

# *THE GONG*



## *Endicott Rotary Newsletter – FEBRUARY 2026*

*A message from Dottie Kuehl, President*



### **President's Message:**

As I sit here knowing the snow and cold is right outside my door, I am hoping even with a mere 39% accuracy, Punxsutawney Phil does the right thing and does not see his shadow. Warmer days cannot come soon enough for me.

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to act on our world's most persistent issues. One of those issues is Peace and this month is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month. Millions of people all over the world are currently displaced by armed conflict or persecution. Through service projects and Rotary programs, the Rotary family is committed to pursuing projects that address the structural causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of re-sources. While we usually think of peace building and conflict resolution as world problems, there are several things we can do right here at home to promote understanding and good will among the people of our communities. Let us celebrate our commitment to build peace and mitigate conflict.

In a separate email, I will be sharing with you an invitation to join Rotary's peace initiative offering the opportunity to make a significant impact in bringing Peace to our Planet through the Rotary Peace Game and Peace Moonshot Initiative.

Thank you to all who are supporting our Rotary Foundation by participating in our Super Bowl Pools. Good Luck to you all. Thank you also for the volunteer hours you are putting in at the BU concession stand and of course thank you to Betty Casey, Tom and Sandy Johnson for coordinating and overseeing all the games.

This year's Rotary Leadership Institute is being held Saturday, March 7 at the Johnson City High School. I strongly encourage our new members to plan on attending. Registration fees are covered by our Club. The session provides an excellent means to increase your Rotary knowledge, meet Rotary members and leaders across the district, exchange ideas and give insight on improving your Rotary experience. In addition, all members are invited to attend the luncheon and afternoon sessions on topics of interest.

Please consider helping us as a Speaker Coordinator for April and May. I do have a few suggestions of speakers who have asked to speak to our Club. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Stay safe and warm and sending each of you Valentines of love.

Yours In Rotary Service,



Dottie

### ***ROTARY OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS- July '25 to June '26***

***President – Dottie Kuehl  
Past President – Rick Materese  
Incoming President – Lynn Orlando  
Jim Leonard  
Jim Testa  
Mike Sopchak  
Nancy Kiley***

***Secretary – Darlene Leonard  
Treasurer – Kim Potter  
Ass't Treasurer – Sharon Reid  
Dave Clementi  
Barbara Fiala  
Lynn Orlando  
Stephan Wasylko***

***Duty Roster for February 2026***

***Programs: Jim Leonard***

***Greeter: Tom Johnson***

***Sergeant at Arms: Gay Canough***

***Duty Roster for March 2026***

***Programs: Betty Casey***

***Greeter: Sandy Johnson***

***Sergeant at Arms: TBD***



***Happy  
Valentine's  
Day***

## **FEBRUARYY SPEAKERS**

- 2/5 - Gerald Putman – Secrets of the Masons and Shriners**
- 2/12 - Dr. Robert Egbers – Anew Dermatology, Skin Cancer and Reconstruction (evening meeting)**
- 2/19 - Brian Jester – Tour BU Baseball Stadium & Multisport Indoors Training facility**
- 2/26 - Dave “Peterman” Peterson – Ass’t General Manager, Sales for the Rumble Ponies**

# Rotary



Endicott Rotary  
Foundation



*Endicott Rotary Foundation Board: Gay Canough, Foundation President Tom Johnson, Foundation Treasurer, Mike Sopchak, Foundation Board Member, Rick Materese, Foundation Board Member, Carl Speicher, Foundation Board Member, Betty Casey, Foundation Board Member*

## *February 2026 – A Message from Gay Canough, President*

The Foundation Board met on Jan 29 to consider one grant request. We did not award anything this time.

We began to think about who will be on the Foundation Board in the next Rotary year (which starts July 1). The Foundation members will vote on that sometime in March. We will also need someone to be the Foundation president, since I am going to be the Club treasurer in the next Rotary year.

Here are the current *Foundation members*. Be thinking about your role for the coming year!

Nancy Kiley  
Rick Materese (currently on the Board)  
Mike Sopchak (currently on the Board)  
Nancy Knipscher  
Dottie Kuehl  
Jim Leonard  
Betty Casey (currently on the Board)  
Barb Fiala  
Tom Latini  
Kim Potter

Darlene Leonard  
Dave Baker  
Doug Boyce  
Carl Speicher (currently on the Board)  
Gay Canough (current president)

*All your hard work volunteering is what feeds the Foundation's ability to give financial support to our community. Thank You!*

--- Gay

Gay Canough, President- Endicott Rotary Foundation, Inc.



## **FEBRUARY Birthdays!**



**2/9 – Dave Baker**

**2/12 – Becky Hessler**

**2/11 – Justin Frisbie**

**2/16 – Carl Speicher**

**2/17 - Doug Boyce**

**Ah, sweet Valentine's Day! It makes us think of flowers and candy and love in the air. All that is true, but there is love besides the romantic variety. Love for our neighbors, love for our planet, and love for making the world a better place for all people are worth remembering during this month. As Rotarians, we strive to show our love of community through the works we do. And, I think we all agree, that is a sweet feeling! Happy Valentine's Day to all – and treat yourselves to a Valentine box of bonbons.**



**PHOTO GALLERY – *January* events**



**Nicole Wolfe introducing U-E student, Damon Jones, who spoke on his experience with the RYLA Program.**



**Theresa Krause - Food Council Mgr.  
Broome County Food Council**



**Gay Canough re: Rotary  
Foundation updates**



**Susan Wheeler - The Star Group  
President/CEO**



**Thomas Wheeler – Employment  
Specialist – Star Group**

**Their mission is to empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment by providing client-centered, cost-effective vocational services that produce measurable, long-term results.**

**They said Rotary clubs can help by:**

- ^ connecting them with local employers**
- ^ supporting job shadowing, mentoring opportunities and internships**
- ^ advocating for inclusive and recovery-friendly workplaces**
- ^ partnering on community workforce initiatives.**

**Check out the last page for some Christmas photos that didn't get in the January Gong. Better late than never!**

## DECEMBER THROW BACK! Rotary Christmas party 2025



Christmas fun with Santa Mario and his elfin helper, Dar.



A great time was had by all. When we get together, fun is always in the air.

