

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

June 5, 2023

Meet 7 outstanding educators



FROM LEFT: Outstanding Educators Roger Wratten (Clinton), Eileen Roth (New Hartford), Tim Papienuk (New York Mills), Dana Giannandrea (Notre Dame), Natalie Powers (Sauquoit) and Lisa Alexander (Whitesboro). Missing from photo is Ken Szczesniak (Proctor).

By Jerry Kraus

The Rotary Clubs of Utica, New Hartford, North Utica/Whitestown, and Sauquoit honored seven Utica-area teachers on Thursday, June 1, at their annual Outstanding Educators Awards Program.

The program, presented during a joint luncheon at the Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford, is an annual event of the Rotary Clubs'

community service committees. The 2023 recipients are:

- Clinton Central High School: **Roger Wratten.**
- New Hartford High School: **Eileen Roth.**
- New York Mills Junior/Senior High School: **Tim Papienuk.**
- Notre Dame Junior/Senior High

School: **Dana Giannandrea.**

- T.R. Proctor High School: **Ken Szczesniak.**
- Sauquoit Valley High School: **Natalie Powers.**
- Whitesboro Central High School: **Lisa Alexander.**

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Deadline for next newsletter (6/12) is Sunday, June 11 at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Meet 7 outstanding educators

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The awards luncheon comes at the culmination of a year-long program during which area Rotary clubs hosted two students from each of seven area high schools.

At each of two weekly Rotary membership meetings over the past school year, the students each had an opportunity to introduce themselves

to the Rotary members, and to learn about Rotary's community, regional and international service, which are the fulfillment of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

At the end of the school year, the students from each school are asked to select the teacher whom they believe exemplifies the Rotary motto,

and the values of Rotary, as exemplified in its Four Way Test:

- Is it the **Truth**?
- Is it **Fair** to all concerned?
- Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?
- Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?



Club President Tina Pavlot welcomed Rotarians and guests while Outstanding Educator Program Chair Bart Gorman oversaw the awards event, which honored teachers who exemplify Rotary's motto and Four-Way Test. Photos by R. Stronach.



TOP LEFT: Sauquoit Rotary's Randy Wilson introduced students and their educator from Sauquoit Valley High. TOP: North Utica-Whitestown President April Bliss introduced Whitesboro High students and their teacher. LEFT: New Hartford's Anita High introduced New Hartford High students and teacher.

WHO KNEW MATH COULD BE FUN

Teachers and students inspire each other

By Bob Stronach

The connection between Rotary International and students and teachers was perhaps best summed up by New Hartford High School math teacher Eileen Roth.

Pointing to Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," she said: "My students embody that, and they inspire me."

Eileen was one of seven teachers honored as an outstanding educator during the joint awards luncheon at the Yahnundasis Golf Club on June 1 sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Utica, New Hartford, North Utica-Whitestown and Sauquoit.

Perhaps showing an interesting trend, Eileen was one of three math teachers to be honored, and the outstanding students introducing them expressed their surprise at discovering that math could be fun.

Whitesboro Central High math teacher Lisa Alexander noted that while she tries to make math fun, her goal is to prepare students for life and teach some math along the way.

Students introducing Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School math teacher Dana Giannandrea pointed to fellow students going out of their way to take his classes.

Similarly, students from Clinton Central High School heaped praise on their French teacher, Roger Wratten.

One student from New York Mills High School said she felt confident with her public speaking, thanks to the influence of her English teacher, Tim Papienuk, and stage-whispered



Eileen Roth



Roger Wratten



Lisa Alexander



Tim Papienuk



Dana Giannandrea



Natalie Powers

that she hoped for a good grade for her Rotary presentation.

Another outstanding educator is Sauquoit Valley High School guidance counselor Natalie Powers, who noted that she goes out of her way to encourage students to be their best and pursue dreams because people in her life discouraged her from becoming an educator and it wasn't until she tried it that she found herself at home.

The final outstanding educator is Ken Szczesniak, acting principal at T.R. Proctor High School, who couldn't be present because he was

taking part in the senior class picnic.

Utica Rotary President Tina Pavlot welcomed Rotarians and guests, and Outstanding Educator Program Chair Bart Gorman introduced the students who would talk about and present plaques to outstanding educators.

He also welcomed to the podium representatives of the other Rotary Clubs. They included Sauquoit's Randy Wilson, a past district governor; New Hartford's Anita High, and North Utica-Whitestown Club President April Bliss, all of whom introduced their students and educators.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS PROGRAM



Clinton Central High School



Sauquoit Valley High School



Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School



New York Mills Junior/Senior High School



Whitesboro Central High School



New Hartford High School



Volunteer for the Rotary water station

Rotarian Drew DeBlasiis is charing the Rotary water station for the Boilermaker Road Race on Sunday, July 9. He is looking for volunteers to help hand out water to runners as they pass the Parkway Rec Center. Contact him at: ddeblasiis1@mtb.com or (315) 955-4628.

Also, volunteers are required to register with the Boilermaker. Below are instructions for registering.

Click on the link below.

Scroll down to find your committee (WS-Utica Rotary). Then click on Volunteer.

If you have used RunSignUp in the past, sign in as a Registered User. If you are new to RunSignUp, fill out the New User form.

In both areas fill out all the information

Click on Continue and complete the information on the next page. Click Submit. Your Coordinator will be notified that you have registered.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/NY/Utica/Boilermaker>

Calendar of Events

- 6/9 Gala | ‘Service Above Self’
6 pm | The Stanley Theatre
- 6/15 Program | Boilermaker Road Race
Noon | Mid-York Library
- 6/16 Service | Heart Run Telethon
5-6 pm |
- 6/21 Board | Meeting
Noon | Greater Utica Chamber
- 6/22 Social | TBD
5 pm |
- 6/29 Service | TBD



American Heart Association.

America’s Greatest Heart Run & Walk™

Need volunteers for heart telethon

Rotary Club of Utica is volunteering to answer the phones at America’s Greatest Heart Run & Walk Telethon on Friday, June 16. The time slot is 5 to 6 p.m. Location is Accelerate Sports, 5241 Judd Road, Whitesboro, NY.

“We’ll need eight people,” notes President Tina Pavlot. To volunteer, contact Tina at cpavlot@mtb.com.