

ROTARY CLUB OF YORK – EAST

District 7390 – Meetings: Tuesdays @ 7:30 a.m. (please refer to website for changes/updates)

September 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Friedel Liebe-Elser

www.clubrunner.ca/york-east



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Rotary Membership Anniversaries

*Thank you
for your continued service above self*

Craft, Jim	37 years	Sep 01 1985
Kile, Jeff	5 years	Sep 05 2017
Elser, Bob	29 years	Sep 11 1993
Hochhalter, Cindy	9 years	Sep 17 2013
Bankos, Joanne	35 years	Sep 24 1987

Programs for this month

September 6. Clair Doll, Ex. Dir. of York County Human Services Dept. Clair describing the services provided by his department and discussing some of the successes and challenges that have occurred in the last few years – *Hybrid*

September 13. PDG John G. Anthony II (DG 2020-21) District Membership Coordinator discussing membership recruiting efforts occurring throughout the district – *Hybrid*

September 20. ANNUAL GOLF OUTING at Heritage Hills
NO MEETING

September 27. Elizabeth Wolf and her Rotary Foundation committee discussing our participation in The Rotary Foundation Annual – *Hybrid*

For ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING: Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting will still be sent to members - or guests upon request - via the email meeting reminder each Monday.

The in-person meetings are held at Heritage Hills Hotels with the venue – location advertised on a sign outside - opening at 7 am.

York East Board of Directors 2022-23

President: Karen Comery
President-Elect:
Treasurer: Diane Yocum
Secretary: Friedel Liebe-Elser & Bob Elser
Past President: Sandra Graham
Sargeant at Arms:
Committee Chairs & Members-at-large
Becky Disney – Fundraising & Giving
William Gierasch – Club Administration
Elizabeth Wolf – Rotary Foundation
Deb Klinedinst – Membership
Chris Izzo – Grant Committee
Greg Kern – Community Service
Tim Koller – Public Relations
Bob Straw – Vocational Service
Kris Pollick
Hunter Mink

Happy Birthday to you...

Gierasch, Bill	Sep 07
Spark, Connie	Sep 12
Elser, Bob	Sep 13
Comery, Karen	Sep 21
Agarwal, Nik	Sep 22
Smolko, Nicholas	Sep 25

*If your birthday is not listed, please contact
Bob Elser at navman9@comcast.net or
Friedel Liebe-Elser at friedel.liebe@gmail.com

YORK EAST ROTARY CLUB BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 14th, 2022
7:30 a.m. In person only at Brewery Products

"Keep the Rotary Foundation and the good that it does in the world at the forefront our club's thought process", our club's Foundation Chair Elizabeth¹

Karen Eileen Comery
is the 2022-23 President of
The Rotary Club of York East



A kind of INTERVIEW
by Friedel Liebe-Elser

This is Karen, our mom. And this photo shows you just how important she is. And she's also very busy. So she really couldn't do this interview, try as she might. Therefore, she asked us, her tried and tested team, known and feared as the

'Fiercely Protective Puppy Army
of the Comery Residence'

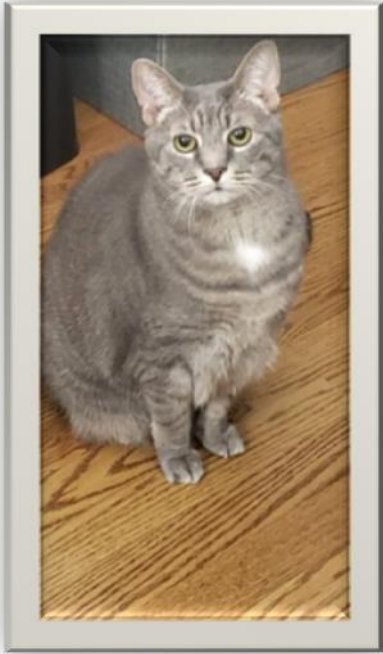
Now we may all look rather cool in this photo, but if the truth were told, our tails are a bit on edge [canine term for being nervous because we've never been interviewed before, and until today we didn't even know what that means. Oh boy, did our respective furs start to shrivel when we learned what we were asked to do. But then, nothing is ever too much when we do it for her.



But since she had decided that we, ***Rex, Macy, Leo (Top-Dog, that's me!), & Shiloh***, (from left to right) may be best qualified to talk about her, it feels like a huge honor for us to be asked by her. So, we are only too happy to grant this interview. And although most humans may not always be aware of it, we, your furry and feathered friends, know everything there is to know about you and your family.

We listen to every conversation – be it by phone, zoom, Whatsapp, Skype, or Facetime. And dogs, cats, children, and parakeets have excellent hearing – with the latter two showing an uncanny ability to repeat at the most inappropriate moment any sentence you may ever have uttered. We also hang about whenever exciting things are happening around our home, like when the vicar comes to go over the final details of the wedding ceremony. We usually just crouch down in a corner, pretending we're not there, especially when friends drop in to share their latest juicy gossip (*omit gossip/replace with news – editor!*). We hear it all! But don't worry, when it comes to spilling any beans, your canines and felines are the most secretive confidants you could ask for. Our lips are sealed!

Including the lips of 'Her Majesty Bella' – residing in seclusion on the top floor. She let it be known that it's beneath her dignity to leave her realm up there and refuses to come downstairs where the rest of us roam.



Between you and us, Bella seems to forget that once upon a time, she, too, was just a rescue kitten when our mom brought this sorry looking furry bundle from Heavenly Paws to live with us. Although she seems a bit toffee-nosed, we love Bella and, for what it's worth, she loves us too – I think...

For the longest time – almost 17 years! – our mom also had Miranda, an adorable pussycat. They had a special bond and mom took great care of Miranda for many months before she we had to let her go to kitty-heaven. She spoon-fed Miranda with that special diet that was to make her feel better. Mom gave her the much-needed daily meds- always on time. She even administered her IV fluids. Because that's the sort of mom she is.



And then we also have some feathered friends in this happy go-lucky-home of ours, these are two very naughty parakeets,
Madison & Monty



- ... and trust me, *they will talk.*

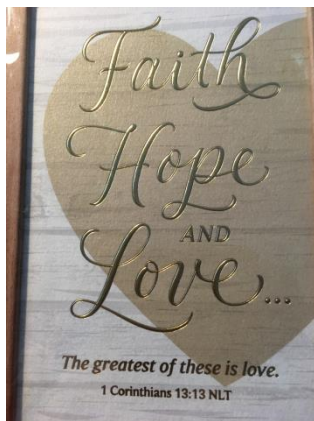
So thanks to Madison and Monty's support, this interview truly is a 'Tell All' about our family, because we consider ourselves the luckiest bunch of naughty little creatures thanks to this great lady, 'our mom Karen'.

And because she already learned how to take care of others when she was very young, she is an expert in looking after those she loves and/or need her protection.

She started by protecting her little brother David, taking him by the hand when he tried his first steps, making sure he didn't get hurt when he fell down, and feeding him squashed bananas, because he didn't have any teeth when he was born. But don't worry, he now does have many teeth and lives in Georgia with his family. Karen and David are still very close, and they all get together as often as they can.



Oh, did we tell you how jolly our lives have become since she got married? Those two Love-Birds really are a Match Made In Heaven! And we are right there with them – always – loving them both to bits – while we often run into their bedroom to look at the picture above their beds as soon as they're out of the door.



(Their bedroom is off-limits, says our mom. But we're only running in to look and hardly ever jump onto their beds. Well almost hardly ever.)



But no hard feeling because we are just glad that Karen's Mom 'Nana' and Karen's daughter Kiera – together with all their other distinguished guests - had the time of their lives at that magical wedding. (Evidently no dangerous alligators tried to eat them. Yes, yes, I know we should simply let it go... No more moping! I get it.)



Sadly she and Jereme told us we could not attend their wedding, so we all pined, some of us even cried (Macy and Shiloh if you must know). But our Mom said it was too dangerous for us to attend the wedding because they have many alligators in Florida, who would eat 'little creatures like us'. – And also because the wedding venue people said: "Strictly no pets, such as dogs, cats, and parakeets." They just didn't know how much fun it is to have us around on a day like that.

So, on June 8, 2017, on St. Pete Beach in Florida, Karen Eileen Comery took thee Jereme Scott Plank to be her lawfully wedded husband – in the presence of family and friends (but without yours truly and friends, left behind because of alligators). The couple actually met in 2013, when they were introduced by a mutual friend, George Margetas. Finally, the date was picked because it was Karen's maternal grandmother's birthday. Imagine how thrilled her mamaw would have been! We were told that "the couple enjoyed beautiful weather and a weeklong adventure with those who made the trek to Florida." (personal remark: we, too, would have treked down there if only we'd have been invited....)



Especially as we really got the best deal of all since we now have 'a real husband' in our home, one who is a lead (painting supervisor – that's a big deal, that is!!) at Ausherman painting. His work involves all types of projects including indoor and outdoor painting, staining, and restoration of unique houses (probably meaning *old*). All that really neat stuff where people shout "Oh, that's so artistic!" and "How clever!" Our dad Jereme is a graduate of West York Area High School – but to us he is much, *much* more! He is our best friend, who pokes fun at us – and we at him. He plays with us – and we with him, often a bit more than he may wish for. He feeds us - if need be - and we take walks together. Whenever he comes home, we just fly across the floor towards him, without our paws even touching the ground, so that he can make a fuss of us. Karen does the same, but we always get to him first because we are faster. Oh heavens, that man is fun!!! A great sport! Just look at him!!! (This photo is actually marked 'private' but I'll let you see it anyway, just to show you what a great life we all have because of him.



As I said, we are one hell of a happy-go-lucky bunch around here, especially as we also have Karen's dad Alan here, who lives with us since Karen's mum died in January 2021. He's called 'Big Al'. (I think that's the people version of 'Top Dog', like me – so no wonder, he and I are real close!) They had been married for 56 years, so you can imagine how lonely he would be without us. We really needed to be on our paws to try and cheer him up, each of us having learned all sorts of tricks like somersaulting and taking a running jump just to make him laugh. Fortunately, we feel that he is happy with us around because he smiles quite a lot these days and he is eating a little more than a year ago. And for us, having him live with us is a real bonus because he tells us all sorts of stories about our mom when she was younger – or rather when they were all younger. Like the almost 20 years (1980-1999), when our granddad, then called Mr. Alan Gregson Comery, was Copy Editor at the Patriot News and York Dispatch for 6 years prior to that. Karen's dad also had a career in radio/sports broadcasting, Program Director at WORK. Imagine that! We have in our family someone who can talk on the radio – and we could listen to him even when he's not in the same house with us. How cool is that? To top it all, he was an Announcer and DJ on WSBA, Cable 4 York – a radio station which even carried Baltimore Orioles baseball games. Do you get that??? *The Baltimore Orioles! Yippie!* And he was there! He knew them! He watched them! He even talked to them! And just for good measure he was also the PA Announcer for Gettysburg College Football games for 34 years. What an exciting life! But most exciting of all for him and his wife was when their daughter Karen gave them the greatest gift: their granddaughter Kiera Anne – here she is, a tiny baby in 1995.



She was the Pride and Joy of her mom and her grandparents, lighting up their sky like only the brightest star could, they say. And what an easy baby to love she was – and, according to those who have known her from the start – she still is. Only now there is someone else who has discovered just how easy it is to love Kiera, even though she isn't a baby anymore. His name is Justin Miller – and they are *engaged*. Whatever that means... Karen's dad Big Al says, when there is something we don't understand, he can 'google' it for us. *Google it!* That sounds real funny. Then he told us: Kiera and Justin are getting married! On September 24th so only a few days from now, at River Ranch in Wrightsville, which is in Pennsylvania – not in Florida! Now it remains to be seen if this time around we – the Comery Puppy Army and friends – will be among the distinguished wedding guests. Since there are no alligators in Wrightsville, every one of us is filled with hope and anticipation concerning this big event in our family. And what buzzing week that's going to be with our mom's birthday only 3 days before the wedding. Hurray! I bet you, this time we *will be* on that guest list, parakeets, and all. Now if you must know, we have always loved Kiera just as much as we love her mom because she is a really special lady. Apart from being one of our closest friends, she's smart, real smart! Because she has an Associate's Degree from HACC and will graduate from Elizabethtown College in the spring of 2023 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Kiera is a 2013 graduate of Dallastown Area HS. While a senior in high school, she successfully obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification and worked as a CNA until 2021. She then worked as the Admissions Care Coordinator at Manor Care York-South until her promotion to Patient Access Specialist. She really does take after her mom, she does! She and Justin already have a beautiful house in Dallastown where their two dogs and two cats, who are among our best pals, reside.



Kiera (or maybe Gigi?) dancing with Justin at their ‘engagement party’ Doesn’t she look just like our mom?

But here comes the conundrum: Although we don’t know quite what it means, we heard one of the friends giggle, “someone is ready to be a ‘Gigi’.”

We kept mulling over this ‘Gigi’ thing and finally asked Big Al to ‘google’ *Gigi* for us. Oh, we wish you could’ve seen him chuckle. He opened his wardrobe and took out a rather dandy-like walking stick and his chapeau-clap. - In case you don’t know, that’s the hat he once left on my cushion and when I sat on it, it ‘clapped’ like I’d broken it or something. Then it was suddenly all flat under my bottom, while Big Al doubled up laughing. He gets such a kick out of playing funny tricks on us. – Then, with his topped up again chapeau-clap in one hand, swinging his walking stick in the other, he danced along the hallway, singing: “Thank heavens for little girrrls” telling us he was Maurice Chevalier while sounding a bit like one of our mom’s friends from Paris.

“Maurice Chevalier?” I asked. “Is he also coming to our wedding?”

Now you should have seen him. He laughed until he cried, he did. “You doggies are the funniest lot ever!” he said. But he still didn’t say a word about the ‘gigi’ or if Maurice Chevalier is coming to the wedding.

So here we are, none the wiser, and even more baffled and confused, the lot of us. Not knowing how to crack this one wewell, I’d better whisper this into your ears as A.) it may be all too presumptuous and B.) we may be totally off the mark or C.) we may upset our mom or Kiera. Therefore, this is strictly *for your ears only* - We unanimously put our bones on that: *Kiera probably wants kittens or puppies or chicks – maybe the people version they call babies*) – Well, only time will tell and we may find out more if we are indeed invited to her wedding. Watch this space. I’ll keep you posted.

We are only sad that her Nana can’t see her as the beautiful bride when she walks down the aisle soon because she and her Nana were always so very happy together.



– like in this photo, which is only a few years old – showing Karen, Kiera and Mom/Nana. But our mom says not to worry since Nana will be watching from heaven.

“With Miranda?” I asked. But she only smiled...

I’ve told you so much about how wonderful our mom Karen is, but I haven’t uttered a single word about how extraordinary she is when she’s not just our mom. Since right now my voice sounds as if I’ve barked all night, I’ll let a some of those who also know her well, get a word in – especially as anyone we’ve ever heard talking about her had such amazing things to say about her, like her colleagues of the Legal Fraternity

For example: Joseph Gothie, a Court of Common Pleas Judge: “I’ve known Karen Comery for about twenty years, first when she was a prosecutor in the York County District Attorney’s office (when I was on the other side of cases from her), and later when she moved into private practice. She is experienced -- few lawyers in York County have as much trial experience as she does in significant cases. She knows the people, attorneys, judges, and personalities in York County very well. Outside of the courtroom, she is an engaged and caring member of the community. The longer I’ve known Ms. Comery, the more I’ve come to appreciate the lawyer and the person that she is.”

or

George Margetas, - the very one who helped her and Jereme fall in love! (See above -), a Criminal defense Attorney: “Karen is a great attorney. We used to constantly be on opposite sides when she was a prosecutor. She was very respectful and great to deal with. She brings that same level of respect now that she’s on the other side. You can’t go wrong going with Karen. I know I’d call her if I was in trouble.”

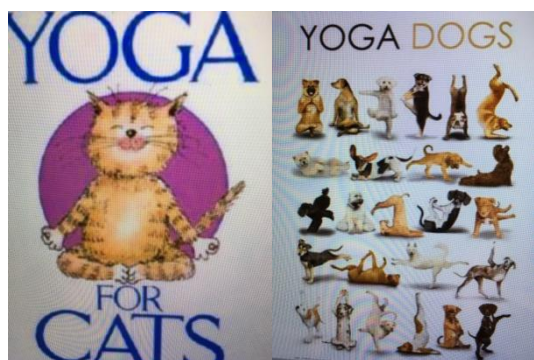
But to us, her Puppy Army, it doesn’t matter if people think she is ‘an experienced advocate’, ‘an effective litigator’, ‘a talented prosecutor’, ‘a hugely successful member of York’s Legal Fraternity’, because every time she cooks our dinner, filling the whole house with the smell of delicious meat and veggies, she’s simply the best doggy mom in the world, telling us: “A home-cooked meal is much better for you than any of that tinned stuff.” And because she loves us, we always get canine gourmet meals which are second to none.

And then she cuddles us while she spoons out our doggy dinners.

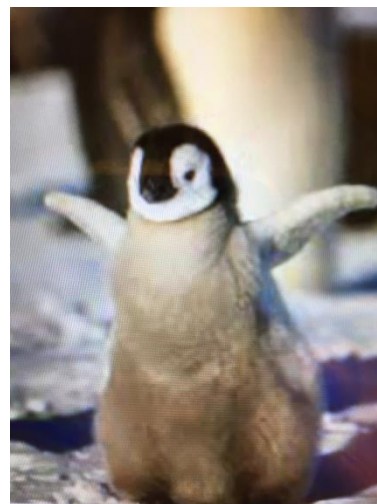
If you had seen us when she first brought us home, you would be flabbergasted to watch how we are thriving in her care.

Rex, still with his tail between his legs because of this interview thing since he doesn't like talking to strangers, has become a real whopper. Macy believes an interview is great – providing she doesn't have to talk. Leo – ME - the Top Dog – aka 'Chunk' – as usual I'm licking my snout in anticipation for our next dinner, I just bark out loud for all to hear: "She's THE BEST!" As for little Shiloh – always a bit emotional that one is - turning all weepy, remembering the oh so inglorious past of each of us. She sniffles: "Just think what would have happened to us!! She saved all our lives by adopting us when she found us at places like Speranza, and Heavenly Paws, which is even owned by a former coworker and friend of hers. And then she found Macy, running around the old neighborhood, lost, neglected, unloved, half frozen to death, and starving. 'Tin-ribs' we called her. And you, Leo, just think about how you grunted with delight when she picked you up at Speranza, giving you a future you could never have imagined. That's why she always tells everyone who wants a pet: "Go and adopt! - Don't shop.""

Knowing that once Shiloh opens the flood gates, every tear will be shed for the dogs we met at the rescue places because they maybe never did find a home. I'd better lighten everyone's mood by raving about our mom giving us Yoga lessons. We have posters to egg us on all over the house, like these. And we are supposed to keep practicing when she's out. Seriously, who practices Yoga with their animals?



And here I'm not only thinking about all those strange Asanas like Aerial Yoga, Yin Yoga, and Ashtanga yoga, which I heard is the hardest of all. But then, to top it all, she teaches Power Vinyasa classes where everyone is boiling in situ between 100-102 degrees! The fur around my snout starts to sizzle just thinking about it. But then she has been a teacher at Yoga For Life since 2012 in different centers and since last year at the Jewish Community Center. So, one has to assume she knows what she's doing. Believe it or not, this mom of ours has even tried yoga with alpacas and llamas and had yoga sessions with penguins....



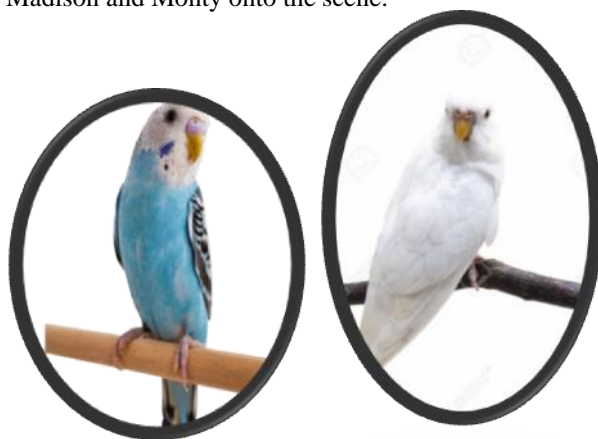
...and even for lions at the Maryland Zoo."



Although to me, personally, those big cats look a bit 'uncooperative', don't you think?

By now I have all our doggies rolling with laughter at the mere thought of our mom having a bunch of penguins in a Tadasana – or so-called Mountain Pose – not to mention llamas and alpacas and whatever else she could find in a zoo. Mind you, she never mentioned giving Yoga lessons to snakes. One day I'll have to ask her about that. Or, on second thought, maybe I'd better not. This mom of ours is capable of trying anything, - even to do a Shavasana with a rattle snake.

How could I forget that any kind of giggles always brings Madison and Monty onto the scene.



They are mum's Parakeets, although Madison was actually her mom's bird and we were afraid he might feel a bit lonely after Nana died in January of last year. So, our mom Karen and her dad decided on getting Madison a mate to chat with. – Big Mistake, if you ask me! Because now we not only have one parrot repeating every word spoken in our house but two since Madison's new friend Monty fills any moment of possible silence with words picked up from visitors, handymen, drop-ins, and God only knows who else walking through our front door. These are super naughty words our mom doesn't wish us to repeat. So, I promised her we won't – especially here, in a top-notch interview like this where some people could be offended or might even faint.

That remark immediately brings Monty onto the scene – fortunately without slipping in even one of 'those' words. Behaving totally out of character, he starts by demanding: "We should rather talk about how beautiful she looked when she was a Senior at Central York Senior HS Class of 1989. Look!"



Now Madison chirps in: "Don't forget to talk about our mom Karen being Miss America! Because that's so cool!" "Not Miss America, Madi! No, but she said she did come third. That's insane! She should have won! Because she's by far the prettiest girl sitting on that old motorcar at the Motorama, which was held yearly at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. She really should have won – Just look at her! A movie star!!!"



Oh, what an exciting life our mom has had. Once she told us that she was even a 'Bud Girl', but since she insisted we all keep mum about that, we won't mention it – and also because it sounds a bit naughty.

"But why then did she have to become a lawyer?" Macy wants to know. "If all she could do is just look beautiful and spend all day with us and granddad and Jereme when he comes home." Big Al knows exactly why: "She's always been such a clever girl – and a lucky one. When she was in 9th grade her teacher took the whole class to attend a court case – 3 long days in a row for one case. Just sitting in that gloomy court room, listening to the proceedings. And while most of her classmates tried to stifle their yawns, Karen got more and more excited. By the end of it all, she decided "I want to do that! I want to be that prosecutor, who makes sure bad people will be locked up so that good people can live in peace."

Granddad continued: "And what our daughter wanted to do, our daughter would make sure she achieved."

She grew up in Springettsbury Township, graduating from Central York High School. She was always an action girl, playing softball (third base, second base, all outfield positions) and even playing softball when she was 6 months pregnant – with her doctor's approval. She played the violin for two years, played the flute in the marching band and concert band. That not being enough, she, played the saxophone – for 1 year in high school marching band, - was a member of the Girl Scouts, and participated in the track and cross-country teams. She was a member of the fife and drum corps at Central York Middle School. No wonder her parents were often asked: "Is there anything your daughter can't do?"

They just shrugged since they hadn't come across anything.

Karen received her law degree from Widener University, while working full time and raising her daughter as a single parent. This means she worked full time and attended law school three nights a week for four years. She received her undergraduate degrees from York College of PA (Bachelor of Science: Behavioral Science major/Psychology Minor) and Central PA College (Associate Degree Legal Assistant).

Here she is, KAREN EILEEN COMERY
graduating from Law School in 2003



Since then the impressive list of her professional achievements just keeps on reaching new heights, starting with her 11 years at the County District Attorney's Office where she was an assistant district attorney, senior deputy prosecutor, primary legal advisor to the Drug Task Force and Quick Response Team, and chief deputy of Litigation. She is...

- Adjunct Professor at Central Pennsylvania College
- Member, Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Member, York County Bar Association
- Member, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #73
- Member, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys
- Member, National Rifle Association
- Member, American Legion Auxiliary Post 605
- Board member, Central Penn Legal Advisory Board
- Board member, Police Heritage Museum Board
- Volunteer, Lawyers Saluting Veterans Program
- Volunteer mentor, York County Guardianship Program
- Yoga teaching assistant, Yoga for Life
- Member, Union Lutheran Church
- Former member, National District Attorneys Association
- Former member, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association

Big Al is our most reliable source of information about his daughter, informing us that Karen is an Assistant Chief Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the Philadelphia (York Sub-Office). Currently, she represents the federal government in immigration proceedings involving illegal aliens on a detained docket. Since York County terminated the ICE contract, court is handled remotely. The control courts are located in Cleveland, OH and Baltimore, MD. The Immigration Judges sit in Richmond, VA or Baltimore, MD. The detainees are all located in various facilities in PA. Court is currently held via computer. Attorney Comery – as she is respectfully addressed - started her legal career in the York County District Attorney's Office when she was hired in 2001 by DA H. Stanley Rebert – an unforgettable character and a hard act to follow, but what a stroke of luck to have as one's mentor. She rose through the ranks to Chief Deputy Prosecutor, taking over the position when the Honorable Chuck Patterson was elected to the bench. Karen was the primary legal advisor to both the York County Drug Task Force and the Quick Response Team. To date, she is the only female to have held either position.

As a prosecutor, Attorney Comery obtained a death penalty conviction. She has also handled numerous homicide cases, drug trafficking cases, cases involving violent crime and she prosecuted thousands (!) of criminal cases. Never one to avoid uncharted waters, she handled her first jury trial while still attending law school. Yet another First is her civil drug forfeiture trial in York County history.

She was a Member of the York County Conflicts Panel where she represented hundreds of individuals whom the Public Defender's Office could not represent due to a conflict. The pride Karen's parents felt reached another level when, in December 2012, their daughter had her shingle attached at the

door to her own law firm, where she focused on criminal defense, dependency, and orphans court matters.

As a defense attorney she obtained a dismissal of first-degree murder charges involving a juvenile client, and a not guilty verdict in another first-degree murder case. She was a strong advocate as a GAL for children involved in the York County dependency system.

She is a member of the PA and York County Bar Associations. Former member PA District Attorney's Association, PA Defense Attorney's Association.

And here is another outstanding First in York County: Karen Eileen Comery is licensed to practice before the US Supreme Court (sponsored by the Honorable Penny L. Blackwell), the US District Court- Middle District of PA, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and all the PA Courts of Common Pleas.



Her framed Supreme Court Certificate occupies a place of pride in her office.

Yet despite of her extraordinary career and extremely busy work schedule, Karen's love, her desire to nurture and care knows no bounds. Wherever she feels she can make a difference to someone's life, she will do her best. – A true Rotarian, who had *Service above Self* as one of her mantras long before she ever heard about Rotary. Few local animal welfare organizations have not seen her come to their aid, from Animal Rescue Inc., to the Corolla Wild Horse Fund.

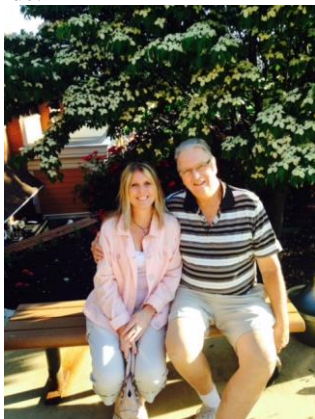
But that desire does not stop at the door to the animal kingdom as she is just as passionate about the welfare of people whose life she could change for the better.

One of those lucky ones, who caught her attention was Kayla. With Karen's experience as the big sister to her little brother David, she chose to be the Big Sister to Kayla for over 4.5 years through Big Brothers - Big Sisters. She cherishes fond memories with her 'Little Sister': "We've had many adventures together including a weekend trip to DC, a day trip to NYC to see the Rockettes, to Hershey Park, the Christmas Magic, & Christmas Lights at Hershey, movies, Sweet Frog and Marino's - those are just some of our favorite spots.



Big Sister Karen and her Little Sister Kayla. At Hershey Park in August 2022.

“Kayla attended Steam Academy and is currently a freshman at York County Tech School. She is in the medical program (EMT). She is a great young lady and is considered part of my family. She was in attendance at Kiera’s bridal shower and if her work schedule allows, will be at the wedding.” says Kayla’s Big Sister with pride.



Karen celebrating Father’s Day with the man she has loved from the day she was born at Heritage Hills. Even now, with hundreds seeking her ‘wise council’ she still often asks for his advice.

The whole family resides with Karen’s Dad, Alan Gregson Comery, in Springettsbury Township, York County, with their four dogs, one cat, and two parakeets – that’s us, having given this interview! (Top Dog Leo reminds us.)

Our Fellow Rotarian Karen

With a life that barely allows for enough sleep, why did she become involved with Rotary?

As the above story shows, she was raised in the spirit of **SERVICE ABOVE SELF** by two parents who gave back to their community in any way they could. Her dad was involved with Tall Cedars Masons, Shriners, the Lutheran Men’s Club, to name but a few. While her mom was always active in the church since her childhood, from being the leader of the children’s choir, the Christian education chair, Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher – and much, much more. This family believed in giving and sharing. Karen was baptized and confirmed at Union Lutheran Church, being a fourth-generation member of Union Lutheran Church.

She had thought about Rotary for a few years and was asked by a few different people, including Roger Dick, Charles Wurster, and Tom Kelley. “Finally, I felt able to make the time in my schedule to actively participate as it is so important to give back.”

Over the years Karen had already been involved with:

-teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School
She previously participated in YWCA’s race against racism, Wills for heroes (participated since 2012)

She is a Former Member Police Heritage Museum Board
And a Current member Central Penn legal advisory board

Her goals for her year 2022-23 as the President of the Rotary Club of York East

1. membership/social
-2018-2019: 21 female/47 males: 68
-current year: 16 female/36 male 52
-goal: 10 new members
-want everyone to think of 5 people you can ask to join; keep asking
-working on an alternative meeting in the evening. Twice a month to start. 5:30-6:30 pm
-bring back social events: goal 6
2. projects
dream big: 35th anniversary project (local)
international project (Ukraine mission trip)
collaborating with another local rotary club for a fundraiser in the spring
pints for polio: Oct 24 2022 at the Victory Club
3. Misc. bylaw revision, additional fundraisers, boost the foundation,

I’d like to end this Interview with a final word from me, Leo, the Top-Dog on behalf of us all:

We know our mom can move mountains but to achieve yours and her ambitious goals she will need all of your help and support.

Thank you!



Most of the Photos & information:

***Courtesy of Karen Comery,
her family & friends***

Sources: www among others

<https://www.avvo.com/attorneys/17403-pa-karen-comery-428905.html#contact>

https://ballotpedia.org/Karen_E._Comery#Awards_and_associations

HAPPY



I would be grateful if
once you have pledged your HAPPY DOLLARS

PLEASE send an email to
friedel.liebe@gmail.com

asap with the amount, your story and if possible, a photo.
Since it is impossible to get any of the above details during
hybrid meetings, your help is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Your backdated Happy Dollar Stories are always welcome
at any time!

Bob Elser. Thanking the club's AV team for their excellent and often challenging work setting up the equipment for our hybrid meetings

Chris Thanking Past President Sandy for her tireless effort at the helm of our club and handing over to President Karen a healthy club.

Bill donating 'happy dollars' to mark the sad passing of our Fellow Honorary Rotarian Jack Krug on August 3rd. – See Jack's Obituary below.

Bill Thanking Nick Smolko for the invitation of our members to 'his realm', the Hollywood Casino, where Nick introduced them to the latest technology in 'gambling'

Bill

Those at today's (August 23rd) meeting heard a moving tribute from Todd King in honor of his father who died last year at 77, although he was told that he would die before he had reached his 30th birthday. He contracted polio as an 8-year-old, which turned into a very serious case, forcing him to be treated in an Iron lung while he was told he would never walk again.

Still, he fought hard to overcome all these challenges to enjoy a long and happy life, getting married and bringing up a loving family.

Now Todd and his wife have committed themselves to supporting Rotary's polio initiative. I asked him if he would tell his story at Victory Club and he said he would.

Bill also thanks Tim for his excellent leadership for this event.

Deb Klinedinst's nephew, Franklin, is the person on the far left, second row.



Deb said: "My Happy \$\$\$ are in honor of my nephew, Franklin Marquet. On August 10th, he was part of the Rithm Capital Corporation group ringing in the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange." That is certainly a First for Happy \$\$\$ in our club! So we asked the proud aunt Debbie for a few more details:

"Franklin is my younger brother (Kevin Marquet) and sister in law's (Pam Marquet) youngest child. He graduated from Dallastown H.S. and Hobart and William Smith College, in 2019 with a BS in Economics. He is a Chimera Society member and has his Series 7 and 63 Financial License and SIE FINRA (Security Industry Essentials and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority). He played lacrosse throughout high school and college and is a US Lacrosse All American. He previously worked as a Finance Intern at Heritage Hills. As a child he used to hide under the table when everyone was arriving for family dinners! He clearly got over his bashfulness as he grew up and now lives and works in New York City. When he is home he enjoys family get-togethers and playing golf."

Our congratulations to Deb and, who knows, maybe Deb's family holds the gift of yet another extraordinary speaker for our club meetings after her lovely, charming daughter, Jennifer Klinedinst Tracy, treated us to such an impressive presentation on August 30th.

Chris Thanked Elizabeth and Steve for an unforgettable Crab-Feast at their beautiful home.

Connie thanked Elizabeth and Steve for the excellent time she, her son James and her grandson, our future Rotarian Adian, enjoyed at their home.

Friedel Thanked Elizabeth and Steve for hosting yet another hugely successful Summer picnic. It felt just like during pre-pandemic times when their lovely home and park were once again abuzz with happy fellow Rotarians.

May 7th 1931 –
JOHN E. KRUG

August 3rd 2022

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS



Among those who enjoyed the return of this amazing Fellowship event are:

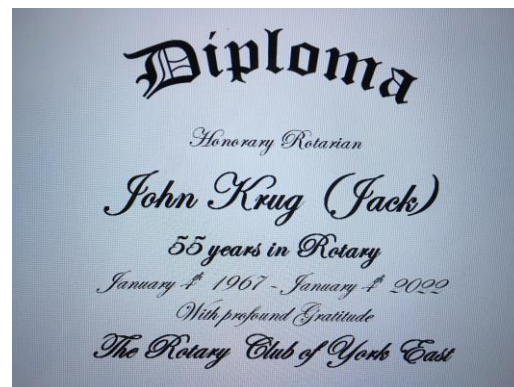
President Karen Comery
Karen's husband Jereme
& Karen's dad 'Big Al', Alan G. Comery
Victoria & Roger Dick
Bob Elser & Friedel Liebe-Elser
Sandi & Scott Graham
Cindy Hochhalter + Steve
Chris & Beth Izzo
Deb & Greg Klinedinst
Jim Norton + Allison
Connie Spark, her son James
& Connie's grandson Adian Spark
Don & Ginny Wonders
Elizabeth & Steve Wolf
DG Juliet Altenburg & her husband Rob

While for some unfathomable reason all photos of this memorable event seemed to be lost, at least we can rest assured that the photo gallery of Elizabeth's distinguished ancestors, which we so admired during our party, is safe:



Affectionately known to us as Jack and celebrated as our Golden Rotarian at the beginning of this year on his 55th anniversary of joining Rotary, Jack was born May 7, 1931 in Boston and grew up there, graduating from Boston Latin and Northeastern University.

Once he joined the retail management of Sears, he was not interested in any other career moves, remaining loyal to 'his firm' for forty years, while working in Hanover, York, and Harrisburg.



His commitment to SERVICE ABOVE SELF did not stop at Rotary as he was always active wherever he felt he could

improve the lives of those less fortunate. Among many other organizations he reached out to were the Chamber of Commerce, United Way of York, Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, and Harrisburg Hospital. He was especially fond of volunteering at York Hospital where his presence was always appreciated. His many awards bear witness to his readiness to step up to the plate – whenever he was needed. Among those special recognitions was his Honorary Membership in our club, the RC he had joined when he moved to York.

On top of his list of hobbies was his family, where those get-togethers became the highlights of his and his late wife Jean's life. They both enjoyed travelling and were avid readers. Golf was one of his great passions and his time spent on the course was among his many cherished memories. But once home Jack turned into a passionate woodworker. He thrived on the simple pleasures of life and those who enjoyed those with him fondly remember joining him for his customary 'coffee and plain donuts'.

Sadly, Jack spent the last years of his life at Rest-Haven in York, where he died peacefully on August 3rd 2022, at the age of 91.

And yet another HOT Summer's Day
*Remember in 4 months it'll almost be
 New Year's Eve*
 Weather website: WUNDERGROUND.COM

YORK HOSPITAL AREA STATION
2:06 PM EDT on August 30, 2022 (GMT -4)

95°F
FEELS LIKE 105°

Smart Birds

*"You may think we are late building our
 nest in August! But don't worry!"*



"We are using this incubator again.!"



*The heat in this Giraffe's Head
 Helps our eggs to hatch.....*



...in record time!"



"Trust us. We're a smart pair, who has used this clever nest for many years."



"And our brood is always the Best!"

SAVE THE DATE

For our ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
September 20th
 – see brochure attached separately -

**TO OUR
 MASTERS
 SPONSORS**



Morgan Stanley

**THE PANARO GROUP
 AT MORGAN STANLEY**

THANK YOU

Our special praises go to Becky and everyone on her amazing Golf Committee who has yet again done phenomenal work in organizing our annual fundraiser!

AUGUST 2022 PROGRAMS

INCLUDING LINKS TO THE RECORDINGS

PHOTOS & TEXT - *TIM KOLLER*

Hollywood Casino



August 2, 2022 – Our club had a special treat this week with club member Nick Smolko, IT Manager at Hollywood York's Casino, giving us a tour of the facility. Did you know that Pennsylvania is second in total gambling revenue only exceeded by the state of Nevada?

Penn National Gaming, owner of Hollywood Casino, is one of the largest gaming operators in the country, with 44 properties in 20 states, and home to over 26,000 employees and growing! Hollywood York's Casino has over 500 slots to choose from, you'll find more titles and more bonus rounds than other casinos. You'll also find all your favorite denominations, from one cent to \$100, as well as wheel, progressive, video slots, and video poker machines on Hollywood York's casino floor. At Hollywood Casino, you can play blackjack, craps, roulette, and plenty more. The casino has the potential to expand to up to 750 slot machines and 40 table games and is in the planning stages to expand.

Barstool Sportsbook is a sports bar where you can place wagers on football, basketball, hockey, soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, auto racing, rugby, cycling, boxing and MMA, and cricket. Professional and collegiate betting options will be available. Types of wagers will include straight bets, parlays, match-ups, futures, props and in game betting.

One of the biggest kept secrets, Nick said, is the dining and entertainment. The prime rib and the crab cakes are delicious, he said. The casino features an airy "Diner & Drinks" casual restaurant. It also offers Classic Grill, which features breakfast sandwiches, burgers, coffee, and more. There is live entertainment every weekend.

Since opening in August, Hollywood Casino York took in just over \$77 million from slot play, table games and sports wagering. Tax revenue from Pennsylvania casino gambling topped the \$2 billion mark for the first time. Gaming taxes the previous fiscal year equaled \$1.59 billion.

York East Rotary Awards Grants



To view meeting: <https://youtu.be/KRzWUuslDBo>

The York-East Rotary has awarded \$11,000 plus \$2,500 in a matching Rotary District grant to 5 local nonprofits in the York community. Each year the York-East Rotary grants to deserving projects and programs in the region. These worthy local organizations received grants for various needs and projects this year. Representatives from each organization attended our weekly meeting and received their grant awards.

Our club looks forward to this day each year because it is such a great feeling to give and learn how the money is being used within our community.

Thank you to everyone that donates to our organization through the various fundraisers that we hold each year. Without you we would not be able to provide these organizations with the funding that they need to make York a better place to live.

Pictured for left to right:

Mark Larkin – Big Brother Big Sisters – Purchase passes for kids and their Big to attend Kidspace activities

Maura Musselman – Leg Up Farm – Staff education and certification in speech therapy

Brittany Shutz – York Opioid Collaborative – Community and Parent education and awareness

Karen Comery – York East Rotary President

Chris Izzo - York East Rotary Grant Committee Chairman

Sandra Graham – York East Rotary Past President

Phil Drayden – Crispus Attucks – Support of Rising Star Program

Zach Wolgemuth – York County Food Bank – Purchase of ramp for van

Paul Harris Awards



August 23, 2022 -This morning we had the great privilege of meeting with three clubs: Rotary Club of York - North, Rotary Club of Southern York County, and [York East Rotary](#)! York East was our host at this beautiful venue where we made some great waffles, celebrated Paul Harris fellows, and talked about new ways to IMAGINE ROTARY! It was a wonderful coming together of three very engaged and active clubs! Thank you club Presidents Karen Comery (York East), Lisa Weigard (Southern York County) and Ricardo Aguilar (York North) for your leadership with growth, engagement and service within your clubs!

Telecom Industry



To view
meeting: <https://youtu.be/Yu06bQ7OA-I>

August 30, 2022 - Jennifer Tracy is the daughter of our club member Deb Klinedinst, and she is in the television industry in Atlanta. As the Vice President of Talent Attraction & Acquisition for Charter Communications, Jennifer has led the migration of three talent acquisition teams to a common talent platform and employment brand. Through teams they deliver programs, tools, pre-employment assessments, recruitment marketing and a social media strategy the organization to hire the best talent. Jennifer reviewed the growth of the telecom industry and how it is moving into the mobile (wireless) model. Looking forward the Alpha generation (born 2010-2024) will continue to improve and create new telecom technology. Her company will need to attract new talent with technology expertise. Jennifer is projecting Charter will have over 52,000 job openings in 2022 and have only 5 applications for each position compared to 19 just 2 years ago. She said the current job market has been the most difficult period she has ever experienced!