



Register for upcoming District events

Multi-District Membership Monday Seminar "Young People Speak - It's Time to Stretch and Listen"

Make some time tonight, Monday, February 22, at 7 p.m. to hear from younger Rotarians and some who left. Find out what they want and expect from their Rotary experience. This will be a discussion of the culture of Rotary clubs, presented as an opportunity to improve Rotary.

Opening up the event will be incoming Zone Coordinator, Drew Kessler, a young Rotarian himself, along with panelists from each District. Register for the Zoom event at:

[Membership Monday Seminar](#)

District Training Assembly

The District's annual training assembly is February 27 from 9 a.m. to noon via Zoom. This event is for all key members of your club leadership team, as well as any Rotarians who want to get more involved. The agenda is attached with this newsletter. For more information, contact DGE Dana Jerrard at jerrarddana@gmail.com. Register for the training at:

[District Training Assembly](#)

Check out the latest District Newsletter and Rotary International News on the Rotary Club of Utica website:

[Rotary District & International News](#)

This Week's Program

Submitted by Travis Rabbers, Programs Chair

Henry "Mac" MacDonald is a Past District Governor and has served as President of the Auburn Rotary Club. He has been involved in Rotary for over 40 years, and also served as GSE Team Leader to the Philippines in 2006. Mac is the owner of Finger Lakes Scuba. He is a certified Scuba Schools International Instructor Certifier with teaching capabilities through Instructor level. Additionally, Henry specializes in Public Safety Diver training through Emergency Response Divers International.

**FRIDAY | February 26
12 p.m. via Zoom**

February Calendar of Events

- 2/22 Multi-district Membership Monday Seminar | 7 p.m. via Zoom
- 2/26 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom
- 2/27 District Training Assembly | 9 a.m.-noon via Zoom

Deadline for next newsletter (3/1) is Sunday, February 28, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Results of Election for Board of Directors

Submitted by Jill Koch, Rotary Club of Utica Secretary

The following have been elected to a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021 for service on the board of directors: Phil Bean, Executive Director for Central New York Conservancy, Inc.; Joann Fornino, Vice President of Public Relations at Casa Imports; Mary Ann Hallek-Serwatka, Vice President & Senior Commercial Banking Relationship Manager; Linda Iannone, Director of Planning and Events at The Stanley Theatre; and Mark Simon, Marketing Co-Coordinator for the Utica Zoo.

These members will attend Zoom board meetings each month, will meet fellow Rotarians with a similar dedication to helping others, learn more about the Utica Club and Rotary International, and make decisions that will shape the future of our club. They will bring new insights, initiatives and updates from the committees to which they belong.

The election was very close, with just one vote between many nominees. Seventy-one percent of club members took part in the voting process.

We hope that those not chosen this go-around are not discouraged; it is hard to vote for only five members, and this year has been difficult for new members to get the exposure they would have if we were meeting in person. There are so many ways to help, and often we need substitutes for positions on the board as people change rolls or move on.

A special thank you to Ralph Immundo, Nominating Committee Chair, and his committee: Jim Day, Greg Benincasa, Jim Turnbull, Jack Altdoerffer, Dom Passalacqua, Ken Williams and President Israel.

Club offers many opportunities to serve

Submitted by Jill Koch, Rotary Club of Utica Secretary

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.

COMMITTEES

Rotary International Foundation

Chair: **vacant**

The role of the club Rotary Foundation committee is to develop and implement a plan to support the Foundation through participation in grant projects and activities and financial contributions.

Interact

Chair: Jim Day

Interact clubs bring together students ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Students connect with leaders in the community and around the world to take action to make a difference in their school and community. They discover new cultures and promote international understanding. They become a leader in their school and community while having fun and making new friends from around the world.

Membership

Chairs: Joe Caruso and Ken Williams

The role of the membership committee is to develop and implement an action plan for membership development. The club's ability to serve the community, support the Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders capable of serving Rotary beyond club level is directly related to the size and strength of its membership base.

Nominating

Chair: Ralph Imundo

This committee creates a slate of officers who are committed to Rotary's ideals and are willing to lead our club into the future.

Programs

Chair: Travis Rabbers

The program committee works with the club president as well as other members for speaker or program ideas and prepares an annual calendar.

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Club service opportunities

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COMMITTEES

Public Relations

Chair: Michelle Brandstadt

The role of the public relations committee is to develop and execute a plan to tell the public about Rotary and promote the club's service projects and activities. Having strong public relations ensures that communities around the world know that Rotary is a credible organization that meets real needs. When a Rotary club has a positive public image, current members are motivated to be active and prospective members are eager to join.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Chair: Jim Day

Our club sponsors two high school juniors to attend, all expenses paid, the RYLA weekend at Cazenovia College in July. Students provide a two-page essay on their leadership abilities, activities and service to their communities. After review, all applicants undergo a personal interview with our chair or committee and two are chosen.

Rotaract

Chair: Dominic Passalacqua

The Rotaract Committee coordinates the sponsorship and support of the Rotaract Clubs at colleges in the Mohawk Valley. The Rotary Club of Utica successfully launched a Rotaract Club on the campus of Utica College in October 2014, which was chartered by Rotary International in January 2015. The committee also coordinates the club's community internship program, which is designed to serve students from local colleges.

Service Team

Chair: Natalie Brown

The service team staffs the reception desk, acts as chaplain, introduces the visiting Rotarians and guests and calls out the 50/50 winner.

Urban Concerns

Chair: **vacant**

The Urban Concerns Committee seeks to enrich the quality of life within the urban community.

Veterans Affairs

Chair: Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka

Identify needs of the local veteran community, recommend programs/events to meet those needs and engage volunteers to execute the program/event plan.

Youth Exchange

Chair: Deborah Burke

Youth Exchange is a study-abroad opportunity for incoming and outgoing students, ages 15-19, who spend anywhere from a few weeks to a full year as an international student hosted by local Rotary clubs.

ANNUAL PROGRAMS

Annual Gala

Chair: Stephen Turnbull

Outstanding Educator

Chair: Bart Gorman

This program engages students to attend four weekly meetings and an award ceremony for Outstanding Educator in May. The students nominate an educator that they see as going above self, providing students with opportunities to learn and grow that embodies the humanitarian spirit and exemplifies the Four-Way Test of Rotary.

Pride of Workmanship Awards

Chair: Roxanne Mutchler

Pride of Workmanship Awards are made to those employees who demonstrate outstanding competence, a commitment to excellence, professionalism, and a willingness to go above and beyond the job description. They are often the "unsung heroes" in their businesses or organizations and are nominated by managers or co-workers. They typify Rotary International's motto of "Service Above Self."

Quiet Givers Awards

Chair: Roger Breslow

The Quiet Giver Award seeks to recognize those Utica Rotarians who make significant contributions to the success of Rotary and to the community and who do so unselfishly and with humility placing service above self. The award is intended for those who've been active in club programs and projects and have good attendance.

Service Above Self Awards

Chair: Kenneth Williams

Special Needs Holiday Party

Chair: **vacant**

A holiday dinner party, our longest running service project, organized in collaboration with MVCC, Sodexo and the ARC in the month of December.

***Super Saturday* pre-PETS and District Training Assembly**

Saturday, February 27, 2021 – 9:00 am to noon via Zoom

Plenary Session – 9:00 am

- Welcome and Introductions
- Formal introduction of 2021-22 Theme

Leading Your Club in Our New World – Be Nimble!

- Club meetings / member engagement – Using virtual platforms to your advantage
- Public image in the virtual world
- Break
- Successful fundraising during the pandemic and beyond – with discussion
- The New World of member recruitment
- My Rotary – your search for information starts here!
- Break
- The club and district response to the COVID pandemic
- Rotary Foundation introduction
- YE and RYLA for 2021-22
- Mark Your Calendar
- Break

Breakout modules- 11:20 to completion (goal of 12:00 noon)

- Club Secretary training
- Club Treasurer training
- Building your online presence
- Foundation Grants Management Seminar
- Assistant Governor Training
- Pre-PETS for club Presidents-Elect
 - Introductions
 - Learning Center – Club President courses
 - Register for MDPETS
 - A Tour of My Rotary - Club Goal Setting (new streamlined version)
 - Collaborative projects
 - Should you sponsor a new club? Eight is enough!
 - The value of retaining your virtual connection post-pandemic