

Service Above Self Awards Recognize Two Distinguished District 6250 Rotarians

Every year, the Rotary International Board of Directors selects only 150 Rotarians world wide to receive the Service Above Self Award. The Board created this award to recognize those Rotarians who truly embody Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." The RI Board of Directors considers this award to the Rotary International's highest honor to bestow on a Rotarian. This year 365 nominations were received. Our district has the distinction of having two recipients of this prestigious recognition. Jim Raymond and Alan Selene were recognized as recipients of the Service Above Self Award at the recent District Conference in April 2008

Jim Raymond of the Rotary Club of Edgerton

Jim Raymond is currently a loan officer specializing in agriculture loans. He was born and raised on a family farm in Edgerton where he and his wife, Betch and family still live. He has been an Edgerton School Board member for over 20 years. He is a long time softball coach and founder of the pre-middle school girls softball league. He has been active in his church and according to his nominator, "anything agriculture" He has been the hog calling champion for 2 years running!

Jim has done much for his community in so many ways, from softball to education to agriculture. One of the most outstanding projects he has initiated and is in the process of expanding is the "Books to the Philippines" project of the Rotary Club of Edgerton. The Club, under Jim's guidance is sending thousands of elementary school books to the rural areas of Calauag Province in the Philippines. Two shipments numbering thousands of books have been sent in the last four years.

Working directly with a Rotary Club in Calauag District 3820, the Club has sent books to rural schools that had no libraries at all until the arrival of the Edgerton books. Jim and his wife, Betch, have flown to the Philippines to personally supervise the distribution and coordination of the project and to meet their Philippine Rotary counterparts.

In 2006, Jim initiated contact with the nearby Janesville Rotary clubs to enlist their help in collecting more books from the Janesville school system. Thousands of books were sent in 2006 to be distributed. In the Fall 2007, nine Janesville schools participated in the book collection process. In 2007, Jim and Betch spent three months in Calauag and surrounding areas looking for better ways to distribute the books and see what other kinds of assistance are needed to make this project even more successful.

From an idea while visiting the Philippines to the realization of real help for the educational needs of the poor in that country, Jim has taken the leadership role in this project from the beginning and is always actively looking to expand and improve it. He epitomizes the definition of "service above self."

Alan Selene of the Rotary Club of Madison South

Alan Selene was raised in Hampton, IA where he also as a partner in an insurance agency started by his father. His father, Werner Selene, served as District 597 Governor in 1983-

4 and set a Rotary example for his son. After moving to Madison, WI in 2001, he is currently the Corporate Administrator of Ryan Signs.

Alan has served his community in many ways. He was a foster parent to 40 children over 16 years. For 15 years he coordinated the Baseball Little League Program in Hampton, IA and was a volunteer coach for boys aged 10-12. He has served as Board member and president of the Association of Professional Insurance Agents of Iowa.

During his Rotary career, Alan served as the secretary of his Hampton, IA club for 20 years. He was Club Youth Exchange Officer and the District 5970 Youth Exchange Chair for eight years. He was host parent to nine in bound YE students. He “retired” from these roles when he was elected to serve as District Governor in Iowa from 2000-2001. After moving to Madison in 2001, he continued to serve as Administrative Secretary in Iowa District 5970 for two years.

He also joined the Rotary Club of Madison South and has maintained perfect attendance and has served on the Board of Directors. From 2004-2006, he served as chair of the club’s concession outside Camp Randall stadium that netted \$50,000 each year. He also served for three years as District 6250 secretary for three years. He was instrumental in coordinating training registration, preparing the district directory and being an exceptional resource to Rotarians who called with Rotary questions small and large. During Rotary’s Centennial year, he visited over 60 clubs in two districts, presenting a program on the history of Rotary International. He also donated \$100 per visit to the TRF Annual Programs Fund. He is a major donor to The Rotary Foundation. Alan has also served on four Rotary Zone 27/28 Institute Committees which are charged with training District Governors, Trainers and Foundation Chairs.

Alan Selene is respected in two Rotary Districts and many clubs for his Rotary knowledge, quiet manner and willingness to help. His leadership and work behind the scenes have gained him the friendship and admiration of many. I would also like to add personally that I am grateful for his thoughtful advice during and in preparation for my year as district governor. He has helped me think through several tough situations. He has been a valuable resource to our district.

Alan’s nominator indicated that if he was chosen for this award, “he would be stunned.” He does not serve for glory or recognition. Alan serves because there is work to be done. Because of this Alan Selene is a true example of “Service Above Self.”