



March 18, 2020

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

My Dear Rotarians,

WE'RE GONNA DO IT!

In yesterday's email, we informed you that we would have to suspend meeting until at least April 23rd, during this period of "social distancing" during the Corona virus pandemic. Since then, we've heard from several of you, and we were encouraged to conduct our first online weekly Rotary meeting, which we will do via the communication platform called Zoom.

Zoom is a software program; once you download it (under a minute's time), on your computer or on your smartphone, you will be able to see and hear the other participants and, of course, they will be able to see and hear you – or, you can listen in and watch, but mute your speaker and close your video screen – it's all up to you.

For the uninitiated, I can tell you that the Zoom page looks very much like the opening of the Brady Bunch TV show or Hollywood Squares once you've logged on – rows of squares with a participant in each square (or the participant's name, if they choose to close the video). The photo at right is from a "meeting" I attended this morning.



Some of your board members participated in one or another of two test meetings conducted today (Wed., 3/18), and the participants were pleased with the sound and video quality.

Our first online Zoom meeting likely will be brief; under a half hour. It will be an opportunity to test the system, while conveying important information. It's also an opportunity to check in on one another, and to learn if anyone could use help – or if someone is in the position to offer help. Over the next four weeks at the very least, it is clear that times will be challenging for most people. Maintaining communication will also allow us to be ready to resume normal Rotary relations when the virus scare is over.

So please, click on the link in the box below, and be part of Rotary Club of Utica history, our first online meeting. I look forward to "seeing" you!

Sincerely, Joe Caruso, President

Rotary Club of Utica, NY, USA 2019-2020



You are invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting!

Click on the link highlighted below:

Topic: Joe Caruso's Zoom Meeting

Time: Mar 19, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/145108732>

Meeting ID: 145 108 732

Check out the following reports from this month's Rotary Club of Utica Board of Directors' Meeting:

First Annual "Service Above Self" Gala (Stephen Turnbull, chair):

This end of the Rotary-Year gala event will take place on June 19, 2020 at the Delta by Marriott Hotel Utica, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM; tickets are \$50 pp, with music by the band **Soul Injection**, featuring RCU's own **Dana Jerrard**. **Tina Pavlot** is looking for baskets to raffle; she already has at least eight commitments. **Ken Williams** will present awards. Delta has been given a deposit of \$250.

Stephen has assembled a very strong committee including Deb Burke, Joe Caruso, Israel Acosta, Travis Rabbers, Tina Pavlot, Jim Day, Jennifer DePasquale, Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka, Joann Fornino, Devon Hoffman, David Hamlin, John Bartholomeo, Ken Williams and Heather Beebe.

The committee has the following confirmed sponsors: Strategic Financial Professionals - \$1,000; Mohawk Valley Wellness - \$500; Turnbull Insurance Services - \$500; Natalie L. Brown - \$500; Lupini Construction, Inc. - \$500; Clinton Tractor - \$250; Cunningham Custom Jewelry - \$250; Bank of Utica - \$250; and CABVI - \$200. In-kind donations include Casa Imports – fruit & cheese approx. \$1,200 value, and in-kind services from A&P Master Images. The sponsorship goal is \$7,500.

Urban Concerns Committee (Michelle Brandstadt, chair): PE Israel Acosta reported on behalf of President Joe and Michelle Brandstadt about a possible club project to help clean up Proctor Park as the park nears several historic milestones in the coming years. Phil Bean, Rotarian and executive director of the Central New York Conservancy which maintains and protects Utica's Olmsted-designed parks, will present to the club at a future meeting. Utica Rotary could identify a portion of the park to keep clean and upgrade, which may include signage, a Utica Rotary flower garden and /or picnic table. Israel, Stephen and Tina are committed to further this cause into each of their years as Utica Rotary Presidents. The Urban Concerns Committee has dedicated \$250.00 to purchase flowers to be planted by the Eagle monument in Roscoe Conkling Park.

Looking for a Few Good Rotarians:

New to Rotary and looking for an avenue to service? Been with Rotary awhile but want to re-engage? Have we got opportunities for you!

Looking for committee chairs or committee persons for the following: 1) Urban Concerns Committee; 2) Weekly Program Committee. Contact any committee chair, board member, or Joe at JPCaruso12@gmail.com



What's Your thing?

Do what you wanna do! Rotarians are people of diverse interests and talents. Share yours in your own program at a weekly meeting. For more information, contact [Israel](#) or [Travis](#) today!



ISO...In Search OF...Creative Rotarians/Rotaractors to help produce this weekly newsletter. Your assistance is greatly needed, either as a writer/contributor or editor. Please contact President Joe for more info: JPCaruso12@gmail.com or 518-542-7814. Thank you!



Save the date: Friday, June 19th:
Rotary Club of Utica
"Service Above Self" Gala
Delta Hotel Utica

For 105 years, Utica Rotarians have given back to their community, individually and collectively, in ways large and small. At this end-of-the-Rotary-year celebration,

we'll honor those in our club *and in the larger community* who have lived the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." And, we'll pass the gavel to the next leader of our club. More on the award nomination process at a later time, but for now, save the date – June 19th - you won't want to miss it! Featuring Utica Rotarian/Past President/ District Governor Nominee **Dana Jerrard** and his band, **Soul Injection**. It's going to be one great night! We'll be selling tickets at our Thursday lunch meetings and on our [website](#) until they sell out. **Tickets are limited, so get yours today!**



Please look to the Rotary Club of Utica [Facebook page](#) and/or [website](#) for a more complete recap of previous meetings.

FROM THE GREATER UTICA CHAMBER:

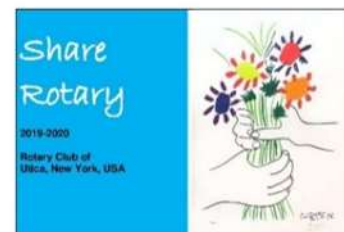
With Governor Cuomo's announcement yesterday mandating closures and restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19, a variety of businesses are experiencing a drastic change to their daily business operations. We've been working hard to help our Members during this time. Click here for

more: <https://greateruticachamber.org/help-support-chamber-member-establishments/>



Looking forward to “seeing” (via Zoom) you this THURSDAY (3/19) noon, from the comfort of your own home, for our first-ever online Rotary Club of Utica weekly meeting!

In Rotary Service,
Joe Caruso
President, 2019-2020
Rotary Club of Utica, NY USA



Please forward this email/newsletter to friends and colleagues whom you would like to SHARE ROTARY!

Following are communications from Rotary International and Rotary District 7150 re Rotary activities during the Corona virus pandemic.

From: Mark Maloney & Holger Knaack

Sat, Mar 14, 5:45 PM (2 days ago)

<ri.comms@rotary.org> [Unsubscribe](#)

Dear Fellow Rotarian,

The COVID-19 coronavirus is affecting every aspect of our lives in real time, and this puts Rotarians in an unfamiliar place. As People of Action, we are most comfortable when we are fully engaged in the world – moving freely, meeting openly, and offering helping hands. These are very difficult times for people who, like us, are at our best when we are learning, growing, and serving—together.

We are also leaders in our communities, and these times call for leadership. In many ways, this also is our time. We have proven abilities to reach out and collaborate to offer immediate help to people in need at a rapid pace. These are precisely the skills needed all over the world today. The global effort against COVID-19 depends on actions taken in every country. Rotary has the unique ability to help improve those efforts in every community and every country.

Using all the technology we have at our disposal, we as Rotarians can continue to reach out and collaborate on big projects with Rotary clubs, Rotaractors, and Interactors. There are a number of examples where Rotary clubs are helping health authorities communicate best practices or provide needed equipment or support that have been shared with our leaders around the world.

As Rotary's president and president-elect, we have been thinking of these issues very seriously in regard to upcoming Rotary events. As you may be aware, we have made the difficult decision to cancel two Rotary Presidential Conferences honoring our relationship with the United Nations—one in Paris, another in Rome. In the near term, we recommend that Rotary districts and clubs cancel or postpone meetings or events following the advice of national and local health officials.

We know that clubs and districts are seizing the opportunity to become leaders in their communities and are making better use of technology in this time of need. For example, a Rotary e-club in Italy held a live online session about COVID-19 awareness, a Taiwan club worked with companies and a pharmacy association to donate 1,600 bottles of hand sanitizer to the city of Ji-Long, and Rotary clubs in Sri Lanka helped upgrade software and hardware for the health promotion bureau to assist its social messaging.

We cannot know quite yet what path this virus will take. We know we can play a role to help “flatten the curve,” reducing the number of cases in the short term to allow our health systems to address this issue. If the collective global effort helps bring the situation under control, then we hope to re-embrace our core values at the 2020 Rotary Convention in Honolulu. Our time together will have greater meaning and purpose than ever.

Please know that we are taking a close, continuing look at our plans for the convention in June to make sure all attendees' safety will be protected. We are following the lead of the world's most trusted sources, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for their guidance. We want you to be able to make decisions about what is best for you and your families in terms of attending this year's event.

In the meantime, this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that *Rotary Connects the World* in innovative ways. We should be closely following the advice of the [WHO](#) and local health authorities. Again, this includes canceling Rotary club events and meetings in the short term to reduce unnecessary interactions that could cause infections. We can put a greater emphasis on the work we do in our communities by helping our less fortunate neighbors cope with the effects of isolation and fear, or by supporting our health authorities to address this situation.

We are dealing with this situation in real time. Please visit the [rotary.org COVID-19 response page](#) for ongoing updates.

This is an unprecedented challenge for nearly all of us. But it is also an opportunity for Rotarians to find new, meaningful ways to lead individuals and communities to connect and do good in the world.

We have never been prouder to be part of an organization that does so much to protect and strengthen our communities, at home and across the globe.

Kindest regards,

Mark Daniel Maloney
2019-2020, President, Rotary International

Holger Knaack
2020-21, President, Rotary International

Dear District 7150 Rotarians,

There are a lot of changes happening in our lives due to the impact of coronavirus and the social distancing efforts we've been asked to implement. Reducing direct, personal contact will slow the spread of the disease and is an important step in avoiding an overrun on our healthcare system.

You should have all received an email from the Rotary International President Mark Maloney yesterday explaining that Rotary supports clubs in taking whatever actions are necessary to comply with the guidelines put forth in our local areas. Considering the lengths our communities are going to in order to encourage social distancing, *clubs should give serious thought to suspending in-person meetings for the time being.*

You can find alternate ways to meet - like through a Facebook live video or online conferencing program like Zoom, GoTo or Teams. The district is working on making their Zoom account available and more information is to come. There is no doubt that our communities will need volunteers in the coming weeks. It is a great opportunity for

Rotarians to step up where they can, but please also respect those that feel the need to be more isolated.

These are challenging times for everyone. Clubs will be making tough decisions and need to do a good job at communicating with their members so we can all get through this together. Maintain your friendships and connections as best you can - more emails, more texts and even picking up the phone to call one another just to check in. Let your Rotarian lights shine bright to be the source of kindness and hope we all need.

We will follow up with club leaders on more resources they can tap into to keep members engaged and respond to community need. Be well Rotarians!

Rotarily Yours,
Lizzy Martin
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