

Utica Rotary Hub



Utica, NY, USA

July 6, 2026

QUIET GIVER AND PAUL HARRIS AWARDS

Rotary fellowship conquers hot temps - see pages 2, 3 & 4



PP Travis Rabbers presents Quiet Giver Award to Matt Schlosser and Foundation Chair Don Reese presents Paul Harris pin to Heather Beebe. Photos by Bob Stronach.

MEETING RECAP

A life in Rotary creating lasting impact - see page 5

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

Rotary fellowship conquers hot temps

By **BOB STRONACH**

The weather was sweltering in the pavilion at Piggy Pats on July 1, but one might say Rotarians had a cool time because of fellowship, barbecue cuisine and award presentations.

PP Travis Rabbers emceed the club's annual Awards Night and Changing of the Guard, pointing out that the evening would feature "the two most prestigious awards that we give out... the Paul Harris and the Quiet Givers Awards."

GREAT YEAR AND GREAT TEAM

The past year was "a great year in Rotary," he said, adding that he wanted "to acknowledge several people." He first thanked Heather Beebe for "stepping up" and taking over the president's reins from 2025-26 President Dr. Roger Breslow.

He gave a shout-out to PP and Membership Chair Tina Pavlot, rhetorically asking: "How many jobs do you have for Rotary? 10? 12?"

He thanked President-elect Joe Abraham "for all the work that you do," including "everything related to social media, and posted with the CNY Rotary."

Travis expressed gratitude to Bob Stronach "for all you do with the newsletter getting that prepared every week."

He also gave shout-outs to Secretary Matt Scholsser and Treasurer Rebecca Cavoli for all their hard work. "Those are two of the most important jobs with Rotary."

QUIET GIVER AND PAUL HARRIS AWARDS

Next on the agenda was the awards ceremony. Travis described the Quiet Giver Award as honoring an "unsung hero Rotary" who works tirelessly behind the scenes, showing up at events and helping with planning and taking care of a lot of little details.



Heather Beebe honored Darby O'Brien and Kevin Marken for "many years of dedicated service."

He announced that Matt Schlosser was this year's recipient.

Then he turned the microphone over to CNY Rotary District's Foundation Chair, PP Don Reese, to conduct the Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Named after the founder of Rotary International, the honor involves the club making a \$1,000 donation to Rotary Foundation in the recipient's name.

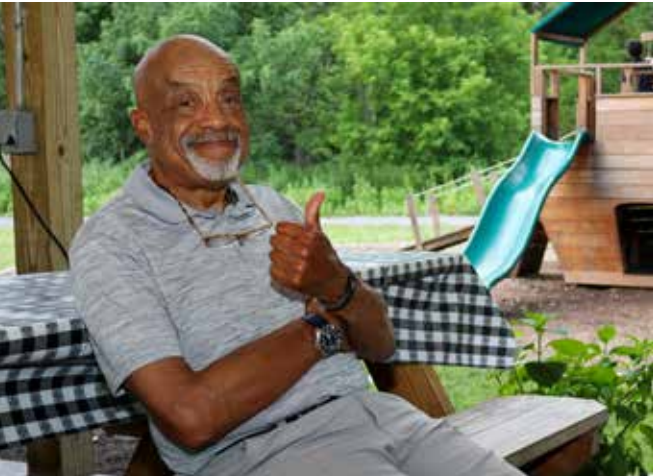
As the highest award a club can offer, the Paul Harris pin is a recognition of "service above self", he said and announced that Heather Beebe was this year's honoree.

Heather had recognitions of her own to present. First, she thanked Ralph Imundo for sponsoring her some 17 years ago. Then she singled out Darby O'Brien and Kevin Marken, presenting them with a plaque to thank them for "many years of dedicated service" and for making a "lasting impact on our club and the community".

GALA UPDATE: \$12,000 RAISED

Before the evening ended, PP Stephen Turnbull gave an update on June's "Service Above Self" Gala. "We're still counting the final numbers, but so far, we are at around \$12,000 that we are prepared to donate to the Kelberman Center."

Rotary fellowship conquers hot temps



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MEETING RECAP

A life in Rotary creating lasting impact

President Heather Beebe welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2026-2027 Rotary year, held July 2 at Mid-York Library. After the pledge of allegiance to the USA, she immediately reminded Rotarians of two upcoming service opportunities.

First was the Boilermaker Water Station near the Parkway Senior Center on July 12. “Matt (Schlosser) is the contact for that.” She mentioned she would run in the Boilermaker Road Race herself – for the 18th time – even though she doesn’t like long distance running, with the Boilermaker being an exception because she enjoys greeting people along the route.

The other service opportunity is the Saranac Brewery beer pouring on July 16 in conjunction with a concert. “Yuliya (Karpov) is the one setting that up together with the United Way and the Catalyst” group.

The program highlight was Heather’s Rotary story, herself being a third generation Rotarian. It began with her grandfather, who flew jets in Korea and Vietnam before retiring from the Air Force and joining Rotary. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and he served as president of Oriskany Falls Rotary. Her mom followed in her grandfather’s Rotary footsteps, becoming that club’s president as well.

Heather joined Utica Rotary in 2009 after sending a query through the club website. Ralph Imundo and Darby O’Brien replied. “They both were very good to me,” not only in her early years as a Rotarian, but also throughout her time as a member.

But her personal Rotary story really began as a teenager when she got involved in Youth Exchange. For this part of her presentation she donned her Youth Exchange blazer, covered with pins and other pieces of “trash” she had collected, with every item holding a memory. She spent a year in Brazil, hitting it off with other exchange students, and later as a host mom, she developed lasting friendships with exchange students and Rotarians around the world. She got to visit them in Hungary and Iceland and spent time in Norway as a member of Rotarac.



She closed her talk by referring to this year’s theme, *Creae Lasting Impact*, which is what Utica Rotary is about.

“Lasting impact isn’t created by just one of us... It’s created by all of us when we all bring our own unique talents, ideas and passion to something greater than ourselves.” She mentioned the ripple

effects of what Rotarians do.

“Every conversation, every new member we welcome, and every opportunity we embrace to make our community stronger, will become part of a legacy that will continue long after.”

“I can’t wait to see what we will accomplish together. Let’s challenge ourselves to dream bigger. Serve with purpose and inspire others to join us. And together, we can make this year defined not only by what we do, but by the lasting impact we leave on our community and on each other.”

Not too early to help with Workmanship and Alzheimer's

By JOE ABRAHAM

Pride of Workmanship

I am again chairing the Pride of Workmanship Awards and am thrilled that Joanne Moskal will be my vice chair! If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let me know ASAP, as we will begin meeting later this month via Zoom. The award ceremony, held in mid-to-late October, honors unsung heroes (below management level) at different organizations and businesses in the Utica area. It is a tradition of this club dating back decades.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

I will be registering our club to have a team in the local *Walk to End Alzheimer's* at MVCC. This year's walk will be a little later, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 17. What is interesting about the walk is we will be under a CNY Rotary team. Our district is making this a priority effort, with teams participating across the state. Locally, we will likely be joined by Rotarians in New Hartford, VVS, and beyond. A local rep from the Alzheimer's Association will be our Aug. 6 meeting speaker.

2026-2027 Leadership Team and board appointees

President: Heather Beebe
President Elect: Joseph Abraham
President Nominee: Jasmin Arias
Treasurer: Rebecca Cavoli
Secretary: Matt Schlosser
New Board Members:
Maggie Reed • Terry DeLude • Pamela Matt

Continuing Board Members:
Bob Stronach
Catherine McEnroe
David Bagley
Dominic Passalacqua
James Friedel
Tracy Page

Calendar of Events

7/12	Service Boilermaker water station	8/6	Meeting Program: Alzheimer's Assn. noon Mid-York Library
7/15	Meeting Board of Directors noon Greater Utica Chamber	8/19	Meeting Board of Directors noon Greater Utica Chamber
7/16	Service Saranac beer pouring	8/23	Service Annual Charity Golf Outing noon Hidden Valley in Whitesboro
7/16	Social Wine Lounge at Tony's 5 pm 3899 Oneida St., New Hartford		

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Wear Something Cool, Promote Rotary, Too.

Check out our Utica Rotary merchandise at the online store:

https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary_club/shop/home