

Mike Step

I was born on a farm outside of Paris, IL. I graduated from Paris High School, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology with a BS in ChE and Eastern Illinois University with an MBA. I worked for a Petrochemical company for almost 40 years, mostly in management positions, Superintendent, Manager, Plant Manager. I have traveled around the Midwest, with spending some time in Tuscola, IL, Morris, IL, Fairport Harbor, OH (NE of Cleveland) and Jackson, TN. I finished my career in Tuscola, IL and retired in February 2014.

My Rotary involvement began in 1995 in Morris, IL, when I joined the Morris Rotary Club to network with local Business leaders throughout the community. I was then transferred to Fairport Harbor for about 10 years. I rejoined Rotary when I was transferred to the Jackson, TN area. I joined the Rotary Club of Jackson, again to network with the local leaders. I was then transferred to the Tuscola, IL area and joined the Tuscola Rotary Club. That is when I really got involved in Rotary. I began to better understand what Rotary was really about, Service Above Self.

When I retired in 2014, I joined the Paris Rotary Club of Paris, IL and was almost immediately elected the President elect. I accepted the position because I knew I wanted to get more involved in Rotary and District 6490. As President I wanted to get more involved with the District functions. I spent 2 years as the Paris Rotary Club. During the 2 years we established an InterAct Club at the New Paris Cooperative High School with 29 members in its first year. I am an RLI graduate. I've been and continue to serve as Assistant Governor for Area 14. I'm a member of the District Governor Nominating Committee and the District Grants Committee. I have also participated in the Visioning Process for the Paris Rotary Club, the District and several clubs throughout the District.

In my spare time I volunteer at the Paris First United Methodist Church, where I'm on track to be a Certified Lay Speaker. I also volunteer for an organization called Faith In Action Edgar County, where I help design and build accessible ramps and modified steps for individuals around the county. I'm on the Oversight Committee for the Paris Center of Fine Arts. I like to garden and spend time with our family.

From a personal standpoint, I'm married to my beautiful wife, Denise. We have 2 children, Sean and Holly, and 7 grandkids.