

## **Rotarian Lynn Hillstead**



It was interesting to meet with Mr. Lynn Hillstead. He came to Utah from Wyoming to go to BYU. He fell in love with Utah, its community, climate, and other things such as the economy and decided to build a family here with his wife. He ended up having a friend reach out to him about the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club and invite him to join and he loves it.

I never realized how widespread the Rotary Club is. Mr. Hillstead said that it was worldwide and that donations go everywhere and help with lots of international programs. The club started in 1905 in Chicago and now there are around 40 clubs just in Utah! He even has a son who works for the Rotary club in Salt Lake City.

The Rotary Club does a lot of service projects in many different areas. They give coats to children; help clean up the environment and plant trees. They even have lots of donations that go internationally and help fund other programs and people around the world.

Mr. Hillstead talks about the personal benefits of joining the Rotary Club. It teaches things such as leadership skills, teamwork, hard work, service, and provides a positive community and allows for networking to further careers.

***Interviewed by Audrey Forsgren, UVU student***

(Q/As)

1. Why and when did you join the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club?

It was the Orem club 35 yrs ago, he was invited by a friend and wanted to do networking.

2. What made you proud of being an Orem-Lindon Rotarian, and how have you contributed to its six priority goals?

He contributed to the community and always supported it through donations which support international projects in rotary emphasis, impact throughout the world-polio+,

planted trees, coats for kids, environmental projects, assisting youth and children literacy. He served as president three times. Now he's on district level, current foundation committee.

They have an annual fund which they also get half the money back.

3. How does the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club improve the lives of Orem and Utah's communities and local economic development in general?

Lot's of community service. Rotary members are enriched by it. It also provides friendship and networking.

4. Are any of your family members interested in being Rotarians as well?

He has a son in SLC that does the club there. There are 40 clubs in Utah. There are lots in the US and started in 1905 in Chicago.

5. What are your favorite and least favorite things about Utah? How do you plan to uphold your favorite aspects of the state and diminish the negative aspects of the state?

The climate is favorable, mild winters compared to Wyoming, changing seasons, and the economy is good. Work ethic tends to be good and it helps to raise a family and have a career. Community is safe. Particiaption in Utah, the spirit of friendship and service. Nothing bad.

6. How do you build community both inside and outside of your club, whether it be through your family, religious organizations, work, etc?

He currently does service projects through his ward and before retirement he did service events through work where he was tax partner at local accounting firm..

7. When and why did your family first come to the United States and Utah?

He came to Utah for school. He had two wives but his first one he met at BYU and they decided to build a family here.

8. What goals do you have for the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club? What goals do you have for Orem and Lindon?

He says he doesn't have any more goals and believes his time is done for setting goals after he served in leadership positions. There's a new generation of leaders that bring energy and enthusiasm, bring good ideas and just wants to support the club leadership

9. How do you hope to create a sustainable future for your posterity who may live in Orem?

Carrying on the culture, values, traditions including the Rotary. Things with family are usually just family events since retirement gives time, means, and flexibility to go to events.

10. How have you ingrained your skills and talents into the development of this club? What skills and mindsets are most effective in this club?

Since he was president it helped with leadership roles, maintained the culture of giving and serving. Rotary helps develop skills. It includes leadership and learning how to work with people to accomplish projects. He would invite everyone but understands it's not for everyone. He is also okay with people who join for selfish reasons like furthering career, the club is almost a type of advertisement.