincoln South Rotary



**Presidents of Lincoln South Rotary**



2018-2019 Suzanne Tyrrell



2017-2018 Kay Wunderlich



2016-2017 Clay Ehlers  
(2<sup>nd</sup> term: 10/1/16 - 6/30/17)



2016-2017 C.L. Wayne Moore  
(7/1/16 - 10/1/16)



2015-2016 Clay Ehlers  
(1<sup>st</sup> term)



2014-2015 Jenny Cardwell



2013-2014 Bob Vrana



2012-2013 Pat Grewe



2011-2012 Elise White



2010-2011 Tom Cardwell



2009-2010 Tracey McLain



2008-2009 Sandy Taylor



2007-2008 Carl Zeutzus



2006-2007 Craig Madson



2005-2006 Brad Carter



2004-2005 Nikki Isemann



2003-2004 Bernie Poppe



2002-2003 Lance Odom



2001-2002 Mathew Schepers



2000-2001 John Herdman



1999-2000 Scott Delisi



1998-1999 Nicolette Klein



1997-1998 Brent Kasl



1996-1997 Joe Roberts



1995-1996 Pat Kavan



1994-1995 Dave Holmquist



1993-1994 Ardel Harger



1992-1993 Joyce Schmeackle

1991-1992 Dave Hecker

1990-1991 Ann Hanson



1989-1990 Randy Rankin



1988-1989 Jim Pattavina



1987-1988 Dean Heermann

1986-1987 Dennis King



1985-1986 Don Stenberg



1984-1985 Gene Swinton

**Our Future Presidents**



Chan Tyrrell, President-elect  
(President 2019-2020)



Dave Dietz, President-nominee  
(President 2020-2021)



DeEtta Vrana, President designate  
(President 2021-2022)

## Telling Our Story

Every member of Lincoln South Rotary has a story they could share about our club. It may be a memory of something special that our club did many years ago. It may be a story about what drew them to our club. It may be what they think makes Lincoln South Rotary so special. Or it may be a story about what their favorite event or activity has been in our club.

***Here it is -- our story -- in our own words.***



Jenny Cardwell

(Joined Rotary 12/31/97, Joined our Club 12/31/97)

*My favorite memories of Lincoln South Rotary Club are all of the friendships that I have made over the years; all of the special parties that we have had to raise funds for scholarships, and for grants to nonprofit organizations. I thank everyone who helped me the year that I was President of the club because it really does take a village and Lincoln South Rotary is a great village to be part of! I also am so grateful for all of the people from Lincoln South Rotary who helped last year with the District Conference or attended.*

*Another highlight for me is when we had the first Global grant to bring computers, books and games, and tutors to the orphanage in Georgia. When Tom, Nicki Klein, and I went to the orphanage with lots of gifts of books and games donated by club members to give to the children, I felt like I was part of something great and definitely proud to be a Rotarian.*

*RYLA has a special place in my Rotary memories as well and I encourage everyone to share the word about the RYLA program with all sophomores and juniors that they know. Also consider coming out and being part of the weekend even if it's for a few hours. The young people are truly amazing and they are our future Rotarians!*



Tom Cardwell

(Joined Rotary 12/3/04, Joined our Club 12/3/04)

*Well for me many things stand out. The club has always been encouraging and supportive. The two that most come to mind at the moment are the District Conference last year and RYLA.*

*The District Conference was a large undertaking and it was in many ways a Lincoln South Project. The club worked diligently to make it a success helping with registration, welcoming and greeting people, providing music, chairing and participating on the conference committee, managing the hospitality suite, donating money and items for the service project, helping with set and tear down tasks and attending in mass. Thank you!!*

*RYLA has been a Lincoln South project from the get-go. Now in the 8th year the project has always involved several Lincoln South members helping to organize and carry out the youth leadership camp. It has been a "we" project from day one. Let's remember and not forget the contributions of Chris & Dave Dietz, Joyce Schmeckle, Jenny Cardwell, Emira Ibrahimasic, Nicki Klein, Clay Ehlers, Matt Horack, Ryker Jen Jung Lee, Lance Odem, Tracey McLain and others.*



Shane Davidson

(Joined Rotary 3/15/19, Joined our Club 3/15/19)

*I was attracted to this group because of their servant hearts and hospitality. The Lincoln South Rotary Club is a fun, energetic, passionate group of people looking to serve the community over their own human desires!*



Scott Delisi

(Joined Rotary 6/1/96, Joined our Club 6/1/96)

*One thing I truly appreciate about Lincoln South is the closeness and shared fun of our members. Specifically, with a smaller club, it takes many of our members participating in order to successfully complete our projects. In particular, I remember the great enjoyment we had together in building a miniature 9-hole golf course for a youth center. Great club and even better people!*



Dave Dietz

(Joined Rotary 11/6/15, Joined our Club 11/6/15)

*At the time of this writing, I have been a member of Lincoln South Rotary for a short period of time – 3 years, 3 months. Despite my rather limited tenure with the club, prior to joining, I had some prior experience of Rotary through my late wife, Chris. Chris was a past president of Nebraska City Rotary where I had enjoyed participating in their annual golf tournament and attended some meetings. After we moved to Lincoln, Chris became active in Lincoln South Rotary. I attended several social gatherings of the club with Chris including a couple Chili Cookoffs, a wine social, and so on. I was so proud of her when the club named her Rotarian Of The Year in 2012. Sadly, Chris died on June 11, 2015 after a 4½ year struggle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Lincoln South Rotary was very supportive as I struggled through the loss of my wife and friend. In November 2015, I expressed to my friend, Bob Vrana, that I would like to attend a meeting of Lincoln South Rotary to express to the club how much their kindness meant to me. His response was “How about just joining the club?” Since joining I have enjoyed new friends and new experiences. It is my wish that this note remains a testament to the character of our club. May it always be giving, fun, inclusive, and caring.*



John Herdman

(Joined Rotary 11/1/80, Joined our Club 10/31/98)

*The year was 2000. The world was going to end! Y2K was upon us. Lincoln South Rotary had to find a new home. I, John Herdman, was elected President of the club after being a member for about one year. (I did have 12 years of perfect attendance at Hollidaysburg Rotary Club in Pennsylvania before moving to Lincoln and was faculty sponsor of the Interact Club at Southeast High School.) Misty’s at Edgewood was closing. Our club went to seven different locations seeking a new home. The Knoll’s Country Club won out.*

*On July 7, 2000, I was inducted in as President of Lincoln South Rotary at The Knoll’s. The District 5650 Governor was Merle Jansen who attended my induction. A mere seven days at the helm of the District, Mr. Jansen made his first decree as District Governor. He declared that the following day, July 8<sup>th</sup>, would*

*be an official Rotary make-up meeting for all Rotarians attending my wedding to Nancy. That is one Rotary memory I will cherish forever.*

*With now going on 33 years of "perfect attendance," I have many memories of Lincoln South Rotary and District 5650. The two Rotarians that brought me into the club, Nicki Klein and Joe Roberts, remain active members and are role models for me and all Rotarians. I've enjoyed the succession of club presidents, the friendships formed, the activities of our club, and especially helping with social events each year. Since being president and hosting my first Holiday party, Nancy and I have thoroughly enjoyed hosting more years than not. The spring time Lincoln South Rotary Foundation fund-raiser event has also emerged as a fun-time for all. It started with me cooking all varieties of chili; then, for a number of years it was a chili cook-off complete with Judging by the District Governor and Lincoln Club Presidents; then we held international theme dinners; and, last year it was a Cinco de Mayo event. This year it will be a Star Wars food theme with the title "May the force be with you".*

*What is really most meaningful to Nancy and I is the fellowship of Rotary and Rotarians. We've met strangers that became friends through Rotary, our club, Lincoln Clubs and District 5650, and especially the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship of Rotary.*



Dave Hilsabeck

(Joined Rotary 9/14/07, Joined our Club 9/14/07)

*I was invited as a guest about 10 years ago. The club members were friendly and the club was well organized. I decided to do a little research on Rotary and found that their projects and goals were similar to mine so joining was a no-brainer. I have enjoyed the unique combination of doing worthwhile projects with what have become close friends. I have no doubt that if I ever needed help my Rotary friends would come to the rescue. No one who joins this club would be disappointed.*



Tom Hyde

(Joined Rotary 9/16/99, Joined our Club 9/28/16)

*I moved to Lincoln and was looking for a Rotary Club to continue my long time record of service in Rotary. My plan was to visit each club and I started with Lincoln South. My welcome was so warm that I never visited the other clubs. I found my Rotary home.*



Suni Kasibhatla

(Joined Rotary 9/26/18, Joined our Club 9/26/18)

*I met Rotary South members at a fund raiser event as the guest of a member in September 2018. I was so amazed to meet some of the most positive and happy people that are so kind and giving to the community. Following that event, I went to the Rotary South weekly meeting as the guest and I was so inspired by the leadership of Suzanne Tyrrell, Jean Lovell (retired Judge)'s member moment, and guest speaker Dr. Susan Weller from Morrill Hall. I realized I was surrounded by the most intelligent, compassionate, inspiring and strong woman in our community. The next minute I was filling up my application. So proud to be part of Lincoln South Rotary.*



Nicki Klein

(Joined Rotary 3/1/89, Joined our Club 6/30/97)

*Through Rotary I have been able to be a part of changes in the World. As an individual I have limited resources and do not have much impact. But, as a member of Rotary, I know that I am improving the lives of millions of people world-wide.*

*Through Rotary I have participated in meaningful, sustainable humanitarian projects. I have seen the looks on the faces of those who received our support – the look of hope for the future. I have participated in saving children from becoming crippled by administering life-saving polio drops. I have been hugged by a child who received a simple gift box that she earned by attending school against many odds. I have watched as children were moved from desperate living situations to a safe environment where they no longer needed to worry about food, shelter and safety and could instead be children again. Many people in various situations, locally and internationally, have exclaimed that they are grateful, and often surprised, that there are such giving people. Rotarians are helping daily just because they can.*

*Rotary opened the door for me for travel to 6 of the 7 continents. I have participated in humanitarian projects in India, Nicaragua, Zambia and The Republic of Georgia. I have attended Rotary International Conventions in Singapore, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Brisbane, Malmo/Copenhagen and Birmingham as well as in the United States – Indianapolis, San Antonio, Chicago, Salt Lake City and Atlanta.*

*I had been a member of two other clubs before Lincoln South Rotary Club. But, when I joined Lincoln South, things “clicked”. I felt that I understood the value of Rotary membership and The Rotary Foundation.*



Jean Lovell

(Joined Rotary 5/20/97, Joined our Club 7/4/18)

*I have been a Rotarian for more than 20 years and a member of Lincoln South Rotary for less than a year. I find the club meetings to be educational, informative, amusing and not overbearing. You would have to work hard to find a friendlier group of people. It is a pleasure to be part of this club.*

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Tracey McLain

(Joined Rotary 7/6/01, Joined our Club 7/6/01)

*One of my greatest memories with Rotary is hosting an exchange student from Taiwan. While serving as President of LSR for the 2009/2010 year, I received a call on a Saturday in early January. We were out of town at a basketball tournament for my son. My oldest son was a senior in high school that year so we had a lot going on. The call was that the host family lined up to take “Jane” the exchange student had backed out. Jane needed a new host family by Sunday...the following day! Although I had thought about it in the past, I was always a little fearful that I could handle it on top of everything else. As club President, I felt like it was my duty to step in and take her in. Although it was a crazy time to say the least, this turned out to be a great experience for me and my family. The Carter family stepped in and helped out as well as I prepared for my son’s high school graduation etc. Jane has been back to visit once after she graduated from college. We hope to make a trip to Taiwan someday to see her as well.*



Sue Merrill

(Joined Rotary 11/17/05, Joined our Club 10/25/13)

*One of my most profound memories of Lincoln South Rotary is when a former member invited me to my first Rotary meeting and introduced me to the Club and all the friendly, open, caring members who made me feel welcome and accepted. A short time after I joined, that member experienced a devastating family tragedy. I soon discovered how close and caring Rotarians were (and still are) as Nicki, Tom, and I traveled out of state to support her and her family at their greatest time of need. I had met Nicki and Tom before but didn't truly become acquainted until that car trip together. During that time, I learned how close and supportive Lincoln South Rotarians are both in and out of the formal Club gatherings. For members to go above and beyond their service to rally around each other has always stuck with me. I think that closeness and support distinguishes Lincoln South from other clubs.*



Dick Miller

(Joined Rotary 1/1/78, Joined our Club 10/19/07)

*I belonged to at least six different Clubs in different parts of the nation, and in 30 years of perfect attendance, that is a lot of meetings and different styles of clubs. Without any doubt, I like the Lincoln South Rotary club best because of the age of the group and their enthusiasm.*



Richard Morris

(Joined Rotary 9/16/16, Joined our Club 9/16/16)

*I've been a member of Lincoln South Rotary for less than two years. In those two years I have learned so much about Rotary. I was drawn to Rotary because of Nicki Klein. While I working with Nicki at the bank I saw her passion for Rotary. I didn't know much of Rotary but I joined because of Nicki's passion and devotion to the club. Since joining I understand the goals and objectives of Rotary. Rotary is a place to build friendship while performing deeds that will help those we know and don't know. Rotary is made up of extraordinary people who are accomplishing great things. We, as Rotary, do try to make the world a better place.*



Maxine Moul

(Joined Rotary 7/8/03, Joined our Club 3/2/18)

*I first visited Lincoln South Rotary with the Friendship Force/Open World delegation from Ukraine in February 2018. I had been considering rejoining Rotary after an absence of more than a decade. I was impressed by the camaraderie of the club members, the smaller size of the club, the informality and joy in members. And I love the food at Venue. The Friday noon meeting time fits my schedule very well, and I have been welcomed by the leadership of the club and the club members and immediately felt comfortable in participating in the many ways members can do so.*



Lance Odom

(Joined Rotary 12/10/99, Joined our Club 12/10/99)

*Lincoln South Rotary is about doing good things with good people. It is a part of who I am and has made me a better person.*



Jim O'Hanlon

(Joined Rotary 9/25/15, Joined our Club 9/25/15)

*Upon showing up at Rotary some months ago I was immediately impressed by the Four-Way Test. If all organizations and institutions (obviously including governments) would use it as their guide this would be a markedly better world. Every time I read the Rotarian magazine I see that this test is being put into action all over the world by Rotarians. Lincoln South Rotary Club has an impressive history of supporting many projects and activities reflective of the Four-Way Test. I am proud to be a part of Rotary in its important work here in Lincoln and wherever Rotary projects are being carried out.*



Don Rabbe

(Joined Rotary 5/12/17, Joined our Club 5/12/17)

*Kay Wunderlich and I served together on the Advertising Federation of Lincoln Board of Directors for many years. She had asked me multiple times to come to her Rotary Club luncheon but among my duties at my work was arranging Friday Free Lunch for the rest of the staff. When I was retired in 2017 I finally was able to accept her invitation. Soon after my first meeting as a guest I decided to join the club. I enjoy the fellowship experience, including the parties, and helping on various projects. I appreciate the diversity of the club both in gender and ethnicity; also, the many service projects that help the community in many ways. It is a privilege to participate in Lincoln South Rotary.*



Bruce Remington

(Joined Rotary 6/27/95, Joined our Club 8/13/18)

*I first joined Rotary in Omaha 25 years ago at the urging of my boss as a way of looking for new business. I figured out pretty fast that Rotary was not about business but about service and friendship. When I later took a job in Lincoln, the first thing I did was look for a Rotary club. While I've made many friends over the years in Rotary, the best part of it was meeting a cute brown eyed girl at a meeting who said yes when I asked her to marry me. 19 years and a lot of Rotary meetings later, we are still married, still Rotarians and still best friends and very much in love. We both joined Lincoln South because of how welcoming the club was, how much we enjoyed the fellowship at meetings and how the club truly puts service above self.*



Kim Remington

(Joined Rotary 6/3/97, Joined our Club 7/4/18)

*I have been a Rotarian since 1997 and a member of Lincoln South for less than a year. Although I am a new member in terms of longevity, my heart has been with Lincoln South for many years. I first started attending occasionally when the club met at Misty's in Edgewood, then followed to The Knolls, and now Venue. After several years of volunteering at club events like the Lincoln airshow, collecting money for the Red Cross at women's basketball games (I have the T-shirt!), donating wine, buying nuts and raffle tickets, and attending social events, it FINALLY occurred to me that perhaps I should join the club! The warmth, giving spirit and joy of the club drew me in and it was a great decision to join. I look forward to many years of service and membership.*



Joe Roberts

(Joined Rotary 4/1/93, Joined our Club 4/1/93)

*One of the most rewarding aspects of our club is getting to know the members, and building life-long friendships. Dr George Lytton was one member I especially enjoyed meeting. George was passionate about Rotary, and especially The Rotary Foundation. His generosity toward helping others reach the Paul Harris Fellow recognition level established our club's culture of supporting The Rotary Foundation.*

*I believe the best attributes of our club are 1) the diversity of members, 2) consistent size of membership; and, 3) the high level of member engagement in local, district and international activities. Our social events have been my favorite. Having these events in member's homes provides an extra special camaraderie for members and guests. The Holiday gift exchanges; wine tasting and food competition fund raisers provide an special memory for many!*



Joyce Schmeckle

(Joined Rotary 2/1/90, Joined our Club 2/1/90)

*Over the past almost 30 years of being a member of Lincoln South Rotary one thing has been consistent - the warm inviting group of South Lincoln Rotarians that gather every week to share in fellowship and a common purpose of "peace and goodwill" around the globe, which starts with each other at the meetings.*

*We hosted many group study exchange teams over the years – South Korea, France, India, Australia, Venezuela, Brazil, and many others that so enriched our lives and opened us up to new cultures and understanding of both the differences (which can be celebrated) and our likeness that we share as common citizens of the planet. It helped shape my view of the world.*

*I'm so grateful to be a long-time member of the Lincoln South club and to see the strength and commitment of club members and how much good happens because of our club.*



Bill Schmeackle

(Joined Rotary 3/31/90, Joined our Club 7/1/16)

*Being a fairly new member to the South Club, I don't have the history other members have relative to the Club. But, let me say this, I have been a Rotarian since 1981, this includes membership in six different clubs all the way from Omaha to Chadron. I have been so pleased with my membership in the South Club. It is the perfect Club for me. Good people, good projects, and great fellowship. The South Club embodies everything that is good about Rotary. I am pleased to be a part of such a great Club.*



Gene Swinton

(Joined Rotary 4/30/84, Joined our Club 4/30/84)

Gene Swinton is a Charter Member of Lincoln South Rotary, and our Club's first President. Our club was chartered on 4/30/84, and Gene has many wonderful pictures of our club's early years. Here is one of the pictures he has of Lincoln South Rotary receiving its Charter from District Governor Larry Carstenson at the charter banquet.



In the "Sower" newsletter from 4/23/04, which was celebrating our club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gene pointed out that the club had just received the award as District 5650 #1 Club, the Rotary International Presidential Citation, the award for Best Community Service Project, and the Best Club Newsletter Award. As Gene says, *"Many things haven't changed much in the Awards area!"* for our Lincoln South Rotary club. Gene summed it up by saying, *"You meet a lot of interesting people at Lincoln South Rotary luncheon meetings!"*



Chan Tyrrell

(Joined Rotary 8/9/84, Joined our Club 5/11/16)

*It was in the 1970's when my Father approached me regarding Rotary. Since my Father and I were working together at the time and because my Grandfather had been a founding member of the then the Lincoln Northeast Rotary Club, I felt obligated to join a Rotary club.*

*I joined Rotary Club #14 and enjoyed it because it was smaller then and you knew everyone. In the late 1970's I was on the Board of the Lincoln Children's Zoo and about to be the President of the Board. All the Zoo Board's meetings were held on Tuesday Noon, a direct conflict with Club #14's meeting. At that time attendance was mandatory, so I had to leave Rotary to fulfill my obligation to the Zoo. Life and circumstances were such that I did not return to Rotary until the early 1990's.*

*The first time I joined Rotary, it was about making contacts for our family business. Upon rejoining I was again looking for connections this time for fund raising purposes. During those almost 30 years with Club #14 I was only ask once to serve on a committee. After retiring, the need to connect for business purposes no longer mattered, so I felt it was time to leave Club #14 and Rotary in general.*

*Joe Roberts approached Suzanne and me about Lincoln South Rotary, and as we know Joe can be persistent. Suzanne and I agree to attend a meeting and found the members to be delightful and engaging. This led me to rethink my idea of what Rotary could mean to me. I decided that if I was going to join, I wanted to be involved and WOW involved I became!*

*I have nothing but joy in my heart when I think about Lincoln South Rotary and all the wonderful members. Having gone through RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) this past year really further drew me into Rotary. Joining Lincoln South Rotary was one of the best decisions I have made. Thank you to all the members for making me feel welcome and allowing me to grow as a person.*



Suzanne Tyrrell

(Joined Rotary 10/18/94, Joined our Club 5/11/16)

*When Chan and I got married in 1994, he immediately asked me to join Club #14 Downtown Rotary where he had been a long-time member. I was not very knowledgeable about Rotary, but thoroughly agreed with is mission of "Service Above Self." Obviously, being in a very large club, you do not have the chance to get acquainted with everyone and the opportunities for involvement are also different. When Chan and I both retired from full-time employment, we decided that membership in Club #14 was not the right mix at that time of our lives.*

*Enter Joe Roberts into the picture. We had known Joe for many years and he asked us to come visit Lincoln South Rotary with him. Clay Ehlers was President, and the meetings were so warm, casual, and had an atmosphere with an easy welcoming feel. We immediately felt "at home" here and joined the club with Joe as our sponsor.*

*Events and experiences, both large and small, bring back fond memories for me. It could be the Kuck Motorsports event; or listening to our young scholarship winners; or the social events at the Herdman's and McClain's; or attending Rotary Leadership Institute and other district events. But one of my highlights has to be our Tribute to First Responders. These people work so hard every day and put their lives on the line to keep us safe and help us in very stressful times. I liked the idea of doing something very public to say "thank you" to them. To me, this group of people is so representative of our Rotary concept of "Service Above Self." During the event, Tom Casady, Lincoln's Public Safety Director, got up and said that in his 44 years with law enforcement in the city, nothing like this had ever been done before. At that moment, I was so proud of our club for taking this project on and embracing it with enthusiasm.*

*I felt honored to be asked to be the club's president -- and it comes with trepidation following in the footsteps of the past presidents and their achievements. But this is an amazing group of people and I feel blessed to consider each and every member as a friend. I look forward to our Friday lunches together -- it doesn't feel like an obligation, but a warm, fun, and lively meal with good friends. Somehow I feel that nothing is beyond the capabilities of this wonderful group of people known as Lincoln South Rotary.*



Bob Vrana

(Joined Rotary 1/31/04, Joined our Club 1/31/04)

*To me, there are many special things about Lincoln South Rotary Club: the many important causes we have supported and lives we have impacted in Lincoln with our donations through our active, vibrant, effective local foundation; the numerous organizations we have supported in many capacities with countless volunteer hours; our solid support of Rotary International's national and international efforts; our accolades and leadership at the Rotary district level, helping to strengthen District 5650 and Rotary International; our longstanding tradition of excellent meeting programs which keeps us well informed on a myriad of issues at all levels of society; and our social events, which are very enjoyable for their fine food, drink, and fellowship but also very often contribute to our foundation and its important causes.*

*Although these are all very important aspects of the uniqueness of our club, I believe the most special thing about our club is its members. In the more than 15 years I have been a member of Lincoln South, one of my biggest frustrations is that there is never enough time at meetings, or social events, for that matter, to visit with other members. Our diverse members with their widely varied life experiences always bring new perspectives to whatever the table (party) topic might be. Pick a topic and someone in our club will be well versed on that topic—and the topics are wide ranging. But even more important than our intellectual diversity is the fact that our members genuinely care about one another in a way that is seldom found in service clubs or even social organizations. Lincoln South Rotary is a "service" club in the broadest sense of the word and I am proud to be a member.*



DeEtta Vrana

(Joined Rotary 4/10/01, Joined our Club 6/22/17)

*In 1997, as the Executive Director of The TeamMates Mentoring Program, I became a member of Rotary Club #14 - for obvious reasons. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with the members who definitely modeled the Rotary Four Way Test. I saw first hand how dedicated and compassionate Rotarians were about local causes and the world at large.*

*When I was a member of Club #14, my husband, Bob, was involved in the South Rotary Club. When he was president-elect, we went to the International Convention in Portugal. WOW -- that was a great experience! It was a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world and see the depth of the impact of Rotary. Upon my retirement, I decided to no longer be a member of Rotary. However, I had the privilege of working on the 30-year anniversary celebration for the South Rotary Club -- even though I wasn't a member of Rotary at the time! It was a very memorable event!*

*I continued to be curious and enamored by Paul Harris Fellows. I had made a financial contribution to Club #14 and thought it was towards a Paul Harris Fellowship but learned later, to my disappointment, it did not count towards being a Paul Harris Fellow. Even though I wasn't a member of South Rotary, my husband Bob provided the opportunity for me to become a Paul Harris Fellow. I will never forget the day at The Knolls Country Club when Joe Roberts presented me with a Paul Harris Fellowship. That has been the most meaningful award I have received. (I actually cried!)*

*I have been involved in numerous organizations but never an organization that impacts the greater good – across the globe -- more than Rotary. I missed the opportunity to network and develop friendships with the members of a Rotary Club along with the weekly programs that kept you informed on community engagement. With the continued heckling and hassling of Brad Carter, I broke under pressure and decided to renew my commitment to Rotary and join the South Club. And now my true journey begins for me to demonstrate the Four Way Test that so many before me have done in support of this wonderful organization.*



Elise White

(Joined Rotary 10/26/05, Joined our Club 10/26/05)

*I love how warm and connected Lincoln South Rotary is. When I broke my leg while pregnant with my youngest child, one of the first "get well" cards I received was from our Rotary Club. That really meant a lot to me to know how much everyone cares.*



Michaela Williams

(Joined Rotary 3/1/19, Joined our Club 3/1/19)

*Rotary has been a delightful find. I am just beginning my journey but have been impressed with the philanthropy and community engagement the group has. Cannot wait to see what I can give and learn from this group.*



Kay Wunderlich

(Joined Rotary 12/1/95, re-joined our Club 3/14/14)

*I was first introduced and involved with Lincoln South Rotary shortly after I started at KLNKTV in 1995. I joined in 1996 when we met at Misty's at 56<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 2. I attended when I could and enjoyed meeting Dr. Litton, Joe Roberts and others. But life got busy with kids and my role in the Advertising association, and other commitments, so I relinquished my membership after several years to a co-worker Phil Maddern who was new to town. He enjoyed it greatly. Then in 2013 I ran into Nicki Klein and Joe Roberts at the Integrity Awards. Nicki said I really should consider coming back. She told me how they are an award-winning club and smaller and I was at a point to be back involved in the community, so Lincoln South became a great fit.*

*I felt welcome right away while we met at the Knolls, and came back learning something new each week. I honestly didn't know if I could make the weekly meetings, but now I feel lost when I do not.*

*I was honored when they approached me on leadership but wanted to wait a bit to make sure I understood how Rotary functions and what I could bring to the table so became the President a few years after asked. What an honor to be the leader of this award-winning club and what a surprise to win the Presidential awards!*

*I am thrilled to have the leaders in place for years ahead that are and will continue to do even a better job.*

*Lincoln South Rotary has become another family to me and I am so grateful to be part of this great group that is making a difference in our community! Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Lincoln South Rotary!*



Srini Ampavati  
Rotarian 12/5/18  
Joined LSR 12/5/18



Jeremiah Blake  
Rotarian 11/17/18  
Joined LSR 11/17/18



Cheryl Brandenburg  
Rotarian 3/1/96  
Joined LSR 7/1/11



Brad Carter  
Rotarian 9/21/01  
Joined LSR 9/21/01



Henrik Christensen  
Rotarian 6/30/01  
Joined LSR 7/4/18



Clay Ehlers  
Rotarian 11/1/04  
Joined LSR 11/1/04



Derek Feyerherm  
Rotarian 3/1/16  
Joined LSR 3/1/16



Mary Gilbride  
Rotarian 7/20/18  
Joined LSR 7/20/18



Pat Grewe  
Rotarian 10/14/03  
Joined LSR 7/6/07



Matt Horak  
Rotarian 3/23/15  
Joined LSR 3/23/15



Emira Ibrahimasic  
Rotarian 1/16/17  
Joined LSR 1/16/17



Jessica Kolterman  
Rotarian 6/17/09  
Joined LSR 6/17/09



Joyce Michaelis  
Rotarian 1/31/04  
Joined LSR 1/31/04



Aubrey Paulsen  
Rotarian 7/4/18  
Joined LSR 7/4/18



Bernie Poppe  
Rotarian 3/5/97  
Joined LSR 5/18/00



Audrey Richert  
Rotarian 1/1/18  
Joined LSR 1/1/18



Corey Vandewege  
Rotarian 12/17/99  
Joined LSR 12/17/99



Dick Wampler  
Rotarian 7/1/74  
Joined LSR 10/15/02



Sjohn Watson  
Rotarian 8/11/17  
Joined LSR 8/11/17



Kiley Wiechman  
Rotarian 3/25/11  
Joined LSR 3/25/11



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## **THE FOUR-WAY TEST**

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY AND DO

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- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOOD WILL  
and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all  
concerned?