



September 14, 2020

### PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP NOMINATIONS DUE THURSDAY

*submitted by Roxanne Mutchler*

Many essential workers continued to work during the months when the pandemic was rampant. Did one or two affect you or a family member? Rotary members can (and have in the past!) nominated individuals. We would appreciate if you would give some thought to who you might nominate. Also, please contact your colleagues, friends, and family to spread the word about this program and the opportunity to recognize a worthy individual. We look forward to honoring some hard-working people who have taken pride in their work during these difficult times. Thanks very much for your support!

Nominations are being accepted through September 17, 2020. The nomination form can be downloaded from the [Pride of Workmanship web page](#).

The Pride of Workmanship Awards Program will be held on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 12 p.m.

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY FALL CLEANUP SCHEDULED

*submitted by Stephen Turnbull*

The fall highway cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 24, from 9-11 a.m. This is open to all Area 2 and 3 club members. Our portion of the highway is the Arterial in Utica, north bound only from Burrstone to Court Street.

The more people we have, the faster we can finish the cleanup. Additional details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

RSVP to Stephen by October 19 at [stephen@turnbull-insurance.com](mailto:stephen@turnbull-insurance.com).

### *This Week's Program* submitted by Travis Rabbers

This week we welcome Anthony Baird, Utica College's Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer. He has been in the position since May of this year. Baird, who is an alumnus of Utica College, earned his doctorate in higher education leadership from Johnson and Wales University. He was the director of Corporate Programs Development and Career Management and Coaching at UMass Dartmouth. He is principal consultant of I Am EPPIC Enterprises LLC, an educational, personal and professional coaching enterprise



**FRIDAY | Sep. 18  
12 p.m.  
Delta Hotel by  
Mariott Utica  
200 Genesee St.**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a buffet lunch will NOT be available; water and coffee will be available. Attendees must wear a mask during the meeting.

**Deadline for next newsletter (9/21) is Sunday, September 20 at noon;  
submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)**

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## SERVICE PROJECT WORK CREWS ARE MAKING PROGRESS

Fifteen members contributed their time, muscle and support to make some real headway on the hydrangea beds for the F.T. Proctor Park service project effort. Volunteers pulled up old landscaping fabric and removed mulch and weed debris. Bob Dellecese and Joanne Longo provided welcome refreshments for both service days. Thank you to all!



## PAID INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications for paid internships during the 2020 spring and fall semesters are being offered to area college students by Rotary Club of Utica.

Applications are available at [uticarotary.org](http://uticarotary.org), or email [internship@uticarotary.org](mailto:internship@uticarotary.org) for information.

## Meeting Recap Contributors

Looking for persons willing to write recaps of weekly meetings on a rotating basis. If interested, contact [michelle@fillableformdesigns.com](mailto:michelle@fillableformdesigns.com).

## Rotary Club of Utica Committees

Looking to get involved? Rotary Club of Utica has several active committees. Contact a committee chair to join a committee or contact President Israel if interested in chairing a committee.

Youth Exchange.....	Deb Burke
Rotaract .....	Dom Passalacqua
RYLA .....	Jim Day
Interact .....	Jim Day
Urban Concerns.....	<b>NEED CHAIR</b>
Communication .....	Michelle Brandstadt
Meeting Service .....	Natalie Brown
Membership.....	Joe Caruso/Ken Williams
Outstanding Educator Awards.....	Bart Gorman
Quiet Giver's Award .....	Roger Breslow
Pride of Workmanship .....	Roxanne Mutchler
Veteran's Outreach .....	Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka
Special Needs Party .....	<b>NEED CHAIR</b>

## September 2020 Calendar of Events

- 9/18 Weekly Meeting – Anthony Baird  
**FRIDAY @ 12 p.m. | Delta Hotel**
- 9/21 Board Meeting 1 p.m. | via Zoom
- 9/24 Weekly Meeting – Social  
**THURSDAY @ 5 p.m. | Bagg's Square**

**Note:** please be sure to check the newsletter or the [club website](#) calendar for current meeting information.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

## How can you change racism? Stand with the oppressed.

submitted by Joe Caruso

### Gregory McWhorter

*To my white friends. If you think you know what it's like to be black in this world, I challenge you to read the profound and transformational post below. I am so grateful I did. This is from Caroline Crockett Brock's facebook page:*

I am a 45 year old white woman living in the south, and today was the first time I spoke frankly about racism with a black man.

When Ernest, my appliance repairman, came to the front door, I welcomed him in. As this was his second visit and we'd established a friendly rapport, I asked him how he was feeling in the current national climate.

Naturally, he assumed I was talking about the coronavirus, because what white person actually addresses racism head on, in person, in their own home? When Ernest realized I wanted to know about his experience with racism, he began answering my questions.

What's it like for you on a day-to-day basis as a black man? Do cops ever give you any trouble? The answers were illuminating.

Ernest, a middle-aged, friendly, successful business owner, gets pulled over in Myrtle Beach at least 6 times a year. He doesn't get pulled over for traffic violations, but on the suspicion of him being a suspect in one crime or another. Mind you, he is in uniform, driving in a work van clearly marked with his business on the side. They ask him about the boxes in his car--parts and pieces of appliances. They ask to see his invoices and ask him why there is money and checks in his invoice clipboard. They ask if he's selling drugs. These cops get angry if he asks for a badge number or pushes back in any way. Every time he is the one who has to explain himself, although they have no real cause to question him.

Ernest used to help folks out after dark with emergencies. Not anymore. He does not work past dinnertime, not because he doesn't need the business, but because it isn't safe for him to be out after dark. He says "There's nothing out there in the world for me past dark". Let me say that again. Ernest, a middle aged black man in uniform cannot work past dark in Myrtle Beach in 2020 because it's not safe for him. He did not say this with any kind of agenda. It was a quiet, matter of fact truth.

A truth that needs to be heard.

When I asked Ernest what ethnic terms he gets offended at, he said that the most offensive term people use is 'boy'.

Ernest has a bachelors in electronics and an associates in HVAC. He is not a 'boy', and the term 'boy' in the south implies inferiority in station and status. He came to Myrtle Beach and got a job at Hobart. The supervisor repeatedly used the term 'boy'. Ernest complained. After several complaints Ernest was fired. Ernest says most white people are a little scared of him, and he's often put in a position where he has to prove himself, as though he's not qualified to repair appliances.

Ernest doesn't have hope that racism will change, no matter who the president is. His dad taught him "It's a white man's world", and he's done his best to live within it.

*(continued on p. 4)*



*(continued from p. 3)*

When I asked him what I could do, he said, “everyone needs to pray and realize we’re all just one country and one people”.

I am a 45 year old white woman living in the south. I can begin healing our country by talking frankly with African Americans in my world---by LISTENING to their lived experience and speaking up. I can help by actively promoting black owned businesses. That’s what I can do today.

Let’s start by listening and lifting up. It’s that simple.

#listenandlift

=====

Edit: I asked Ernest if I could take his picture and post our conversation on facebook. He thought it was a great idea. As he left my house an hour later, he looked me in the eye and said, "If you ever march, or have a meeting on this topic, or want to change things in Myrtle Beach, I'll stand with you."

What a great idea. Let's begin standing together.

===

Edit: 1pm EST on 6/1. Ernest just called me and we had one of the sweetest moments, both laughing and crying about the response to this post. He started the conversation by saying, "Caroline, I don't know if I should kill you or kiss you--my phone is ringing off the hook!"

He doesn't have a FB profile, so he's coming over later so I can help him set one up. He's been absolutely overwhelmed, as have I, with the response. We're going to be sitting down together to read your comments. They mean so much. In addition, the Myrtle Beach city manager has contacted me and I'm getting all of us together to be sure this doesn't happen in our city any longer. THANK YOU WORLD.

Edit 6/2 9am. Just got off the phone with Ernest and the local news. They will be interviewing us today, and it will be on the local news in Myrtle beach tonight. I'll post it on my page later.

This is how we change our country. Normal folks. One town at a time. ❤️

