

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

August 5, 2024

Utica Rotary welcomes Quanterion Solutions

By Joe Abraham

Utica Rotary held its second meeting of its 108th year in existence on Thursday, Aug. 1, welcoming two guest speakers, Marketing Strategist Deb Born and Senior Program Manager for Cybersecurity and Intelligence Cully Patch from Quanterion Solutions Incorporated.

Quanterion is a small business that specializes in high-quality analytical services, products and training across a number of technical disciplines (such as information systems, technical info centers, software systems and development, cybersecurity, knowledge management, critical infrastructure protection, and Homeland Defense and Security).

The company's growth can be attributed to the development of expertise in specific



technical fields, which has been used to develop products and tools for the members of these user communities. Though headquartered in Utica, the company has offices throughout the country.

Cully quoted a phrase typically used at Quanterion, "Concentrate on what you do best and we'll handle the technical rest."

To learn more about Quanterion, visit <https://www.quanterion.com/>.

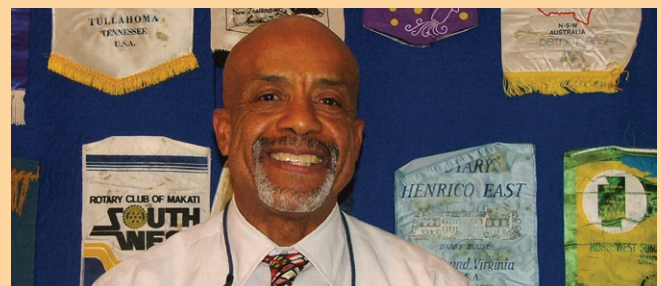
PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP IS BACK!

The event will take place on Thursday, October 24 at noon at the Five Points Public House and Events Center in Utica, reports Chair Joe Abraham.

Nomination forms are available on our website. A press release will be issued shortly, and the committee will be asking club members to help spread the word.

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Deadline for next newsletter (8/12) is Saturday, Aug. 10 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

MEETING RECAP

• **President Travis Rabbers announced two new club members** - Rondi Stronach and Dr. Ginger Oliver. Cedieu Fortilus was a virtual guest at Thursday's meeting. The Haitian Rotarian recently relocated to the area and does charitable work with Ginger that assists those back in Haiti. We will surely hear more about this in the future!

• **The Rotary Golf Outing** is right around the corner on Sunday, August 18 in Whitesboro. There are still a few spots for foursomes. If you're interested in playing or volunteering at the event, please contact Jerry Kraus.

• **Our next program** is Thursday, August 15 when Gina Pearce joins us from Green Utica.

• **If you are out in the community** doing something awesome, such as volunteering, participating in a festival or unique event, send a photo to josephabraham2011@gmail.com and it will get to Bob Stronach to include in the newsletter.

• **Stay tuned for more details** about a downtown cleanup on Aug. 24, *Real Men Wear Pink* bike ride on Sept. 29 and *Walk to End Alzheimer's* on Oct. 5.

-- Joe Abraham



MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Meet Dave Jones

By Joe Abraham

Dave Jones joined the Rotary Club of Utica in 1984, with a classification of Medical Equipment- Orthotics and Prosthetics.

“My purpose in joining was to give the new lab I recently opened more visibility and to see what’s needed and wanted within our community,” he said.

While personally rewarding, Dave’s decision to join the club was a blessing, as he has remained a very active member, from being a past president, familiar face at service projects, and in leading several meaningful efforts.

When he joined the club, he was one of the youngest members, but within a year he was asked to chair the Handicapped Persons Committee which consisted of roughly 20 members, the most active committee within the club, in addition to having an annual budget of \$4,000.

“The committee worked year-round supporting non-profit organizations who worked with the physically and mentally disabled,” Dave explained. “Some of our noted projects included sprucing up both Camp Goodwill (Chittenango) and the Arc camp (Hacadam Rd.).”

The latter involved installing wheelchair ramps at private residences and hosting the annual holiday party for Arc which averaged around 200 participants, with club members often serving food and washing dishes.

The committee morphed into the Special Needs Committee in the late nineties and Dave also chaired that committee for 11 years. It was at this time that the club adopted Columbus Elementary School and had a “Rotary Reader” in every classroom. Jones noted that our



club also hosted an annual Thanksgiving dinner in honor of the area’s refugee families within the school. One of the biggest projects they undertook was the renovation of the Columbus School inner courtyard. From a mass of weeds, our club converted this space, over a five-year period, into an outdoor environmental learning classroom of raised garden beds, a pool stocked with fish, benches, and a spherical weather station.

LANDMINE AWARENESS

In the early 2000s, Utica Rotary President Georgiana Roberts Ide sent Dave to Seattle to attend a conference sponsored by RI and the U.S. Department of State entitled “Landmine Awareness”.

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MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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As a result of his attendance and interest of learning more about his refugee amputee patients, Dave was invited by Halo Trust (an international demining company made famous by Princess Diana) to go to Southeast Asia with 15 other Rotarians to see first-hand the ongoing devastation of unexploded ordnance (UXO) munitions dropped during the Vietnamese conflict.

“We also toured northwest Cambodia to observe mine clearing operations of landmines planted during the Khmer Rouge reign of terror,” Dave noted. “One landmine was exhumed during our visit and I, dressed in full flak jacket and helmet, was given the honor of detonating it. This trip gave me the impetus to co-chair, along with President Ide, four years of landmine removal fundraising via a dinner. We secured invited speakers from both Halo Trust and the U.S. State Department and grossed approximately \$20,000 to assist mine clearance in Bosnia and Cambodia.”

FIGHTING BLIGHT

Presently, Dave chairs the Urban Tree Planting Project which is in its fourth year, and a cooperative venture between Utica Rotary, the City of Utica and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica’s Climate Action Team.

This fall, when Utica Rotarians plant another 40 trees, the project will have surpassed 100 trees planted since the program’s inception. Our club just received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sustain our efforts for another five years.

“In reflection I’ve been honored to be a member of Utica Rotary,” said Jones, “as it has given me more (mentally and spiritually) than all my efforts over these years.”

QUICK STATS

- Utica Rotary President 1995-1996.
- Served two 3-year terms on board of directors.
- Paul Harris Fellow X 2.
- 2007 Host inbound exchange student from Thailand; son Christian was outbound student to Japan.

(More photos on next page)



Past President Tina Pavlot and Dave Jones flank former Utica Mayor Robert Palmieri on the occasion of the mayor visiting one of the tree-planting sites.

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Dave went on an humanitarian South African tour to support NGO non-profits related to female sexual abuse and AIDS. He also got to spend a couple of days on a safari.



Dave visited Vietnam and Cambodia to learn about the devastation caused by unexploded ordnance and landmines.

MEMBER MENTIONS



Utica Rotarians Ken Williams, Drew DeBlasiis and Tina Pavlot joined an M&T Bank volunteer group cleaning up Gryziec Field in Rome on Saturday, July 27, in the wake of a tornado ravaging parts of the Copper City over a week earlier. That's an uprooted tree they're standing and sitting on.

Calendar of Events

8/15 Meeting | Gina Pearce from Green Utica noon | Mid-York Library

8/18 Rotary Charity Golf Outing Hidden Valley, Whitesboro

8/21 Board Meeting noon | Greater Utica Chamber

8/24 Service | Clean up downtown

8/29 Club Social | Cavallos 5:00 pm