

# Ayres Associates

by Dave Pantzlaff  
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Thank you to Marcia Van Beek and Dave Pantzlaff for orchestrating our vocational trip to learn about Ayres Associates, both past and present. The day included an overview and background of Ayres Associates, a tour of their 3-story building, and a lunch.

Ayres Associates, Inc. founded by Mr. Owen Ayres in 1959, began as a five person engineering and surveying company in Eau Claire. Through growth and consistent performance, Ayres is now recognized as one of the top 500 firms in the industry.

Ayres Associates is a firm made up of consulting engineers, architects, scientists, and surveyors. They are designers, not builders. Ayres employs about 400 people in 17 offices located in 8 states throughout the country. 60% of the employees have professional degrees from 4-year universities, with the other 40% being clerical and technical.

According to Pantzlaff, engineers and architects are problem solvers. They develop creative solutions to satisfy the needs of their clients. Like most problem solvers, they define the problem, develop and evaluate multiple solutions, design the selected alternative, and implement the solution. The clients of Ayres Associates include all levels of government, educational institutions, utilities, developers and contractors, health care institutions, and tribal nations.

Throughout the presentation and tour that followed, Pantzlaff and the other tour leaders talked about the wide range of projects that Ayres Associates professionals are involved in:

- Transportation engineering – many aspects of the Highway 29 project, and local roundabouts.
- Structural engineering – buildings and bridges, both large and small.
- Environmental science and engineering – land fills.
- Environmental sampling.
- Architecture.
- Surveying.
- Municipal engineering – water and sewage systems.
- Bridge inspections – from underwater to high on the cables.

For more information on Ayres Associates, go to [www.ayresassociates.com](http://www.ayresassociates.com).



Rotarians Enjoying Lunch



Our Ayres Associates Hosts... Front Row: **Jolene Sarauer** Administrative Ass't; **Dan Sydow**, Structures Project Coordinator; **Evelyn Ferneding-Farr**, Survey Manager; Back Row: **Steve Bischoff**, Solid Waste Manager; **Ravio Balciunas**, Lead Architect; **Dave Pantzlaff**, Structures Group Manager.