



Assistant Governors serve as representatives for District Governor Suzanne Gibson.

Barrington Breakfast Rotary Installs New District Governor

THE ICONIC Lipofsky Department store was founded in Barrington in 1896 (it later burned down in 1989). Mr. Lipofsky grew up understanding the motto “Service Above Self” and demonstrated his passionate concern for others by becoming the founding president of the Barrington Rotary Chapter and ultimately, the District Governor for Rotary International.

Lipofsky went on to be a president of the Barrington Chamber, served on the Village Board, and was twice the Commander of the Barrington VFW. Following in the footsteps of Harold Lipofsky (in 1984-85) and David Waring (in 2006-07) is Suzanne Gibson. On Saturday June 22, 2019, she was installed as the new District Governor of Rotary International at the Sanfilippo Estate Place de la Musique. A Lake Barrington resident and member of the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club, Gibson leads 67 Rotary Clubs located throughout Chicago’s North, Northwest, and Western Suburbs to help them achieve Rotary International’s goals. Gibson is a retired Licensed Clinical Social

Worker earning her Ph.D. Her husband, Dr. Mark Gibson, is the outgoing Barrington Breakfast Rotary president.


Like her predecessor, Suzanne Gibson’s history started with her father owning a local Ben Franklin store in Elgin. She has spent many years volunteering on projects that impact local communities and the welfare of many diverse people.

Helping families is just one of Gibson’s hallmark traits with her tender and passionate heart for those in need. She and her family established a refugee project assisting unaccompanied minors by providing support, including housing, with the Barrington Area Refugee Fund. Drs. Philip and Eugene Behrendt are the founders of the facility that enables immigrants from Laos to live temporarily and get a fresh start, employment, and to become self-supporting. The only requirement asked of the new immigrants was to “pay it forward” once they were able to give back. Many sponsors joined in with the Gibsons to support, encourage, and elevate the success of

this heartfelt organization.

More than 30 years have passed since the first family moved into those apartments. In June of 2017, a reunion gathering was hosted by Gibson and her family to celebrate the success of so many families who were the recipients of this groundbreaking program.

It is a remarkable model of the residents who became entrepreneurs and are contributing to the success of their communities in their new home country. Proving once again that “Service Above Self” is not just a motto, but is a lifestyle taught to children who model the behavior of giving to later become groundbreaking adults for a better world.

The Barrington Rotary (Breakfast and Noon Clubs) have been able to support many diverse, life-changing partnerships, including a significant alliance with Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and Healing the Children. Rotary Club’s worldwide efforts bring clean water, sanitation, micro business development, nutrition, and a worldwide campaign to end polio. 



Steve Hollis (left) is the incoming president for the Barrington Breakfast Rotary. Mark Gibson is immediate past president of the club.



David and Maria Coons join Suzanne Gibson at the event.



Rotarian Sam Harris (left) and special guest Joe Brodecki.



Granddaughters Noa and Ellie join new District Gov. Suzanne Gibson.



Barrington Breakfast Rotary's Board of Directors.



Mary Beth Growney-Selene (left) is a trustee of the Rotary Foundation; Suzanne Gibson, District Governor, and Julie Clark, outgoing District Governor.