Rotary Induction Remarks
By Alan Anderson, President

I am honored to have been selected to serve as your President for the upcoming year. And as my first official act as President, I want to recognize the truly exceptional service that has been provided to our club by Past President Joe Stevens.

As a member of the Rotary Board, I had the opportunity to observe first hand the hard work, dedication, and leadership that Joe provided. And each of us got to experience the fruit of that as we enjoyed what I believe is one of the most successful years ever for the Rotary Club of Altoona. And we received recognition of that fact during the recent District Conference when our club not only swept every award category, but also received the Governor’s Award for Rotary Club of the Year for District 7350. So it is my pleasure to honor Joe with the presentation of a Past President’s pin and plaque honoring his service to us.

I want to make a few brief remarks on the occasion of my induction. The Rotary International theme for this year is Rotary Shares. I like that theme, and want to talk for a moment about what that means to me.

First of all, Rotary Shares in a rich tradition and history of service above self. In fact, we share in a legacy of service with all those who have come before us. As an example, in our club alone, we have been impacting the community of Altoona since 1916. I am the 92nd person to have been inducted as the President of this club. As an illustration of our club’s legacy, will all the past presidents of our club stand to be recognized?

Legacy is defined as “something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past” and as Rotarians, we all share in a legacy of service that began with Paul Harris, and continues today around the world.

Let’s make it more personal. In addition to our shared legacy as Rotarians, I want to talk about the action component of Rotary Shares. Share (as a verb) is defined as follows: To allow someone to use or enjoy something that one possesses. This is really the essence of what Share means. So what is it that we possess? We have time, talent, and financial resources. Our success in Rotary is directly linked to the willingness of our members to Share their resources.

As a recent example of this, I contacted all of the Past Presidents of our club to ask them to consider taking responsibility for a month of programs for the coming year. I am pleased to report that in a matter of a few weeks, I had enough volunteers to fill all 12 months. Now I think it is safe to say that every one of these individuals is very busy, and
could have provided lots of valid reasons not to do this. However, they made a decision to share their time and talent to put service above self. This is the foundation upon which every successful Rotary Club is built. So today, upon my induction, I want to thank everyone for your willingness to share of your time, talent, and financial resources. Every time you come to a Rotary meeting, you are sharing. When you contribute to the Rotary Foundation, Scholarship Program, Rotary Radio Days, or serve on a committee, you are sharing. And I want to challenge you to continue to make the decision to share each time someone asks you to get involved. And together, we can continue to add to the shared legacy created by all who have come before us.

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your President. I invite each of you to call me if you wish to discuss anything that you believe will make us a better club. And I commit to you that I will take this responsibility seriously, and do everything possible to build on our success. Thank you.