

For Immediate Release

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Chatham, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize an outstanding community volunteer who personally exhibit outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvement of our communities.

Rod and Rosemary Buffington have been chosen as our current Volunteers of the Quarter.

Rod and Rosemary have a sense for how to help our community and make a difference. They both volunteer countless hours of dedicated work to the arts and other community organizations. They worked to bring the Mid-Central Illinois Region of the Scholastic Art Award Program to the students in grades 7-12 for the past thirty-five years. The Scholastic Art Awards provides an outlet for creative teens and recognizes their achievements regionally and nationally.

Rod and Rosemary have been involved in various art programs at the Illinois State Fair for many years, including serving as Superintendents of the Professional Art Exhibition. Currently Rosemary is Superintendent of the Amateur Art Division as well. They both served as judges for the 4-H Program at the Illinois State Fair and co-authored an art booklet for helping the 4-H student to improve their art entries at the state level.

Both have served their community well by being on the Boards of various organizations. Rosemary is currently on the Board for the Education Center for the Visually Impaired. She is a member of the Land of Lincoln Water Gardening Society, the Illinois Prairie Pastel Society, and serves as Chair for the Springfield Area Arts Council's "On My Own' Time" program. Rosemary is a pastel artist after teaching art for 37 years at New Berlin High School.

Rod is currently serving on the Board of the new Kidzeum, the Rotary Club of Springfield Downtown, and the Paul Harris 711 Club of Rotary International and as an advisor for the "Carillon" Outdoor Art Fair. Rod has served on many other boards within the Springfield Community including the Historic Sites Commission, the American Cancer Society designing and creating the "Relay for Life" program for Sangamon and Menard Counties. Rod has served as District Governor for Rotary International creating the "Rotary Family Day at the Ball Park", a game between the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs on a yearly basis. The programs have raised in the past 16 years over \$500,000 for literacy in five different Rotary District in Central and Southern Illinois as well as one in Missouri and one in Arkansas.

Rod's quilt artworks have been displayed in national and international art exhibitions and shows. His work has been featured in many exhibitions

throughout the states and shown internationally through the work of the "International Quilts" Program. Rod was a former Director of the Springfield Art Association creating the "Edwards Place Craft Show".

Rod has been President of the Springfield Area Arts Council and both Rod and Rosemary are Past Presidents of the Illinois Art Education Association, also both being named "Distinguished Members" of the Association.

They would like to thank the communities and citizens, members and individuals as well as the Corporate World in providing an opportunity to serve.

In honor of the Buffington's voluntary services, a donation has been made to the HSHS Foundation to benefit the Jill Buffington Scholarship Fund. Along with the monetary donation, Rod and Rosemary's names will be placed on a plaque displayed at the bank

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Charleston, Morrisonville, Waverly, White Hall, Palmyra, Tower Hill and Springfield. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.