

Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - May 2023



IMAGINE ROTARY

May is Youth Service Month

What is your Rotary Club doing to focus on Youth Service this month?

May is Youth Month when Rotary Clubs, around the world, focus on youth services, Earlyact, Interact, RYLA & Youth Exchange.

D7305 is very fortunate to have a strong Youth Service Programs. This has been a big focus during the 2022-2023 Rotary year to keep these programs strong.

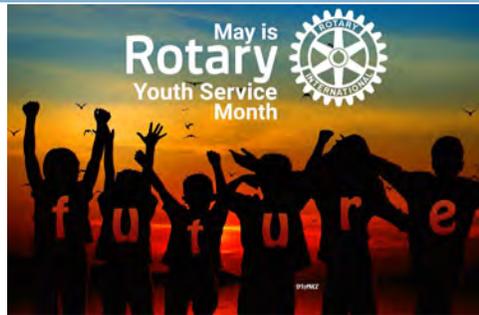
Thank you to the Clubs who sponsor EarlyAct Programs

EarlyAct provides young students the opportunity for gaining an increased awareness and knowledge of their community and the world. At a young age, all 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 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. Much appreciation goes out to Walt Sickles and the EarlyAct team for spearheading this program

Thank you to the Clubs who sponsor Interact Clubs

Interact gives young people the opportunity to take part in fun, meaningful service projects. Along the way, Interactors develop their leadership skills and creativity while meeting new friends. Members exchange ideas, opinions and plans with other talented, energetic young



*Rotary believes that our youth is our future.
Graphic by Debbie Vance.*

people, in an atmosphere free from negative pressures and distraction. Interact strives to promote student leadership development, local volunteer service, and global awareness to allow high school students to become aware of the many global and world issues that affect people everyday. Thank you to Mark Barnhart and his Interact Team for all that they do to promote Interact in our District.

Thank you to the Clubs who sponsor Youth Exchange Students both inbound and outbound, short and long-term

Rotary Youth Exchange is an excellent and economical way for high school age students to travel and study in a foreign country.

Youth exchange gives participants the opportunity to improve their language skills, make new friends and grow their family experience. They also act as ambassadors for their home countries.

Accepting a youth exchange student into your club, community and household can be a very rewarding experience. It's an opportunity for you, your family and your fellow Rotarians to learn about a different culture and also help a young person understand our culture. The goal of Rotary Youth Exchange is to promote the advancement of international

understanding, goodwill and peace at the person-to-person level.

Thank you to Wayne Skelley, Sharon Landau and the D7305 Rotary Youth Exchange Team for their tireless dedication to this program.

We are fortunate to have two Rotary Youth Leadership Programs this year: RYLA@ LaRoche and RYLA @Outdoor Odyssey.

A BIG Round of Applause to those Clubs and Individuals who support our RYLA programs.

Each year thousands of young people take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programs worldwide. RYLA aims to:

- Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth;
- Provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders;
- Encourage leadership of youth by youth; and
- Recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.

Started in Queensland, Australia in 1959 and officially adopted by Rotary International in 1971, the RYLA program enables young people to debate issues of professional responsibility and human relations, improve leadership and communication skills, learn about businesses or institutions and meet Rotarians, while having fun and making friends.

Thank you to Tom Fallon, Rick Martin, Owen Standley and the RYLA team who make this life-changing week possible.

These young leaders are the future and the now of Rotary!

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "M Fallon".

Marie Fallon, District Governor

Quote of the Month:

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

Oscar Wilde



Penguins Day with D7305

It was a group of excited Rotarians who entered the PPG Arena on April 2nd to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins take on the Philadelphia Flyers. And the night was a great success. Not only did the Penguins beat the Flyers 4 to 2. It was also the 1,000th game for Pittsburgh Penguin's defenseman Kris Letang.

Then there was, of course, the case of raising some money for The Rotary Foundation. In all, our Rotary district sold 93 tickets to Rotarians, family and friends, bringing the amount raised for our The Rotary Foundation to \$930 (almost a Paul Harris Fellow).

In addition to the club members from our district, there were also several Rotarians from district 7280 - also known as our friends in the north - attending.

And, to set the tone for the evening, about 15 Rotarians met at the Cambria Suites restaurant right next door to the Arena for fun and fellowship before the game.



Clockwise from top: Close to 100 Pennsylvania Rotarians joined over 18,000 other Pittsburgh Penguins fans on April 2 to see their favorite team beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4 to 2; Joe Piszczor and Joe Orbovich got their own small-scale hockey game in before the real deal (spoiler alert: Joe won...); Autumn Dougherty, Sara Hatfield, Jennifer Hartman, Lisa DeLucia, and District Governor Marie Fallon all enjoyed the game; Chris Letang got to celebrate his 1,000th game with the Pittsburgh Penguins with a win; District Governor Elect John Hartman, John Marshall, Aaron Sines, unknown guy in a white shirt photo bombing, Sara Hatfield, District Governor Nominee Dan Dougherty, Jeff Klink, Jennifer Hartman, Joe Piszczor, Lisa DeLucia, Joe Orbovich, and Autumn Dougherty all got a little pre-gaming in; The Pittsburgh Penguins celebrating their win, bringing them one step closer to the NHL playoffs; Johnstown Rotarians Pat and Michelle Petrell flanking their daughter Liz.

Left: The statue outside PPG Arena depicting Mario Lemieux's famous 1988 goal against the New York Islanders. Pictures by Aaron Sines & Joe Orbovich

Rotary Brand Center

The Brand Center is continually updated with new materials to help you promote your club! You'll find tips on raising awareness of Rotary, ready-made print and digital ads, images, videos, audio clips, templates to download, and more. These resources allow you to create messages that show your community that Rotary members are people of action making a difference.

Some exciting recent additions include:

- Three instructional videos that lead you through creating your club logo, People of Action ads, and your club brochure
- Hundreds of new photos showing people of action
- Updated graphics for Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Create stronger messages

Whether you're posting on social media, inviting community members to volunteer with you, or speaking at an event, you'll get more people to take action by using precise words and clear examples. Our *Communication Guide*, inspired by Rotary's Action Plan, offers advice for clear and effective messaging, such as:

- **Be specific:** Inviting community members to "serve meals to hungry children" is more accurate and compelling than asking them to "defeat hunger."
- **Be inclusive:** It's easier for people to imagine themselves getting involved with Rotary when you refer to "members and participants" rather than to "Rotarians."

For additional guidance and more concrete examples of powerful communications, read our Communication Guide and be inspired!

The guide will help you create communications that effectively promote your club's good work, attract new participants and partners, inspire donors, and motivate volunteers. The tips and examples will help your club and Rotary be stronger and more influential as we:

- Increase our impact
- Expand our reach
- Enhance participant engagement
- Increase our ability to adapt



Rotary's Brand Center is an invaluable resource for all Rotary members who want to share their story with others. It offers tips and advice on how to make sure that your message has maximal impact. It is where you find up-to-date Rotary graphics, ensuring that all Rotary members deliver a consistent message.

Whenever you communicate with people - whether you're posting on social media, inviting community members to join you in a service project, or speaking at an event - you have an opportunity to increase awareness of Rotary and what we do. *From rotary.org*

rotary
youth
exchange

rotary
youth
leadership
awards



At Rotary's Brand Center you will find the latest logos (see the RYLA and Youth Exchange logos above) and much more. It truly is a treasure trove for anyone wanting to get better at communicating about our great organization.

Rotary 
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Using The Rotary Brand Center

Go to rotary.org and log into your Rotary account at My Rotary.

You will find the Brand Center under News & Media.

Once you're in the Brand Center, you can either search for a specific item that you're looking for. Or you can just scroll through the resources to see if there is anything new that you would like to put to good use.

brandcenter.rotary.org

Meet the RI President's Rep

With over 500 Rotary districts putting on a district conference each year, it's impossible for the Rotary International President (RIP) to attend them all. To make up for this, it has long been the custom to send a well versed Rotarian to represent the RI President. The Rotary International President's Representative (RIPR) helps the RIP bring their message to Rotarians attending conferences that they can't attend themselves. The RIPR at our conference this June will be PDG Louisa Horne.

Louisa is a past (2019-20) Chair of the District Leadership Team (aka DG), and is now the Innovative Club Advocate Team Lead for Zones 28 and 32.

Louisa is an entrepreneur, business leader, and doctoral scholar who is passionate about building partnerships and "connecting dots". A former geologist and teacher, Louisa has been an independent Management Consultant, specializing in leadership development and she is a Strategic Doing Practitioner. She is also a certified corporate director and certified business coach. Her work focuses on change management and facilitating innovative initiatives. She recently founded a Community Interest Company focused on supporting seniors as they experience transitions in life – from downsizing and advance planning to coordinating natural burial.

A member of the Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour since 2005, Louisa was inspired to join when her younger daughter was selected to be a Youth Exchange student. She served as District Trainer and received a District Vocational Award, Rotarian of the Year Award and was selected for the District 7820 "Heart of the District Award" given to a PDG who continues to have an impact on the District.

A multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Louisa led the district's last Group Study Exchange team to Malaysia, and also lead a Rotary Friendship Exchange to New Zealand. She brought a lot of innovative thinking to the DG role which she filled during the first year of the pandemic.



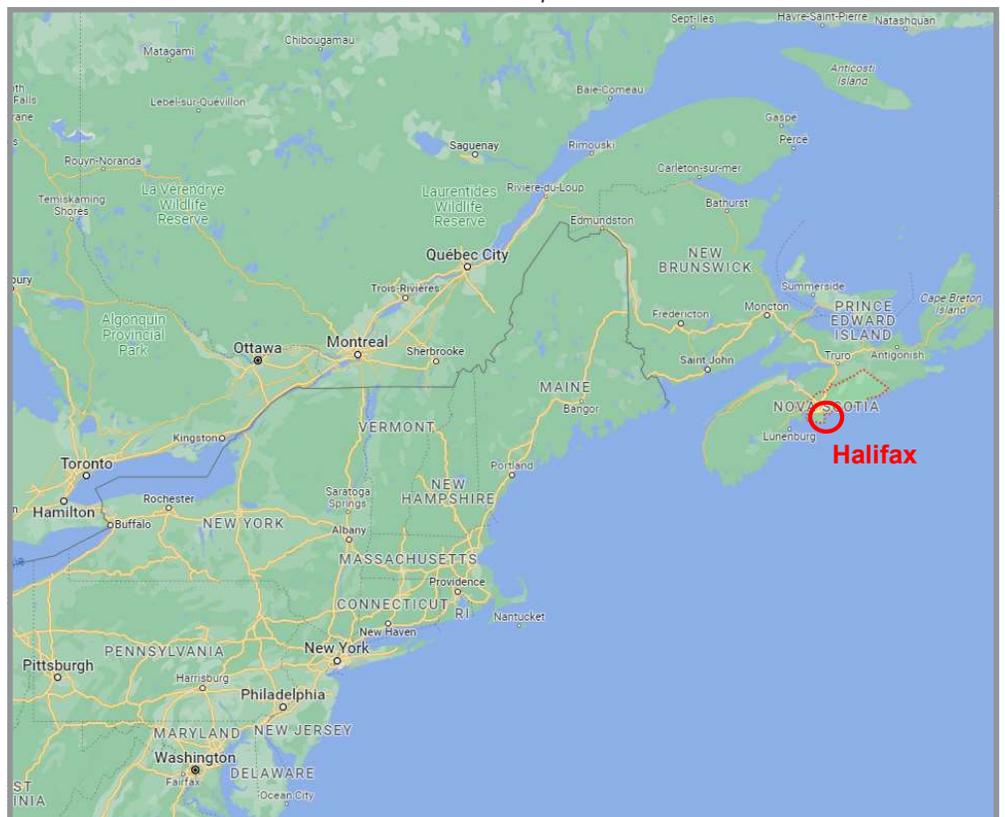
Louisa Horne, a member of the RC of Halifax Harbour, will be the Rotary International President's Representative at our district conference June 23 to 25.

Louisa is known for creative approaches to leadership, and she is always looking for opportunities to increase impact – and irresistibility – of Rotary. She describes herself as a Shift Disturber and, together with her Ro-terrier Beacon (also a PHF), she embraced the idea of flamingos of change and continues to seek opportunities to explore creative ways to "be" Rotary.

She has been an RI President's rep and has facilitated workshops at two International Conferences, spoken in several over-subscribed RI webinars, and been keynote speaker at numerous Rotary President Elect training sessions and other training events, as well as at District Conferences, from Texas and Illinois to Massachusetts and in various Canadian provinces. Her recent PETs sessions on "Irresistible Clubs" were described as "powerful" and "phenomenal".



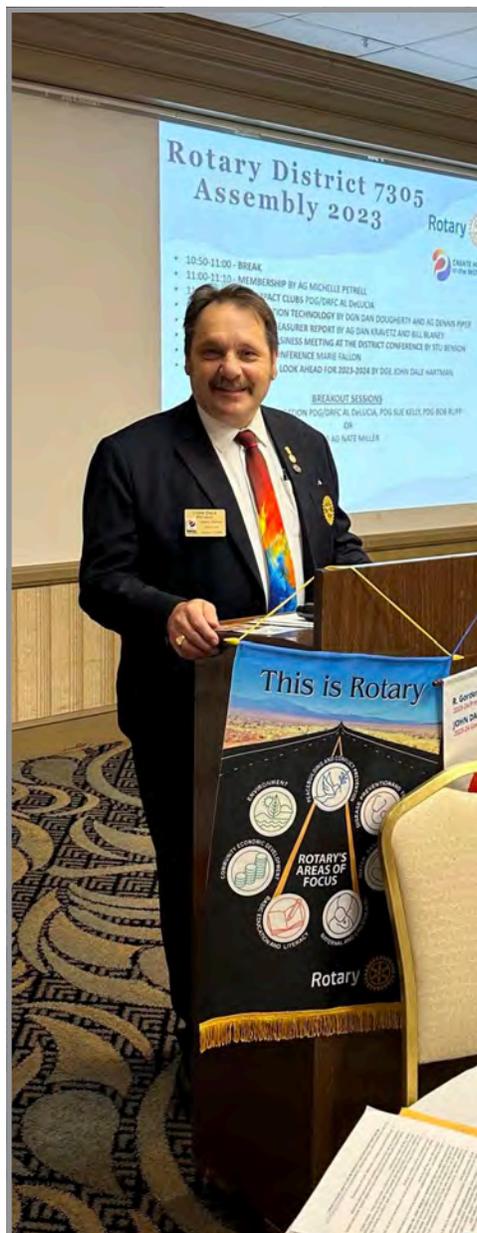
Louisa Horne using her Ro-terrier Beacon to inspire Rotarians.



District Assembly

The 2023 District Assembly is in the records and it went off as an astounding success. Held on April 29, 2023, at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont, over 90 Rotarians were in attendance from across the District. The energy in the rooms were palpable and fellowship did abound. Leadership training at its finest, considerable material was covered through the offerings of our talented Rotarians covering their respective areas of expertise. All in attendance were provided with a detailed understanding of where the district has been, the directions the district is following, and an insight into possible methods on which they can enhance their own individual efforts.

Areas discussed included a district update by District Governor Marie Fallon; The Rotary District 7300 Foundation by Chair Stu Benson; a presentation on The Rotary District 7305 Committee for The Rotary Foundation by Past District Governor, and Committee Chair, Al DeLucia and District Grants Coordinator Jeff Klink; a briefing on the activities of Shelter Box by Assistant Governor Mike Sears; a presentation on public image for this and the upcoming year by Assistant Governor, and future Committee Chair, Joe Orbovich; Youth Services by Wayne Skelley; EarlyAct by District Governor Nominee Designate Felicia Mycyk; membership by our future Committee Chair Michelle Petrell and Past District Governor and Assistant Rotary Coordinator Cherie Sears; Innovative Club Advocate platforms including Impact Clubs by Past District Governor and ICA Al DeLucia; an overview of information technology platforms, including upcoming developments, by District Governor Nominee Dan Dougherty and Assistant Governor Advisor Dennis Piper; a District Treasurer's Report from our current District Treasurer and Assistant Governor Dan Kravetz and future District Treasurer Bill Blaney; a discussion on the annual business meeting at the district conference by District Parliamentarian Stu Benson; an overview of our upcoming district



conference at the Sheraton Station Square by District Governor Marie Fallon, and a look ahead for the upcoming year by yours truly, District Governor Elect John Dale Hartman.

Following a tremendous lunch we had the pleasure of two breakout sessions from which those in attendance could choose. They included one presentation on Grant Management Certification training by Past District Governor and Chair of the District 7305 Committee for The Rotary Foundation Al DeLucia, Past District Governor, and Governor's aide, Sue Kelly and Past District Governor Bob Rupp.

The alternative breakout session available was on a new program addressing how to improve club meetings provided by Assistant Governor Nate Miller.

The attendance was robust and



Presenters at the 2023 District Assembly included DGE John Hartman (left) and PDG Al DeLucia (top). Dennis Piper (above) is making sure that the IT is working properly

all in attendance walked away with increased understandings of the session they attended.

A successful training event by any account the assembly would not have been possible if it were not for the arduous work of those operating behind the scenes including Past District Governor and District Governor's Aide Sue Kelly, Assistant Governor Pat Shaffer, Assistant Governor Diane Parker Moore, and District Secretary Sandra Rebholz.

A special recognition goes out to the Ferri Family and the Lamplighter Restaurant staff for everything they did to make sure this event was nothing short of fantastic. And finally, I want to thank all of our Rotarians who attended the event, truly making it one of a kind. Yours In Rotary Service.

DGE John Dale Hartman



New Members Inducted

In early April, the Rotary Clubs of Greensburg and Mount Pleasant both inducted new members.

On the left, Club President Shelly Gaffney (standing to the right side) is welcoming new member Toni Wilson into the Rotary Club of Greensburg.

Above, Past District Governor

George Woods is inducting (standing, left to right) China Pulido, Melissa "Missye" Jaworski, and Kelly Carlson into membership of the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant. Overseeing the induction, seated at the table are: Dale Walker, Club President Steve Simon, Past District Governor Colleen Wods, and Richard Snyder.



Mentoring Partnership

At a March 26 luncheon, held at the Greene County Career and Training Center, the Waynesburg Rotary Club entered into a partnering program with the GCCTC. The goal is to provide mentoring to their students. This will be done by having experienced business professionals from the club assist and counsel students in their trade occupations.

This mentoring program will further enhance their goal to provide adequate educational opportunities for the growing need in Southwestern Pennsylvania for students to enter into much needed trade occupations. The mentoring program, designed by Director



The Rotary Club of Waynesburg has initiated a mentoring partnership with the Greene County Career & Training Center. Present at a meeting to organize and formalize the partnership were Barbara Wise, Margaret Rock, Susan Dugan, Jennifer Nix, Katie Slezman, Sandra Throckmorton, Joshua Dains, Jay Hammers, and David Clavario.

Mark Krupa and Assistant Director Jeanette Dix, aims to provide proper mentoring of the students' skills and progress in order to facilitate and encourage the completion of their programs.

The Iron Senergy administrative office complex, of some 16,000

square feet, was recently donated to GCCTC. This donation will allow them to expand their nursing and other trade programs.

The Waynesburg Rotary Club is excited to be part of this positive educational outreach program.

Text & picture by David Mason

Ebensburg Rotary Dog Park

From the Altoona Mirror

It was all paws on deck Monday morning as local leaders and community members gathered for the official groundbreaking ceremony at the future Ebensburg Rotary Club Dog Park.

After years of planning, the highly anticipated dog park at Lake Rowena is coming to life with construction beginning this week.

The park will be located near the roller hockey rink at 952 Rowena Drive, Ebensburg, and will encompass about 1.5 acres - with an enclosed section for larger dogs and another for smaller pets.

In addition, the enclosures are designed with no right angles to prevent dogs from being cornered by other dogs, officials said.

The park has been in the planning stages for about four years, said Phil Sutton, chairman of the Rotary dog park committee. The committee picked the Lake Rowena area for the dog park's location after learning Ebensburg would maintain it if it was built on borough property.

When work on the park is complete, it will be turned over the borough, Sutton said.

The idea came about when the Rotary club was looking to complete a major project for the community.

"There had been a growing interest over a 10-year period for a dog park," Sutton said, noting the borough was on board for the project.

A dog park is one recreational amenity that was lacking in the area, said Danae Koss, community development director.

"It is something our residents and community have embraced and are really looking forward to," she said.

"It puts us on the map," said Mayor Randy Datsko, "it will pull people in from nearby towns and hopefully have some economic benefits."

The dog park's location is pretty much ideal, Borough Manager Kelly Cook said, pointing out the lake setting and natural green space, as well as nearby picnic pavilions, a walking trail and baseball field. The Ebensburg Tennis Center is nearby, and the area offers fishing, kayaking and canoeing opportunities, too.



Members of the Rotary Club of Ebensburg at the groundbreaking ceremony for their community dog park. Right: Ebensburg Rotarian, and dog park committee member, Ronnie Wilson's Boomer; one of the future beneficiaries of the new park.

Photo & text by Cati Keith, Altoona Mirror

Building a dog park isn't as simple as putting up some fences, organizers said, noting the Rotary club has been spearheading for several years the design and fundraising efforts.

In February, bids were opened, and Straw Construction was awarded the \$268,000 project. The park is to be open by Oct. 31, but that date could be moved up if construction goes well.

"When I asked a representative from Straw Construction how long it will take to complete, he said maybe a month, so it could be finished as soon as Memorial Day," Datsko said.

The dog park will include 1,700 feet of fence, and 1,560 feet of walking paths, along with three water stations, a dog shower, waste stations, obstacles, benches, and perimeter fencing.

Construction will involve installation of drainage lines, a new storm inlet, asphalt paving, concrete paving, installation of water appliances and associated utilities and yard work.

Nine new parking spaces, including one handicapped accessible, will also be included in the project.

In addition to fundraising and donations, the project received some grant money, including \$112,000 in state funding to support the dog park.

"What is not in the contract is the park signs - we are in the process of designing them and have to come up with another \$1,000 for those," Sutton said.

It's hoped that once the park is complete, not only local residents



will take advantage of the space, but visitors as well.

"This is really going to draw people from all over the area," said Ronnie Wilson, who joined the Rotary just to be involved in the planning of the dog park.

There are no membership fees and anyone can use the park, as long as they abide by a few rules, Wilson said.

Dogs must be up to date on vaccinations and they can't be aggressive. No food is allowed inside the dog park, which will be open daily from dawn to dusk.

Wilson said local residents have been waiting a long time for the park.

"This has been such a long time coming," Wilson said. "I have people who will stop me while I'm walking my dog and ask about the park."

Dog park committee member Jan Kuncelman said a place for dogs to exercise and play off their leashes was needed and she hopes the park will bring the community together.

"I hope they can enjoy another beautiful area for our town," she said. 8

BSC 63rd Pancake Festival

The Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair (BSC) is pleased to announce that their 63rd Annual Pancake Festival (PF63) held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair on Saturday, March 4, was simply "A Flippin' Success". That's right; 63 Years!

Since 1960, the BSC Rotary Club has delivered this popular community event which continues to benefit a variety of non-profit organizations serving our community's most vulnerable children, seniors, as well as those with developmental challenges.

The BSC Rotary Pancake Festival is regularly scheduled from 8 AM to 4 PM on the first Saturday in March. It features all-you-can-eat pancakes, including butter & syrup, sausages & applesauce, as well as all-you-can-drink milk, juice, coffee and tea. All of this is only \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. In addition, Patrons may also purchase tickets for chances to win valuable Chinese Auction items as well as participate in bidding on even more valuable Silent Auction Items. And, of course, don't forget those 50/50 drawing tickets.

At this year's Pancake Festival we served over 1,200 individuals. This comes to almost 4,000 pancakes. That's a lot of pancake flipping! And, that's not counting the sausages, applesauce, and all-you-can-drink selections. We always enjoy meeting, greeting, and serving our Pancake Festival Patrons.

In addition to our PF63 patrons, we also appreciate the generous donations from all our sponsors whose business card ads were printed on PF63 table placemats (too



The Bethel St. Clair Rotary Club's 63rd Annual Pancake Festival took place in March. During the eight hours of the event, over 1,200 hungry individuals consumed nearly 4,000 pancakes.

Below left (left to right), Club members Anthony DeCecco and Marjan Marchal-Michlik with Karen DeCecco are ready to welcome the hungry guests. Above (left to right) Bob Theakston, Sam Provil, Tom Rohrich, Mike Shook, Tracy Estabrook, and Emanuel Panos are cooking and serving pancakes as fast as they can.

many to identify here). However, we must recognize our major sponsors, including (listed alphabetically): AJ Buerkle Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, All-Clad Cookware, Bella's Restaurant on Fort Couch, Benchmark Wealth Management, Bethel Bakery, Duck Donuts, and Friendship Village of South Hills.

And our golf sponsors: Chippewa Golf Club, Lindenwood Golf Course, Rolling Green Golf Course, Mod Wash of Bridgeville, South Hills Interfaith Movement, and Stifel-Dieckmann Wealth Management Group.

Also, to make this PF63 work and be "a flippin' success" requires a lot of hands-on support. Of our 132 volunteers, 34 were BSC Rotary members, spouses, and friends. The remaining 98 Volunteers included individuals from the community, including those representing the following organizations (listed from highest-to-lowest attendance): Boy Scout Troop 366, Bethel Park High School Interact Club, Upper St. Clair High School Interact Club, South Hills Interfaith Movement, Resurrection Parish – Appalachia Mission, John McMillan Presbyterian Church, Prime Time Adult Care, Meals on Wheels – Bethel Park, AJ Buerkle Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Bishop Canevin High School, and St. Clair Hospital.

Without these volunteers, it would not have been possible to achieve

this truly flippin' level of success.

Again, we gratefully thank all PF63 patrons, sponsors, and volunteers for your kind & generous participation. Be assured, your contributions will help support the key non-profit organizations of our South Hills Community.

Finally, please remember to add our PF64 on Saturday, March 2, 2024 to your calendars.

By Sam Provil, Past Club President



Annual Night of Giving

There is one night of the year that every Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park Breakfast Club Rotarian looks forward to - the Annual Night of Giving - and this year was no different. During the annual NOG, held on April 20 at Valley Brook Country Club in McMurray, PA, the club had the privilege of donating over \$53,000 in grant money to 20 local and two international charities. Special guest host Bonny Diver, 3WS Pittsburgh Radio personality, kicked off the night and introduced each charity.

"This night is the culmination of all the hard work done throughout the year, starting with the Chicken BBQ fundraiser held each fall." said event Co-chair Bill Findle.

With 90 people in attendance, including half a dozen BBQ sponsors, there was not a dry eye in the house as each charity received their check and thanked Rotary for these critical donations. *"From life-saving security devices assisting victims of domestic violence from Watchful Shepard, to solar lanterns for the homeless from Light in my City, this night was about celebrating our community and how together we make a difference,"* said Co-chair, and BBQ sponsor, Scott Churchill.

As a first-time grant recipient, Bill Henderson, a Board member from Crop & Kettle, was thrilled to share that the grant will be used to build a community garden in Ambridge, PA. Each semester, Crop & Kettle provides tangible life skills and culinary job training to over a dozen students. *"This grant means everything to our students who will learn the life cycle of food management from crop cultivation and dinner preparation to catering."* Henderson also noted that *"Upon graduation, our students have not only gained tangible marketable job skills but have been transformed. It's more than learning how to cook. It's realizing that with hard work and dedication you can change the course of your life and have hope for the future. We are grateful to the Rotary of Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park, Breakfast Club, for this donation."*

David & Marci Heckler, owners of



On April 20, at their "Annual Night of Giving," the Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park Breakfast awarded over \$53,000 in grants to several local and international organizations and projects. Seated from left: Tim Kreger – Western PA Police Benevolent Foundation; RJ Jurick – USC VFD; Chief John Wharton – USC PD; Monica Orluk – Operation Troop Appreciation; Rotarian Scott E. Churchill; Mary Beth Zollars – Nyadire Connection; Sister Cynthia Wessel – Sister's Place; Margi Henderson – St. Winifred's Food Pantry; Standing from left: Bill Henderson – Crop & Kettle; Erik Wieseman – Light My City; Officer Matt Kearns – BP PD; Penney Miller – USC Choral Boosters; Christine McIntosh – Bethel Park Public Library; Tracy Walnoha – Watchful Shepherd; Mary Alice Moore – Bethel Park Public Library; Jennifer Christensen – Meat Fight East/MS Society; Mike Lybarger – YMCA Camp Aim; Kristin Huibregtse and Dean Huibregtse – Always B. Smiling; Bonny Diver – WJAS Radio /Hair Peace Charities.

Comfort Supplies Inc, and Platinum BBQ sponsor were impressed by the number and variety of charities supported. *"It was a feel-good night for sure,"* said Marci Heckler. *"And hearing how each charity will be using our donation was inspiring. It's great to be a part of something so worthwhile and with a direct impact on our local community."*

From supporting local Veterans to the elderly to high school students and the homeless, please visit <https://rb.gy/7fyvi> for a complete list of 2023 grant recipients.

And to learn more about our club or how to join, visit uscbprotary.org or contact Club President and Assistant District Governor Sally Morrison, at 412-951-7543. Text & photo by Mary Kirk



The Elizabeth Forward Third Grade Spelling Bee was completed on Thursday, April 20. The top three finishers were (left to right): 2nd place, Ariana Nunez; 3rd place, Graci Aurandt; 1st place, Samuel Younge. Also pictured are Rotary Club of Elizabeth Forward Co-Presidents Eric Ash and Julie Rice.

Thank you to the Rotary event volunteers (Julie, Donna, Greg, Dorothy, Lily, and Bobbi). Also, a big thanks to Dr. Perry and Mr. Huber for their continued support for one of the annual highlights to the Rotary year. The club is already looking forward to the 2023-24 Spelling Bee! Text & photo by Eric Ash

Oakmont-Verona Rotary Club

Service Above Self, Rotary International's motto, explains why the Oakmont-Verona Rotary Club has such a unique and genuine relationship with both the Oakmont and Verona Volunteer Fire Departments. Our club is extremely grateful for this relationship with our community fire fighters. We are happy to support their dedicated and selfless work. These firefighters answer numerous calls every year, are entirely volunteers and willingly give countless hours of their time to training, preparation and maintenance of equipment. These brave men and women have families and jobs of their own, yet still stay attentive to the needs and safety of our residents.

Recently, Rotarians Karyn Brooks, Chris Martin, Carrie DelRosso, and Don Stoner, visited the Oakmont and Verona Volunteer Fire Departments to show appreciation for their commitment to our communities. Chief Daniel Tihey and the Verona volunteer firefighters as well as Chief Joe Flanick and the Oakmont volunteer firefighters showed us their fire halls and the equipment they use to keep us safe.

They say "a picture tells a thousand words,"

I think one might agree that the visits were both educational and full of fun and camaraderie. Both departments were happy to display their beautifully maintained equipment, including a new Oakmont 102-foot Ladder Truck (pictured).

These first responders are always going above and beyond, having immeasurable positive impacts on our towns. Being such an integral part of the community, it is important to mention one example of the many ways these firefighters assist and aid in our communities. They help the Oakmont-Verona Rotary Club by installing and removing the Flags of Honor five holidays each year. Rotary truly appreciates their time and assistance. Rotary's Flags of Honor project offers the opportunity to honor, or honor and remember, relatives or friends of families in Oakmont or Verona Boroughs. American 5' by 3' flags, made in the USA, are mounted on 10' Poles and



placed along the Arboretum walking trail through the center of Oakmont and around the Pavilion in Verona's Railroad Park (pictured above). This year Flags of Honor will be added near Doughboy statue in Verona. Flags will also be added above the wall at Plum Street in Oakmont.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, Oakmont-Verona Rotary offers the opportunity for every family in Oakmont or Verona who cannot afford the full \$50 cost the opportunity to honor a friend or family member at reduced cost, or for free. Forms can be picked up at Eiler's Hardware in Verona, English Funeral Home and Oakmont Dental, or call 412-860-7242.

The 2023 flag schedule is:
Memorial Day-Monday, May 29;
Flag Day-Wednesday, June 14;
Independence Day-Tuesday, July 4;
Labor Day-Monday, September 4;
Veteran's Day-Saturday, November

11;. In addition, all 2023 persons honored, remembered & honored, donors, and sponsors will be recognized in future Oakmont and Verona newsletters.

It is an honor as a club to oversee The Flags of Honor project and our support our local firefighters. Thanks to both departments for all they do for our communities and families. Oakmont-Verona Rotary looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Oakmont and Verona Volunteer Fire Departments.

Rotary has served Oakmont and Verona borough since 1927. We continue to support many local projects including The Flags of Honor Project, The Boulevard Project, The Verona Sign Project, Recycling Program, Dictionary Program, Riverview Scholarships, RCAC, local parks and any future endeavors that allow the Rotary club to help others. *By Jada Donato*

Dr. Jonas Salk Legacy Exhibit

On April 28, the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health unveiled a free, public exhibit of historical laboratory equipment, documents and photographs depicting the work of Jonas Salk, MD, and his team, who developed and tested the world's first vaccine against polio more than 70 years ago in Pittsburgh.

The polio vaccine was created by Dr. Jonas Salk at a University of Pittsburgh laboratory about 70 years ago, and Pitt is honoring that legacy by opening a public exhibit of Salk's personal equipment to remind visitors and students of the importance of vaccines to public health.

The exhibit spans two floors in the commons area of the Pitt School of Public Health building. It includes an iron lung to remind visitors of polio treatment before the vaccine was created, a centrifuge that Salk used and interpretative signs about Salk and the creation of the polio vaccine.

Peter Salk, a Pitt professor and Jonas' oldest son, said the exhibit should serve as a reminder of how important it is not just to develop scientific breakthroughs but to effectively spread them to the public in the name of global health.

"This shows the devotion to humanity my father had was unmatched," Salk said. "Caring for the future was always something he was focused on."

Salk and his family provided most of the material for the exhibit, which includes his father's awards and items such as the beakers he used in his experiments. It even includes his desk, which traveled from his Pittsburgh office to California when the family moved.

Peter Salk was among the first humans in the world to test a polio vaccine in 1953. A photo in the exhibit shows him as a 9-year-old receiving the shot from his father.

Salk and former Pitt Public Health Dean Donald Burke first discussed bringing an exhibit on Salk's legacy more than a decade ago.

Burke said it was important to unveil the exhibit now because there has been a rise in anti-vaccine sentiment. He said the exhibit aims



Jonas Salk's eldest son, Peter Salk, who is a Pitt Professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, spoke at the April 29 opening of the Jonas Salk Legacy Exhibit at the Pitt School of Public Health. Text & photo by Ryan Deto @ Trib Live

to serve as a reminder of how life-changing the polio vaccine was.

"I was a child when Jonas Salk and his team here at Pitt developed the polio vaccine," Burke said. "I clearly recall the celebration when we were finally free from the fear of polio."

After a mass immunization campaign with the Salk vaccine, the number of polio cases in the U.S. fell from 35,000 in 1953 to 5,600 in 1957. By 1961, fewer than 200 polio cases were recorded in the U.S.

"It wasn't just about the science," Burke said. "It was about a public health collaboration of everyone working together to inform people about the vaccine and distribute it."

Pitt Public Health Dean Maureen Lichtveld thanked the Salk family for their contributions to the exhibit, which she said is the cornerstone of the school's 75th anniversary celebration this year.

"There is no other school that can claim the vaccine that changed so many people's lives," Lichtveld said.

The Jonas Salk Legacy Exhibit

The exhibit is open from 9 AM to 6 PM weekdays in the lobby and commons area of the Pitt School of Public Health at 130 De Soto St. in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood.

Students Instrumental in Creating the Legacy Exhibit

Margaret Shaheen didn't hesitate for a moment when picking a museum studies internship this spring. The opportunity to create an exhibit dedicated to the legacy of the polio vaccine at Pitt was too perfect to pass up.

"My grandmother had polio as a child," said Shaheen. The vaccine, a result of Pitt research, was what allowed her to reunite with her community. "It was the perfect connection. It's my way of honoring her."

The resulting display in the School of Public Health building, unveiled April 28, combines laboratory equipment, awards and historical documents that were donated by the family of Jonas Salk and shipped from storage in La Jolla, California. Shaheen, a Pitt anthropology and museum studies junior in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, was one of a number of students who were at the center of the effort to craft the exhibit over the course of the spring semester.

The team's first step was staring down a pile of boxes and a decades-old inventory. Next came a monthslong effort to prepare the objects for display.

"Getting to see it from the beginning - a giant, boxed-up collection - to the

end where all of these objects have homes with alcoves and signage was a really cool thing,” said Samantha Bonawitz, a biological sciences and museum studies junior in the Dietrich School. “It was literally built from the ground up.”

A short timeline and a display area located in a busy academic building meant there was no shortage of quick decisions to make. This beaker or that one? Reproduce this award or display the original? And where should we hang that text display so it won't get in the way?

Along with anthropology and museum studies junior Lily Heistand and under the guidance of Alex Taylor, an associate professor of art and architecture in the Dietrich School, the group spent the semester sorting through the collection, identifying and cleaning objects and preparing the final exhibit. With help from Facilities Management, Archives and Special Collections and University Communications and Marketing, the exhibit took shape.

Though the students' work on the exhibit is complete, they've only scratched the surface on what there is to learn from the collection. And throughout the effort, the teams learned about the many researchers and community members involved in the effort to vaccinate children, while getting a look at the life and mind of Jonas Salk himself.



The Salk Legacy Exhibit features many of Dr. Salk's personal items. Students can sit and study at Salk's longtime desk, one of the exhibit's most interactive components.

Photo by Aimee Obidzinski, University of Pittsburgh

“He left a note for his wife in a book that said he was going to Washington, D.C., and didn't want to wake her,” said Chaviva Lebovits, a junior in the School of Public Health's new bachelor's degree program in public health. “But he wanted to say he loved her and would see her later.”

Discovering these glimpses of humanity is one of the things that most excited Lebovits and public health junior Haliyat Oshodi, who worked with distinguished professor and former School of Public Health Dean Donald S. Burke on a section of the exhibit.

“When we learn about him in class, you just see a famous scientist who made the polio vaccine,” added

Oshodi. “But finding things that show their emotional side, like that letter, you see a real person.”

Another find of interest to the pair was a large collection of awards and certificates of appreciation, as well as poems and paintings sent to Salk by people around the world. And perhaps the most interactive is Salk's longtime desk, open for any student to study at and think about the object's history. Even as the team was putting the final touches on the exhibit, passing students had already claimed it.

“I was walking back one day and I saw a student sitting at the desk, like we wanted them to, preparing for finals,” said Bonawitz. “And I thought, ‘perfect.’”

Archivists continue to sift through the collection. Eventually, all will be cataloged, placed in special storage and made available for study. For more information on the collection, contact Ed Galloway, University Library System Special Archives and Collections, at edwardg@pitt.edu or Jessica Burke, School of Public Health, at jgburke@pitt.edu.

By Patrick Monahan and Michele Baum at pitt.edu



The Rotary Club of Johnstown had a busy end of April. On Friday, April 28, Past President Mike Cashaw, President Elect Jennifer Aurandt, and President Nominee Craig Saylor were guest bartending at the Ethnic Social Club at the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. Then, on Saturday, April 29 they, with the help from the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club, collected almost 60 bags of trash during the annual Highway Cleanup. Pictured above is Rotarian and School Superintendent Dr. Amy Arcurio with some of the Interact students.

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POLIO IN NUMBERS
Wild virus confirmed cases in 2023
Global Total: 1 (3*)
Wild virus detected from other sources in 2023
Global Total: 21 (63)**
 As of May 2, 2023
 * Total on the same date in 2022
 ** Total for all of 2022

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?

Health Workers are the Key

When polio was widespread, communication strategies often used what is known as risk communication, targeting individual caregivers with facts about polio and polio vaccination to inform caregivers and educate communities about the need to protect and vaccinate children. As the virus' hold has shrunk to very limited parts of the world, communications has evolved to address the dynamic perceptions and social norms that deter caregivers in the remaining 1% of the world from vaccinating their children.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative's shift to 'social norm communication' is led by UNICEF and grounded in recent polling research on populations affected by polio in endemic and outbreak

contexts, and their responses to polio eradication efforts. Primarily, this research shows that families in high-risk areas are discouraged from vaccinating by the prevalent social norms. Communication strategies therefore aim to shift those norms, much as smoking has been shifted from the norm in many countries.

The eradication of polio depends on the success of polio programme health workers (e.g., community health workers, social mobilisers, vaccinators). Their success in the field revolves around a single pivotal moment: the short, interpersonal interaction between health workers and caregivers, or 'the knock' on the door.

The Communities

A caregiver's decision does not exist in isolation. It is both a personal decision, and a consideration of familial and community views about

the act of vaccination itself.

Is it celebrated or discouraged?
 Does the community respect the role of health workers?

Community engagement does not just happen during vaccination days. It is an ongoing conversation with the community that requires an iterative loop of listening and responding.

The GPEI Community Engagement Strategy considers three main phases:

- Before the Knock – Pre-campaign awareness and community mobilization
- The Interaction – Supporting interpersonal communication and training so that the interaction at the door is the most effective it can be.
- After the Knock – Building toward constant improvement and increased levels of trust, seeking caregiver feedback is critical.

From polioeradication.org

BEFORE THE KNOCK
 Mass-reach media and community engagement rebrands the effort to build trust with the health workers while expanding the conversation from polio to children's health.

- Information via SMS
- TV
- Print
- Radio
- Social Mobilisation
- Film

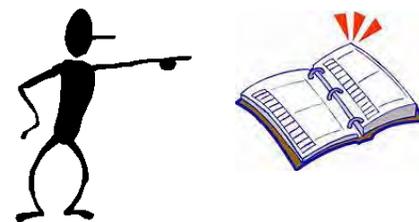
THE INTERACTION
 Support the moment of contact by equipping the health workers with tools to help professionalise them and build rapport with the communities they serve.

- IPC Training
- Branded Coolers
- Mobile Multimedia
- Messaging
- Leave Behinds
- ID Badges

AFTER THE KNOCK
 Community discussion provides feedback and input to the next campaign, while engaging leave-behinds help influence social norms about vaccination.

- Rapid Data & Feedback
- Leave Behinds Become Kid's Toys
- Community Meetings
- Branded Swag

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 27 - 31

RI CONVENTION

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 23-25

DISTRICT 7305 CONFERENCE

STATION SQUARE



SAVE THE DATE – RYLA IN JUNE

RYLA LaRoche - JUNE 18 THRU JUNE 23.

RYLA OUTDOOR ODYSSEY - JUNE 25 THRU JUNE 30. BOSWELL, PA



SAVE THE DATE – JULY 29

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS PARK, WASHINGTON, PA



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 7

DISTRICT GOLF OUTING

INTRODUCING DG JOHN HARTMAN

WESTMORELAND COUNTRY CLUB

