

Elizabeth Usovicz
Past Rotary International Director, 2021 - 23
Chair Operations Review Committee, 2024 - 25

Elizabeth Usovicz has been a member of Rotary International since 1997. She served on the Rotary International Board of Directors from 2021-2023, also serving as Chair of the Board's Executive Committee during that time. Currently, Elizabeth serves as Chair of Rotary International's Operations Review Committee for 2024-2025. She has also been appointed as a Positive Peace Activator, North American and Caribbean cohort, by the Rotary-Institute of Economics and Peace partnership.



She has served on several Rotary international committees, including the Finance, Investment and Audit committees. She also chaired a 3-year Presidential initiative task force and has served on several Board and committee-appointed workgroups.

Prior to her service at the international level, Elizabeth served in many district and regional leadership roles, including District Governor, International Assembly Learning Facilitator, Institute General Chair, Institute Program Chair, Institute Learning Facilitation Chair and Rotary Public Image Coordinator. She also leads Zones 30 and 31's Multi-Year District Planning initiative, and has facilitated over 30 multi-year planning sessions since she and Past Director Greg Yank began the effort in 2016.

Elizabeth is a recipient of the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. In 2014, she was recognized at the White House as a Rotary Women of Action honoree, and she is a 2011 and 2012 recipient of the United States President's Volunteer Service Award.

Her passion in Rotary for more than 22 years is supporting orphans and at-risk children in Malawi, Africa. She has written ten Rotary Foundation grants in support of Malawi's children, including leading a Vocational Training Team, and leading a district-wide global grant to provide women and children under the age of five with malaria bed nets in 40 villages in Mangochi region. As a result of this grant, child mortality in those villages dropped by 80% in just 6 months. She was recognized by the Kansas City Royals Major League Baseball organization as a Buck O'Neill Legacy Seat honoree for her decades of work in Malawi.

Professionally, Elizabeth is principal of her management consulting practice. Prior to founding Whitespace Consulting, Elizabeth developed her leadership skills at companies including Deloitte, Kellogg's of Mexico and two venture capital-funded technology start-up companies. She also served as Associate Director of International Programs at Bentley University, and as adjunct faculty at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has fluency Spanish and French, and spent nearly ten years working, living and conducting business in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Elizabeth is active in her regional business community. She is a volunteer mentor and adviser to startup company founders through MIT's Growth Mentoring Services program. She has also served as President, Chair and Vice Chair on several not-for-profit boards, including Science Pioneers, a STEM education-focused organization, the Kansas City Direct Marketing

Association, the KCDMA Education Foundation and the Malawi Children's Village U.S. Fundraising Board.

A native of the Boston area, where she spent much of her life, Elizabeth grew up in Salem, Massachusetts in an Eastern European community and maintains strong ties to her family and culture in Lithuania. She and her spouse, Dean Mathewson, who grew up in Evanston, Illinois, currently reside in metropolitan Kansas City. Elizabeth and Dean support the Rotary Foundation as Paul Harris Society, Polio Plus Society and Bequest Society members, and are Rotary Foundation Major Donors and Benefactors.

(For Chesapeake PETS 25, as received 10.24)