



Rotary News

Service Above Self

January 2009

An interview with. . . Arthur Oldehoeft



My Professional Life: My professional career began more than 50 years ago when computers used vacuum tubes for computation, had punched cards or paper tape as input/output media, were water-cooled, and filled an entire room. Over the span of my career, computers went from large to small, slow to fast, and expensive to cheap – today, micro-processor chips are smaller than a pencil eraser and the computational power of the micro-processor in a wristwatch is greater than that of the earliest commercial computers. In 1956, as an undergraduate student at Oklahoma A&M College, I was invited (along with another undergraduate student and two faculty members) to travel to Oklahoma City to learn to program an IBM 650 computer that was being purchased by the college. Accepting this invitation was a spur of the moment decision and, not knowing what I was doing, it defined my career! This took place in the very early days of computing – the first “commercial” U.S. computer was built five years earlier (in 1951, the Univac I). In 1962, Purdue University initiated the first Ph.D. program in computer science in the U.S. I enrolled in that program in 1965 and, following graduation in 1970, I joined the newly formed computer science department at Iowa State University. My tenure as a member of the ISU faculty spanned 29 years, the last 12 of which I served as the chairman of the computer science department. During this time, I taught graduate and undergraduate classes and conducted research in applied and formal specialty areas related to operating systems and computer security. In 1999, I retired from ISU after which I spent a short time consulting for the federal government before I actually quit working (for a wage).

My Family: My spouse Margie and I met at Southern Illinois University. At the time she was a student majoring in English and minoring in music and was also a part-time secretary in the computation laboratory where I was working. We were married in 1965 and we have two daughters and four grandchildren. Gretchen (the older daughter) graduated from ISU with a degree in fine arts. Kim (the younger) has a degree in general biology from the University of Minnesota and a degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana. Gretchen is busy raising her family but looks forward to eventually resuming her career. Kim is working as an environmental consultant and pursues part-time studies toward an M.S. degree in biology at the University of California in Long Beach. Margie retired in 2001 after serving for 25 years as the Director of Volunteer Services at Mary Greeley Medical Center.

Retirement Philosophy: At the outset of retirement, I adopted a philosophy of “not hurrying if it can be at all avoided.” This is a direct reversal of my working life when I always seemed to be in a hurry. I have, for the most part, been successful in living this more relaxed life style. But I am now busier than ever – my days are totally filled with activities of my own making! I tell people, “I don’t know how I ever had time to work!”

How do I Spend My Time: *Having fun with my laptop computer* – My curiosity is broadly based and I read many things of interest on the Internet. *Reading books* – My children and grandchildren keep me supplied with books (selected from my wish list). *Playing cards* – bridge and poker. *Traveling* – Since my retirement, my spouse and I have visited Australia, New Zealand, Italy (Tuscany area and Rome), Russia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Aruba, and Grand Cayman. *Enjoying grandchildren* – During each of the past 3 years, we have spent two summer months in Missoula, Montana (near our grandchildren). *Listening to music* *Watching sporting events* *Cooking* – I am a vegetarian (not by choice, but by medical directives) and as a consequence my spouse and I have totally different diets. I have learned to prepare a lot of foods, all of which are fat-free or extremely low in fat content. (Believe it or not, this cuisine can be very tasty!)

Being a Rotarian: I am one of the 25 charter members of the Ames Morning Rotary Club. (At this point in time, only nine of us remain in the club.) . After retirement, I became much more active in the club and now I have a perfect attendance record for the past seven and a half years. Since I am often out of town, I have made up the missed meetings with attendance at Rotary clubs in numerous states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries. These visits have enriched my life as a Rotarian and have given me a greater appreciation of the Rotary motto “Service Above Self.”



Please send all comments or questions to:

Ames Morning Rotary Club
PO Box 2432
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Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build good will and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



We're on the web!
www.amesamrotary.org

District 6000 Charter:26188



Rotary clubs in Germany have teamed up to release a 192-page book highlighting Rotary projects that are saving lives and improving the living conditions of people in the world.

Blue Planet: Together for a Better World was unveiled at the RI presidential membership conference in Vienna in December.

The book project was initiated by the Rotary Club of Dorfen. The book includes 77 groundbreaking Rotary club projects and discusses the vital contribution of volunteers in helping to address global challenges, such as natural disasters, epidemics, climate change, conflicts, and war.

"Initially, we just wanted to publish a photo book in a small edition to present our club projects and raise funds for PolioPlus," says Matthias Lange, who coordinated the project with his wife, Ute, also a Rotarian. The couple, who own a TV production company, consulted with the publisher of Wissen Media who suggested adding editorial content.

In the following months, dozens of clubs submitted project descriptions. The German-language Rotary regional magazine and Rotary International staff provided additional content and photos to illustrate international projects. District 1840 (part of Austria; Germany) also received an RI Public Relations Grant for the book project.

Why Join Rotary?

Does anyone ever ask you why you are a member of rotary. Could you tell them succinctly everything that rotary does? This section of the newsletter will provide a snapshot each month to allow you to share the meaning of rotary with others.

Service Opportunities

Club members have many opportunities for humanitarian service, both locally and internationally. Service programs address such concerns as health care, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and the environment. Rotarians experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community.

Friendship

Rotary was founded on fellowship, an ideal that remains a major attraction of membership today. Club members enjoy the camaraderie with like-minded professionals, and club projects offer additional opportunities to develop enduring friendships. Rotary club members who travel have friendly contacts in almost every city in the world.