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# *2004 - Rotarian of the Year*

## **Wayne E. Tate**



**W**ayne E. Tate joined the Rotary Club of Marion in 1982. He soon started his climb in the chairs as a board member and served as President of the club in 1990 - 1991.

In 2003, the club appointed a committee, which Tate chaired, to decide on a project to help celebrate the Rotary International Centennial in 2005. A decision was made to construct an outdoor amphitheater on a site owned by the Marion High School. Construction costs were estimated at over \$150,000. How would the club raise that amount of money?

Wayne, who is a avid bicyclist, had a dream of riding the Lewis & Clark trail from Illinois to Oregon, a 3,254 mile trek originally made by Merriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1804 after President Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase. Wayne offered to ride his bike on the same trail and raise money for the Rotary Amphitheater

project by asking donors to make contributions for every mile he completed on the trail.

Wayne started his trip on May 26, 2004 and completed the entire 3,254 miles on July 18, 2004. During his 54-day ride, Wayne endured physical discomforts even the most avid (and younger!) camper would have avoided. Wayne camped out in the wild during most of his nights on the trail. He also met some wonderful Americans (and Rotarians) during his odyssey. Wayne raised over \$10,360 in pledges and cash donations for the project.

Wayne was born on April 21, 1947 in Eldorado, IL and graduated from the Harrisburg High school. He obtained his BS from SIU in 1980. He married Katherine Morgan on December 20, 1968 and they have two daughters, Nicole and Megan, and a son, Josh, who is married to Jennifer, and their son's name is Noah.

Wayne is an investment broker. He has served on the Community Unit 2 Board for 8-years and recently announced his retirement from that position.

Wayne has been a very dedicated and active participant of the Rotary Club during his 22-years of membership. We honor Wayne Tate today as our *2004 Rotarian of the Year!*

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