



Holyoke Rotary Club News

Issue: February 2019

ROTARY AND POLIO - FACT SHEET

Polio - Poliomyelitis (polio) is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. The poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age but mainly affects children under five. Polio is incurable, but completely vaccine-preventable.



PolioPlus - In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort. Global Polio Eradication Initiative

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness-building.

Polio Today - Today, there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Just 37 polio cases were confirmed worldwide in 2016, which is a reduction of more than 99.9 percent since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day.

Challenges - The polio cases represented by the remaining one percent are the most difficult to prevent, due to factors including geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict and cultural barriers. Until polio is eradicated, all countries remain at risk of outbreaks.

Ensuring Success - Rotary will raise \$50 million per year over the next three years, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents. Governments, corporations and private individuals all play a crucial role in funding.

Rotary in Action

More than one million Rotary members have donated their time and personal resources to end polio. Every year, hundreds of Rotary members work side-by-side with health workers to vaccinate children in polio-affected countries. Rotary Members work with UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute mass communication tools to reach people in areas isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. Rotary members also recruit fellow volunteers, assist with transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support.

'This Close' Campaign

Rotary has a growing roster of public figures and celebrities participating in its "This Close" public awareness campaign, including Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; actresses Kristen Bell and Archie Panjabi; WWE superstar John Cena; supermodel Isabeli Fontana; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; action movie star Jackie Chan; boxing great Manny Pacquiao; pop star Psy; golf legend Jack Nicklaus; conservationist Jane Goodall; premier violinist Itzhak Perlman; Grammy Award winners A.R. Rahman; Angelique Kidjo and Ziggy Marley; and peace advocate Queen Noor of Jordan. These ambassadors help educate the public about polio through public service announcements, social media and public appearances.

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

Rotary Anniversaries

Buckley, Deborah	28 years
MacGregor, Rebecca	7 years

Upcoming Meetings

DATE: February 5, 2019
INVOCATION: Deb Buckley
EVENING MEETING: 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Sainte

DATE: February 12, 2019
INVOCATION: Christine Burns
PROGRAM CHAIR: Gina Nelsom
PROGRAM SPEAKER: Jesus Pereira, Holyoke Veteran's Officer, will discuss Veteran transportation.

DATE: February 19, 2019
INVOCATION: Helene Florio
PROGRAM CHAIR: Rebecca McGregor
PROGRAM SPEAKER: Rick Fleury, Pro at Ledges Golf Club, will give an update on the course and the new management company.

DATE: February 26, 2019
INVOCATION: Barbara Baran
PROGRAM CHAIR: Michael Moriarty
PROGRAM SPEAKER: Jeffrey Riley, Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Upcoming Program Assignments

March 5	Evening Meeting
March 12	Eileen O'Leary Sullivan
March 19	Kerry Parsons
March 26	Tony Pelligrino

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OFFICERS
Bob McKay, President
Helen Arnold, 1st Vice President
Katie Buckley, 2nd Vice President
Steve Kaplan, Treasurer
Bob Woodill, Secretary
Helene Florio, Recording Secretary
Kathy Viens, Past President

DIRECTORS
Bob Desnoyers, Class of 2019
Marian Poe-Heinemann, Class of 2019
Maureen Ross-O'Connell, Class of 2019
Wayne Gass, Class of 2020
Ed McCarron, Class of 2020
Jon Lumbrera, Class of 2020
Tom Accomando, Class of 2021
Cappie Glica, Class of 2021
Bill Rogalski, Class of 2021

The club meets Tuesday, 12-15 p.m.
at the Delaney House, north on Rte. 5, Holyoke

The Four-Way Test
OF THE THINGS we think, say or do:
1) Is it the TRUTH?
2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FREINDSHIPS?
4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



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