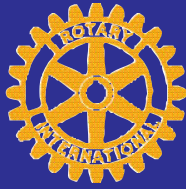


# Rotary



April 13, 2017

Rotary Club of Homewood  
P.O. Box 19333 • Birmingham, AL 35219

## Keynotes

Meeting: Thursdays, 12 Noon, Homewood Library

Website: [www.homewoodrotaryal.com](http://www.homewoodrotaryal.com)



## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Lawrence Corley Presentation of Scholarship Winners

Since the inception of the Homewood Rotary Educational Foundation, now known as the Bill Crawford Educational Foundation, the club has helped 125 students attend college by awarding \$325,000 to students in need of financial assistance.



### CHANGING THE WORLD IS POSSIBLE - by Bethany Lerch, former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, 2010-2011

I knew little about Rotary eight years ago when my former high school counselor encouraged me to apply for an Ambassadorial Scholarship. He was retired, but still active in Rotary, and knew a master's was my next step. At the time, I had just graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and knew I needed to go to graduate school. But where and how? Through a Google search, I learned Rotary was an international service organization. Intrigued, I applied for the scholarship and made it to the district interview, where I was asked what I wanted to do, *really do*. The question took me by surprise. Unsure how to answer, I stuttered that I hoped to change the world someday. I remember looking at the floor thinking, how far-fetched. Less than a week later, I received the call that I had been selected. What if, I wondered, my acceptance had to do with wanting to "change the world" someday?

**The University of Saint Andrews** was my graduate school home. I pursued Terrorism Studies in hopes of better understanding the phenomenon that was killing so many, so often. In spring, two faculty members took me and a dozen classmates to the Middle East to see the context of that particular enduring conflict for ourselves. It was crushing. I zeroed in on Afghanistan with my research, marveling at the country and investigating its history of, and tendency toward, violence as a means to an end. If ever there was a country that baffled historians and social scientists, Afghanistan is it. From the Anglo-Afghan wars to the Taliban to Al Qaeda, Afghanistan remains a bit mysterious.

It took four years of independent work and international travel before I finally made it to Afghanistan as a trainer on Gender Integration and Resource Management with the U.S. government. My job was to meet incoming Coalition personnel and teach them about the overall mission, as well as the country's political and cultural terrain.

I arrived believing in making a change, forging ahead with equal rights for women, and telling others about doing the same. Less than a month later, a young Afghan woman named Farkhunda was brutally killed by a mob in downtown Kabul. Big questions set in. Mostly I wondered if we had the right approach: What if it was all too much, too soon?

My second job in Kabul took me from NATO headquarters into the city, where I worked with Afghan consultants to help their countrymen in the Ministries of Defense and Interior. Our team included strong Afghan women. Zahra was one of them. She demonstrated competence, courage, and commitment to rebuilding her country. Zahra explained that she hoped to attend graduate school abroad. Like my guidance counselor before me, I told her about Rotary scholarships. Unfortunately, when we turned to Afghanistan-based Rotary groups, we found them unable to facilitate the global grant application. As an alternative, I turned back to my hometown Rotary clubs in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA. Would they be willing to help Zahra? They were.

**The Afghan Education Project** kicked off with a small group: representatives from two Oshkosh Rotary clubs, folks from the University of Wisconsin campus in Oshkosh, and I (in Kabul). The university waived out-of-state tuition; a Rotary club provided the sponsor letter to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul; and Rotarians donated to fund the cost of Zahra's in-state tuition for a graduate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy.

Now in her second semester, Zahra has achieved all A's. She is gainfully employed on-campus, for which she receives free room and board and meals. She is researching more about women's access to education in Afghanistan, specifically how ethnicity and regional cultural norms impact their access. Upon her return to Afghanistan, she plans to work in educational policy. She'd like to integrate more literacy components, diversity lessons, and tolerance best-practices into the national curriculum.

I've always suspected that changing the world is possible. Rotary helped change my world, then did the same for Zahra. Just as Rotary makes a difference through its global organization and local presence, so, too, will Zahra's future leadership in Afghan education make a difference for countless young students in Kabul and beyond.

## THE ROTARY WAY



### The Object of Rotary

**THE OBJECT** of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**FIRST** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians: **AS A ROTARIAN**, I will:

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life.
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect.
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world.
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

### The Four-Way Test

**OF THE THINGS** we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Photos by Walter Mathis

April 6 Meeting



# Rotary



## Maternal & Child Health Month

# APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 SPEAKER: Paul Perry, Sr. Mgr. Warren Averett	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 SPEAKER: Lawrence Corley, Scholarship Awards	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 SPEAKER: TBA	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 SPEAKER: TBA	28	29
30						

**Board of Directors:** Carol Chesnutt, Janice Scholl, John Krontiras, Robert Sprain, Debbie Roberson, Sandy Nelson, Merrick Wilson, Melody Salter, Debbie Fout, Mike Hathorne, Bo Duke - Ex-Officio

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\*Indicates Paul Harris Fellow

+ Indicates Foundation Sustaining Member