

CLUB NEWS

DATE: February 7, 2017

INVOCATION: TBD
 PROGRAM CHAIR: William Rogalski
 PROGRAM SPEAKER: Tim Nelson, Amherst Fire Department Chief, will compare and contrast the values of Rotary with those of the Fire Service.

DATE: February 14, 2017

INVOCATION: Christine Burns
 PROGRAM CHAIR: TBD
 PROGRAM SPEAKER: TBD

DATE: February 21, 2017

INVOCATION: Helene Florio
 PROGRAM CHAIR: PeterRosskothan
 PROGRAM SPEAKER: TBD

DATE: February 28, 2017

INVOCATION: Barbara Baran
 PROGRAM CHAIR: TBD
 PROGRAM SPEAKER: TBD



Member Birthdays

Sheedy, Marie	Feb 02
Woodill, Bob	Feb 08
Ross O'Connell, Maureen	Feb 09
Shealey, Glenn	Feb 16
O'Leary-Sullivan, Eileen	Feb 27

Spouse Birthdays

McKay, Ellen (McKay, Bob)	Feb 05
Woods, Gill (Woods, Peggy)	Feb16

Anniversaries

MacGregor, Rebecca	5 years
Woods, Peggy	26 years
Woods, Gil	26 years

UPCOMING PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

7-Mar-17	Martin Schoenemann
14-Mar-17	Glenn Shealey
21-Mar-17	Marie Sheedy
28-Mar-17	Lou Silver
4-Apr-17	Janet Soja
11-Apr-17	Linda Vacon
18-Apr-17	Kathleen Viens
25-Apr-17	Robert Villani
2-May-17	Jacob Waah
9-May-17	Patricia Wise
16-May-17	Margaret Mantoni SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2017 Dwight Awards

Date: Wed., February 8, 2017 Time: 6 p.m.
 Location: Delaney House

Honoring: OUR OWN HELENE FLORIO!!!

Each year from the general public, a jury chooses someone whose tireless work and invaluable commitment to the City of Holyoke exemplifies the spirit of the man for whom the award was named.



2017-18 RI President Ian H.S. Riseley announces his presidential theme, Rotary: Making a Difference

Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case in January that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, Rotary: Making a Difference, to incoming district governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. "They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda," he said.

Environmental degradation is one of the major threats listed by the UN's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change.

Riseley added, "The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern."

The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring," Riseley

said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

Securing Rotary's future

In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members.

Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity.

"Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said.

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities."

Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience.

"Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions, said Riseley, but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future.

"We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone," he told incoming governors. "I ask you to keep that spirit of teamwork and cooperation always in your minds and to take it back with you to your districts."

By Ryan Hyland