

Joseph R. Collings is the president of The Ferguson Lumber Corporation, a fifth-generation firm founded in 1868. Ferguson Lumber has locations in Veedersburg and Danville, IN. Following graduation from Wabash College, Joe requested an interview with his father, PDG J. Richard Collings, who was pleasantly surprised of his interest. He returned to the family business and has been active in all capacities. Joe is a member of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, active in leadership of Billie Creek Village, Inc., Rockville Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Lumber and Builders Supply Assn, Midwest Building Suppliers Assn, National Lumber and Building Materials Assn, National Assn of Wabash Men, the Certified Association Executive Commission, and Murat Shriners. The Murat Highlanders Pipe and Drum parade unit is an outside activity enjoyed to promote the 22 Children's Hospitals in North America.

Joe joined the Rockville Rotary Club in 1975 and has served in all offices. Joining the ranks of a Paul Harris Fellow was a priority and continued support a requirement. A Presidential Citation was received in 1984. The district activities have also been a staple having served as an assistant governor, district secretary, district trainer, district conference chair, and in 2004 led a group study exchange team to the Middle East. Joe has continued his support of the polio plus program and attended polio immunization days in India. Following the program started by his father, Sight on Wheels, the care for the poor in rural villages in India continues today with the Gift of Sight.

During the discussions leading up to the nomination, Joe expressed his views and concerns toward the current District 6560's declining membership. As is indicative with all fraternal and civic associations, our membership has reduced significantly. A focus on the attainment and retention of membership must be a priority. Increasing the active participation of our existing members need become a staple for each club. Providing the tools to accomplish this task needs to take priority within the leadership of our District. There must be a value statement for each member.

The ideals of Rotary have been a focal point for decades. Joe's not for profit activities are testament that he lives the motto "service above self."