

Interact

Rotary District 7305



NOVEMBER 2024



On Thursday, October 17 a total of 275 Interactors and their Advisors, representing 25 Interact Clubs, traveled to the Greensburg Country Club to attend this year's District 7305 Interact District Conference.

Dr. Mary Berge was our keynote speaker. In attendance were Rotary District Governor, Dan Dougherty; Rotary District Governor-Elect, Felicia Mycyk; District Public Image Chair, Joe Orbovich plus several Rotary Past District Governors.



In addition to 10 breakout sessions including: How's Your Public Image; Build-a-Chair; Projects, Projects, Projects; Meet Your Interact Board of Directors; ShelterBox; Peace Building Clubs and Peace Initiatives; Poverty Simulation; Ukraine Project Updates and Advisors Only; attendees had time to interact with each other and exchange ideas.

Other highlights of the District Conference can be found throughout this issue of the District 7305 Interact Newsletter. Among those highlights was the election of a new Interact District Governor for the 2025-2026 Rotary Year, which begins on July 1, 2025 and the naming of five Outstanding Interact Clubs for the 2023-2024 Rotary Year and the 2023-2024 Interact Club of the Year.

Sneakers for "got sneakers?" were collected along with the Christmas gifts for the orphans in Ukraine. It was a GREAT Conference.



Ligonier Valley's Interact Club visited Ligonier Gardens in September. In October we will be visiting Bethlen Homes. The students will be rotating between the two facilities once per month all year. While there they play games with the residents. They also have conversations and make connections. Next month we will do a craft when we visit Bethlen Homes.

The Laurel Highlands Interact Club collected items for those affected by Hurricane Helene. Two box trucks filled with supplies drove to a drop-off location in North Carolina. Our club was happy to assist by donating items such as nonperishable food, personal care items, garbage bags, diapers, band-aids, medicine, gloves, utensils, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, pet food, water, etc.



Who Says SERVICE Can't be FUN




We had a blast helping our sponsoring rotary club, Bethel Park Rotary, with their Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.





It really was a collection day at the District Conference! Pictured above are 63 bags of old sneakers that the Interactors collected and brought to the Conference. The shoes will be shipped to “got sneakers?” and they will send District 7305 Interact a check. The money will be used for Interact programs for the District. A special thanks to Past District Governors Marie and Tom Fallon for spearheading this project.

Pictured below are 19 boxes containing the gifts you collected for the orphans in Ukraine. The “packers” pictured below represent individuals from the Rotary Club of Greensburg, the Rotary Club of Blairsville, the Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity and Rotary District 7305 Leadership. The Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity graciously transported the boxes to a Meest agent in Pittsburgh as they start their journey to Ukraine. We were able to save roughly \$2,900 in shipping costs by getting the gifts early so we could ship by sea instead of by air!



Interact

Rotary Sponsored Club

ROTARY DISTRICT 7305 2023-2024

INTERACT CLUB OF THE YEAR

NORTH ALLEGHENY HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

SPONSORED BY
ROTARY CLUB OF NORTHERN ALLEGHENY

A special CONGRATULATIONS to the North Allegheny Interact Club for being named the Interact Club of the Year for the fourth time! Five Interact Clubs were named “Outstanding Clubs” for the 2023-2024 Rotary Year. Those Clubs were: Jeannette Interact Club; Franklin Regional Interact Club; Somerset Area Interact Club; Peters Township Interact Club and Montour Interact Club. Again, CONGRATULATIONS to all.



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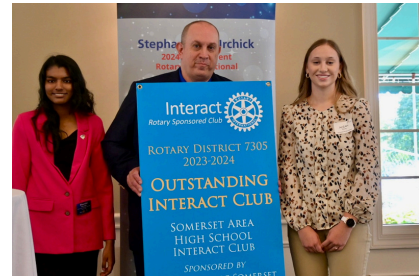


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Greater Johnstown Interact has had a busy October! From attending the District Conference to their Trunk or Treat, and JES Family Engagement Night!



Congratulations to Southmoreland Interact Club for being awarded a \$5,000 prize in the Kindness Games sponsored by the Kindland movement presented by Values-in-Action Foundation.



Southmoreland won 1st place in Student Participation. Southmoreland is very appreciative and excited to see all of the good that can be done this school year with \$5,000! Just this week, the club ordered blank watercolor cards to paint holiday greeting cards for local nursing homes.



Reading is incredibly important to the lives of young students. Reading Under the Lights is an event at the Russ Grimm stadium for Southmoreland elementary students. 10 stations were set up, each with a book read by different organizations and businesses, including SHS Interact. At the station, 4 members read the book "Scottie Pays it Forward" and used an engaging illustration about how a little rock can make a big ripple in a bowl of water to emphasize how far a little act of kindness can go.

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In September and October, the North Allegheny Interact Club has been busy with fun activities that show our love for community service and global awareness! We



kicked off the season at our monthly meeting by making cheerful paper pumpkins to show our gratitude to the Main Office and cafeteria staff. In honor of World Polio Day, we created an Awareness Wall to educate our peers about the important work that Rotary does to eradicate polio around the world. We also collected money and gifts for 8 children through the Gifts for Ukraine Project. Some of our club members lent a hand at the Northland Library Children's Gala, helping with decorations and games. To get creative and promote sustainability, we held a Sustainable Halloween Costume Contest, encouraging members to reuse costumes they already own; it's a great way to reduce waste while having fun! As we look forward to what's next, NA Interact is excited about continuing to make a positive impact locally and around the world!



Southmoreland Interact club members spent their time serving the Scottdale community. So many people give up their time and money on Halloween night to make the holiday special for the local kids by decorating their homes and handing out candy. Students dressed in costumes, but when they were being handed a treat, they reversed things! Instead of taking the candy, they thanked the community members for making the holiday special for younger children and gave them one of 50 adult treat bags containing a fall kitchen towel and candy.



Well it's that time of year again! It's time to start to plan for our annual Cards for Veterans. Again this year, you are encouraged to collect and sign Christmas cards for our veterans. Cards should not be of religious nature (not all veterans are Christians), signed with your first name only and should not be in envelopes (some veterans are unable to open the envelope and the Veterans Administration needs to know what is in envelopes that arrive at their facilities).

All cards will need to be received no later than Saturday, December 7!



Interact District Governor 2025-2026

Ian Smith, an Interact student from Greensburg Salem Interact was elected by the District Interact Board of Directors to be the District Interact District Governor for the 2025-2026 Rotary Year. New members of the District Interact Board of Directors who were elected at the District Conference are: Alexa Pandullo from Southmoreland Interact; Elizabeth Katic from Frazier Interact and Riya Pasrija from North Allegheny Interact.

Bethel Park Interact members were recognized for their efforts at the Bethel Park Job Fair and co-president Abigail Goldenberg was recognized for organizing the summer garden crew as part of the Bethel Park Beautification Project by Mayor Jack Allen. Congratulations to all!



Someone lost a bracelet at the Interact District Conference on October 17. If you are missing a bracelet and can describe it, it's yours! Contact Mark Barnhart at 724-396-5078 to claim your bracelet.

Articles and pictures for the December 2024 Interact District Newsletter are due no later than Monday, November 25. Articles and pics can be sent to Mark Barnhart at mbarnhar@verizon.net





NOVEMBER 2024



Join us on Thursday, April 10, 2025
The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Watch for details in the Interact Newsletter
Pre-registrations will be required and lunch
will be provided



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TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

This year's Trivia Challenge will be a little different! The Challenge will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2025 in person from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jeannette Senior High School (February 5 will be the snow date).

This year it will be a double-elimination tournament rather than a single-elimination tournament. Each team may consist of not more than three contestants plus one alternate. There is no entry fee and there will be prizes for the winning teams.

Categories of questions include: Pop Culture, Rotary Knowledge, Sports, World History and Science. Additional details and registration information will be in the December monthly Interact Newsletter.