

# Vestal Rotary Club

## 2013-2014

### Officers

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President                       | Art Pavelski          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Fund Raising | Roy Cordero           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Programs     | Terri Mahonski        |
| Treasurer                       | George Schwarztrauber |
| Secretary                       | Mark Capobianco       |

### The Year in Review

President Art Pavelski was inducted at the Pass the Gavel dinner held on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at PS Restaurant.



Our club was busy as ever this year. In addition to our monthly Willow Point Nursing Home pizza party, each month brought us new opportunities to serve our community and share our fellowship in Rotary. However, one major change to our community service activities occurred when the club voted to formally end its Adopt-a-Highway relationship with the highway department. Changes made to the Route 201/434 interchange, along with changing demographics of our club membership made this the right time to move on. However, the club remained very active in service to a wide variety of community organizations and continued to support numerous organizations and events in the greater Vestal area. Below are some of the highlights:

July: Tan, one of our exchange students said good-bye and headed back to Thailand. Governor Tom Overbaugh visited the club on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and discussed his goals for the year and Kim Myers was inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow. We learned that Gail Yaus, wife of former Vestal Rotarian Bill Yaus passed away on July 19<sup>th</sup> in South Carolina. We also helped sponsor the new Vestal Police Department's Youth Academy with a \$500 grant.



August: Once again Vestal Rotarians ran the Lupo's Spiedie Tent at the Dick's Open. This year there was only one day of work, Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> and the tent location was moved to the East side of the fairway on hole #10. Business was never better. Our new exchange student Katarzyna (Kate) arrived on August 26. Her first placement was with the Charnetsky family



September: The club adopted formal bylaws at its September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ted Wolf was inducted as a new member on 9/16. He is the son of long serving Vestal Rotarian Charlie Wolf. Richard Matsushima served as his sponsor. One





week later we welcomed Dan Barker to the club. Dan was the former pastor at St. Andrews Church and decided to return to Vestal when he retired. The Vestal Rotary Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad to support its mission. The money will be used to purchase an automatic CPR machine. The September board meeting was hosted by Richard and Debbie Matsushima.

October: New club member Dan Barker volunteered to serve as editor of the Vigilant. Our club collected \$180 to help support the diaper drive sponsored by Miller Honda. The October board meeting was hosted by Art and Mindy Pavelski. Richard Matsushima was selected as District Governor Nominee Designate. He will serve as DG during the 2016-17 year. Kathy Flanders was inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow.



November: Our club was recognized for per capita giving at the annual Foundation dinner, having the 5<sup>th</sup> highest donations in the district. 14 club members attended the annual Chamber Thanksgiving Luncheon held November 11<sup>th</sup> at the McKinley. Our club had a visit from a Fennec Fox courtesy of the Ross Park Zoo.

December: This was one of the busiest months of the year. The annual club holiday party was held at Remlick's on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The 2014-15 election of officers was held on December 16. Elected were: President: Roy Cordero, 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Teri Mahonski, Treasurer: George Schwarztrauber and Secretary: Mark Capobianco. Under the new leadership of Carol Belva more than 4,400 canned food items were collected for the holiday food drive. Club members met at the Town Water Barn on



Wednesday 12/18 for the Can Packing "Party" and prepared 36 food baskets which were delivered by the Town Water Department the following day. The Willow Point Nursing Home Holiday pizza party was a big success, but the highlight of the year was the Coats for Kids shopping extravaganza held on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two children left the department store with bags of clothing and smiles on their faces!



January: One again our club entered a team in the Vestal School Foundation Trivia event. We also accepted the resignation of past president Bruce Barrett who retired in January. He and Sandy had many travel plans that forced him to leave the club. Speakers for the month included Andrew Baranoski - Executive Director at the American Civic Association, Aaron Lambert - Whole Health Nutrition Center, Pete Walsh - Walsh Construction to talk about the Traditions casino bid and Dave Currie - The Insulation Man

February: Debbie and Richard Matsushima were gracious in hosting our annual Valentine's Day Dinner Party. It was splendid as always. Speakers for the month included Jason Fiume -



Roberson and Sandra Watkins – Broome/Tioga BOCES. The Board Meeting was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Roy Cordero at the Hillside Building on Old Vestal Road. The Vestal Rotary Foundation voted to donate \$500 to the food pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and CHOW, as well as a \$500 donation to Mom's House.

March: The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day Raffle Party raffle was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This year the event was held at Terra Cotta in Binghamton. While our revenue from the event was lower



than in past years the event was a big success! Speakers for the month included Robin Alpaugh, Project Developer for Empire State Development. The club also held its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at Vestal High School where we had the opportunity to hear from student government Interact Club leaders. Our club also made a generous donation to help support the first annual Canstruction event sponsored by the Broome Leadership Institute



which raised more than \$15,000 and 17,000 pounds of food for CHOW. The Board Meeting was held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, once again hosted by Roy Cordero at the Hillside Building on Old Vestal Road.

April: April 1<sup>st</sup> saw the first increase in club dues in more than 5 years. Speakers for the month included Duane Blasdel - Maple Ridge Ranch Summer Camp, Al Eaton - President, Southern Tier Veterans Support Group, Jerry Etingoff - Vestal Dollars for Scholars and Lisa Kost & Chris Breslin - Handicapped Children's Association of the Southern Tier.

May: We sold the Shed. Finally! With the end of our adopt-a-highway involvement on Route 26 the shed was expendable. Ted Wolf is the proud new owner. The District Conference was held at Greek Peak. Speakers for the month included Joni Kaiser and JoAnne Potter - United Way Broome County ~ "Community Conversations" and Dave Friedman - EuPAWria Pet Services. Mark LaRoach and Kim Myers also presented the proposed 2014-15 Vestal Central School District budget.

June: Pass the Gavel was held at PS Restaurant on the evening of June 30<sup>th</sup> where Roy Cordero became our new president. Trustees for the Vestal Rotary Foundation were elected at our June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. They included; Carol Belva, Mark Capobianco, Stephen Day, Bob Flanders, Neil Guiles, Teri Mahonski, Art Pavelski, George Schwarztrauber, and Jim Ward. Speakers for the month included Jim Battaglia – Director of Development and Marketing for Legal Services of Central New York, David Adams – Uno’s and Sheriff Dave Harder.

**Exchange Student:** Our exchange student for the year was Katarzyna (Kate) Pieszczyńska. She was a 16 year old from the city of Lublin, population 400,000 located in Eastern Poland. Her parents were university professors. She has one sister and brother.



### **Speakers Program:**

Once again we had a varied and interesting speakers program. A new feature this year included donations made to a community organization selected by the speaker. These donations were made as a way of thanking the speaker for their time.

| Date       | Speaker               | Topic/Organization            |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7/15/2013  | Bob Brazil            | Achieve                       |
| 7/22/2013  | Tom Overbaugh         | District Governor             |
| 8/12/2013  | Bobby Burns           | Dog Behavior Specialist       |
| 8/19/2013  | George Schwarztrauber | Online Make-up's              |
| 8/26/2013  | Charlene Dodd         | Cellular Connection           |
| 9/16/2013  | Brittany Hall         | Binghamton Philharmonic       |
| 9/23/2013  | Jessica Moquin        | Cystic Fibrosis Foundation    |
| 9/30/2013  | Sue Christensen       | Canstruction                  |
| 10/14/2013 | Pat Madej from        | Center for Civic Engagement   |
| 10/21/2013 | Vikki Collazo -       | Rescue Mission                |
| 10/28/2013 | Katarzyna (Kate)      | Exchange student              |
| 11/11/2013 | Eric Jensen           | WSKG                          |
| 11/25/2013 | Steve Contento        | Director Ross Park Zoo        |
| 12/9/2013  | Catherine Hepler      | "Seniors" Prom                |
| 12/16/2013 | Andrew Baranoski      | American Civic Association    |
| 1/13/2014  | Aaron Lambert         | Whole Health Nutrition Center |

|           |                          |                                       |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/20/2014 | John Hussar              | Walsh Construction: Traditions Casino |
| 1/27/2014 | Dave Currie              | The Insulation Man                    |
| 2/17/2014 | Jason Fiume              | Roberson Museum and Science Center    |
| 2/24/2014 | Sandy Watkins            | Broome-Tioga BOCES                    |
| 3/17/2014 | Vestal High School Visit |                                       |
| 3/24/2014 | Robin Alpaugh            | Economic Development Council          |
| 3/31/2014 | Duane Blasdel            | Maple Ridge Ranch                     |
| 4/14/2014 | Al Eaton                 | Southern Tier Veterans Support Group  |
| 4/21/2014 | Jerry Etingoff           | Vestal Dollars for Scholars           |
| 4/28/2014 | Lisa Kost                | - Handicapped Children's Association  |
| 5/12/2014 | Joni Kaiser              | United Way Broome County              |
| 5/19/2014 | Dave Friedman            | EuPAWria                              |
| 6/9/2014  | Jim Battaglia            | Legal Services of CNY                 |
| 6/16/2014 | David Adams              | Uno's                                 |
| 6/23/2014 | Dave Harder              | Broome County Sheriff                 |

**50/50:** This year a total of \$751 was collected in our weekly 50/50 raffle. The average winning raffle was about \$17. The smallest amount won was \$10 by Jim Ward while the largest pot won was \$25 won by Art Pavelski.

**Fines:** A total of \$1,787 in fines was collected. The largest total of \$125 was collected by George on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The smallest total of \$19 was collected on two occasions July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, Neil was fine master on both dates.

**Vestal Rotary Foundation:**

At the September 9<sup>th</sup> club meeting the following members were elected to serve as Foundation trustees.

George Schwarztrauber, Chairperson  
 Bill Scannell, Vice Chairperson  
 Mark Capobianco, Secretary  
 Teri Mahonski, Treasurer  
 Bruce Barrett, Trustee  
 Carol Belva, Trustee  
 Bart Bozzi, Trustee  
 Steve Day, Trustee  
 Rob Flanders, Trustee  
 Jim Ward, Trustee

In its second year of existence the foundation continued to pursue its mission, impacting the community with financial support for several organizations.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:

The club sponsored 3 Vestal High School students to attend RYLA this year. Andy Papaleo headed up the committee which interviewed prospective students.