

Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - March 2022

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

A New Class of Club Presidents

One true Rotary sign that spring is right around the corner is PETS; Presidents Elect Training Seminar. This year, again, it was held virtually via Zoom.

On Saturday March 5, with professional help from Liz Smith Yeats and her crew at PMMG, Complete Production Management, districts 7280, 7305, and 7360 managed to create a day full of engaging interactions and substantive content.

Because this was a virtual event, it had been decided that any Rotarian from the three districts would be welcome to attend, not only the Presidents Elect. In all, over 200 participants attended and were engaged in the different sessions. The program began at 9 AM and ended at 4 PM.

The morning started with PDG Mary Berge interviewing the DGEs to allow the attendees to get to know them better. We all learned that Marie Fallon (7305) spent quite some time in Poland to become a certified polka instructor. Jack Cohen (7280) revealed that he, for a full year, had been the International Ambassador for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. And Vicki Zimmerman (7360) told us about the time she was working as the Easter Bunny in a mall, wearing a costume that was too big for her.

After this introduction, we heard from Rotary International President Elect Jennifer Jones. She spoke about her vision for Rotary and



Quote of the Month:

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy"

Kahlil Gibran

This was the team of Rotarians who made sure that the 2022 Tri-District PETS on March 5 was a success.

Back nine from left: Herb Smith - DGN 7360; Dan Bennett - Trainer 7360, Scott Bayline - Membership Chair 7280; Dan Dougherty - DGN 7305; Jack Cohen - DGE 7280; Ken Flessen - Public Image Chair 7280; Ivar Berge - Trainer 7305; John Marshall - DGN 7280; John Hartman - DGN 7305.

Front six from left: Mary Berge - PDG 7330; Tom Fallon - PDG 7300 & 7305 Tri-State PETS Chair; Patty Meehan - Foundation Chair 7280; Vicki Zimmerman - DGE 7360; Stefanie Basalik - Foundation Chair 7360; Marie Fallon - DGE 7305.

explained her theme: Imagine Rotary. "Imagine, a world that deserves our best, where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference."

Jones was followed by PDG Mary Berge who provided an hour-long session on leadership development. Participants were asked to ponder what makes someone a good leader (or a bad one). They were also asked to think about how they would know if they, themselves, were good leaders, and how they might be able to monitor their own performance as club presidents.

Their keynote speaker was Dr. Linda Eagle, an expert in human and organizational communication. Dr. Eagle spoke to the PEs on the subject of equity, diversity, and inclusion; a subject that is very important as Rotary moves forward in an ever changing world.

After a short break, the participants were divided into three breakout rooms. Scott Bayline, Membership Chair of district 7280 led a membership session. The Rotary Foundation part was led by district 7280 Foundation Chair Patty Meehan and the public image part was anchored by Ken Flessen, Public Image Chair of district 7250.

Then, after a lunch break, Duke University Rotary Peace Scholar Dr. Simon Aseno spoke to all the participants.

As a finale of the day, the DGEs split the participants up in district groups and discussed district specific topics.



There is more going on behind the scenes at a virtual conference than one might think. Liz Smith Yeats (far left in the bottom picture) and David Snoble and Kathleen Sinnott from PMMG Production Management (middle right picture) set up a studio that created a warm and intimate format for the training. 2



Rotary Peace Scholar Dr. Simon Aseno was one of the presenters at the Tri-District Pets.

Rotary & The Ukraine Crisis

In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for Rotary members around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its Disaster Response Fund as the main avenue for contributions.

To this end, The Rotary Foundation has approved:

Now through 30 June 2022, designated Rotary districts that border Ukraine and the Rotary district in Ukraine may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each from the Disaster Response Fund. These expedited disaster response grants can be used to provide relief to refugees or other victims of the crisis including items such as water, food, shelter, medicine and clothing.

During this same period, other impacted Rotary districts that wish to offer support to refugees or other victims of the crisis in their district can apply for \$25,000 grants from the Disaster Response Fund.

Now through 30 April 2022, Rotary districts can transfer unallocated District Designated Funds (DDF) to support the Disaster Response Fund, directly supporting these Ukraine-specific humanitarian grants.

Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund in support of Ukraine can be made here. All funds need to be received into the Disaster Response Fund by 30 April 2022 in order to qualify for use in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts.

Although the Disaster Response Fund will be the main avenue for Rotary Foundation support, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are also encouraged to create their own responses to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to support provided through the Disaster Response Fund, the Foundation is coordinating with partners and regional leaders, exploring effective solutions to the increased humanitarian needs.

We are in contact with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees – USA to prepare for and respond to the needs of those being displaced in Ukraine and to



Past Rotary International President Holger Knaack was one of many protesting against the Russian invasion of Ukraine at a recent event at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany.

neighboring countries.

ShelterBox, our project partner for disaster response, is in communication with Rotary members in Eastern Europe to explore how it may offer support with temporary transitional housing and other essential supplies.

The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration is also mobilizing its resources to assist in this crisis.

A million people have fled Ukraine and are in dire need of emergency aid. The United Nations estimates that number could grow to as many as 5 million people displaced. Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world have stepped up their relief work, some working on the ground to help displaced families.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Visit My Rotary and follow Rotary on social media to stay updated on how clubs can get involved and what actions Rotary members have taken and the impact it has had for people in the region.

For all other questions and to obtain more information, please contact the Rotary Support Center at rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org.

By Rotary International



Rotary Peace Fellowships

It's official. The Rotary Peace Fellowship application for the 2023-24 academic year is now available for both our master's and certificate programs. Learn more, find a suitable candidate, and have them start their application today! The application deadline is 15 May.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers.

Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,500 fellows who now work in over 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, education and research institutions, peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

How to Recruit a Peace Fellow

From Rotary Leader, January 2022

Clubs and districts have the power to shape the next generation of peacebuilders by recruiting Rotary Peace Fellows and helping them stay involved with Rotary after their studies. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degree programs and 80 for professional certificate programs at the seven Rotary Peace Centers around the world. By supporting a peace fellow, your club or district can engage with the program in meaningful ways.



Do you know an individual who might be the perfect candidate for one of Rotary's Peace Fellowships? Now is the time to let them know about our program and make sure that they start the application process. The deadline is May 15!

"Through years of being involved in the peace fellowship process, I'm still thrilled and admire the serious and high quality of the candidates who apply to the program," says Gideon Peiper, Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee chair for District 2490. "It's a wonderful experience to follow this process, developing a personal connection with Rotary members and knowing that peace fellows will have a memorable experience that will contribute to their professional as well as their personal life, all made possible by the tremendous support of Rotary members worldwide."

Districts interview applicants and endorse candidates for consideration by The Rotary Foundation. Clubs can help in these ways:

- Recruit candidates.

Choose The Right Program:

Master's Degree Programs

Accepted candidates study peace and development issues with research-informed teaching and a diverse student body. The programs last 15 to 24 months and include a two- to three-month field study, which participants design themselves.

Professional Development Certificate Program

During the one-year blended learning program, experienced peace and development professionals with diverse backgrounds gain practical skills to promote peace within their communities and across the globe. Fellows complete field studies, and they also design and carry out a social change initiative. This program is intended for working professionals. Fellows earn a post-graduate diploma upon completion of the program.

- Support candidates. Complete an online training course in how to do this effectively.
- Provide a club recommendation for a candidate, which is optional but highly encouraged.
- Encourage members to join your district's Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee, which interviews candidates.

Contact your district Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee chair or district Rotary Foundation chair for more information.





Rotary Convention Update

In response to questions and concerns raised by members worldwide, we are pleased to announce that the Rotary International Board of Directors has confirmed that the 2022 Rotary International Convention will be an in-person event 4-8 June in Houston, Texas, USA.

In addition, the Board has determined that all participants, including Rotary International preconvention participants, must either be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) OR provide a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before their arrival at the convention. Check

convention.rotary.org for updates as we continue to determine what safety protocols are necessary, based on the current CDC recommendations for safe gatherings. *From RI*

Required to attend the RI Convention in Houston:

Proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19

or

Negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before arriving in Houston



EarlyAct Update

The District 7305 EarlyAct Committee is currently working to inform and educate our Rotary Club and Interact Club members about "EarlyAct - Community Service for Kids" while, at the same time, promoting the idea of starting new clubs throughout the District.

With two EarlyAct clubs currently operating in our District, we have a start. These clubs also serve as a couple of very good examples from which interested parties can learn regarding setting up and actually starting and running new clubs elsewhere.

Toward the end of March, members of the committee will be presenting the EarlyAct Club idea, with details, to one of our Rotary Clubs. Several other clubs have expressed interest in hearing the same program.

Starting and sponsoring a new EarlyAct Club is something that Interact Clubs can do as well. So our local Interact Club Officers and District Interact Officers have also been contacted about this idea.

Another step in the committee's work is that we are gathering the names, addresses and Principal's names of the Elementary Schools within our District. On our list these schools will be tied to their local Rotary Clubs. Information and promotion letters will be sent to the respective Elementary School Administrators. The local Rotary Clubs will then be asked to follow up and assist to get the EarlyAct Club formation process started.

The introduction of community service and "Service Above Self" to 5-13 year old students is a

EarlyAct

Rotary Sponsored Club



tremendous idea and that is exactly what EarlyAct does.

We hope to have at least 10 new EarlyAct clubs, either operating or being planned for start-up next Fall, in our District by June 30. It will take special interest and action by everyone to accomplish this worthy goal.

Please know that the EarlyAct Committee members are very willing to visit at any time to present and discuss the EarlyAct concept and then help in any way we can to get the ball rolling to start a new club in a local Elementary School.

For more information, please contact our district EarlyAct Chair PDG Walt Sickles:

walt.rotarydg1314@yahoo.com

724-462-6929

EarlyAct is a school-wide service club for students aged 5 to 13 sponsored by one of the local Rotary clubs .

The mission of EarlyAct is closely linked to the ideals of Rotary and provide the foundation and natural succession into Interact.

EarlyAct provides young students the opportunity for gaining an increased awareness and knowledge of their community and the world.

Young students can easily be encouraged to be caring and helpful. Their minds are open to recognize the dignity and worth of each individual which builds respect for others. EarlyAct also promotes understanding and the building of friendships among the club members.

EarlyAct also engages students in character-building activities and prepares them for leadership roles to identify and carry out projects which benefit their school, local and global communities.



Chicken for Lunch Again?

Colonel Harland Sanders became an active Rotarian in 1919 when he became a founding member of the Rotary club of Jacksonville, Indiana at the age of 29. After that he joined the Rotary club of Corbin, Kentucky and then the Rotary club of Shelbyville, Kentucky. He was an active member of Rotary until his

death in 1980 and he always wore his Rotary pin.

One of Colonel Sanders' most famous quotes is: "There's no reason to be the richest man in the cemetery. You can't do any business from there."

Now we all know why Rotarians are obsessed with serving chicken at meetings. *By Evan Burrell*



E-Club - Books for Prisoners

Members of the club decided to support the non-profit organization, Pittsburgh Prison Book Project, based in Pittsburgh. The project sends reading and educational materials to prisoners across Pennsylvania.

"We learned that your mind-set can determine your actions; people who are incarcerated do have the opportunity to reenter society and thrive. Giving them access to education allows them mentally survive and have a chance for growth" shared Club President, Felicia Mycyk.

The goal of the Rotary eClub of District 7305 is to continue to support basic education and literacy by increasing education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

Jodi Lincoln, Volunteer for Pittsburgh Prison Book Project said "we get almost all of the books we send out from donations. While the community is extremely supportive of our work and we get a ton of book



The Rotary eClub of district 7305 is supporting the Pittsburgh Prison Book Project. Pictured delivering books above are Denise Duncan, Susan Miller, Felicia Mycyk, Jodi Lincoln from the Pittsburgh Prison Project, and Lisa Ann Krall. Text & picture by Felicia Mycyk

donations from individuals, we often have no books for some of our most highly requested genres including trade books and legal resources. "

"By purchasing a large number of books off of our wish list, the Rotary District 7305 is putting extremely

important books on our shelves.

They'll fly off our shelves and I can't wait to send them out to the people who need them" added Lincoln.

Learn more about the Pittsburgh Prison Book Project at:

pgprisonbookproject.org



Employee Appreciation Week

In honor of "Employee Appreciation Week", the Crafton-Ingram Rotary Club had the opportunity to provide baskets of individually wrapped snacks for about 125 employees at Merakey (Allegheny Valley Schools)!

The club members would like to thank Crafton-Ingram Giant Eagle, and David E. Wooster & Associates for their help with making the baskets and the sign!

Pictures and text by Joe Orbovich



To Recycle or Not...

This is a very good question that the Rotary Club of Oakmont-Verona and the Oakmont Lions found answers to most recently during a joint project. Trex Decking offered our clubs "The Plastic Film Challenge". If we collect 500lbs of "plastic film" for them, they will manufacture and give us a Trex outdoor bench for our communities.

Which brings us back to the question; to recycle or not to recycle? What exactly is acceptable for the challenge as "Plastic Film?" "Plastic Film" items are those that are not recyclable in most community recycling efforts. Examples include plastic grocery bags, dry-cleaning bags, cereal / bread bags, and even the plastic that wraps cases of beverages or paper towels.

The Oakmont Lions and the RC of Oakmont-Verona have collection bins at the RCAC and the Giant Eagle in Verona.

We have been very fortunate in our challenge. In just 1.5 months our clubs collected 220lbs of "plastic film." A very rewarding project that any community or school can do thanks to the ingenuity and generosity of Trex Decking. Each challenge lasts for six months. It's a



The ROC of Oakmont-Verona and Oakmont Lions are working together on a plastic film recycling project. Once they have collected 500lbs of plastic, Trex Decking will give them a bench made from recycled materials in return. Pictures & text courtesy of Jada Donato



great way to collaborate with friends, neighbors and members.

Our clubs would like to extend a very special thank you to Karyn Brooks and the staff of Cheswick's Pittsburgh Indoor Sports (PISA) for their hospitality and kindness in allowing our clubs to meet and sort through our bags of "goodies." There was no cost to our clubs for our time spent sorting at PISA who also provided a delicious lunch.

For more information, contact the Oakmont-Verona Rotary Club with at: oakmontveronarotary@gmail.com

This environmental project is not only sustainable. It is also an eye-opener to the fact that many plastic items cannot be recycled in our local recycling programs. When we all work together good things can happen for the environment.

Interested? Learn more here: recycle.trex.com



Conemaugh Township Rotary

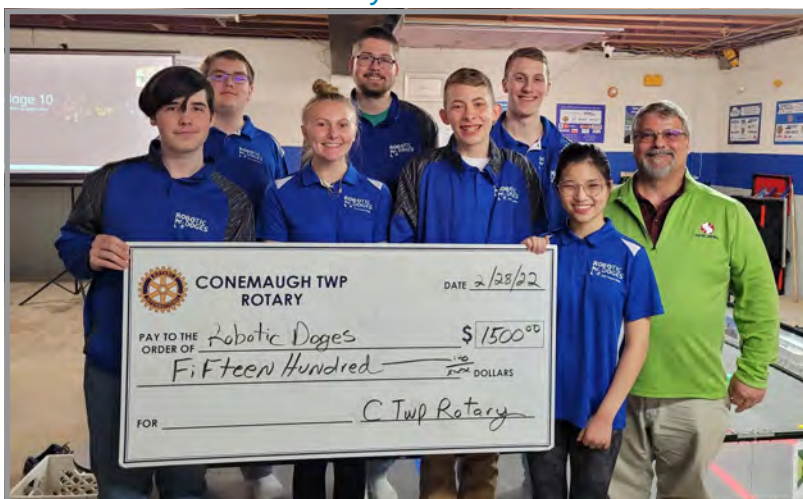
The Conemaugh Township Rotary Club recently donated \$1,500 to the Windber Area Community Kitchen to help support its efforts of providing meals to the local community.

The donation was made possible by the success of the 61st Annual Rotary Basketball Tournament held in December. This is the longest

running tournament in the State.

Pictured above left are Edward Rosbaugh, Director of the Windber Area Community Kitchen and Andi Palmar from the Rotary Club of Conemaugh Township.

The Club also donated \$1,500 to Laurel Highlands Education and Robotics, Inc. to support youth STEM programs, including support for the high school robotics team



FTC Team 8645 Robotic Doges that will be competing at the Pennsylvania State Championship in March 12, 2022.

Pictured above are: Brayden Fletcher, Brandon Holsopple, Annalina Brant, Zaine Fletcher, Grant McClemens, Isaac Metz, Aubrey Slope, and Conemaugh Rotarian Jason Kaplitz. Picture & text courtesy of Andi Palmar and Jason Kaplitz

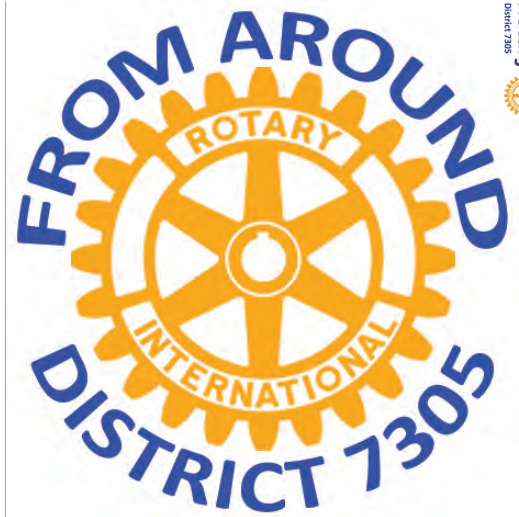


Churchill-Wilkins 50 Years

The 50th Churchill-Wilkins Anniversary Celebration was a fun evening of camaraderie and a great way to recognize all the good work that this Rotary club continues to

Pictured is District Governor Vince Costa presenting President Charles Bostaph and some of the members of the Churchill Wilkins Rotary with a Certificate from the International Rotary President for 50 years of service.

do for the community and what it has achieved in service over the



past 50 years. Four new Paul Harris recognitions from the Churchill Wilkins Rotary were announced by Norm Johnson, multiple Paul Harris Fellow. The new Paul Harris recipients are Mark Ellison, Nancy Carpenter, Dan Paul, and Paul Gamrat. Congratulations to all, a well-deserved honor.

Text & picture courtesy of Dan Kravetz



Black History Month

As Black History Month comes to a close, members of the Greater Johnstown High School Interact club recognize that the teaching of Black History should never end.

They enjoyed highlighting dozens of influential and inspiring African American current and historical figures within our Interact BHM School Exhibit! Thanks to ALL Interact members who contributed by researching and creating a poster for the exhibit!



World Read Aloud Week

On Thursday, February 3, members of the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club participated in the World Read Aloud Week by reading "The Bench" to

their favorite preschoolers at the Morrell School.

After the read-along, each student was also given a copy of "The Bench" to take home and add to their personal libraries.

Courtesy of the GJHS Interact Club

Rotary District 7305

P.O. Box 44305, Pittsburgh PA 15205

District Secretary: Sandra Rebholz

District Office: 412-429-7305

district.secretary@rotarydistrict7305.org

Visit us on Facebook

www.rotarydistrict7305.org

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild virus confirmed cases in 2022

Global Total: 1 (2)

Wild virus detected from other sources in 2022

Global Total: 0 (66)

As of February 22, 2022. Numbers in brackets represent data as of the same date 2021.

Rotary's Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

One New Case in Africa

As a result of ongoing disease surveillance, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has confirmed a case of type 1 wild poliovirus (WPV1) in a child suffering from paralysis in Malawi. Analysis has shown the virus is genetically linked to WPV1 that had circulated in Pakistan's Sindh province.

Detection of WPV1 outside the world's two remaining endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan is a serious concern and underscores the importance of prioritizing polio immunization activities in countries such as Malawi to prevent future instances of importation. Rotary has continued strong financial support to Africa since the most recent previous case in Nigeria. During the last two years, 54% of the Rotary PolioPlus budget has supported disease surveillance, outbreak response, the purchase of vaccines and operational expenses throughout Africa.

While the news from Malawi is disappointing, the polio program has seen importations from endemic countries to regions that have been certified wild polio-free in the past, and has moved quickly to successfully stop transmission of the virus in these areas. As an imported case from Pakistan, this detection of WPV in Malawi does not affect the WHO African region's wild polio-free certification status. *By GPEI*



Pakistan 12 Months Polio Free

As one of the last two remaining wild polio-endemic countries, before one case in December 2021, Pakistan had gone a full year without a report of a single child being paralyzed by the wild polio virus, showing us that a polio-free world is within our grasp. We recognize the commitment of Rotary members in Pakistan and worldwide who helped make this progress possible, while remaining focused on the hard work ahead to deliver a polio-free future to all children, everywhere.

Rotary members in Pakistan play a vital role in polio eradication by raising awareness and funds, advocating with government officials, and engaging community leaders. To date, Rotary has supported polio eradication activities in Pakistan with nearly US\$347 million in grants to fund health workers, vaccines, immunization campaigns, and surveillance efforts, and established health camps and water filtration plants to bring broader health services to communities.

While we reflect on our progress, we also recognize that this progress is fragile, as surveillance efforts in Pakistan have continued to detect the wild virus in environmental samples, and challenges to reaching all children with vaccines persist. Now is the time for Rotary members, government leaders, global partners, and workers at the frontline to redouble efforts and ensure no Pakistani child is paralyzed by polio ever again. *By the Global Polio Eradication Initiative*



Polio Worker Faiza on her way to vaccinate children of Quetta District during the ongoing sub-national immunisation campaign.



Prevention is always better than a cure...

SAVE THE DATE

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELTION OR RESCHEDULE
DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 5

PETS PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR
VIRTUAL 7305 7280 7360 MULTI-DISTRICT EVENT



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 27

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
RIVERS CASINO



SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 23

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 23-26

2022 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT (GOLF ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24)



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 4-8

2022 RI CONVENTION
HOUSTON



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 26 – JULY 1

RYLA ... TWO VENUES ... LA ROCHE COLLEGE AND OUTDOOR ODYSSEY



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 8

DISTRICT GOLF OUTING – INTRODUCING DG MARIE FALLON
WESTMORELAND COUNTRY CLUB

