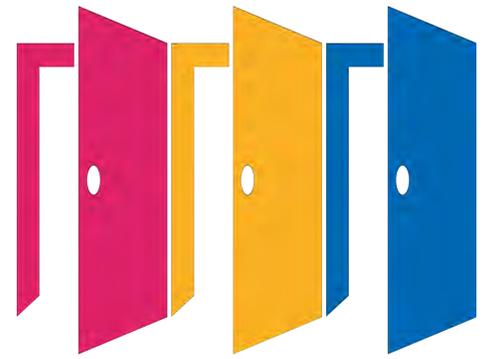


Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - January 2021

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Happy New Year!

2021 is here and it brings with it the hope for a better year than the one we left behind. I don't think anyone is sad to say good bye to 2020. While Rotary District 7305 and its clubs faced many challenges in 2020 we also had many opportunities to overcome these challenges in new and creative ways. Almost every club has changed its meeting format, major service project and significant fundraising event this year. Engaging and retaining members has been a priority for clubs and attracting new members has been a challenge for some clubs but an opportunity for others.

While our District is down by 16 members since the beginning of this Rotary year, we rank 5th out of the 17 Districts that make up Zone 33 in membership retention. The last few weeks have been positive for membership growth in District 7305. Three weeks ago, we added four members, two weeks ago, we added another three members and last week added one more member. We know that the end of December usually brings with it an increase in the number of members that decide to end their Rotary membership. However, we are optimistic that this number will be small and we will be in good shape to increase our numbers and finish this Rotary year with a net gain in membership.

Several clubs have added new members so far this year. Murrysville-Export is +3, Scottdale

Happy New Year 7305

Start this year off right!

Check your club logos and brand

Rotary

Rotary Opens Opportunities

*2020 Masterbrand
2020 Logo*

**Contact your
Public Image Team
if you need help!**

is +3, McMurray +2, Pittsburgh +7, New Brighton +2 and the Rotary E-club of District 7305 added 5 just this past week. These are just a few examples of clubs that are adding members this year.

In order to help clubs with their membership efforts we will be putting on a series of Membership Summit sessions this year. There will be five weekly sessions.: 02/18, 02/25, 03/11, 03/18 and 03/25. Each of these is a Thursday evening at 6:00 PM. Each hour-long session will cover a different topic to help clubs energize their current members, attract and retain new members, and change the outlook regarding membership from something that

is done on an occasional basis to becoming part of a club's passion.

These sessions are meant for everyone in District 7305. Every President, President Elect and Membership Chair should plan to attend. Anyone who has an interest in strengthening their club and helping it grow should also sign up for these sessions. You will be seeing more about these sessions and how to register in emails from both the Membership Committee and me. Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events – you won't want to miss any of them.

Rotary Opens Opportunities. Let's make the most of those opportunities in this New Year. *By DG Al DeLucia*

Quote of the Month:

"Today I close the door to the past, open the door to the future, take a deep breath and step on through to start the next chapter in my life."

Unknown

Innovative Club Models

Have you ever wondered why more people from your community don't join Rotary? There are many reasons such as:

- The club doesn't reflect the community when it comes to gender, profession, ethnicity and age.
- Some people have trouble making it to the meeting because of its time or location.
- People are too busy.
- It costs too much on a yearly basis.
- Others have different interests than what our club is interested or invested in.

And these are just a few of the reasons. Knowing this, Rotary International has jumped into action by giving clubs more flexibility in how they develop and operate their clubs. While we need to create new pathways to Rotary, we are still fully committed to what makes Rotary – fellowship, service, networking, personal and professional development, high ethical standards. To that regard, and to support greater flexibility in club and membership development, our Zone 33-34 leadership has asked each district to develop an Innovative Club Advocate Team (ICA Team).

In our district, our team is working diligently to help current clubs adapt and change to better meet the needs and wants of their members, and to build new club models throughout our large region.

So, how are “innovative” clubs different from our “traditional” (or



If your town only has one Rotary Club, perhaps it's time to start thinking about the possibility of starting another one. The current club may not meet at a time, or on a day that is accessible for many people. Perhaps it meets at a location that doesn't work for them. Or, is it possible that some potential Rotarians are not interested in a weekly lunch meeting, but would rather spend their time together working on projects? Is your town like "Anytown"? Check out this video for some ideas on how to attract more people to Rotary: <https://youtu.be/EOJrICq14e0>

legacy) Rotary clubs? While there are about eight different “innovative club” models, in District 7305, we are currently focusing on three specific models: cause-based, satellite, and passport clubs.

A cause-based club is one that is made up of members who share a passion for a particular cause, and whose service projects and activities center around that cause.

A satellite club is sponsored by a traditional club, but with its own meetings, projects, bylaws and board. It can remain a solid branch of a traditional club, but often, after some time, it becomes a stand-alone club.

And a passport club typically meets on line, has no physical boundaries and their members attend other Rotary club meetings and community

service projects as their means of connecting and engaging in service.

In our next newsletter, you will learn about how YOUR CLUB can help our ICA Team, as we, TOGETHER, grow Rotary in District 7305.

For more information now, please email ICA Team Leader, Mary Berge at drberge@hotmail.com or call her at (814) 288-8246.



Can't find a Rotary club?

Start one!

DG for 2023-2024 Selected

On December 12, 2020 the Nominating Committee of Rotary District 7305 met to elect the next District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND). The Nominating Committee was comprised of the following Rotarians: Violet Ruff (New Brighton), Bonnie Pierce (Bethel Park), Sandra Rebholz (Green Tree), Dan Dougherty (White Oak), Ivar Berge (Johnstown), John Haber (Belle Vernon), Pat Shaffer (Murrysville-Export) and Bea Jarbeck Burk (Scottdale). It was chaired by PDG Singh Ajmani (Turtle Creek).

After reading the applications and interviewing all the candidates, the Nominating Committee selected John Dale Hartman (Murrysville-Export) to serve as the 2023-2024 District Governor.

John is currently the President, and the immediate past President, of the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export. He is also the Assistant Governor for the Rotary Clubs of Murrysville-Export, Indiana, Indiana Mid-Day, Scottdale and Mount Pleasant.

In addition, John is a vital part of the District 7305 Membership Committee and was identified as one of the Emerging Leaders in our Rotary District.

Furthermore, John is a facilitator at the Rotary Leadership Institute where he is also developing part of the new and updated curriculum.

Please welcome John to our District leadership team. He will be a valuable asset to our District in his new leadership role.

Supporting The Salvation Army

Burrell-New Kensington Rotarians were able to fulfill their annual holiday volunteering for The Salvation Army-New Kensington, with just a few changes! Rotarians rang the bell, spread holiday cheer, and collected donations for the kettle campaign. They also fulfilled gift wishes through the Treasures for Children gift tag program. In addition, despite not being able to hold the club's annual Santa Breakfast and Workshop, club members still added to the Salvation Army's gift distribution day, with more than 200 treat and gift bags that will be given to area youth.



John Hartman, from the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export, has been selected to serve as the Governor for Rotary District 7305 during the Rotary year 2023-2024.

Special thanks, not only to our local Rotarians, but also to Chris Kaminski for being a generous donor for our treat bags this year, as well as Mike Newell (club Rotarian!) and his staff at the Valley Points Family YMCA who allowed us to use their facility to safely package and then distribute the gifts today! This has been another example of our community coming together to help each other, and we are always proud to be part of it. #PeopleOfAction



Carnegie-Collier LUNCH

The beginning of December marked 1,232 meals delivered by the Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club to those in need in the Carnegie area. This has been with the support of many restaurants in the Carnegie area. Without their participation, this could not have been done. The December LUNCH supplier is Barb's Country Junction Cafe and we thank them immensely for their support. We will be highlighting all the restaurants we purchase the meals from so that we can help them as well in these trying times when they need our support as a community. #serviceaboveself #PeopleOfAction

Our latest LUNCH day provided 60 dinners packed up and delivered to some lucky senior citizens! We thought it would be a little "easier" to do a casserole type of meal, so we did stuffed cabbage casserole with homemade mashed potatoes and Mancini's rolls. Each meal came with two dessert options: homemade apple crisp or cherry pie. However, it turned out that the casserole was no easier than anything else, chopping/prepping five heads of cabbage, our biggest soup pot full of potatoes (that we had to mash in three different sessions because the pot is three times the size of the hand mixer).

Then peeling and slicing enough apples for four big trays of apple crisp... Some of our old arthritic hands were not happy! LOL! But it felt great to send some hot and delicious homemade meals on this cold day! Shout out to Nathan Miller and Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club for setting up this program, Matt Anthony for the apples, and Sally Bellante and Jesse Bowman for helping us today!



Left: Burrell-New Kensington RC ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and supporting the Treasures for Children program. Above: Carnegie-Collier RC providing 60 lunches for seniors.

A Waynesburg Christmas

The Rotary Club of Waynesburg, in respect for the pandemic restrictions, participated in the Greene County Chamber of Commerce's 82nd Christmas parade, only done IN REVERSE! this year.

A Santa's workshop display was created by Barbara Wise, Melody Longstreth, Sheila Stewart and their committee. It featured Santa and Mrs. Claus on a 1925 fire truck with two elves handing out 500 bags of candy to families as they pulled through building 8 at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Each family was asked to submit letters to Santa and, if they were able, to bring a toy for Toys for Tots and/or give a donation to the Greene County Corner Cupboard Food pantry. A total of 225 cars pulled through the parade route, and over \$750.00 was donated to the food pantry.

In addition, Waynesburg Rotarians helped ring the bells for the Salvation Army on December 10th. They also filled sacks of clothing and toys for over 35 families for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree this Christmas. And, on December 9th, over 200 Food bags were also stuffed for needy families.

Packing Some Fruit

On Saturday, December 12, approximately 17 intrepid, socially-distanced, masked, and gloved members of the North Boroughs Rotary Club gathered at the



Barbara Wise, Rotary Club of Waynesburg secretary and event coordinator, and Dave Mason, Club President. Text & Picture courtesy of Dave Mason



Allegheny Plywood warehouse in the Strip District of Pittsburgh to pack boxes of fruit for a charitable fundraiser.

2020 marked the 50th year that the club had organized this fundraiser. It will also have been the last time

the club does this. At their peak, the club packaged and shipped up to 2,000 boxes with a wide variety of goods each Christmas season. Due to changing regulations, the number had come done over the years.

Under the leadership of Fred Donatelli and Don Huber, the final packing was done at the Allegheny Plywood warehouse. Club members had placed orders for 106 boxes of apples or pears. All persons involved with the packing followed strict COVID-19 safety protocols, including mask wearing at all times, washing hands upon arrival as well as frequently during the packing.

The assembly areas were set up to allow for social distancing and every table was thoroughly disinfected before it was used. The only time folks were remotely close in proximity to others was when a couple group photos were taken. And even then, some of the Rotarians present stood in the back, keeping distance between themselves and the others.

With 106 boxes sold at \$30 per box, it is felt the club will net in excess of \$2,000 which will be deposited in the North Boroughs Rotary Charitable bank account to be utilized solely for Community Service, International Service, or Youth Service charitable or educational support.

The apples and pears, supplied by Consumer Produce just down the road from Allegheny Plywood in the Strip District, were beautiful and will be enjoyed most nutritionally!

Text & photo by Maureen Knecht Newcamp



Warm Boots for Winter

Just in time, on December 14th, Greg Katsos from Operation Safety Net (OSN) arrived to pick up 318 pairs of new winter boots for the homeless men, women, and children who are served through OSN's Street Medicine program.

OSN was started by Dr. Jim Withers from Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. Jean Coyne is now the director and is carrying on providing needed medical care to the homeless population in Pittsburgh.

Many thanks to the Rotary Club of McMurray, Rotary Club of Bethel St. Clair, Rotary District 7305, Dr. Steve Morreale and everyone who helped to make this project possible. With the snow that came today these boots are greatly needed

#RotaryOpensOpportunities

#RotaryResponds

#RotaryClubofMcMurray



District Governor Al DeLucia of the Rotary Club of McMurray (left) delivering 318 pairs of winter boots to Greg Katsos from Operation Safety Net. These boots will warm the feet of homeless men, women, and children in and around Pittsburgh. Text & picture courtesy of Al DeLucia

Adopt a Family for Christmas

On Saturday, December 19th the Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park (Breakfast) purchased and delivered gifts and other essential goods to the Spencer Family YMCA as part of the Adopt a Family South Hills program. The line of vehicles to donate gifts wrapped around the building! The sports court was filled with gifts for 318 children from over 118 families to help spread a little bit of holiday magic!

In addition, a "free store" was set up for the families in need. This was set up because many of the food pantries do not offer household goods/products and gently used or new clothing, but they are often on



family wish lists too. The free store was brimming with extra goodies and treats thanks to local donors and community organizations like Rotary Clubs!

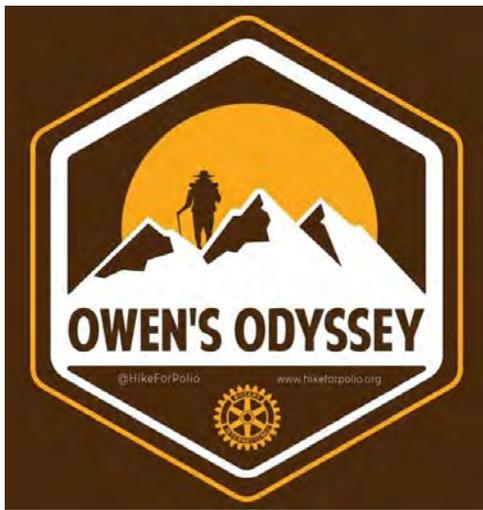
Adopt a Family South Hills was

blown away by the generosity and love from the community. This was the most successful year to date. A huge thanks to all club members for all they did to make this holiday a little brighter for those in need.

To learn more about Adopt a Family South Hills, please visit: adoptafamilysouthhills.com



Above: The Rotary Club of Upper St Clair-Bethel Park (Breakfast) and the "Adopt a Family" program in Bethel park helped provide some real Christmas cheer to 96 families. Pictured left are Rotarian Justin Tiano with Adopt a Family President Pam Saunder. Above right: The club also managed to ring the bell for The Salvation Army. Text & pictures courtesy of Danielle Gosnell



In case you're not yet familiar with my quest: in 2021, I will thru-hike the entire 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail to raise awareness & funds for Rotary International's PolioPlus Campaign.

Opportunities present themselves, and much like love or a great joke, they can be experienced when you are not expecting them.

I had the great fortune of such an experience with fellow Rotarian and Humanitarian, George "The Waterman" Lewis of Florida.

For over a decade, George has committed his talents for painting to fundraise for various Rotary causes, most notably for water projects in other countries. Arguably, two million people have been impacted by his projects.

I am excited to share that George has generously offered to sell his paintings to support Owen's Odyssey!

If you order a painting from his website, note that your purchase is to support the Odyssey. George will make a fresh 11"x14" painting for you and send it by mail. If you really want, he could even do a custom pet portrait!

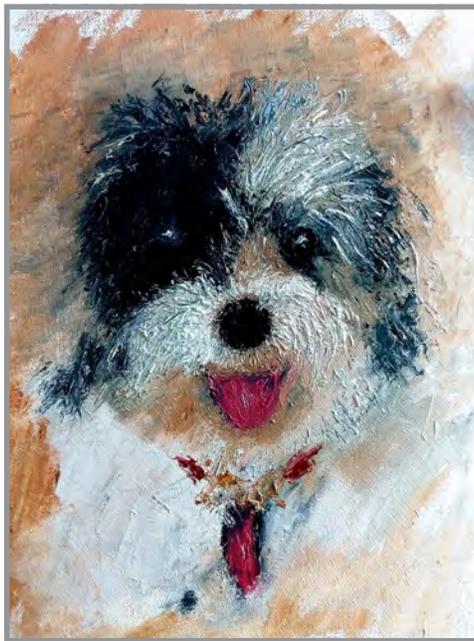
From your purchase, George will donate \$100 toward the Odyssey - IN YOUR NAME! Rotarians will earn their Paul Harris Fellow Points and will receive a tax receipt.

You can contact the artist at: georgelewis.fineartstudioonline.com

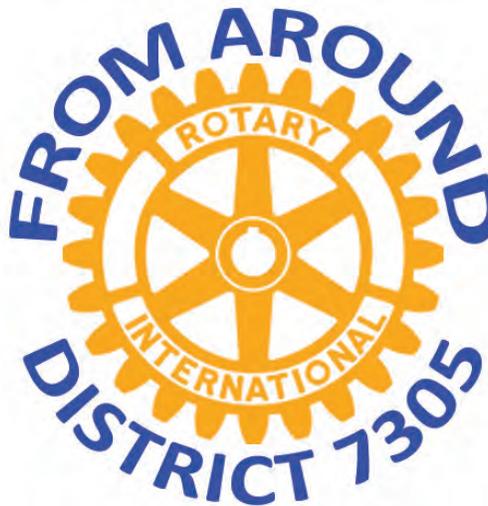
Who will you get a painting for? Will you get one for yourself or get one as a gift?

Thank you, George, for sharing your talents with the world and for your selfless contributions to make the world a brighter place!

By Owen P. Standley / Owen's Odyssey



Get a custom painting and support Owen's Odyssey's goal of raising \$100,000 for Polio Plus. Owen has teamed up with Rotary artist George "The Waterman" Lewis. George will get you a custom painting with \$100 of the purchase prize going to Polio Plus in your name. The painting above is of the artist's dog Baxter. ©George Lewis



Supporting Saturday's Kitchen



On December 13, Conemaugh Township Rotarians helped support Saturday's Kitchen. The kitchen is in its 13th year supporting Johnstown residents with food insecurity.

The Kitchen was founded by Joan Bost, a retired nurse, and serves meals on the weekends at the Family Kitchen. Prior to the founding of the Saturday Kitchen meals were only served on weekdays.

The club paid for the food and member Dave Hart donated 160 cupcakes. Bill and Jeanette Hunsberger and Rob Spencer served over 100 take out meals.

2020 has been a challenging time for all and the club was pleased to be able to reach out and help those less fortunate.



On December 13, The Rotary Club of Conemaugh Township assisted at Saturday's Kitchen, providing weekend meals for those in need. Pictures and text courtesy of Jeanne Spencer

Feed 10 Million Initiative

As we close out the year, I wanted to supply an update of our participation in the Zones 33-34 Feed 10 Million efforts.

Our District, as of December 30th, has supplied over 70,000 meals (70,521 to be exact!) These numbers come from the counts that have been inputted into the Zone's database.

What is the Feed 10 Million Initiative, you may ask? In brief, we

as a District are asked to do what Clubs do best, help our neighbors in need.

Suggestions for Feed10Million service projects include, but are not limited to:

- Serve meals at a food kitchen
- Serve meals at a club/Area/District event
- Pack or deliver food at a food bank
- Pack or deliver food for a backpack program
- Pack or deliver food in concert with

another organization

- Participate in a Rise Against Hunger, Meals of Hope, or other similar packing event
- Provide funds and/or labor, where appropriate, to collaborate with another organization

This is an ongoing effort throughout our District and our Zone, so it is not too late to submit your numbers!

For more information, please visit: rizoness33-34.org/feed10million-initiative/ By Marie Fallon, DGN



Cookies for Front Line Workers

Right before Christmas, the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export provided cookies for the front line workers at Redstone Highlands, a senior living and services facility.

Gathering masked, and practicing social distancing, the club members were able to meet and wish a Happy Christmas to Redstone resident and Murrysville-Export Rotarian Jim Walko.

The sharing of cookies and some holiday cheer was very much appreciated by all.

Picture & text Lane Neff

February Material Deadline
Material for the February issue of the District Newsletter and The Bulletin Board **MUST** be submitted no later than **Sunday, January 24**

Vocational Service Month

January... Vocational Service... and Zones 33-34 Rotary Works... Let the New Year BEGIN!

January is vocational Service Month in the life of Rotary. Through Vocational Service we:

- Serve others by using our unique skills to address community needs.
- Empower others through training and skill development.
- Inspire others to act with integrity by following Rotary's guiding principles.

Vocational Service includes:

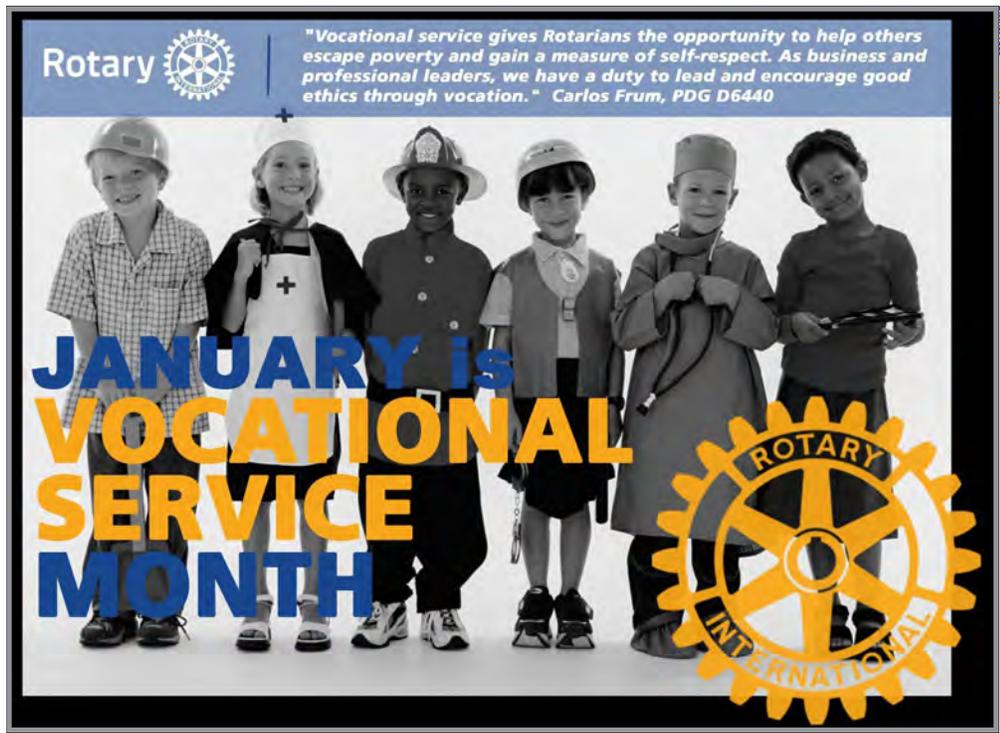
- Connecting our professions and professional networks with our Rotary Club activities.
- Using our expertise to address community problems and help others discover new vocational opportunities and interests.
- Promoting Rotary's commitment to integrity in our professional as well as personal lives.

As you turn your attention to your January message, one thought rings as clearly as the bells on Christmas morning for Ebenezer Scrooge. That thought is that our newly announced Rotary Works Initiative is the epitome of Vocational Service!

"I don't know what day of the month it is!" said Scrooge.... "I don't care..." He was checked in his transports by the churches ringing out the lustiest peals he had ever heard. Clash, clang, hammer; ding, dong, bell. Bell, dong, ding; hammer, clang, clash! Oh, glorious, glorious! Running to the window, he opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious! Glorious! "I haven't missed it." said Scrooge.

Scrooge hadn't missed his opportunity and he began then and there to serve others above himself....(He) was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more.... He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the old city knew."

Other than wondering where your copy of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is hiding, quite possibly now you're thinking 'how can I help pass the news about



Vocational Service?' Here are 5 suggestions:

First, follow this link www.rizones33-34.org/RotaryWorks to visit our ROTARY WORKS WEBSITE! Once you are there, please review Director Stephanie Urchick's Rotary Works Announcement video.

Second, along the right margin click on Link to Rotary Works Newsletter to read the inaugural December edition.

Third, if you are interested in providing your own Vocational Service to this initiative please contact Director Stephanie directly (saurchick@gmail.com).

Fourth, include this information

in your monthly PI message for January.

Fifth, be on the lookout for Rotarians that will benefit from this new initiative. It is, after all, why our Zones so eagerly organized this initiative - Because we know that inside our own Zone 33-34 Family of Rotary there is always another opportunity to serve.

... and no, you haven't missed it. Just as Scrooge did when he heard the bells, you have an opportunity to serve others. Bring your Vocational Service to bear. You'll be impressed with what you can accomplish.

Tiny Tim said "Bless us, Everyone!" I agree. Happy New Year.

By Alex Wilkins - Rotary Zone 33 PIC



The first **Rotary Works** program to launch will be our Career Development Professional Series, which will be offered via Zoom. Each month, beginning December 9th at Noon, with an overview of our Series, we will collaborate with business professionals in career development, exchanging ideas and having conversations with experts in their field. These "mentors" will provide information and inspiration for those in attendance seeking opportunities of self-exploration, self-

improvement and ultimately seeking employment or entrepreneurial prospects.

Join us for any, or all, of these sessions coming to a computer near you this spring:

January 13, 2021

Vocation, Evaluation & Opportunities

February 10, 2021

Building Your Personal Brand

March 10, 2021

Essential Tech Tools for Marketability

April 14, 2021

So You Want to be Your Own Boss? 8

Polio Survivors Offer Pandemic Perspectives

There was so little information. A fear of the unknown. The need to maintain an appropriate distance. An urgent desire to find a cure or vaccine.

They're the hallmarks of the coronavirus pandemic, but they also characterized an earlier epidemic: when paralysis-causing polio ravaged the U.S. in the 1940s and '50s.

Now, the toddlers and preteens of that era are once again part of a high-risk group during a deadly epidemic of a highly infectious disease.

Commonly transmitted person to person, polio led to social distancing even without official enforcement. People avoided public places and those infected were shunned.

Ina Pinkney was a year old when she contracted the disease in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"When my parents would take me out ... you could hear everybody get silent and move away, which is very much what it feels like now," says Pinkney, who is 77 now and lives in Chicago, where she ran a successful restaurant for decades.

Much like the coronavirus, when one person contracted polio, the entire family lived in anxiety of household spread. That was the case when Nancy Artinian Theoharis became sick more than six decades ago at age 14.

Her daughter Liz remembers stories about her grandmother's efforts to protect the other children in the house, particularly her aunt, who shared a bedroom with Nancy.

"My grandma would furiously take my aunt's temperature every day," Liz Theoharis says. "While everybody may have been exposed, there was fear that my aunt will come down with the virus as well."

As news reports of the coronavirus spread in the U.S. worsened, Margaret Nielsen started feeling a sense of déjà vu, recalling memories of battling polio as a 4-year-old.

At the time, people stricken with the disease like Nielsen could spend weeks isolated in the hospital.

The 78-year-retired professor remembers how little the doctors



Polio survivors Margaret Nielsen, Nancy Artinian Theoharis, and Ina Pinkney offer their perspective on our current COVID-19 pandemic. Below: Ina Pinkney in 1948 after undergoing her first corrective surgery. Text & pictures courtesy of NPR's *All Things Considered* with Apoorva Mittal

knew about the disease, and how hard it was for her family to get updates on how she was doing.

"They could call once a day and they would get a one-word response because there were so many families calling," says Nielsen, who lives in East Lansing, Mich. "So during the initial couple of weeks when I was infectious there was so little information."

Infectious cases peaked in the 1950s, with nearly 60,000 contracting the disease and more than 3,000 deaths in 1952 alone.



People felt a great sense of urgency about when a vaccine would be found, says Carl Kurlander, whose documentary *A Shot Felt 'Round the World* chronicled the discovery of the first preventative polio vaccine.

Dr. Jonas Salk began work on a virus vaccine in 1947. And in 1955, a safe and effective vaccine became available to the public.

"Church bells rang out, people screamed and were let out of school," Kurlander says. "Around the world there were headlines 'Victory Over Polio.'"

For centenarian survivors of the 1918 flu pandemic, coronavirus is just another 'problem'

Now, riding through another epidemic, Pinkney says that a coronavirus vaccine may not instantly reverse things to normalcy but "there will be a great sense of relief."

And surviving that earlier epidemic has given her perspective: "I live with hope and I live with anticipation that we will [get] on the other side of this. I don't know what it looks like. It doesn't even matter, as long as people are not getting sick and people are not dying."



2020 Polio Eradication Review

As we close out a year marked by COVID-19, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is reflecting upon both the immense challenges faced and the incredible ways that the polio programme has stepped up in 2020. From supporting pandemic response efforts and relaunching polio vaccination campaigns to kickstarting new initiatives like the emergency call to action, the programme continues to work to overcome obstacles.

The GPEI is delighted to welcome a new Director of Polio Eradication at the WHO, Mr Aidan O'Leary.

"I'm excited to join this incredible programme," says O'Leary, who will assume his new role in January 2021. He comes to the GPEI with years of experience working in global health and emergency response, including holding leading roles at UN OCHA in Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan and serving as UNICEF's Chief of Polio Eradication in Pakistan

Next year will also bring new efforts to help us reach a polio-free world, including rolling out novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to help fight cVDPV2 and redoubling outbreak response efforts to tackle poliovirus spread. *Text by GPEI*

40 Million Immunized in Africa

One of the largest polio immunization campaigns in the African Region this year has just concluded in Chad, where over 3.3 million children in 91 districts were vaccinated. This pushes the total number of children vaccinated against polio to over forty million across 16 countries in the Region, since campaigns resumed following a necessary pause in immunizations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Africa was declared free of the wild poliovirus in August 2020,

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2020 (2019)*

Global Total: 138 (125)

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus in 2020 (2019)*

Global Total: 844 (246)

*Data as of 16 December 2020. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2019.



Aidan O'Leary will assume the role as Director of Polio Eradication at WHO in January, 2021
Picture courtesy of WHO

another form of polio continues to affect children: circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus, or cVDPV. This type of polio is rare and can only occur in areas where not enough children are immunized. The only way to stop spread of cVDPV is through immunization.

The current type 2 cVDPV outbreak in Chad was detected in February 2020 - yet immunizations were halted due to COVID-19 and the virus spread to 36 districts across the country, paralyzing more than 80 children and even leading to cases in neighbouring Sudan and the Central African Republic.

"Viruses do not respect national borders," said Dr Ndoutabé Modjirom, head of the polio Rapid Response Team at the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region. "Given Chad's central geographic location and its mobile populations, it was important to carry out a large-scale campaign that targeted key populations and high-risk areas throughout the country."

The vaccination campaign was carried out in two phases, the first taking place between 13-15 November and the second from 27-29 November.

While mass polio vaccination campaigns were stopped across Africa due to COVID-19 restrictions, they resumed in July 2020. The response in the region overall, and in Chad in particular, demonstrates the commitment by Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners and countries across Africa to stop polio, even amidst the difficult operating context of COVID-19.

"The number of children reached since polio campaigns have resumed is extremely encouraging," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "This large-scale campaign in Chad during COVID-19 is a reflection of the Region's commitment and ability to face multiple difficult health challenges and protect the health of all children."

Although campaigns were on hold for several months, work did not stop. Chad's team of national and international polio experts together with the AFRO Rapid Response Team tracked the virus, conducted a comprehensive risk assessment, and planned an outbreak response to take place as soon as it was safe to do so, taking into account timelines in outbreak response standards of practice. Consultations were also held with the national COVID-19 task force to ensure that best practices in infection prevention and control would be followed. The commitment and efforts of the Ministry of Health and other key national and regional health leaders and partners, including UNICEF, were instrumental in conducting the campaign.

"With increased immunizations and the continued commitment of health leaders and partners, we are confident that we will soon see the end of this outbreak and the end of all forms of polio in Africa," said Dr Jean Bosco Ndiokubwayo, WHO representative for Chad. *Text by GPEI*



Top: A child in Africa gets the purple pinkie after having been vaccinated. ©WHO / D. Levison

Above: Children in Afghanistan show their inked fingers after being vaccinated against polio. ©WHO Afghanistan / Ahmadullah Amarkhil

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

EVERY
 ROTARIAN
 EVERY
 YEAR

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?

Four Stars 13 Years in a Row!

For the 13th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating - four stars - from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Only one percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 13 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

"Your achievement and 4-star rating will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts," says Michael Thatcher, president and chief executive officer of Charity Navigator. "This exceptional designation sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

The rating reflects Charity Navigator's assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness. Text by Rotary International

The Rotary Foundation 

has been awarded



for 13 Consecutive Years

2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014
 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International has received it's 13th consecutive 4-Star rating by Charity Navigator. Only one in 100 organizations have achieved this distinction for as many years in a row. That's quite a feat and something for Rotarians to be proud of.

The
Rotary
 Foundation



SAVE THE DATE

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELATION DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



SAVE THE DATE – JANUARY 13, 2021

VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #1 VOCATION, EVALUATION & OPPORTUNITIES



SAVE THE DATE - TBA

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION



SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 10, 2021

VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #2 BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 10, 2021

VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #3 ESSENTIAL TECH TOOLS FOR MARKETABILITY



SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 14, 2021

VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #4 SO YOU WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?



SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 18, 2020

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
RIVERS CASINO



SAVE THE DATE - MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT

VIRTUAL FIVE-PART PROGRAM – EARLY 2021



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 20-23, 2021

2021 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 12-16, 2021

2021 RI CONVENTION
TAIPEI

