



July 6, 2020

## MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT

Holger Knaack

President 2020-21

July 2020



This does not seem like a time for great optimism, but it has to be. Long before Rotary was founded, the world dealt with great crises that tested humankind's ability to progress and endure. In the age of Rotary, the world has faced many more catastrophes; however, we have survived, and every step of the way, Rotary has helped the world heal.

Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. I revealed the theme of Rotary Opens Opportunities at the International Assembly in San Diego just as the COVID-19 crisis was beginning, but these are words that I have believed for many years.

Rotary is not just a club that you join; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. We believe in creating opportunities for others and for ourselves. We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help, and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

Governments and institutions are gaining a greater appreciation for the types of public health partnerships that are critical to our work. People stuck at home, eager for greater connections and hungry to help their communities, are now embracing the values we have promoted since our beginning.

All of this is positive news, but just because there are greater opportunities than ever for Rotary to thrive does not

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## Newsletter Note

**Michelle Brandstadt**

Kudos to PP Joe for putting together the weekly newsletter. I know they're not easy, but they're always worth it. P Israel would like to keep it going, so here's the first one for his term. He asked me to keep it to one page—oops!

In future newsletters look for the meeting recaps to return as well as more committee information and updates. If you have an idea for articles or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact me at [michelle@fillableformdesigns.com](mailto:michelle@fillableformdesigns.com). The intent is to get the newsletter out each Monday (another oops!); submission deadline is the Friday before the following Monday.

## PRESIDENT KNAACK'S MESSAGE *(continued from p.1)*

guarantee that we will succeed. The world is changing rapidly — and was doing so even before this crisis. People were starting to move away from regular lunch meetings and toward online gatherings. Friendships were being cultivated and revived in social media relationships even before most of our meetings moved to Zoom and Skype. Younger generations have a strong desire to serve — but have questioned whether they could play a meaningful role in organizations like Rotary or whether they might make a bigger impact forming different types of connections. Now is the time to put everything on the table, test new approaches, and prepare Rotary for the future.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced all of us to adapt. This is good, and our new Action Plan specifically calls on us to improve our ability to adapt. But adaptation is not enough. We need to change, and change dramatically, if we are to face the challenges of this new age and provide the Rotary the world so desperately needs.

This is our great challenge, not just in the next year but into the foreseeable future. It is up to us to remake Rotary for these new times — to wholeheartedly embrace the ideas, energy, and commitment of young people eager to find an outlet for idealism. We must become an organization fully enmeshed in the digital age, not one that simply looks for online ways to keep doing what we have always done.

The world needs Rotary now more than ever. It is up to us to make sure that Rotary Opens Opportunities for generations to come.

## Calendar of Events for July 2020

- 7/9 Thursday Meeting 12 p.m.  
F.T. Proctor Park
- 7/16 Thursday Meeting 12 p.m.  
TBD
- 7/20 Board Meeting 1 p.m.  
via Zoom
- 7/30 Thursday Meeting 12 p.m.  
TBD

## Club News

*It's a girl! Born to Heather Beebe on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Heather and her family.*



## This Week's Program



Join us outside and in person on Thursday, July 9, at F.T. Proctor Park. The guest speaker is Dr. Philip Bean, Executive Director of The Central New York Conservancy (and a Rotary Club of Utica member). The meeting will take place at noon in the park pavilion located off Rutger St. (turn off Culver Ave., headed east on Rutger St.). It's a picnic too—Break from the Grind food truck will be there to offer lunch starting at 11:45 p.m. for anyone interested. It's recommended that attendees bring a lawn chair.

For those who can't meet at the park, a Zoom meeting starting at 11:45 p.m. will be available. Look for the meeting link in the email in which this newsletter arrived.

Dr. Philip Bean is the Central New York Conservancy's Executive Director. He is a Utica native and has served for the last 23 years as a college administrator. A graduate of Proctor High School, he earned degrees from Union College, Oxford University and the University of Rochester. Dr. Bean is an author and has been a contributor to the Utica OD on topics of local interest.

## 2020-21 Club Officers and Board Members

President.....	Israel Acosta
Treasurer .....	Darby O'Brien
Secretary .....	Jill Koch
President Elect .....	Stephen Turnbull
Immediate Past President..	Joe Caruso
Vice President.....	Tina Pavlot
Sergeant at Arms.....	Deb Burke
Board .....	Andy Alesia
Board .....	David Bagley
Board .....	Heather Beebe
Board .....	Michelle Brandstadt
Board .....	Roger Breslow
Board .....	Natalie Brown
Board .....	Jennifer DePasquale
Board .....	David Jones
Board .....	Jerry Kraus
Board .....	Bill Luley
Board .....	Catherine McEnroe
Board .....	Roxanne Mutchler
Board .....	Elizabeth Nassar
Board .....	Travis Rabbers
Board .....	Don Reese

## COMMITTEE NEWS

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

Youth Exchange..... Deb Burke

Rotoract .....

RYLA .....

Interact.....

Urban Concerns..... **NEED CHAIR**

Communication .....

Meeting Service .....

Membership..... **NEED CHAIR**

Outstanding Educator Awards.....Bart Gorman

Quiet Giver's Award .....

Pride of Workmanship ....

Veteran's Outreach.....Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka

Special Needs Party .....

### Looking for a few good Rotarians

This year's Sergeant at Arms, Deb Burke, plans to have a rotating schedule of people to help with setup and cleanup at meetings. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Deb at 315-525-2855.

## RCU's Social Justice Committee

Your Rotary Club of Utica has a social justice committee, charged with looking at social justice in our community today, and how we as Rotarians can be better informed, and become part of the solution to the inequity that surrounds us. We've met twice—at noon on the last two Mondays—and we're going to meet next on noon on Monday, July 13. If you'd like to join us, email Joe at [jpcarus012@gmail.com](mailto:jpcarus012@gmail.com) and you'll be sent the link. *We hope to see you there!*

