

Mary Keely
Putnam County Rotary Club President 2006-07

Let me begin by saying that I love my Rotary family! And, my year as Club President only made that love grow! One of the questions asked of me in my training to become District Governor was "when did you become a Rotarian?" My response was that I had always had the heart of a Rotarian . . . I just didn't know what to call it until I found Rotary.

I had been a member of the Rotary Club of Huntington through my job in Huntington, and attended meetings regularly for two years. And, when my husband, Bob Keely, wanted me to join his Rotary Club of Putnam County in July of 2002, President Cheryl Rust asked me to become the club's secretary which was a great way for me to learn about all of our members and become involved at a leadership level. Soon after accepting that position, our club treasurer, Barry Sissler resigned, so I also became treasurer and enjoyed helping the club in that capacity. Holding these two positions in the club also helped me learn about the strengths and weaknesses of our club.

When I became Club President for 2006-07, I was inducted by our District Governor, Keith Blankenship in May of 2006 which was an honor for me. So my journey began to organize and energize our club for the future.

We had created a mission statement and established new bylaws by working with our Club's Planner, Bob Keely. We did this by working with the Board members in several brainstorming sessions and we accomplished a long range plan for our club. So, the implementation of that vision was a guiding force for my year.

Some of the things our club did to support those goals were:

- To get the Board of Directors more excited about their leadership role, our monthly meetings were held at our home as a breakfast meeting . . . great way to get them to attend.
- Then, we established a new member orientation program with six sessions held every other week 15 minutes before our regular meeting; one of the great surprises of this program was that many current members attended as well.
- We also established a Program committee to support RI monthly themes with a Program chair and monthly coordinators. That program is still working well.
- We redefined the Club committees and established their responsibilities. We encouraged every member to be part of at least one committee.

We created a 12th Birthday party held on April 24th of 2007 with several past presidents attending and PDG Keith Blankenship, and PDG Bob Carpenter attended since he helped establish our club.

With the support of our club's board and the involvement of our club's members, I was District Governor for 2010-11.