

D6000 Guardian of Integrity Nominee Essay: John Bouslog

In Rotary District 6000, the Paul Hellwege Guardian of Integrity Award recognizes Rotarians who consistently uphold the highest ethical standards in their professional and personal lives while actively promoting integrity through dedicated service and leadership. John Bouslog, a 35-year member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines A.M. (DMAM) since its founding, personifies these qualities through decades of principled, impactful involvement.

Having served as club president in the past, John has remained a reliable, values-driven force within the club. His steady example of transparency, fairness, and commitment to Rotary's ideals continues to shape the organization today. As his son and the current president of DMAM, I have watched him approach every responsibility with the same quiet integrity that has defined his Rotary journey from the beginning.

John's most enduring legacy is his leadership of the Rotary Riverwalk Park—the largest project in DMAM history. As chairman, he directed fundraising, planning, and construction of this distinctive, fishing-themed playground and recreational space along Des Moines' Principal Riverwalk. While partnering with several other local Rotary clubs, he helped raise approximately \$500,000 to create accessible playgrounds, pathways, and riverfront features that have enriched the community since completion around 2014. His clear communication, diligent oversight, and unwavering follow-through transformed a shared vision into a tangible, lasting public benefit that families still enjoy every day.

Today, John serves on the DMAM Foundation board, where he helps safeguard philanthropic resources with rigorous accountability and ethical stewardship. He also provides key leadership for Bingo Bash, the club's flagship fundraiser. This popular, family-oriented event not only generates essential support for local causes but does so in a manner that consistently reflects goodwill, fairness, and community trust.

In his professional role as an attorney with Simpson, Jensen, Abels, Fischer & Bouslog, P.C., John brings the same principled approach he demonstrates in Rotary. His decisions reliably align with the Four-Way Test: they are truthful, fair to all concerned, promote goodwill and better friendships, and benefit everyone involved. Whether guiding major initiatives, overseeing funds, or quietly mentoring fellow members, John inspires confidence and ethical conduct.

John Bouslog's long record of dedicated, values-driven service makes him an outstanding candidate for the Guardian of Integrity Award. His contributions have created enduring community assets and set a powerful, understated standard for Rotarians throughout District 6000. Recognizing him, honors not only his accomplishments but the principled way he has led by example for more than three decades.

Thanks, Dad—for still being the guy we all quietly try to measure up to.

Zach Bouslog

President 2025-2026

