



# ORIENTATION GUIDE

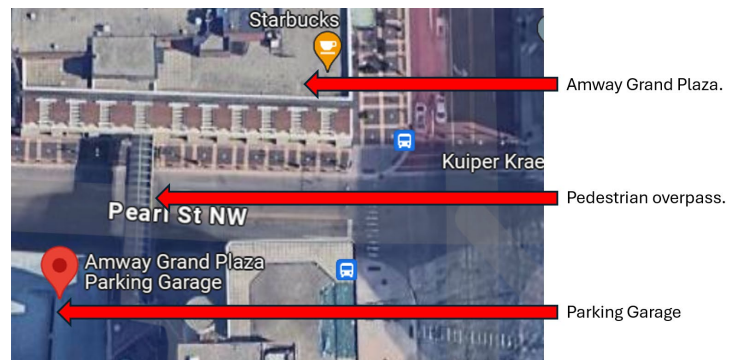
## Welcome from our District Governor Russ Jones

Thank you for joining us at DISCON 2024 to celebrate all the ways Rotarians, like yourself, have helped to bring hope to the world. Barb and I, and the entire conference committee, look forward to seeing you at the celebration. This Orientation Guide is to help you prepare for the conference so that you can get the most enjoyment out of your conference experience. We are particularly concerned that all accessibility needs are met and if you have questions or concerns reach out to the conference chair Rick Caron by email [caronrichardj@hotmail.com](mailto:caronrichardj@hotmail.com) or phone (519) 819-0100.

## PARKING AND ARRIVAL

The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel is at the corner of Monroe Ave and Pearl St. The parking lot entrance is on Pearl Street. The pedestrian overpass from the parking lot is on Level F and it brings you directly to the conference registration area. Hotel check-in is on the lower level.

- Self-parking is at the conference rate of \$24 per night. Valet parking is available at \$39 per night.
- Hotel check-in is 4:00 P.M.
- Conference registration opens at 1:00 P.M.



## ROTARY AMBASSADORS

With their blue vests and big smiles, it will be hard to miss our Rotary ambassadors. They will help you with directions, first-aid, or anything you might need to help you enjoy the conference.

## FIRST TIMERS

A special welcome to our first timers. On Friday night you will be asked to stand and be recognized so that we can make a special effort to make you feel welcome. After the conference remember to email Rick Caron [caronrichardj@hotmail.com](mailto:caronrichardj@hotmail.com) to get your rebate.

## DRESS CODE

Rotary (business) casual is acceptable throughout the conference. We encourage more formal wear for Saturday dinner and evening program.

## GUESTS

At Rotary conferences, our registered non-Rotarian guests are encouraged to participate in every event. If this is your first Rotary conference, plan to attend the plenary sessions. The life-changing international scope of Rotary is featured and may change *your* life!

## YOUR CONFERENCE NAME BADGE IS YOUR CONFERENCE ALL-ACCESS PASS

Your conference name badge will be your access pass to all meals, the conference program, and hospitality suites. It also enhances your opportunities to build your Rotary network. Our ambassadors will be looking for your badge at the venue entrances so they can greet you by name. Please always wear it. The ambassadors don't want to send you back to your room.

We have a special offer for District Conference attendees to help you advance to your next Paul Harris Fellow level of giving. We will match your \$500.00 USD contribution to either the Annual Fund or PolioPlus with 500 foundation recognition points. If you make your donation before April 15<sup>th</sup>, email your proof of donation to Sue Goldsen [sue@goldsen.com](mailto:sue@goldsen.com) and she will have your recognition materials on hand at the conference. Otherwise, bring your contribution to the conference and bring it to the Foundation Table inside the Ambassador auditorium.



## SERVICE PROJECT – Friday May 3

We have partnered with the Blandford Nature Center in Grand Rapids for our Conference Service Project. To participate, register for your preferred group in advance through Therese Maggioncalda [tpmaggioncalda@aol.com](mailto:tpmaggioncalda@aol.com) or Debra Harshaw [debra.harshaw@gmail.com](mailto:debra.harshaw@gmail.com). If you can't participate but want to contribute you can bring cash or check to the conference or donate online (let us know) at [blandfordnaturecenter.org](http://blandfordnaturecenter.org).

**GROUP 1: 9am-11am:** We will learn to identify invasive plants, why they are bad for the ecosystem and how they can be removed. We will then work to rid the park of garlic mustard and dames rocket plants.

**GROUP 2: 1pm-3pm:** We will be getting the outdoor classroom spaces ready for the fast-approaching summer camp season. We will rake the classroom, re-mulch, and then add back the log seating.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

<b>Friday May 3</b>	
<b>9:00-11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Service Project – Group 1</b>
<b>1:00 – 3:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Service Project – Group 2</b>
<b>5:00 – 5:30 P.M.</b>	<b>General Reception</b>
<b>5:30 – 7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Opening Ceremonies and Dinner</b>
<b>7:00 – 8:30 P.M.</b>	<b>General Session I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome from RIP Representative PRIP Ian Riseley</li> <li>Focus on Basic Education and Literacy: The Guatemala Literacy Project, Gisele Seguin, Windsor-Roseland</li> <li>Keynote Address by RID Drew Kessler – “My Journey”</li> <li>Focus on Community and Economic Development: Launch Detroit, Steve Ahles, Southgate Rotary</li> </ul>
<b>8:30 – 10:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Hospitality Room Hosted by Canadian Clubs</b>
<b>Saturday May 4</b>	
<b>7:00 – 8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:15 – 10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>General Session II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Maternal and Child Health Vocational Training Team to Tanzania, Andrea Cassidy, Windsor (1918)</li> <li>DISCON 2025 Reveal</li> <li>Focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment: The Step Up Foundation, Andy Starzac, Woodhaven and Brownstown</li> <li>Approval of the 2026-27 District Governor</li> <li>Focus on Water and Sanitation: Project SMART, Sherrie Jones and Dennis Hyduk, Grosse Pointe Sunrise</li> <li>Keynote Address by Danielle Campo McLeod</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:20 A.M.</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
<b>10:20 – 12:00 A.M.</b>	<b>General Session III</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on the Environment: Rouge River Rain Gardens, Beth Stewart, Plymouth A.M.</li> <li>Keynote Address by John Hartig – “Great Lakes Champions”</li> <li>Focus on Peace and Conflict Resolution: Taking Action for Peace, Erin Dobbins, D6400 &amp; Marcia Lane, D6380</li> <li>Keynote Address by Lauri Smolenski</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:30 – 3:15 P.M.</b>	<b>General Session IV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundation Recognitions</li> <li>Keynote Address by PRIP Jennifer Jones</li> <li>Keynote Address by Victor Armstrong – “Normalize the Conversation”</li> </ul>
<b>5:00 – 5:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Receptions</b>
<b>5:30 – 7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>7:00 – 8:00 P.M.</b>	<b>General Session V</b> Keynote Address by PRIP Ian Riseley District Awards
<b>8:00 – 10:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Hospitality Room Hosted by US Clubs</b>
<b>Sunday May 5</b>	
<b>7:00 – 8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:15 – 9:30 A.M.</b>	<b>General Session VI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program of Remembrance</li> <li>D6400 Business</li> <li>The Year Ahead, DGE Nick Krayacich</li> <li>Final Remarks from Ian Riseley</li> <li>Final Remarks from DG Russ</li> <li>Final Remarks from the Conference Chair</li> <li>Let There Be Peace on Earth</li> </ul>