

Club Members Recognized for Outstanding Leadership in 2023-24

Story and photos by Ed Kolybaba, Jun 20, 2024

Several club members were recognized for their outstanding club leadership during the evening at Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise's Annual Installation Night held on June 17th, 2024.

President Colleen McEwan recognized two club members for their outstanding leadership with prestigious awards which are presented annually.

President McEwan presented the 2023-24 Rotarian of the Year Award, an Award to a club Rotarian who clearly stands out in demonstrating "Service Above Self" and principled commitment to the Four-Way Test; and who has made significant contribution to the mission and operations of the club.



Who other than Mike Wright could have achieved this standing, considering that he took on the forbidding role of Treasurer one month into the 2023-24 Rotary Year and only one year and three months after having been inducted into the club membership? Before making the formal presentation of the award to Wright, McEwan spoke highly of how he quickly assumed this very responsible role, learned how the club operated and how the club established its various budgets; and very importantly how the various budgets and its components were clearly defined to the club



President McEwan presented the 2023-24 Dale Frandsen Award, a "Dedication to Friendship" award to Shirley Gingras, an inspiring active Rotarian ready to serve her club and community in any way that makes a difference. She joined the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise in October of 2022, and it wasn't soon that her presence and leadership was quickly noticed and appreciated.

Her "passion to help within the community" was evident by her active involvement first on the Membership Committee and then on the Fundraising Committee.

She has been involved in coordinating a club golf tournament, encouraging public donations through the Annual Kettle Program of the local Salvation Army, assisting at the Kelowna Music Festival, the HOPE Outreach Dinner and Gala, the SPCA Gala, and the Across the Lake Swim, and participating in raffle and calendar sales and other community activities.

The award is presented annually to a Rotarian who exemplifies the spirit of dedication, friendship, optimism, and integrity, the core values of a true Rotarian.



Lynn Spence, the Director of the Membership Committee, presented Brian and Dawn Wrightson with Honorary memberships with the club. A true spirited club member, Wrightson was recognized for his active involvement on almost every committee of the club since his induction in July 0f 2015. Over the years, he had served as the chair and director of four different committees and has been a force in many community events supported by the club. His passion for club fellowship was expressed in his leadership in making Rotary fun for its members and families. In making the presentation, Spence stated “you have been a steward of fellowship” for our club.

Noteworthy, Wrightson also co-chaired a steering committee which provided Kelowna in 2016 with its first ever Ribfest. He was presented with the 2016-17 Rotarian of the Year Award.



At the conclusion of the evening program, Past-President (2022-23), Randal Bamford presented President Colleen McEwan with a Paul Harris + 5 pin for her outstanding leadership in the capacity of President of the club, along with a bouquet of flowers.