

**Service Above Self**



**Rotary Club of Tunkhannock**

1925-2015

90 Years Young



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*This history of the Rotary Club of  
Tunkhannock is dedicated to all the  
amazing men and women of this  
Club who have put “Service Above  
Self” over the last 90 years.*





## Note from the Author:

Every effort has been made to verify the information contained in this Club History and to correct any Club legends that have been found to be in error. For example, Club legend maintains that the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Scranton. However, information obtained from verifiable sources confirm that our Club was in fact sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pittston.

Unfortunately, little information is available on the early history of the Club and some of the information from this period is anecdotal. Where possible, I have included citations as to the source of the information, although many of the newspaper articles provided by Club members did not specify the newspaper source or date. In other cases, exact dates are not available. so “best approximations” were necessary.

My thanks to all the Club Rotarians who provided information, photos and stories for this history, especially: Jeannie Brady, Judd Fitz, Ron Flatness, George Gay, Ruth Gorski, Marta Kovacs-Ruiz, Sandy Lane, Fran Turner, Jim Welch Sr., Dave Whipple and Dave Wilson.

Thanks also to Erin Matson, Research Services Coordinator for Rotary International Heritage Communications, who provided some of the hard to find information on the charter of our Club and stories reported in the Rotarian magazine.

A great thank you goes to the staff/volunteers of the Wyoming County Historical Society, especially Paula and Jean, who helped me with some of the research (newspapers and photos) for this history.

I want everyone to remember that Rotary is a family and that the same way that families like to have fun together, Rotarians also need to balance service with fun. You will find as you read this history, the various fun activities that the Club has undertaken over the years from hazing in the early days to fun with hats, costumes, parties and hijinks.

Although I have only lived in Tunkhannock for 5 years and have been a member of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock for 3.5 years, I have been absolutely blown away by all that I have learned about this Club with regard to Service to: our Club, our District, the Rotary Foundation, our Community, our Youth and disaster and international programs. It has made me even prouder to declare that “I am a member of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock”, the very first service organization in our town. I hope that this history of the Club will also instill great pride into all current Club Rotarians as to the rich history of service provided by Tunkhannock Rotarians who have gone before us, and inspire us to continue to build on their good works.

Yours in Rotary,

Carol Ziomek  
Club Secretary 2012-2016

## The Beginning of Rotary

This section will provide a brief history of Rotary, its guiding principles, areas of focus and avenues of Service as a background to the establishment and history of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock.

FEBRUARY 23, 1905, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

*“On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had been thinking and talking about for some time was a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community. It was an idea that grew from his desire to find respect for individuals and well being within a group of like-minded men. A walk after dinner, watching how a friend was admired by his neighbors made a profound impression on Paul. He wanted to find out if such a condition might happen to a "group" of people. For Five Years Paul thought about this vision, often discussing it with his dear friend Silvester Schiele. Then on a cold Thursday night, in February, after one of many pleasant dinners together Paul and Silvester walked across a windy Chicago Street and crossed the river to their mutual friend Gus Loehr's office. Hiram Shorey, a tailor was there too. So, the rotary club of Chicago was founded, that day, by Paul Harris. It was the first “service club” organized in the world.”<sup>1</sup>*



**Left:** The first four Rotarians (from left): Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Paul P. Harris, circa 1905-12.<sup>2</sup>



**Right:** Room 711 of the Unity Building in Chicago, the birthplace of Rotary<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/clubs/rotaryone/earlyhistory.htm#.VWPSRunbKM8> – Rotary Global History Fellowship website.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/history-rotary-international>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rhhif.org/AboutRHHIF.cfm>

Paul Harris suggested the name “Rotary” because meetings were rotated from office-to-office. In 1912, the name changed to International Association of Rotary Clubs to reflect the addition of clubs in other countries. The name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

### **The Rotary Emblem**

In 1905, Montague Bear, a designer and engraver, joined the Rotary Club of Chicago and was asked to design an emblem for the new organization. He produced a simple design of a buggy wheel, representing civilization and movement (see drawing below).

In 1919, the wheel was officially adopted by Rotary.<sup>4</sup> In 1922, it was decided that all Rotary clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of Rotarians. Thus, in 1923, the present gear wheel, with 24 cogs and six spokes was adopted by the "Rotary International Association."

A group of engineers advised that the geared wheel was mechanically unsound and would not work without a "keyway" in the center of the gear to attach it to a power shaft, making it a “worker” rather than an “idler” wheel. So, in 1923 the keyway was added and the design, which we now know, was formally adopted as the official Rotary International emblem.<sup>5</sup>

An official description of the emblem was adopted at the 1929 International Convention. Royal blue and gold were chosen as the official Rotary colors and the flag of Rotary was designated as a white field with the emblem emblazoned in its center. The emblem, worn as a lapel pin, now identifies Rotarians around the world.<sup>6</sup>

It has been suggested that the official Rotary colors of royal blue and gold can be explained as the blue represents the sea and sky; the gold possibly the earth and sun.<sup>7</sup>



Evolution of the Rotary Wheel<sup>8</sup> (left) and the current rebranded Rotary Wheel (right)

### **Official Rotary Mottos**

Rotary’s official mottos, Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, trace back to the early days of the organization.

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<sup>4</sup> Rotary Global History Fellowship website

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/history/wheel/index.htm#.VWm\\_yunbKM8](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/history/wheel/index.htm#.VWm_yunbKM8)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/headings/emblem.htm#.VWm\\_F-nbKM8](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/headings/emblem.htm#.VWm_F-nbKM8)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/headings/colors.htm#.VWnBtenbKM8>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/history/wheel/index.htm#.VWm\\_yunbKM8](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/history/wheel/index.htm#.VWm_yunbKM8)

In 1911, He Profits Most Who Serves Best was approved as the Rotary motto at the second convention of the National Association of Rotary Clubs of America, in Portland, Oregon. The Portland convention also inspired the motto Service, Not Self.

At the 1950 RI Convention in Detroit, slightly modified versions of the two slogans were formally approved as the official mottoes of Rotary: He Profits Most Who Serves Best and Service Above Self.

The 1989 Council on Legislation established Service Above Self as the principal motto of Rotary, because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.

He Profits Most Who Serves Best was modified by the 2004 Council to They Profit Most Who Serve Best and by the 2010 Council to its current wording, One Profits Most Who Serves Best.<sup>9</sup>

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles of Rotary (Object of Rotary and 4-Way Test) have been developed over the years to provide Rotarians with a strong, common purpose and direction. They serve as a foundation for our relationships with each other and the action we take in the world.<sup>10</sup>

### Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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<sup>9</sup> Taken from <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/history-rotarys-mottoes> website.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/guiding-principles>

## The Four-Way Test



The Four-Way Test was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932.<sup>11</sup> Taylor, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, took charge of a Chicago-based aluminum company that was facing bankruptcy. Struggling to save the company, Taylor composed a 24-word code of ethics for all employees to follow in their business and professional lives. The code was credited with saving the company. The Four-Way Test was adopted by Rotary in 1943.<sup>12</sup>

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings.<sup>13</sup>

### The 4-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 FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### AREAS OF FOCUS

Rotary has 6 areas of focus:<sup>14</sup>

1. *Promoting peace* - Today, 42 million people are displaced by armed conflict or persecution. Through partnerships with several leading universities, Rotary Peace Fellows develop the skills to strengthen peace efforts, train local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and support long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict. Rotary provides up to 100 peace fellowships per year at Rotary Peace Centers.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/history-rotary-international>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.rhhif.org/FourWayTest.cfm>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/guiding-principles>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/areas-focus>

2. *Fighting disease* - More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year because of medical costs. Rotary aims to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Rotarians educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.
3. *Providing clean water* - More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water. Rotary projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.
4. *Saving mothers and children* - At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, Rotary provides immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improves access to essential medical services, and supports trained health care providers for mothers and their children. These projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programs.
5. *Supporting education* - Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.
6. *Growing local economies* - Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. Rotary carries out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. Rotary also helps strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

## FIVE AVENUES OF SERVICE

Rotary commits to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.<sup>15</sup>

- *Club Service* - focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- *Vocational Service* - calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/guiding-principles>



- *Community Service* - encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.
- *International Service* - exemplifies Rotary's global reach in promoting peace and understanding. Rotarians support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
- *Youth Service* - recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

#### ADMISSION OF WOMEN INTO ROTARY CLUBS

Until the late 1980's, Rotary was a business men's club. The movement to admit women into Rotary Clubs began in the 1950's with the first proposal from a Rotary Club in India to eliminate the word male from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. This proposal and subsequent proposals to open membership to women failed.

*“Although women were not admitted to membership until 1987, they were permitted to attend meetings, give speeches, and receive awards. Women relatives of Rotary members could form their own associations and were authorized to wear the Rotary lapel pin. Young women between 14 and 28 years of age could join Interact or Rotaract, organizations sponsored by Rotary International, as well as study abroad under the organization's youth exchange program.”*

In 1983, in a lawsuit filed by the Duarte Rotary Club, the California Superior Court ruled in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary Clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and it was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>16</sup>

*“It was 4 May 1987 when the highest court in the United States handed down a decision that affected the application of a law of the State of California and the decision was limited to the State of California. The court decided that in the state of California, women could not be excluded from membership in Rotary solely because of their gender. [The RI Board had earlier decided that if they lost the California case, they would concede the U.S., rather than endure the costly expense of litigation in the remaining 49*

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/history-women-rotary>

*states. Rotarians in the other 49 states immediately assumed that they could invite women to join in their states as well.]”<sup>17</sup>*

In 1987, Rotary issued a policy statement that any Rotary Club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership.

In 1989, at its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary Clubs be limited to men. Women were now welcomed into Rotary Clubs around the world.<sup>18</sup>



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<sup>17</sup> An excerpt from A History of Women in Rotary International taken from the website <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/women/trustees/history>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/history-women-rotary>



## The Beginning of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

### The Survey and Charter Application

According to RI History Research Services, in January 1925, Thomas J. Williams, Past President of the Rotary Club of Pittston, was appointed by District 35 Governor Cornelius D. Garretson as Special Representative to survey Tunkhannock to see if there was interest in establishing a Rotary Club.

According to a newspaper article (see next page), 10 representatives from the Pittston Club were invited to attend a meeting in March 1925 at the Tunkhannock Baptist Church with 30 Tunkhannock business and professional men. A March 26, 1925 Tunkhannock Republican news brief, indicated that Ed Robinson from Towanda was also present at that meeting.

*“The town at present is without a service organization of any kind, and leading business and professional men are strongly of the belief that it would be a splendid thing for Tunkhannock, which is growing rapidly in population and business importance, to have an organization of citizens that will bring them closer together and afford a medium by which community welfare movements could be fostered in an intelligent and effective way.”<sup>19</sup>*

Pittston Club President, Rev. A.E. Greanoff, presided at the meeting and asked some of the Pittston Rotarians to explain the aims and objects of Rotary and various facets of the Pittston Club’s work. The Pittston Rotarians in attendance were: Rev. A. E. Greanoff (President), C.W. Smiles, William Krise, Harry Koenig, B.A Chilson, Tallie Evans, Thomas Williams (DG’s Special Representative), E.B. Brumm, Allen Smiles and Dr. H.C. Cryder.

After the hour-long presentations, Rev. Greanoff asked if there was interest in the establishment of a Rotary Club in Tunkhannock. Twenty-six of the Tunkhannock men stood on their feet and expressed their belief that a Rotary Club would be good for the town. It was reported that 6 other men, who could not attend this meeting, were also willing to become members. Thus, the Club would include one representative of each business or profession in the community, except in the case of clergymen and newspaper men, of whom there may be more than one member.

John Henning, president of the Wyoming National Bank, was selected as temporary chair and was in charge of preparing the preliminary paperwork for the organization. Acceptance of charter members closed on July 15, 1925. The paperwork (Application from Club for Membership , 1925) was submitted to Rotary International with a Club organization date of July 29<sup>th</sup> 1925 with 5 Officers, 5 Directors (3 of whom were also officers) (Table 1) and 19

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<sup>19</sup> “Plan to Organize New Rotary Club in Tunkhannock”, March 1925.

charter members (Table 2). The names of the 19 charter members and their occupations listed on the Charter application are provided in Table 2.

**Table 1 Charter Officers of Rotary Club of Tunkhannock**

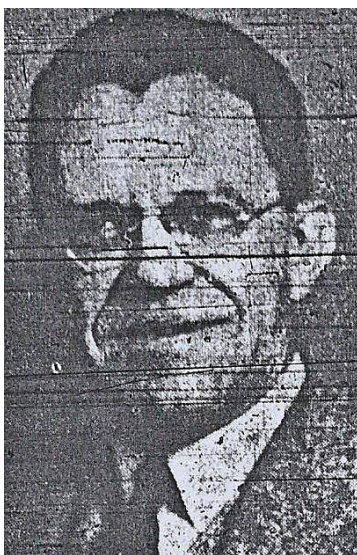
Officers		Directors
<b>President</b>	W.A. Kittredge	Ray W. Greenwood
<b>Vice President</b>	Ray W Greenwood	Chase M Herrick
<b>Secretary</b>	Chase M Herrick	Charles P. McKown
<b>Treasurer</b>	Edson A. Stark	Walter B. Tewksbury
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Homer B. Asheld	W. A. Kittredge

**Table 2 Charter Members of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock**

1925 Charter Members	
Asheld, Homer B. Proprietor, The Asheld Studio	Kittredge, W.A (Bill) Proprietor, W.A. Kittredge & Co.
Davenport, James E. Officer, Lehigh Valley Railroad	Lewis, Wesley J. (Wes) General Manager, Merchants Telephone Co.
Dietrich, Charles Proprietor, Monuments Distributing	McKown, Charles P. Owner, McKown Garage
Fitze, Judd M. Manager, Bonham & Fitze	Newman, Rev. Fred B. Pastor, Protestant Churches
George, Clarence O. Proprietor, George Hardware Company	Powers, Howard O. District Manager, Dwinell-Wright Co.
Gardner, Harry M. (Barney) Editor Wyoming Democrat, Inc.	Ridgeway, Richard B. (Dick) Manager, B. Ridgeway & Son
Greenwood, Ray W. (Greenie) Proprietor, Greenwood's Furniture	Rubright, Max E. Owner, Rubright & Son
Herrick, Chase M. (Pay) Treasurer, Brown & Fassett Flour Milling	Stark, Edson A. Partner, Stark & Titman
Jennings, Fred B. Partner, Jennings & Stark Bakery	Tewksbury, Dr. Walter B. (Tewks) Dentist
Kellogg, Floyd W. Partner, F.W. Kellogg & Company	



**L to R:** Charter Members Fred B. Jennings and Walter B. Tewksbury (Photos courtesy of the Wyoming County Historical Society)



**L to R:** Charter Members Judd M. Fitze, Ray Greenwood<sup>20</sup> and Harry Gardner<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> From Tunkhannock Republican & New Age, Sept 21, 1950

<sup>21</sup> From Wyoming Democrat, Dec 24, 1926.



## PLAN TO ORGANIZE NEW ROTARY CLUB IN TUNKHANNOCK

Indications are that Tunkhannock will have a Rotary Club in the near future. The town at present is without a service organization of any kind, and leading business and professional men are strongly of the belief that it would be a splendid thing for Tunkhannock, which is growing rapidly in population and business importance, to have an organization of citizens that will bring them closer together and afford a medium by which community welfare movements could be fostered in an intelligent and effective way.

Last evening ten members of the Pittston Rotary Club went to Tunkhannock by invitation, and at a large meeting of business and professional men around dinner tables in the parlors of the Baptist Church, presented the form of organization and the aims and objects of Rotary. By vote of the thirty Tunkhannock men in attendance, President A. E. Greenoff, of the Pittston Club, was made chairman of the evening, and he carried out the plan of having a meeting of the Pittston Club, during the course of which he called on half a dozen of the visiting Rotarians to explain various phases of the organization's work.

This was done so earnestly and affectively that, after an hour of speaking, an expression was asked of the opinion of the Tunkhannock men in attendance, with the result that 26 men stood on their feet and signified their belief that a Rotary Club would be a good thing for the town. Later a similar number of men by a rising vote decided to proceed with the preliminary work of forming a club. It was stated that six other men who were not in attendance had signified their willingness to become members. Thus, if a club is organized, it would probably start out with between 26 and 30 members, the list including one representative of each business or profession in the community, except in the case of clergymen and newspaper men, of whom there may be more than one member.

John B. Henning, president of the Wyoming National Bank, of Tunkhannock, was selected as temporary chairman, and will have charge of the preliminary work of organization. An application blank giving detail information in regard to the population and business life of the borough was filled out and will be sent to the district governor of Rotary, with the recommendation that a charter be granted the new club by International Rotary. A decision is expected in the matter within a few weeks, and if the plan goes through, members of the Pittston Club will assist in the formal presentation of the charter.

The Pittston men who attended the meeting in Tunkhannock were: Rev. A. E. Greenoff, C. W. Smiles, William L. Krise, Harry Koenig, B. A. Chilson, Tallie Evans, Thomas L. Williams, E. B. Brumm, Allen Smiles and Dr. H. C. Cryder.

## ROTARIANS BANQUET.

Charter of Tunkhannock Rotary Delivered Friday Evening.

A party of one hundred Rotarians, including members from Scranton, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Sayre, Towanda and Waverly, N. Y., enjoyed a banquet at Hotel Graham Friday evening last, at which time the charter for Tunkhannock Rotary No. 2109 was delivered by Col. Ezra H. Ripple, of Scranton, district governor of the Fifty-first Rotary District, of which Tunkhannock is a part.

The meeting was presided over by Thomas Williams, of Pittston, who had charge of the organization of the Tunkhannock club. Pittston Rotary also presented the new club with a mammoth basket of flowers. The officers of the new organization are as follows:

President, W. A. Kittredge; vice president, R. W. Greenwood; secretary, Chase M. Herrick; treasurer, Edson A. Stark; sergeant-at-arms, H. B. Asheld; directors, W. B. Tewksbury, C. P. McKown, H. M. Gardner, R. W. Greenwood, C. M. Herrick.

The full membership is as follows: Homer Asheld, J. E. Davenport, Chas. Dietrich, J. M. Fitzer, C. O. George, Harry M. Gardner, Dr. H. L. McKown, R. W. Greenwood, C. M. Herrick, F. B. Jennings, Floyd W. Kellogg, R. R. Henrie, B. L. Billings, Wesley J. Lewis, C. P. McKown, Rev. F. B. Newman, Howard O. Powers, Richard Ridgeway, M. E. Rubright, E. A. Stark, Dr. W. B. Tewksbury, W. A. Kittredge, C. Elmer Dietrich.

Dr. Harry S. Fish, of Sayre, director of International Rotary, was present and made the address of the evening, holding the attention of the audience for fully one hour. He received a great ovation.

The Tunkhannock Rotary will meet at luncheon every Friday at 12:15, noon.

<sup>22</sup> "Plan to Organize New Rotary Club in Tunkhannock", March 1925

<sup>23</sup> "Rotarians Banquet. Charter of Tunkhannock Rotary Delivered Friday Evening." Tunkhannock Republican Sept. 24, 1925

Interestingly, although he was reported to have prepared the preliminary paperwork for the organization<sup>24</sup>, John Henning was not one of the Club's charter members.

## **The Charter**

The Rotary Club of Tunkhannock was officially chartered on Aug 25, 1925 by Rotary International President Donald A. Adams (1925-26) and Chesley R. Perry, Rotary Secretary (now called general Secretary). The RI assigned Club No. was 2109<sup>25</sup>, which can be generally interpreted as our Club being approximately the 2,109<sup>th</sup> Club admitted to Rotary. However in 1951, the charter numbers were discontinued and a new Club Number assigned that has no relation to the historic charter certificate numbers, hence we became Club 5408.<sup>26</sup>

At the time of its Charter, the Club was in District 51 with Ezra H. Ripple (Scranton) as Governor. (The fact that DG Ezra Ripple was a Scranton Rotarian may be the reason that everyone thought that the Scranton Club had sponsored the Tunkhannock Rotary Club.)

On the night of Friday, Sept 18, 1925, approximately 100 Rotarians from Scranton, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Sayre, Towanda, Athens and Waverly, NY attended the Charter Night Banquet at Hotel Graham. The Tunkhannock Rotary Club received its Charter from District 51 Governor Col. Ezra H. Ripple. A turkey dinner was served.<sup>27</sup>

Thomas Williams of the Pittston Rotary Club presided over the meeting. He had charge of the organization of the Club. Pittston Rotary also presented the Club with a mammoth basket of flowers. Twenty-six members of the Pittston Rotary Club were in attendance.

Dr. Harry S. Fish (Sayre), director of RI, gave the keynote address, which was received with a great ovation.<sup>28</sup> "Enthusiastic singing" was a feature of the program with Harry Williams (Pittston) leading the singing accompanied on piano by Llewellyn Jones (Scranton).<sup>29</sup>

There were now 23 men listed on the membership roll on that date. Although they are not considered Charter Members, 4 individuals had joined the Club prior to September's Charter night: Bert L. Billings, C. Elmer Dietrich, Robert R. Henrie and Dr. H. L. McKown.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> From July 2, 1925 Tunkhannock Republican

<sup>25</sup> According to correspondence from RI Heritage Communications, through June 1951, clubs were issued numbered charter certificates. Clubs chartered through the early 1920s can use this number to approximate the order in which they were chartered but should not use it as an indication of their exact order of admittance.

<sup>26</sup> According to information provided by the RI Heritage Communications, The current club number is an administrative ID number that has no relation to the historic charter certificate numbers.

<sup>27</sup> "Rotary Gave Fine Start to the Club in Tunkhannock" Pittston Gazette, Sept 19, 1925.

<sup>28</sup> "Rotarians Banquet. Charter of Tunkhannock Rotary Delivered Friday Evening." Tunkhannock Republican, Sept 24, 1925

<sup>29</sup> "Rotary Gave Fine Start to the Club in Tunkhannock" Pittston Gazette, Sept 19, 1925.

<sup>30</sup> Rotary Review for Week of Feb. 24, 1964, published by Tunkhannock Rotary Club.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



*This certifies that the Rotary Club of  
Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania,*

*having been duly organized and having agreed,  
through its officers and members, to be bound by the  
Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International  
which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of  
this certificate, is now a duly elected member of*

*Rotary International  
Club No. 2109*

*and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of  
such membership.*

*In witness whereof the seal of Rotary  
International is hereto affixed and the signatures of  
its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this  
twenty-fifth day of August Anno Domini 1925.*

*Donald A. Adams*  
*President, Rotary International*

*Stanley R. Perry*  
*Secretary, Rotary International*

HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

Charter of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania



The new Club was welcomed to town with the following newspaper ad:<sup>31</sup>



### *Changing Rotary Districts*

A brief word about our membership in District 51. In 1912, the Rotary world was divided into 8 Divisions. Northeastern PA was part of the Eastern Division (Table 3). Rotary Clubs were first assigned to Districts in 1915, when the first 19 Districts were established. Pennsylvania became part of District 3, which was subdivided in 1918 and we became District 6. In 1921-1922, we were part of District 5.

In 1922, the District was further sub-divided and Northeastern PA became part of District 35 and District 51 in 1925. So although our geographic area was in District 35 in early 1925 when a special representative was assigned to help establish a Club in Tunkhannock, we became part of District 51 at the time of our Charter in Aug 1925.

In 1937, we became District 177 and in 1948 were designated District 177A. From 1949 through June 1957, we were District 262 and finally in July 1957, we assumed the designation as District 741. In 1991, a zero was added to the end of each District number to allow increases in the number of Districts without having to renumber existing Districts and we became District 7410.<sup>3233</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Ad in Tunkhannock Republican, Oct 1, 1925.

<sup>32</sup> Documents obtained from the Rotary Global History Fellowship Website at <https://www.rghfhome.org>

<sup>33</sup> From the 1989/90 District 741 Directory (inside back cover on History of District 741).

**Table 3 Evolution of District 7410**

Year	District No.
1912	Eastern Div.
1915	3
1918	6
1921-22	5
1922-June 1925	35
July 1925-1937	51

Year	District No.
1937	177
1948	177A
1949-June 1957	262
July 1957-1991	741
1991	7410

In 1925, when the Tunkhannock Rotary Club was chartered, there were 2,096 clubs with a total of 108,000 Rotarians in 46 Districts in 34 countries on six continents.<sup>34</sup>

### **1900 Olympian Among Charter Rotarians**

Among the charter members of the Club, was a world-famous Olympic track & field athlete, Walter Beardsley Tewksbury, who became known as "the man who put Tunkhannock on the map" after the 1900 Paris Olympics.

*"Nobody expected Walter Tewksbury to come back from Paris in 1900 with an Olympic gold medal in the 400-meter hurdles. Tewksbury was a sprinter - a dominant one, to be sure - but the 400 not only exceeded his ideal distances, it was a race he had probably never even run before. No American had, for the race had never been contested in the states. And the prohibitive favorite, Frenchman Henry Taubin, was undefeated and the darling of the home crowd.*

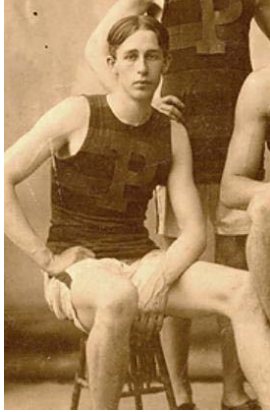
*Did that faze Tewksbury? Hardly. When he walked onto the track and saw the obstacles he would have to leap, he must have sensed that it was he who actually had the edge. They were not neat, balanced hurdles. They were telephone poles laid across the lanes, with a final jump over water. And how hard could jumping a telephone pole or some water be for an athlete whose unofficial introduction to the sport was hurdling tombstones in the local cemetery? Tewksbury won easily. He was just getting started.*<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> From the Rotary Global History Fellowship Website at <https://www.rghfhome.org>

<sup>35</sup> Taken from: ExplorePAHistory.com website, subsection – Walter B. Tewksbury Historical Marker





In the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris, he won 5 track and field medals.

Tewksbury won (gold) the 400-meter hurdles and the 200-meter dash, finished second (silver) in both the 100- and 60-meter sprints, and third (bronze) in the 200-meter hurdles. He was later inducted as a member of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Upon his return to Tunkhannock, he gave up track and field to open his dentistry office, was one of the charter members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club and Club President in 1933-1934.

### Regular Weekly Meetings

The regular weekly meetings of the Tunkhannock Club were held on Fridays at 12:15 noon at the Hotel Graham (below left), which became the Hotel Prins and later Prince Hotel (below right). Except for a few short periods, the Club met there until the Prince Hotel closed in 2009, but at some point changed their meeting day to Thursdays at 12:15 PM.

They were first dispossessed because someone put a bottle of beer at each place at the table. Waiting for the proprietor, Wes Lewis (Charter Tunkhannock Rotarian), to cool off, the Club met at the Elm Tree Tea Shop (88 East Tioga St.<sup>36</sup>).

In the late 1940's, the Antiquarian Restaurant (site currently occupied by Downtown Deli) was their second temporary home.<sup>37</sup>



<sup>36</sup> In 1924 and beyond, the Elm Tree Tea Shoppe was located at 88 East Tioga St. and operated by Ms. Natalie Hallock during the summers only, according to the Wyoming Democrat news article, May 14, 1926. Although later it may have moved to the screened porch of a house on Harrison Ave.

<sup>37</sup> Rotary Club of Tunkhannock Golden Jubilee program, Highlights of Rotary, "Our first 50 years".



(Top Left) Hotel Graham, which became (Top Right & Below) the Prince Hotel (circa 2009)

With the sale and closure of the Prince Hotel for renovations in late 2009, the Club met at several locations (Twigs, Remingtons, Purkey's Pink Apple and the Bogey Room at Shadowbrook) before finally selecting and moving in 2010 to its current location at Purkey's Pink Apple for its lunchtime meetings every Thursday at 12:15 PM.



Purkey's Pink Apple and Meeting Room

## THE EARLY YEARS

Some of the highlights of the activities associated with the first formative years of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock have been garnered from newspaper articles from this time period.

### *Flag Presentation by Pittston Rotary Club*

Two months after its charter, 25 members of the Pittston Rotary Club came by Lehigh Valley train (due to bad weather for safe driving) for dinner with the Tunkhannock Rotary Club at the Hotel Graham on Friday evening Oct 30, 1925. Train officials added a passenger coach

to the midnight mail and express train to accommodate the party for their return trip to Pittston later that evening.<sup>38</sup>

*“President Tallie Evans, of the Pittston Club, presided, and gave the members of the Tunkhannock Club a pleasant surprise by presenting to the club, on behalf of Pittston Rotarians, who were instrumental in organizing the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, a beautiful silk American flag and standard. An impressive ceremony was carried out in presenting the banner. Four members of the West Pittston troops of the Boy Scouts, in uniform, accompanied the Pittston party, and after the presentation went through the Scout ceremony of unfurling the flag. With the Rotarians standing the flag was unfurled to the accompaniment of bugle music.”<sup>39</sup>*

Rev. Fred Newman accepted the flag on behalf of the Tunkhannock Club.

Then several members of the Pittston Club talked about various Rotary activities. The speakers included: Past Presidents Thomas L. Williams, Charles Berry, C.W. Smiles and Attorney W.W. Hall.

This was followed by a brief presentation by Dr. Eugene Van Dyke of Scranton, an orthopedic surgeon in charge of crippled children’s work for the Pittston Rotary, on the modern surgical methods for children crippled in limbs.

The evening closed with Harry J. Williams, musical director of the Pittston Rotary, leading the group in the singing of popular songs with accompaniment on the piano by Curtis G. Harrower. Solos and duets were performed by Jacob Henry Morgan and Ivor Herbert.

#### *Attendance at Their First District Conference*

The first District 51 Conference after the formation of the Club was in April 1926 at the Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre.<sup>40</sup> The program consisted of music, speeches, dinners and various matters of Rotary business.

Outgoing DG Col. Ezra Ripple was presented with a beautiful and valuable grandfather clock to commemorate his outstanding service as the first Governor of District 51. Incoming DG John Uhl of Wilkes-Barre was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Ten Tunkhannock Rotarians were in attendance: T.C. Boyce, F.W. Kellogg, Chase M. Herrick, Edson A. Stark, R.W. Greenwood, Dr. W.B. Tewksbury, W.A. Kittredge, C.O. George, C. E. Dietrich and B.L. Billings.

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<sup>38</sup> “Pittston Rotary Presented Flag to Tunkhannock” Pittston Gazette, Oct. 31, 1925.

<sup>39</sup> “Flag for Rotary. Local Club Recipients of Beautiful Emblem from Pittston Rotary”, Tunkhannock Republican, Nov 5, 1925.

<sup>40</sup> “Rotarians Convene. Local Men Joined Crowd at Irem Temple on Friday Night.” Tunkhannock Republican, April 29, 1926.

### *Inter-City Joint Meetings*

During the 1920s and 1930s, many Rotary Clubs held joint meetings with Rotary Clubs in other towns.

From 1925 to 1929, annual joint meetings were held with the Pittston and Tunkhannock Clubs. After the Wyoming Rotary Club was sponsored by the Pittston Club in 1929, the annual meetings became tri-town meetings with the Rotary Clubs of Pittston, Tunkhannock and Wyoming.

### *First Club Bulletin*

Cecil Krewson, Sr. replaced Chase Herrick as Secretary in 1927 and served in this capacity for the next 7 years. According to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Summary<sup>41</sup>, Cecil initiated the first Club Bulletin which was called "The Rotary Motor".

### *Singing*

Before the advent of television, electronic communication and computers, music was a mainstay at most Rotary meetings and functions. Every Club seemed to have a music director and Rotary meetings always included the singing of songs from the Rotary Songbooks.

Over the years, several members of the Tunkhannock Club have excelled in singing or playing musical instruments as noted in many of the newspaper articles and photos of Club events. Other members were just joyous and enthusiastic participants.

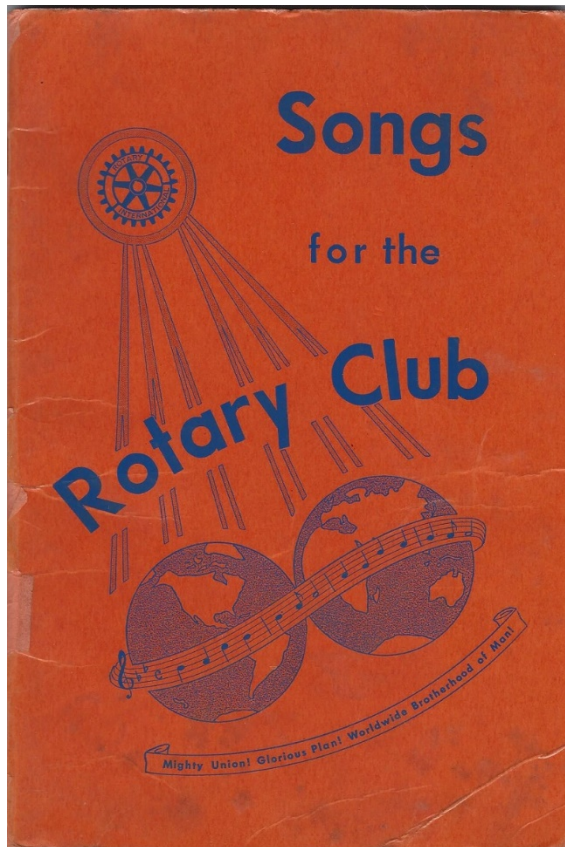
Up until his death in 2004, George "Papa" Gay led the singing at numerous Tunkhannock Rotary functions. Other noted singers included Clarence and Judd Fitze. Current Rotarian George Gay (Papa Gay's son) has tried to restart the singing tradition in our Club, since he has boxes of the old Rotary Songbooks and sheet music, but with very limited success.

Jim Welch Sr. (leader of the Jimmy Welch Orchestra and now Jimmy Welch Band) and Roy Gardner could always be depended upon for providing some musical accompaniment at Rotary functions, including District Conferences.

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<sup>41</sup> Rotary Club of Tunkhannock Golden Jubilee program, Highlights of Rotary, "Our first 50 years".





1940 Edition of the Songs for the Rotary Club Songbook and the Rotary Song

### Club Tours of Local Businesses and Facilities

One common element in the newspaper reports of the Club meetings from 1925-1960, was that periodically the Club replaced their regular meetings with visits to local businesses and/or facilities.

In July 1929, 28 members of the Tunkhannock Rotary visited Girl Scout Camp Onawandah, on the Taite Farm at South Eaton, for their weekly meeting. The Rotarians inspected the camp and were then entertained by 3 playlets performed by the Girl scouts.<sup>42</sup> The Club also met at the Camp in 1932<sup>43</sup> and 1933<sup>44</sup>.

In 1954, Club members toured Aldovin Dairy in Lemon, which produced frozen cream, ice cream mix, cottage cheese, butter, buttermilk and powdered milk. This visit was part of a Club program to increase the member's knowledge of Wyoming County's all-important dairy industry.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>42</sup> "Tunkhannock Rotary Visits Onawandah", The Wilkes-Barre Record, July 29, 1929.

<sup>43</sup> The Wilkes-Barre Record, Aug 3, 1932.

<sup>44</sup> "Rotarians to be Guests at Camp", The Wilkes-Barre Record, Aug 10, 1933.

<sup>45</sup> "Aldovin Host to Rotary", Tunkhannock Republican, Sept 9, 1954.



**L to R:** Rotarians Tour Aldovin Dairy in 1954: Don Ide, Cecil Krewson Jr.,Cliff Roslund, Klee Fitze, John Henning, Marshall Webster and Ed Kehrli



## Service to the Club

### Club Presidents and Secretaries (Aug 1925 through Aug. 2015)

Since 1925, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock has been served by 89 Presidents (with Harry Sharpe and Judd Fitze serving 2 terms each), but only 19 Secretaries (Table 4). The Presidents were elected annually for a 1 year term. The Club has had several long-serving Secretaries with Edward Holmes serving for 8 years and Edwin Kehrli for 15 years. But the record goes to Fran Turner who served as Club Secretary for an incredible 25 years.

Several families have kept the Tunkhannock Rotary and “Service Above Self” in their families, such as the Fitze and Gay families. Judd M. Fitze was a charter member of the Club, his son Clarence was President in 1953-1954 and his grandson Judd B. Fitze (Clarence’s son) was twice President in 1986-1987 and 2008-2009. George E. (Papa) Gay served as Club President from 1964-1965 and his son George R. Gay was President in 2011-2012.

**Table 4 Club Presidents, New Initiatives & Secretaries**

Rotary Year	President	New Initiatives	Secretary
1925-1926	William Kittredge (Charter Member)	Rotary Club of Tunkhannock Chartered	Chase Herrick
1926-1927	Richard Ridgeway (Charter Member)		Chase Herrick
1927-1928	William Lazarus		Cecil Krewson
1928-1929	Percy Brunges		Cecil Krewson
1929-1930	Bert Billings		Cecil Krewson
1930-1931	Alvah Fassett		Cecil Krewson
1931-1932	Bert VanDyke		Cecil Krewson
1932-1933	Archie Sherwood	Landscaping project at High School	Cecil Krewson
1933-1934	Walter Tewksbury (Charter Member)		Cecil Krewson
1934-1935	Clarence Boston		Robert Shoemaker
1935-1936	Rev. Jas Holleran		Robert Shoemaker
1936-1937	Ray Greenwood (Charter Member)		Robert Shoemaker
1937-1938	Lorne MacDougall		Henry Lewis
1938-1939	Rev. Harry Somers	Planting of International Trees	Henry Lewis
1939-1940	Edwin Kehrli		Henry Lewis

Rotary Year	President	New Initiatives	Secretary
1940-1941	Victor Avery		Edward Holmes
1941-1942	Robert Trembath		Edward Holmes
1942-1943	Gerald Harrison	Erection of Honor Roll	Edward Holmes
1943-1944	Stanley DeWitt	Dedication of Honor Roll	Edward Holmes
1944-1945	Rev. Morrison Rider		Edward Holmes
1945-1946	Ralph Sheldon		Edward Holmes
1946-1947	James Turrell		Edward Holmes
1947-1948	Frank Dolbear*		Edward Holmes
1948-1949	Horace Sick		Clarence J. Fitz
1949-1950	Forrest Aumiller		Clarence J. Fitz
1950-1951	Arthur Davenport	25 <sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary	Clarence J. Fitz
1951-1952	R. Everett Moses		Clarence J. Fitz
1952-1953	Albert Slocum		Clarence J. Fitz
1953-1954	Clarence J. Fitze	Need an extra hand fun-raiser First DG Frank Dolbear	Roger Folsom
1954-1955	Cecil Krewson, Jr.	Memorial Park drive kick-off	Roger Folsom
1955-1956	A.F. Dersheimer		Roger Folsom
1956-1957	John B. Henning, Jr.		Edwin Kehrli
1957-1958	Sam P. Charles		Edwin Kehrli
1958-1959	Roy A. Gardner		Edwin Kehrli
1959-1960	Clifford R. Roslund		Edwin Kehrli
1960-1961	Rev. Robert Smyrl	First inbound exchange student	Edwin Kehrli
1961-1962	Robert Smales	First outbound exchange student	Edwin Kehrli
1962-1963	Robert Noone		Edwin Kehrli
1963-1964	Oscar Gelnett		Edwin Kehrli
1964-1965	George E. Gay		Edwin Kehrli
1965-1966	Dr. Hollis Russell		Edwin Kehrli
1966-1967	Gerald Nelson		Edwin Kehrli
1967-1968	Rev. P. Floyd Jones		Edwin Kehrli
1968-1969	James Smith		Edwin Kehrli
1969-1970	Edward Furman		Edwin Kehrli



Rotary Year	President	New Initiatives	Secretary
1970-1971	Donald Davis		Edwin Kehrli
1971-1972	Raymond Kehrli		Joel Turrell
1972-1973	Harry Sharpe		Joel Turrell
1973-1974	Francis Turner	Jamboree U.S.A held Donation of paintings in remembrance of Edwin Kehrli	Joel Turrell
1974-1975	Nelson Folsom**	First Auction & Flea Market	Leo Ennis
1975-1976	Walter Pierce	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	William Shaefer
1976-1977	John Shaffer, Jr.		Kent Kresge
1977-1978	Stewart Swetland		Bradley Long
1978-1979	Thomas Schicktanz	First Club Paul Harris Awarded to Donald Sick	Bradley Long
1979-1980	Kent Kresge		Davis Haire
1980-1981	Gene Reichel	First Rotary Relays	Davis Haire
1981-1982	Richard Stark, Jr.	Field House at Memorial Park	Judd Fitze
1982-1983	Otto Keil, Jr.*	First Fishing Derby First Brown Bag Lunch	Judd Fitze
1983-1984	Davis Haire	First Fireworks????	Judd Fitze
1984-1985	Thomas Kukuchka	First Candy Cane Day????	Francis Turner
1985-1986	Eugene Milnes		Francis Turner
1986-1987	Judd B. Fitze	DG Otto Keil	Francis Turner
1987-1988	Robert Skovronski	First woman admitted to Club	Francis Turner
1988-1989	William Gilroy	Furman Toys Project for Zimbabwe	Francis Turner
1989-1990	John Williams	First Rotarian of the Year Award	Francis Turner
1990-1991	William Yoki		Francis Turner
1991-1992	Norman Werkheiser	Bicycle Helmet Project	Francis Turner
1992-1993	Ronald Learn		Francis Turner
1993-1994	Stephen Thomas		Francis Turner
1994-1995	Gerald Bowers	Teach 911 Project	Francis Turner
1995-1996	Robert Whipple	Part of Grant for hospital equipment for Turkey	Francis Turner
1996-1997	Lucy Atkins	First woman Club President	Francis Turner

Rotary Year	President	New Initiatives	Secretary
1997-1998	John Skovran		Francis Turner
1998-1999	David Whipple** & *		Francis Turner
1999-2000	Sandra Vidlicka (Lane)	Celebration of George Gay	Francis Turner
2000-2001	Yen Fong (Jeannie) Brady	Grant for books for new Library Patricia Ehrenzeller - GSE Team to Cameroon Interact Club Started 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Francis Turner
2001-2002	Matt Pompey	Part of Grant for sewing training for women in India	Francis Turner
2002-2003	Harry Sharpe	DG Dave Whipple Jeannie Brady - GSE Team to Taiwan	Francis Turner
2003-2004	Julie Orloski	Dictionary Project	Francis Turner
2004-2005	Patricia Ehrenzeller	Part of Grant for tub wells for India Benches & light for downtown Signage Project Bob Whipple - GSE Team to Philippine Islands	Francis Turner
2005-2006	Nicholas D'Alberto	District Grant for Tyler Hospital Matching Grant for Taipei	Francis Turner
2006-2007	Albert Noble**	Part of Grant for Health Care Center in Peru District Grant for Library	Francis Turner
2007-2008	Grace Luciani**	District Grant for Interfaith Friends	Francis Turner
2008-2009	Judd Fitze	Harvest & Wine Festival Grant to Furnish Dietrich Children's Room Part of Haiti Clean Water Grant	Francis Turner
2009-2010	Ronald Flatness**	1 <sup>st</sup> Lazybrook Electrical Grant	Linda Miller
2010-2011	Wayne Krause	New ClubRunner Website 10 picnic tables for Lazybrook	Linda Miller
2011-2012	George R. Gay**	Club joins Facebook	Linda Miller & Allen Mickle

Rotary Year	President	New Initiatives	Secretary
2012-2013	William (Bill) Barber	Hurricane Sandy Relief 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lazybrook Electrical Grant	Allen Mickle & Carol Ziomek
2013-2014	Karen Fuller	Josh the Otter Water Safety Drug Take Back Outreach Purple Crocus for Polio New Club Brochure	Carol Ziomek
2014-2015	Norman Kelly**	Peace Camp Grant Sponsor Wyalusing Area Club	Carol Ziomek
2015-2016	Ronald Furman	Change the World Rotary Reads 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	Carol Ziomek

\*Tunkhannock Rotarians who served as District Governors.

\*\*Tunkhannock Rotarians who served as Assistant Governors.

Portraits are only available for some of the Presidents of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock and the photos of the 20 most recent Presidents are presented in Table 5. Many of the portraits are informal or casual as they are cropped from group or other types of photos from a variety of Rotary events.

**Table 5 Portraits of Some Presidents of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock (1996-2016)**

 Lucy Atkins 1996-1997	 John Skovran 1997-1998	 David Whipple 1998-1999	 Sandra Vidlicka (Lane) 1999-2000
 Jeannie Brady 2000-2001	 Matt Pompey 2001-2002	 Harry Sharpe 2002-2003	 Julie Orloski 2003-2004
 Patricia Ehrenzeller 2004-2005	 Nicholas D'Alberto 2005-2006	 Albert Noble 2006-2007	 Grace Luciani 2007-2008
 Judd Fitze 2008-2009	 Ronald Flatness 2009-2010	 Wayne Krause 2010-2011	 George Gay 2011-2012
 Bill Barber 2012-2013	 Karen Fuller 2013-2014	 Norman Kelly 2014-2015	 Ron Furman 2015-2016

## **1937 Rotarian**

The first mention of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock in the Rotarian Magazine, the official magazine of Rotary International, was in Sept 1937. Past President (1931-1932) Bert M. Van Dyke, who was the President of the Wyoming Democrat, Inc. (a local newspaper), wrote a letter to the "Our Readers' Open Forum" praising an article that appeared in the July 1937 Rotarian on home-town editors.

## **1950 - Silver Anniversary<sup>46</sup>**

On Sept. 28, 1950, the Club celebrated its Silver (25) Anniversary in Rotary with a dinner at the Prince Hotel (\$7.50 per person).

Clarence "Klee" Fitze was the program director for the celebration. Two charter members, who were still active in the Club, Ray Greenwood and Walter Tewksbury made remarks after dinner.

A summary of the first 25 years of service to the community was also presented, although unfortunately a copy of that presentation is not available.

The Jimmy Welch Orchestra provided the music for the dinner-dance.

## **1974 – Donation of Pictures in Honor of Edwin Kehrli<sup>47</sup>**

In June 1974, the late Rotarian Edwin H. Kehrli, former Wyoming County Superintendent of Schools (1934-1972), Club Secretary for 15 years (1956-1971), and with perfect attendance for 35 years, was honored with the donation of 3 pictures hung by Rotary in the libraries of Roslund Elementary, the Middle School and the High School. The pictures were

*".....entitled "Christina's World" by Andrew Wyeth, "Boy with Globe" by James Chapin and "Snap the Whip" by Winslow Homer. Each concerned with the dreams, thoughts and potentialities of children, the pictures are most appropriate and were accepted gratefully by school officials."*

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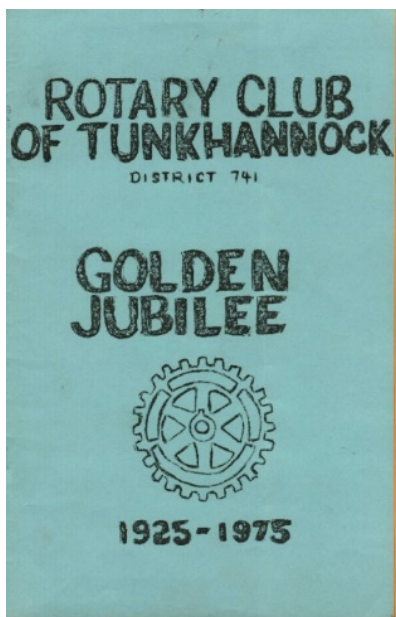
<sup>46</sup> Tunkhannock Republican, Sept 21, 1950.

<sup>47</sup> "Edwin Kehrli Remembered in Donations by Rotary", Tunkhannock New Age, June 6, 1974.





## 1975 - Golden Jubilee



In 1975, the Club celebrated their 50 Year - Golden Jubilee during the Presidency of Walter Pierce.<sup>48</sup> The buffet dinner was held on Nov. 5 at Nativity Parish Hall. The invocation was given by Rev. Edwin Simmons.

The Toastmaster for the evening was Club Past President Clarence (Klee) Fitze, who gave a brief history of the Club and who had been Toastmaster for the silver anniversary celebration in 1950.

Governor of District 741, Dan Chapman (Dallas Rotary Club) made remarks and a presentation.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Phillip R. Jones of the First Presbyterian Church in Milton, PA.

<sup>48</sup> Rotary Club of Tunkhannock Golden Jubilee program - 1975



**L to R in Left Photo:** Dr. Phillip H. Jones, Walter Pierce and Clarence Fitz

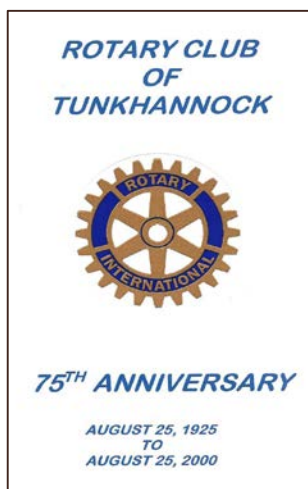
**Right Photo:** DG Don Chapman leading the guests at the buffet<sup>49</sup>

### **1988 – First Admission of Women to the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock**

Although women were permitted to join Rotary in 1987, it was Nov 1, 1988, when the first woman, Catherine Shaffer, joined the Tunkhannock Club. She was followed by Yen Fong (Jeannie) Brady and Sandra (Sandy) Vidlicka (now Lane) around Sept 1, 1989.

Although Catherine, Jeannie and Sandy were the first women to join the Tunkhannock Club, the first woman President of the Club was Lucy Ann Atkins who joined the Club in 1991 and was President in 1996-1997. She was followed two years later by Sandy, who became Club President in 1999-2000 and Jeannie in 2000-2001.

### **2000 - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



The Rotary Club of Tunkhannock celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday Aug 25, 2000 at Shadowbook Inn and Resort during the Presidency of Jeannie Brady.

The invocation before dinner was given by Club Rotarian Patricia Ehrenzeller and the Toastmaster was Club Past President Clarence (Klee) Fitze<sup>50</sup> (also Toastmaster for 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations).

RI Representative Robbyn Singer gave a presentation.

Glen Strange performed as the humorist.

<sup>49</sup> Tunkhannock Republican, Nov 13, 1975. Photos by Tunkhannock Rotarian Frank Oliver.

<sup>50</sup> Clarence Fitze was Toastmaster for both the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club.





Providing leadership for the Tunkhannock Rotary Club as it celebrates its 75th anniversary are, seated, from left, Jeannie Brady president; Sandra Vidlicka, director and past president; and Grace Luciani, director; standing, directors Dave Whipple, Phil Smiley, Bob Whipple, Harry Sharpe, Don Sick and Norm Werkheiser; and Matt Pompey, vice president. Directors John Skovran, Pat Ehrenzeller and Tom Kukuchka were absent for the photo. – Staff photo by Michael J. Rudolf.

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Page 6 - NEW AGE-EXAMINER Wednesday, August 30, 2000



### Rotary celebration

Rotary District Governor Bill Hawkins congratulates Jeannie Brady, president of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, at the club's 75th anniversary celebration on Friday at Shadowbrook in Tunkhannock. Looking on are, from left, Vice President Matt Pompey and Past President Sandra Vidlicka and at right, Robbyn Singer, Rotary Foundation staff. – Staff photo by Lori D. Kashinsky.

L to R: Club President Jeannie Brady and New Age Examiner photo for the celebration

<sup>51</sup> New Age Examiner, Aug 2000.

In the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, Club Past President George E. Gay wrote:

*When I think of my many years of membership in Rotary, the many changes and growth of the community, the great men who initiated and completed the many projects, I would say that Rotary has been the greatest influence on the growth and development of Tunkhannock and Wyoming County. I know the Founders, and participated in the early projects. One of the notable moves that our club has taken is the inclusion of ladies into our membership for better understanding of the needs of the community. I also might mention that our club has paid a total of \$60,000 into the Paul Harris Fund for worldwide service.*

Tunkhannock Rotarian and resident poet John Hovan also provided a contribution.

*For 75 years the members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club have worked for the common good of the community, joined together to advance the ideal of Paul Harris, and dedicated to the principle of "Service above Self".*

*This mission is best described by Emily Dickinson who wrote;*

*"If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain,  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain."*

*Community Service is never done!*

*Let us remember to join together to ease each other's pain.*

### **2015 – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On Aug 25, 2015, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its charter by RI. To celebrate, the Club is having a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance on Sunday, Aug 30 at Shadowbrook Inn and Resort. The event will be a buffet dinner, followed by a program and keynote address.

After the program, dance music will be provided by the Jimmy Welch Band. Bandleader Jim Welch Sr. has been a 44 yr. member of our Club and the Jimmy Welch Orchestra also played for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, at some of the Sports Banquets and at District Conference.



The master of ceremonies (MC) for the evening will be Assistant Governor and Past Club President Norm Kelly. Past District Governor and Past Club President David Whipple will recite the 4-Way Test and 65 year Rotarian Fran Turner will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Club Rotarian Rev. Lou Divis will give the invocation before dinner.

After dinner, AG Norm will introduce our honored guests. District Governor Barbara Huffman de Belon (Leighton) will address the assemblage. Several Paul Harris recognitions will be awarded to family members of Club Rotarians by PDG and District Foundation Chair Paul Muczynski. After the presentation of citations, the keynote address will be given by Past District Governor Paul "Budd" O'Malia from the Plymouth Rotary Club.

In addition to Club members and their families, all District 7410 Rotarians, members of civic, charitable and service organizations in the Tunkhannock Area have been invited to help us celebrate the anniversary of the first service club in Tunkhannock.

In keeping with the concept of family, members of the Pittston Rotary Club (our sponsor) and the Wyalusing Area Rotary Club (whom we have sponsored) will be in attendance for a family portrait.

There will be a display of photos, newspaper articles and memorabilia from the first 90 years of the Club. This History will also be available for browsing.



As he did for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, our resident poet Judge John Hovan has contributed the following for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program:

*“In the last ninety years, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has been guided by the principle of ‘Service above Self’ and the ‘Four-Way Test’.*

*In the next decade, let us also be guided by the words below which were written anonymously:*

*Speak gently, kindly to the poor,  
Let not harsh tones be heard;  
They have enough they must endure,  
Without an unkind word.*

*Speak gently to the erring, - know,  
They may have toil’d in vain;  
Perchance, unkindness made them so;  
O! win them back again.*

*Speak gently! He who gave his life  
To bend man’s stubborn will,  
When elements were in fierce strife  
Said to them ‘Peace, be still.’*

*Speak gently, - ‘tis a little thing  
Dropp’d in the heart’s deep well;  
The good, the joy which it may bring,  
Eternity shall tell.*

*-Anonymous*

## ROTARIAN RECOGNITION AWARDS

### **Four Avenues of Service Citation**

In 2002, Tunkhannock Rotarian Don Sick was surprised when he was honored with a Four Avenues of Service Citation from Rotary International for his outstanding work in each of the then four avenues of service: local, vocational, community and international service.

Don had recommended 6 new members to the local Club, hosted many Rotary exchange students and served on the Board of Directors for at least 15 years. He was the Club’s first Paul Harris Fellow and received its 1994 Rotarian of the Year Award. He also started the Dictionary Project in the Tunkhannock Rotary Club in 2003. He had received many awards, including the Rotary’s Polio Plus Award.

He served on many community boards and helped organize the Tunkhannock Little League, Ambulance Association and Wyoming County Young Republicans.

Due to his interest in International Service, Don had attended 4 International Rotary Conventions and served on a team that sponsored GSE teams. He also helped raise money for the Rotary Foundation which provided matching grants for projects such as drilling wells in other countries.



### **Distinguished Service Awards**

The Tunkhannock Rotary Distinguished Service Award is presented to an active Club Rotarian for long term involvement and outstanding cumulative contributions to and through the Tunkhannock Rotary Club.

Although the award has been given periodically over many years, the list of recipients is only available for a few years (Table 6).

**Table 6 Tunkhannock Rotary Distinguished Service Award Honorees**

Year	Honoree	Year	Honoree
<b>2002</b>	Mary Baldwin Ruth Gorski Delphine Zenger Phil Smiley Harry Sharpe Francis Turner John Skovran Gerhard Wetzel Devan Harbaugh Sandy Vidlicka	<b>2014</b>	Tom Kukuchka Dave Wilson
<b>2013</b>	Sandy Lane Francis Turner	<b>2015</b>	Al Noble



2002 and 2013 Distinguished Service Awardees, **Left photo: front row from left, Mary Baldwin, Ruth Gorski and Delphine Zenger; back, Phil Smiley, Harry Sharpe, Francis Turner and John Skovran. Right Photo: Sandra Lane**



2013 & 2014 Distinguished Service Awardees: **L to R:** Fran Turner, Tom Kukuchka and Dave Wilson

### Rotarian of the Year Awards

The Rotarian of the Year award has been given since 1990 to a Club member who has provided outstanding service to the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock (Table 7). Feb 1990 early files from the Wyoming County Press Examiner reported that:

*“Members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club recently selected Otto Keil as their first “Rotarian of the Year.”*

It has not been given on an annual basis. Table 7 reflects only the names of individuals identified in available Club and Board meeting minutes, newspaper articles or from members who have volunteered the information, so it is incomplete.

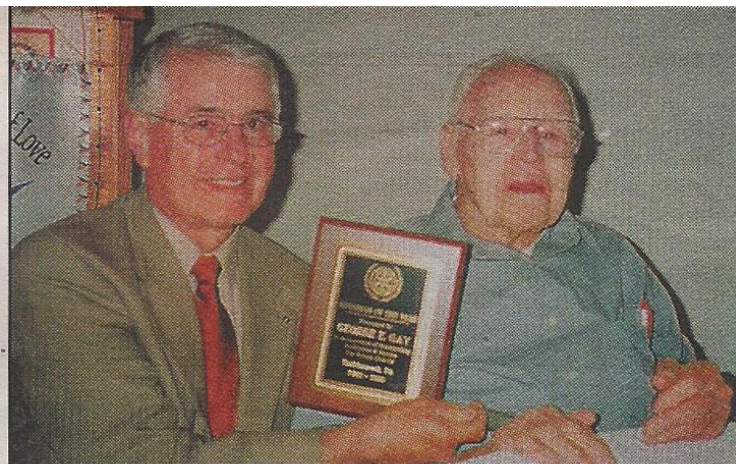
**Table 7 Tunkhannock Rotarian of the Year Honorees (incomplete)**

Year	Honoree	Year	Honoree
1990	Otto Keil, Jr.	2003	George “Papa” Gay
1992	Norm Werkheiser	2010	Al Noble
1993	Mike Lione	2012???	Harry Sharpe
1994	Don Sick	2013	George Gay
1999	Given, but name not available	2014	Ron Furman
2001	Sandra Vidlicka (now Lane)	2015	Matt Pompey
2002	Bob Whipple		



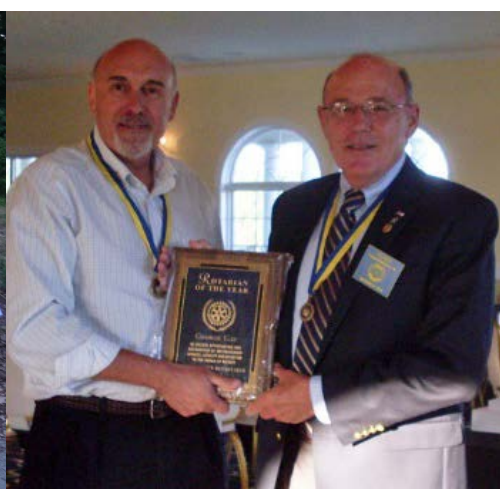


**L to R: 1994 and 2001 Rotarians of the Year: Don Sick & Sandra Vidlicka Lane**



**The group annually recognizes distinguished individuals including in 2003, George Gay (right) as Rotarian of the Year.**

**L to R: 2002 and 2003 Rotarians of the Year: Bob Whipple and George "Papa: Gay**



**L to R: 2010 & 2013 Rotarians of the Year: Al Noble and George Gay,**





**L to R: 2014 & 2015 Rotarians of the Year: Ron Furman and Matt Pompey**

### **Service Above Self Awards**

Over many years, a Service Above Self Award has been given to a Club Rotarian, who has given of themselves, their time and effort in supporting the activities of the Club. The list of recipients is only available for the last few years (Table 8).

**Table 8 Tunkhannock Rotary Service Above Self Honorees**

Year	Honoree
2003	Norm Werkheiser
2007	Al Noble
2008	Norm Werkheiser
2013	Carol Ziomek
2014	Matt Pompey
2015	Glenn Holcombe



**L to R: 2013, 2014 & 2015 Service Above Self Awardees: Carol Ziomek, Matt Pompey and Glenn Holcombe**

## Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) of Northeast America includes 28 districts in the northeastern part of the USA and Bermuda. The RLI is a recommended unofficial affiliate of Rotary International (RI), but not an official program of RI, nor under its control.

The mission of RLI is to provide an educational opportunity for Rotarians identified as potential leaders by their club presidents, who annually nominate club members as potential club leaders (not necessarily future presidents). Courses are given for the nominees to foster Rotary knowledge and leadership skills. Faculty are carefully selected from among Rotarians with outstanding leadership abilities.

It is hoped that these courses will motivate the participants to be enthusiastic, creative and dedicated Rotarians. Those attending the three course days for their full duration receive recognition of completion (graduation). Course methods reflect the most innovative and participatory methods possible, including discussion groups, role-playing, problem solving workshops, group planning exercises, etc.<sup>52</sup>

Of our current membership, approximately 17 (26%) have completed 1 or more RLI courses, 14 have graduated (Table 9). Our most recent graduates are pictured below.

**Table 9 Current Club RLI Graduates**

Bill Barber	Ruth Gorski	Matthew Pompey
Jeannie Brady	Norman Kelly	John Proctor
Karen Fuller	Sandra Lane	Dave Whipple
Ronald Furman	Samantha Maruzzelli	Carol Ziomek
George Gay	Albert Noble	



2012 RLI Graduates (**left**) Karen Fuller and (**right**) Bill Barber. DG Art Peoples (**left**) and PDG Paul Muczynski (**right**) presented their graduate certificates.

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<sup>52</sup> Taken from: <http://www.rlinea.org/>



L to R: 2014 RLI Graduates Ron Furman, Norm Kelly and Carol Ziomek. DG Carol Hemphill pinned the graduates and PDG Paul Muczynski presented the certificates





## Service to the District

Various members of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock have served in District positions over the last 90 years.

### District Governors

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club has provided three of its members to serve as District Governors (DG): Frank T. Dolbear, Otto Keil, Jr. and David Whipple<sup>53</sup>.



District 262  
FRANK T. DOLBEAR  
Tunkhannock,  
Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

The Club proposed and supported Frank T. Dolbear for Governor of District 262 (predecessor to District 741(o)) for 1953-1954. Frank joined the Tunkhannock Rotary in 1937 and was President of the Club in 1947-1948. At the time, he was the Supervising Principal of the Tunkhannock Joint Schools.

Clarence Fitze was Club President that term and was successful in having 30 of the 32 members attend that year's District Conference to honor Frank.



Otto Keil, Jr. became Governor of District 741 in 1986-1987. Otto joined the Tunkhannock Rotary in 1979 and was President of the Club in 1982-1983.

Ninety percent of the Tunkhannock Rotarians attended District Conference when Otto ran for DG wearing orange sweatshirts with the saying "Running with Otto" on the front of the shirt. See the Rotarians Love to Dress Up section for more info on this event and what was on the back of the shirts.



David Whipple was proposed and supported by the Tunkhannock Club to serve as District Governor of 7410 in 2002-2003. Dave joined the Tunkhannock Rotary after transferring from the Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre where he had served for 10 years. Dave was Club President of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club in 1998-1999. He was District Assistant Governor in 2000-2001.

During Dave's time as DG, Tunkhannock Rotarian Jeannie Brady led a 5-person GSE Team to Taiwan. A GSE Team from Taipei also visited District 7410.

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<sup>53</sup> Photos of Frank Dolbear, Otto Keil and David Whipple as District Governors were supplied courtesy of Rotary International.

## **Other District Positions**

Over the last 90 years, Tunkhannock Rotarians have served the District in various capacities. This list is not comprehensive since District participation records for Tunkhannock Rotarians are difficult to find for some years. Most information available is directly from living members, who volunteered this information while this history was being compiled, or taken from District Directories or Conference Proceedings.

Tunkhannock Rotarians have served the District as:

- Assistant Governors (AG) – Nelson Folsom, Ron Flatness, Grace Luciani, Dave Whipple, Al Noble, George Gay and Norm Kelly
- District Secretary – Nelson Folsom
- District Treasurer – Richard Stark Jr. and Nick D’Alberto
- District Chair for Rotary Leadership Institute - Al Noble
- District Webmaster - Eugene Milnes
- District Governor’s Newsletter Editor - Bob Lizza
- District Public Relations – Michael Leone
- District Health, Hunger & Humanity Chair – Davis Haire
- District Registrar 2015-2016 - Carol Ziomek.

Many Tunkhannock Rotarians have also served on various District Committees, especially the District Youth Exchange Committee.

- Nick D’Alberto & Dave Whipple have been on the District Finance Committee.
- Dave Whipple served on the District Nominating Committee and District Awards Committee.
- Tom Kukuchka was Chair for the 1986-1987 District 7410 Conference.
- Roy Gardner, Dave Whipple, Davis Haire, Robert Whipple, Donald Sick, Michael Leone, Judd Fitze, Otto Keil, Tom Kukuchka, Robert Skovronsky, William Yoki, John Skovran, Patricia Ehrenzeller and Anne Sehne (current member) have all served on the District Youth Exchange Executive Committee.
- Sandra Lane and Jeannie Brady have co-chaired and been on the District Group Study Exchange (GSE) Committee.
- Tom Kukuchka, Fran Turner and Robert Skovronsky were on the District Golf Conference Committee.
- Harry Sharpe served as the Rotary Foundation Cluster 2 Coordinator.
- Carol Ziomek and Al Noble are currently on the District Rotary Foundation Committee. Carol is on the Grants Sub-Committee and Al is on the Fundraising Sub-Committee with responsibility for Endowed and Major Gifts.

## **District Rotaplast Program**

Rotaplast International, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 that is committed to helping children and families worldwide by eliminating the burden of cleft lip and/or palate, burn scarring, and other deformities. Working with local professionals, Rotarians,

and other organizations, Rotaplast sends multidisciplinary medical teams to provide free reconstructive surgery, ancillary treatment, and training for the comprehensive care of these children as well as supporting education and research towards prevention of cleft lip and/or palate.<sup>54</sup>

For several years, the District was actively involved in raising money for Rotaplast. One of the fund-raisers was a “Bike Around” at Promised Land State Park on April 12, 2003. Tunkhannock Rotarians Don Hull, Bob Whipple and Harry Sharpe raised over \$1100 with their bike rides. In addition at District Conference, the basket silent auction proceeds went to Rotaplast in 2003.

For its contributions to Rotaplast, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club was awarded a Rotaplast Sustaining Partner Banner.



## Rotary helps kids

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club received a banner last week that recognizes the club's financial support of Rotaplast, a program which provides free plastic surgery to children with birth defects in Third World countries. — Staff photo by Grace Dove.

The money raised by the District events for Rotaplast allowed District 7410 to send a team to staff the Rotaplast mission to Sucre, Boliva in 2003 during David Whipple's term as District Governor.

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<sup>54</sup> <http://rotaplast.org/>



### **Tunkhannock Rotarian Honored With District Distinguished Service Award**

The first District Distinguished Service Award was made in 1993. Selected by the Nominating Committee, this award is presented to an active District Rotarian for long term involvement and outstanding cumulative contributions to and through Rotary.<sup>55</sup>

On June 2, 2013, 2006-2007 Club President and Assistant Governor Albert (Al) Noble was honored with a District Distinguished Service Award. Among his services to the District, Al was Assistant Governor for Cluster 2 from 2010 to 2013 and Chairperson for the District's RLI training.

Al instituted the first Cluster 2 annual meeting, which hosted the District 7410 Governor, on Aug 9, 2010 at the Shadowbrook Country Club. The Clubs involved were: Forrest City, Montrose, New Milford, Trail and Tunkhannock. The Cluster 2 meetings continued during his time as AG.



**L to R: PDG Budd O'Malia, Al Noble and 2012-2013 DG Art Peoples**

### **Sponsorship of the New Rotary Club of Wyalusing Area**

In March 2015, AG George Gay of the Tunkhannock Club was appointed special representatives of District 7410 Governor Carol Hemphill to survey the Wyalusing Area to see if there was interest in starting a Rotary Club in that area.

The Rotary Club of Tunkhannock held 3 Rotary Day events to introduce people in the Wyalusing area to Rotary. The first event was held on Feb. 11 at the Grovedale Winery in

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<sup>55</sup> Taken from the May 2013 Around the District 7410 Bulletin.

Wyalusing. Two additional sessions were held on Wednesday, March 4 at Mark's Valley View Restaurant in Laceyville.

DG Carol Hemphill, AG George Gay, Club President Norm Kelly and several Tunkhannock Rotarians (Al Noble, Barbara Tourscher, Karen Fuller and Nicole Brillhart) were in attendance to greet and answer questions about Rotary from the attendees. As a result of these events and the recruiting efforts of several Tunkhannock Rotarians familiar with the Wyalusing/Laceyville/Meshoppen area, it was determined that there was sufficient interest to establish a Rotary Club in the Wyalusing area, sponsored by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club.

With help from Al Noble, (his wealth of personal contacts and persuasive abilities identified over 17 prospective members), Barbara Tourscher, Karen Fuller and Harry Sharpe, a group of 21 interested individuals were identified in the Wyalusing area.

The first 21 individuals were admitted into membership in the Tunkhannock Rotary Satellite Club of the Wyalusing Area. Additional members were then recruited.

In April 2015, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock sponsored the chartering of the independent Wyalusing Area Rotary Club with 29 charter members. RI granted the Wyalusing Area Rotary Club their Charter on May 22, 2015.

#### *Rotary Club of Wyalusing Area Charter Night*

On July 10, 2015, 90 Rotarians of District 7410 and their partners, including 7 Tunkhannock Rotarians, met at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Wyalusing to celebrate the chartering of the new Wyalusing Area Rotary Club. The Tunkhannock Rotarians in attendance were: AG & Past President Norm Kelly, President Ron Furman, Secretary Carol Ziomek, Director Karen Fuller, Foundation Chair Al Noble, Barbara Tourscher, Davis Haire and Lou Jasikoff.

AG Norm Kelly served as Master of Ceremonies for this celebration. PDG Carol Hemphill formally welcomed the Wyalusing Area Rotarians as Charter members with help from DG Barbara Belon. The Club was provided with their bell and gavel as a gift from District 7410.

Representatives of Clubs from around our District presented their congratulations and gifts to help establish the Wyalusing Area Club. As their sponsor, the Tunkhannock Club presented the new Club with their Club Banner.

After the presentation of gifts, PDG Toni McAndrew gave the keynote address. Club President Benjamin (Burnie Sheldon) thanked everyone for honoring the new Club with their presence at Charter night and for their gifts to the Club.



**L to R:** Wyalusing Area President Benjamin (Burnie) Sheldon, AG Norm Kelly and Tunkhannock Club President Ron Furman

### **RI Director Recognition**

As a result of their work to establish the new Wyalusing Area Rotary Club, Al Noble, George Gay and Norm Kelly were awarded “starfish” recognition pins by Rotary International Director, Julia Phelps at the April 2015 Rotary District 7410 Conference at Skytop Lodge in the Poconos.



**L to R:** RI Director Julia Phelps pinning starfish on Al Noble and Norm Kelly

### **District Membership Trophy**

With the acceptance into membership in the Tunkhannock Rotary Club of 33 new members (21 from the Wyalusing Area) during 2014-2015, the Club was awarded the District 7410 Membership Trophy Cup at the April 2015 District Conference by Karin Susan Breitlauch, Chair of the District Membership Committee.



**L to R:** DG Carol Hemphill, RI Director Julia Phelps, Tunkhannock Rotarians: Al Noble, Norm Kelly, Matt Pompey, Carol Ziomek & District Membership Chair Karin Breitlauch



## Service to Zone 32

RI is an association of member Rotary clubs, each of which has a direct relationship and common responsibility to the association with no national or other grouping of clubs intervening in the administration and functioning of the clubs as members of RI. The association represents, protects, encompasses, and promotes the interests of its membership, and it exists to serve the membership.<sup>56</sup>

A district is a group of clubs within a geographical boundary established by the RI Board pursuant to the bylaws for RI administrative purposes. The activities and organization of a Rotary District exist solely to help clubs advance the object of Rotary. Our club is part of District 7410, which encompasses Northeastern Pennsylvania with 42 Rotary Clubs.

A zone is a group of Districts. District 7410 is part of Zone 32 that contains 20 Districts that cover Bermuda, Canada, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. This zone encompasses 1,041 clubs with over 33,151 Rotarians.

Zone 32 is twinned with Zone 24 that covers Russia East of the Urals, Canada St. Pierre and Miquelon, Alaska, Maine, Michigan, New York and Washington. Zone 24 comprises 17 Districts with 878 Club containing over 32,415 Rotarians.



The Director of Rotary International twinned Zones 24 and 32 is currently Julia Phelps (2014-2016). Zones 24 and 32 cover 5 countries (Bermuda, Canada, parts of France, Russia and United States), 3 languages and 14 time zones.<sup>57</sup>

The Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for Zone 32 that covers District 7410 is currently PDG Toni McAndrew from our District 7410.

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<sup>56</sup> Rotary Code of Policies – May 2015 Edition.

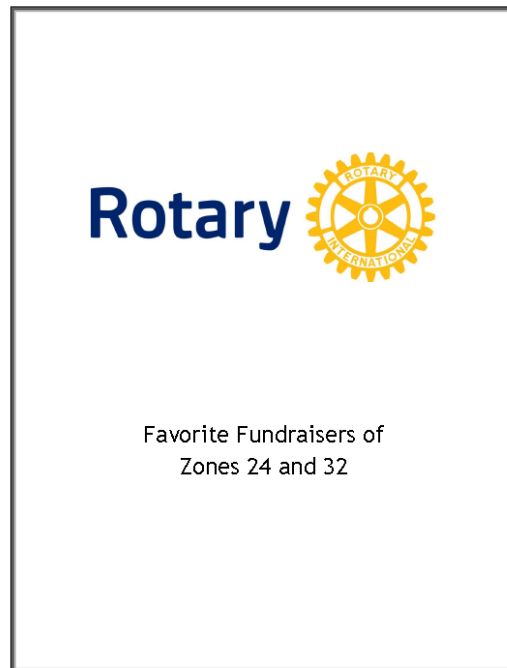
<sup>57</sup> From [www.RotaryZones24-32.org](http://www.RotaryZones24-32.org) website.

No Rotarians from the Tunkhannock Club have served in any Zone 32 positions.

In 2001, the Tunkhannock Club was recognized for having one of the two best Club websites in Zone 32. President Jeannie Brady accepted the Zone Website Award at the Rotary International Convention in San Antonio.

In 2014, DGE Barbara Huffman de Belon requested information from each of the 43 Clubs in our District 7410 as to their favorite fundraiser projects. Six Clubs from our District submitted information to DGE Barbara including our Tunkhannock Club (Harvest & Wine Festival and Candy Cane Day).

The information provided has now been published in a document entitled "Favorite Fundraisers of Zones 24 and 32". It is a valuable resources for ideas for possible club fundraisers, since it includes a description of the event, the number of volunteers needed, the upfront cost and the approximate amount of money raised by the event.





## Service to the Rotary Foundation

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” In 1928, it was renamed the Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International.

In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into Easter Seals.

When Rotary founder Paul Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring in to Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

In 1947: The Foundation established its first program, Fellowships for Advance Study, later known as Ambassadorial Scholarships.

In 1965-66: Three programs were launched: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants.

In 1978: Rotary introduced the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants. The first 3-H Grant funded a project to immunize 6 million Philippine children against polio.

In 1985: The PolioPlus program was launched to eradicate polio worldwide.

In 1987-88: The first peace forums were held, leading to Rotary Peace Fellowships.

2013: New district, global, and packaged grants enable Rotarians around the world to respond to the world’s greatest needs.

Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than \$1 billion.<sup>58</sup>

Tunkhannock Rotarians have provided financial donations to the Rotary Foundation since its inception as a distinct entity within RI in 1928. As of Aug 12, 2015, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock has contributed over \$187,300 to the Rotary Foundation over the last 90 years.

All 64 active Tunkhannock Rotarians have been credited with donations during 2014-2015, therefore, the Club has qualified for EREY (Every Rotarian, every year) status for this period. In addition, the Club has 42 (65%) sustaining members who have donated at least \$100 each to the Foundation during the 2014-2015 Rotary year.

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<sup>58</sup> History of the Rotary Foundation on RI website: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotary-foundation/history-rotary-foundation>

For 2014-2015, the per capita for our Club members was \$195.55, the third highest in District 7410, although cumulatively the \$12,992,00 donated is the highest total amount contributed by any Club in our District.

### Paul Harris Fellows



A Paul Harris Fellow has made cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or has been honored with a contribution of \$1,000 in his or her name. It was established in 1957 to show appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships. To recognize someone else as a Paul Harris Fellow, you can give that amount in their name.

In 1969, the Foundation unveiled the first Paul Harris Fellow medallion at the RI Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Today, Paul Harris Fellows receive a certificate and pin. They or their club are also eligible to purchase a Paul Harris Fellow medallion. The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached the one million mark in 2006.

Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition is extended at subsequent \$1,000 levels (\$2,000, \$3,000, and so on). Recognition consists of a pin with stones corresponding to the recipient's recognition amount level.



\$2,000 to 2,999.99 - one sapphire  
3,000 to 3,999.99 - two sapphires  
4,000 to 4,999.99 - three sapphires  
5,000 to 5,999.99 - four sapphires  
6,000 to 6,999.99 - five sapphires  
7,000 to 7,999.99 - one ruby  
8,000 to 8,999.99 - two rubies  
9,000 to 9,999.99 - three rubies

Since the Club awarded its first Paul Harris in 1979, our Club has presented 119 Paul Harris Fellows among its former and current membership and friends and family of Rotarians or the Club. Donald Sick became the Club's first Paul Harris Fellow in Jan 1979.

Although many people get a Paul Harris for their personal monetary contributions to the Foundation, one can be honored with a Club-designated Paul Harris when the Club uses its points to designate a valued Club member as a Paul Harris Fellow. Part of the presentation ceremony for a Club-designated Paul Harris Fellow states that you were selected because

*"your life exemplifies the humanitarian and educational objectives of The Rotary Foundation. We thank you for demonstrating in your life and vocation a commitment to helping persons in need here and around the world."*

At the Nov 15 2014 District 7410 Foundation Recognition Luncheon at the Scranton Hilton, four Tunkhannock Rotarians were honored as new Paul Harris Fellows. The honored members were: Jami Hearn, Aaron Hovan, Don Streby and Ann Way.

Guest speaker Stephanie Urchick, Rotary Foundation Trustee (2012-2014) pinned the members with their Paul Harris pins. Club President Norm Kelly presented each member with their Paul Harris medallions and DG Carol Hemphill gave them their certificates.



**L to R:** 2014-2015 President Norm Kelly, Jami Hearn, Aaron Hovan, Ann Way & Don Streby

At the June 25, 2015 Officer Installation and Awards Banquet, the Club honored 3 Rotarians as Club-designated Paul Harris Fellows: Lou Divis, Michael Markovitz and Barbara Tourscher. Lou Divis was introduced by Carol Ziomek, Michael Markovitz by Tom Kukuchka and Barbara Tourscher by Norm Kelly. DG Carol Hemphill performed the Club-Designated Paul Harris Ceremony and presented each of them with a Paul Harris certificate, pin and medallion.



2014-2015 DG Carol Hemphill with (**l to r**) Lou Divis, Michael Markovitz (pinned by his wife) and Barbara Tourscher

As of Aug 1, 2015, there are 36 active Club members (56%) who are single or multiple Paul Harris Fellows (Table 10). Five of our 6 honorary members (Tommasina Fiorillo, Murray Fisk, Thomas Schicktan, Richard Stark & Stephen Thomas) are also Paul Harris Fellows.

**Table 10 Current Tunkhannock Rotary Paul Harris Fellows**

PHF Level	Member Name	PHF Level	Member Name
PHF	Bill Barber Lou Divis Ron Flatness Ron Furman Ruth Gorski Davis Haire Jami Hearn Glenn Holcombe Aaron Hovan Marta Kovacs-Ruiz Michael Markovitz John Proctor Don Streby Barbara Tourscher Ann Way James Welch, Sr. David Wilson	PHF +1	Pat Ehrenzeller Judd Fitze Karen Fuller George Gay John Hovan Norm Kelly Wayne Krause Sandra Lane William Milligan Harry Sharpe
PHF +2	Jeannie Brady Samantha Maruzzelli Matt Pompey Norm Werkheiser	PHF +3	Francis Turner Carol Ziomek
PHF +4	Thomas Kukuchka	PHF +8	Al Noble Dave Whipple

#### *100% Paul Harris Fellow Families*

Several Tunkhannock Rotarians have awarded Paul Harris Fellows to their family members. Aside from single individual families, there are 2 families who are now 100% Paul Harris Fellow Families (both partners and all children are Paul Harris Fellows).

Richard “Dick” Stark, currently an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock, celebrated a special Thanksgiving in 2013 with his family. He is especially blessed and thankful for his family and his experiences with Rotary. Dick is very passionate about and was a strong advocate for supporting the efforts to eradicate polio while he was Club President in 1981-1982.

Both his children were active in track and cross country in high school. Dick was fortunate to be able to watch his children participate in athletic events while other children around the world, stricken with polio, can barely walk. Following the family’s Thanksgiving dinner,



Dick gathered his family and friends together for a special Paul Harris presentation. Dick awarded Paul Harris Fellows to both his adult children, Rich Stark Jr. and Sarah Rhinard.

He explained the story of Paul Harris and importance of Service Above Self. Dick and his wife, Marilyn, are very proud of both children who are outstanding members of their communities. The Starks became a Tunkhannock Rotary 100% Paul Harris Family. Dick hopes that other Rotarians will be inspired to share the blessings from Rotary and support The Rotary Foundation.



**L to R:** Rich Stark, Jr., Dick Stark, Marilyn Stark and Sarah Rhinard

Rotarian Thomas Kukuchka arranged for his son, Jeffrey to become a Paul Harris Fellow at our June 2014 Officer Installation and Awards Banquet. Jeffrey was given his Paul Harris by long-time Rotarian Francis Turner. Jeffrey now joins, Tom, his wife June, and their other 2 sons, Kevin and Eric, as Paul Harris Fellows making the family a 100% Paul Harris Family.



**Left Photo (L to R):** Rotarian Fran Turner pins Jeffrey Kukuchka with his Paul Harris pin.

**Right Photo (L to R):** Most of the Kukuchka Family of Paul Harris Fellows. Kevin and June Kukuchka, Fran Turner, Jeffrey and Tom Kukuchka. Absent from the photo is Eric.



## Paul Harris Society

The Paul Harris Society was created in 1999 in District 5340.<sup>59</sup> The Paul Harris Society (PHS) recognizes Rotary members and friends of the Rotary Foundation who contribute \$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or approved Foundation global grants. This recognition was administered by Districts until the PHS became an official Rotary Foundation recognition program in July 2013. The purpose of the PHS is to identify, engage, and thank members who have the ability and desire to make substantial annual gifts that help communities around the world.

Three of our Club members are currently members of the Paul Harris Society: Karen Fuller, Al Noble and Carol Ziomek. A special PHS insignia is presented to all Paul Harris Society members and it can be worn with other pins, including the Paul Harris Fellow pin, Major Donor pin, Bequest Society pin, and Arch C. Klumph Society pin.



PDG Paul Muczynski, District 7410 Foundation Chair, presenting Past President Karen Fuller with her Paul Harris Society insignia. **Right:** the PHS insignia

## Major Donors

A Rotarian becomes a Major Donor, when their cumulative donations reach \$10,000. They can receive a crystal recognition piece (below) and a Major Donor lapel pin or pendant. Recognition items commemorate giving at these levels:



- Level 1: \$10,000 to \$24,999
- Level 2: \$25,000 to \$49,999
- Level 3: \$50,000 to \$99,999
- Level 4: \$100,000 to \$249,999

Three Tunkhannock Rotarians, PDG David Whipple, the late PDG Otto Keil Jr. and Al Noble, have achieved the distinction of Major Donor Level 1 status for their cumulative

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<sup>59</sup> From Rotary International Zones 24-32 Beyond Borders Jan 2015 Newsletter.

contribution of over \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Dave achieved Level 1 Major Donor status on March 12, 2003, Otto on April 23, 2007 and Al on Jan 16, 2013.

Dave was recognized as a Level 1 Major Donor at the 2003 District Awards event.

Otto was recognized as a Level 1 Major Donor at the May 17, 2009 District Awards event.

Al and his wife Sheila were honored at the March 2013 District Foundation Recognition Banquet at Shadowbrook Inn & Resort. Al received an engraved crystal piece from former RI President (1996-1997) and Rotary Foundation Trustee (1990-1993) Luis Vicente Gay to recognize this accomplishment.



**L to R:** District Foundation Chair Ted Silver, 2012-2013 District Governor Art Peoples, Sheila and Al Noble and Past RI President Luis Vicente Gay

### **Benefactor**

A Rotarian becomes a Benefactor, when they include the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in their estate plans or when they donate \$1,000 or more to the fund outright. Benefactors receive a certificate and insignia to wear with a Rotary or Paul Harris Fellow pin.

Two Tunkhannock Rotarians have achieved Benefactor recognition in the Rotary Foundation. Dave Whipple achieved Benefactor Level in Nov 2006 and Carol Ziomek achieved Benefactor Level in Oct 2014.

## Bequest Society



A Rotarians attains Bequest Society membership, when they give \$10,000 or more via their estate plans. All society members receive recognition from the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and donors can receive an engraved crystal recognition piece (left) and a Bequest Society pin.

- \$10,000 to \$24,999.99 — level 1
- \$25,000 to \$49,999.99 — level 2
- \$50,000 to \$99,999.99 — level 3
- \$100,000 to \$249,999.99 — level 4
- \$250,000 to \$499,999.99 — level 5
- \$500,000 to \$999,999.99 — level 6
- \$1,000,000 and more — level 7

At the Nov 15 2014 District 7410 Foundation Recognition Luncheon, Tunkhannock Rotarian Carol Ziomek was recognized as a new member of the Bequest Society. Carol was presented with an engraved piece of crystal by District Governor Carol Hemphill and pinned by Past Rotary Foundation Trustee (PRFT) Stephanie Urchick. PRFT Stephanie also presented Carol with the last of the Arch C. Klumph commemorative medals that she has been distributing to new Bequest Society members.



**L to R:** PDG and District Foundation Chair Paul Muczynski, 2014-2015 DG Carol Hemphill, Carol Ziomek and Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Stephanie Urchick

## Polio Plus

In 1985, the Polio Plus program was begun within the Rotary Foundation to raise funds to immunize children worldwide against polio.

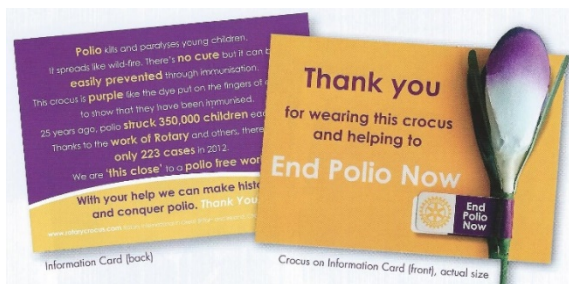
Through Polio Plus, Rotary is a leading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more recently the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary has helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children, mobilized public support, and contributed over US \$1 billion in the effort. Polio cases have dropped 99 percent since 1988 when the GPEI began.

Although Rotary joined the GPEI in 1988, Rotary had already been collecting money for polio eradication dating back to 1928. According to a newspaper article, Tunkhannock Rotarians raised \$35,000 for the Polio Plus Program in 1985<sup>60</sup>, when it became an official project within the Rotary Foundation.

The Club continues to donate money each year to the Polio Plus Program and even family members have gotten involved in raising money for this cause as shown in the photo below<sup>61</sup>.



*Beautician and wife of Tunkhannock Rotary Club President Harry Sharpe, Dorothy pictured cutting Governor Dave's hair. Dorothy donated the proceeds of the entire day's shearings to the PolioPlus Campaign. Dorothy has sent over \$200 to the campaign's chair, Dick Wagener. Rumor has it that she may provide this service again.*



In 2014, the Club introduced a new fundraising activity to provide more money for this Program. On Founder's Day in June 2014, the Club sold fabric purple crocus pins/boutonnieres. The purple crocus pins were created and used by Rotary clubs in England as a highly successful fund-and

<sup>60</sup> "Rotary celebrates 75 years of community service" New Age Examiner, Aug 23, 2000.

<sup>61</sup> Taken from District 7410 Governor's newsletter 2002-2003.



awareness-raising vehicle to attract donations for polio eradication. The crocus was chosen as their purple color matched the dye painted on the fingers of children who have been immunized against polio.

The Club sold out the initial 50 purple crocus boutonniere/pins within 2 hr. The pins were purchased for \$0.50 and sold for a minimum of \$1.00, although several people donated more than the \$1.00 to this cause.

Due to the success of the purple crocus pin sale at Founder's Day, it was decided to continue this activity at the 2014 Harvest Festival, where over 400 pins were sold to benefit the Polio Plus/End Polio Now program.

In addition to the pin sale, the club painted people's pinkies purple (as they do when they immunize a child against polio) for a small donation for polio eradication.



2014-2015 President Norm Kelly getting his pinkie painted purple by Jennifer Williamson



**L to R:** Rotarians AG George Gay, Festival Chair Ron Furman and Dave Wilson proudly showing off their purple pinkies in 2014



In addition to the Club contributing to Polio Plus annually, the Rotary sponsored Tunkhannock High School Interact Club also holds at least 1 fund-raiser (including a previous purple pinkie event) to benefit the End Polio Now campaign.



## Vocational Service

Vocational Service Month is observed each October to emphasize the involvement of clubs in the everyday practice of the ideals of vocational service.

The Club invites at least one speaker each October to present on their vocation at one of our regular Club meetings in addition to the monthly speakers who address this subject as part of their presentations to the Club. Several Club members have also given special presentations on their current or previous occupations.

Over the history of the Club, many Tunkhannock Rotarians have used their vocational talents to benefit the Club and to help make our fundraising efforts successful. The following list is not a full compilation of our Rotarians providing Vocational Service to our Club, but just provides a few more recent examples:

- Matt Pompey, co-owner of Tunkhannock Auto Mart, has donated used cars to our Auctions and is using his expertise in marketing and advertising to advance our Drug Take Back Day outreach efforts.
- Lawyer Jami Hearn has been writing the documents for the establishment of the Tunkhannock Rotary Foundation and has been our recent by-laws editor.
- Insurance agents Al Noble and Samantha Maruzzelli, have been finding the most economical means to insure our Club for events not covered by Rotary insurance and to bond our Club Treasurer.
- Glenn Holcombe, a professional photographer, has been creating our Posters, brochure and takes photographs at some of our major annual Club events.
- Sandra Lane, former business manager for Tunkhannock Area School District, manages the finances of the Club as Club Treasurer and serves as vendor chair (& Treasurer) for the Harvest & Wine Festival.
- Bank VP Karen Fuller was Club Treasurer for many years and is now head of the Club's Finance Committee.

In addition, each Club meeting begins with the recitation of the 4-Way Test to remind members about the ethical ideals to strive for in their business and personal interactions.

The Club also expanded its scholarship program for graduating Tunkhannock Area High School seniors to include a vocational scholarship, in addition to the academic scholarship awarded each year.

As part of the District's Vocational Services Program, the Club sent students to the Leadership Camps and more recently to RYLA as will be discussed in the Youth Services section.



## Community Service

As stated previously, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock was established to “afford a medium by which community welfare movements could be fostered in an intelligent and effective way”. As the first service organization in Tunkhannock, the Club embarked on a variety of community service activities that personified the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self”. Few records are available from the early years of the Club except for a few community service programs that were reported in the local newspapers or in the Rotarian magazine. The older service programs are presented in chronological order below.

### **1926 - 1935 Civic and Community Affairs**

In the early years of the Club, matters of civic and community concern were among the topics of the Club meetings.

The Club discussed and communicated to state and local officials on such subjects as a resolution favoring the re-routing of the Roosevelt Highway such that it would run from Tunkhannock through Nicholson, Glenwood and Royal to Carbondale rather than by way of Clark Summit and Scranton to Carbondale (April 30 1926 meeting). They argued that it would be more advantageous being shorter, with less grades and less traffic congestion and that it would be of great benefit to these localities.<sup>62</sup>

On Aug 8, 1929, the Rotary Clubs of Tunkhannock and Montrose were part of the celebration to open the new 22 mile highway (Route 29) between Tunkhannock and Montrose. The Clubs sponsored a parade of cars. Approximately 100 cars left Tunkhannock and motored through Montrose and then turned back and stopped at Springville. A similar number of cars left Montrose, traveled to Tunkhannock and headed back to Springville, where a buffet lunch was served with speeches and addresses from state and local officials.<sup>63</sup>

On Aug 17, 1935, the Club appointed a committee to consult with WPA district engineer Harry S. Dwyer to consider elimination of two local grade crossings of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. In addition to concerns for safety, it would eliminate the blowing of the train whistle at the crossings. The committee included: Clarence Boston (chair), Bradley W. Lewis and Lynn Eheart.<sup>64</sup>

### **Christmas Food Baskets<sup>65</sup>**

Beginning sometime during the late 1920's, the Club joined together with local churches and the Order of the Eastern Star to collect food for needy families at Christmas time. It was

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<sup>62</sup> “Rotary Passed Resolutions.” Tunkhannock Republican, May 6, 1926.

<sup>63</sup> “New Artery of Travels Opens to Traffic Today” The Scranton Republican. Aug 8, 1929.

<sup>64</sup> “Tunkhannock Rotary Names Committee to Consult WPA Engineer” The Wilkes-Barre Record, Aug 17, 1935.

<sup>65</sup> Tunkhannock Republican, Dec. 17, 1931; Dec. 29, 1932 and Dec. 28, 1933.

reported in the Tunkhannock Republican on Dec. 28, 1933 that the Club had continued its annual food basket tradition.

*“The saying of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than receive is just as true today as it was when he uttered it nearly 2,000 years ago. The Rotary Club, following its annual custom, sponsored the movement to give out baskets of food to the needy ones here in time for the recipients to prepare it for their Christmas dinner. There were 55 baskets given out, each filled with chicken or other meats and all the trimmings. Not only Rotarians but others contributed money or groceries to the project.”*

This tradition continued until 1979, when the Club discontinued the program due to too much overlap with other local organizations<sup>66</sup>. An alternate community service project was explored.

### **1930s to ~1964 – Farmer’s Dinners**

Beginning in the 1930s, the Club invited area farmers to a Farmer’s Evening with dinner and a guest speaker of interest to the farming community.

For example in 1933, the guest speaker was William Sick of Dushore who talked about “Milk Problems”.

In 1939, it was an evening for dinner and entertainment with the singing led by Griffith Jenkins, with Roy Gardner on piano and Lawrence Darling of Nicholson playing the accordion.

The Farmers Dinners continued until around 1964, when they were stopped due to lack of interest in the Tunkhannock area.

### **1943 – Honor Roll of World War II Service Men and Women<sup>6768</sup>**

During the week of April 22, 1943, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club sponsored the erection of an honor roll with a partial listing of the names of local men and women serving in the armed services during World War II. The honor roll was constructed of wood and situated on Court House Square alongside the soldiers and sailors monument. Harry H. Smith was the artist. The dedication was postponed until a later date. White crosses were placed in front of the honor roll to remember those who died in the war.

Several times over the war time frame, wings were added to the honor roll to add the names of additional service men and women.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Minutes of the Tunkhannock Rotary Meeting, Nov 29, 1979.

<sup>67</sup> Tunkhannock Republican and New Age, April 22, 1943.

<sup>68</sup> “Memorial Field Plans Await Response of the Public” Tunkhannock Republican and New Age, Feb. 23, 1950.

<sup>69</sup> Tunkhannock Republican and New Age, Nov. 25, 1943.

During the Memorial Day Service on May 30, 1944 on the Court House lawn, the honor roll was finally dedicated by then Tunkhannock Rotary Club President Stanley deWitt and Rev. Morrison Rider.<sup>70</sup>

By the Fall of 1949, the wooden honor roll was so weathered that it had become an eye-sore. It was decided to remove it from the Court House lawn.

At that time, the Rotary Club began to look for an alternate way to honor the service men and women. It was decided that a “living memorial” would be the best way to honor them, rather than a plaque or monument. The idea of a Memorial Field for athletic events was then proposed. However, the project was deemed too large for a single organization to undertake, so it would need to become a community project.

Rotarian George (Papa) Gay had already been thinking about and planning such an athletic field with lights for night time games and athletic facilities. His plans were discussed with local officials and other organizations, but it was 4 years before the project was to move forward.

#### **1954 - Lighting Equipment at Memorial Park<sup>7172737475</sup>**

In 1954, plans were finally put in place for the development of a Memorial Park,

*“A Living and Useful Memorial In Honor and Memory of All Who Have Served Their Beloved County.”<sup>76</sup>*

The Park was initially planned to be used for baseball, football, softball and track and field events, as well as, musical extravaganzas and commencement activities. Since it was built with community funds, it was also stated that it could be used for community events in addition to the School events. The Park would be managed by the School Board, representing the 9 Districts.

The Rotary decided to begin fundraising for the erection of lighting equipment at the Park that would better allow night events and games to be played there. Rotary initiated the drive for finances for the lighting equipment with a kickoff dinner on March 27, 1954 with \$4,260 donated by 34 Rotarians. Sixty individuals attended the dinner.

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<sup>70</sup> “Memorial Day Service”, Tunkhannock Republican and New Age May 25, 1944.

<sup>71</sup> Tunkhannock Republican, April 1, 1954.

<sup>72</sup> Tunkhannock Republican, April 5, 1954.

<sup>73</sup> “Park Dedication Set”, Tunkhannock Republican, Sept. 9, 1954.

<sup>74</sup> “Huge Crowd at Park Opening” Tunkhannock Republican, Sept 23, 1954.

<sup>75</sup> From 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation by Eugene Milnes.

<sup>76</sup> From the program for the Dedication of Tunkhannock Memorial Park, Sept 27, 1954.



A total of \$16,500 was raised from the local community for the Memorial Park project which now also included a Memorial Arch at the entrance to the Park. Several Rotarians were on the committee that designed the Memorial Arch part of the project.

All labor was donated by people in the community, Penelec, <sup>77</sup> Commonwealth Telephone Company (CTCO), and Rotarians. High school students helped clear the land and lay out the first baseball diamond.

The workers from Penelec and CTCO climbed the 90 ft long poles that were brought in special from the west via rail to support the lighting equipment. Rotarians and town residents helped in any way they could to complete the installations for the Park.



Installation of the lights on the 90 ft high poles<sup>78</sup>

By the time that the Park was dedicated, an estimated \$37,000 had been spent on the new, lighted athletic field. A flagpole located inside the park entrance had been contributed by the Dennis Strong Post, American Legion. The planning committee for the Dedication was chaired by Albert G. Slocum.

Prior to the dedication ceremony on Friday evening September 17, 1954, a military parade (including the 465<sup>th</sup> Transport Truck Company of Scranton, the 885<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company and the 401<sup>st</sup> Signal Company, both of Wilkes-Barre) was held that ended at the Park with a flyover by P-51 fighter planes from the 148<sup>th</sup> Flyer Squadron in Reading.

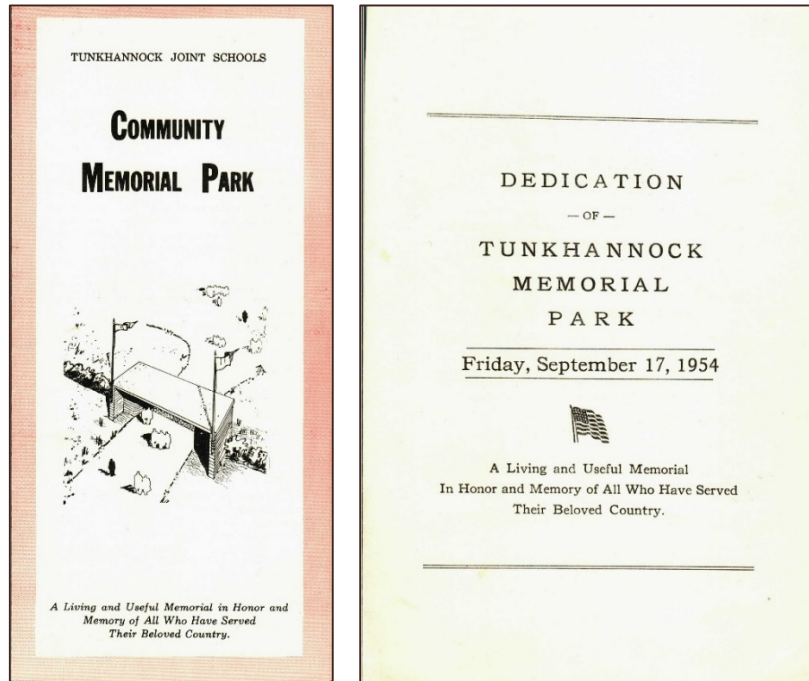
An estimated crowd of over 2,000 people attended the dedication and first Tunkhannock High School football game at the Park.

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<sup>77</sup> From the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Booklet.

<sup>78</sup> Photos from Eugene Milne's Presentation for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club.

The Master of Ceremonies for the dedication was Rotary President Cecil Krewson, Jr. (who succeeded Clarence J Fitze as Rotary President). Rev. Robert Smyrl gave the invocation.



(Courtesy of Judd Fitze)

Congressman, Hon. Joseph Carrigg introduced the keynote speaker Col Trimble Brown, who thought the Park was an appropriate memorial to the servicemen as it represented

*“one of the important phases of the way of life these men fought to protect.”*



Dedication ceremony with (l to r) President Cecil Krewson, Jr. at the podium, the Hon. Joseph Carrigg, Col Trimble Brown & Rev. Robert Smyrl (Photo courtesy of Judd Fitze)

After the ceremony, the Tunkhannock Tigers took to the football field against the Westmoreland team. The Tigers won the game 39-13, bringing the celebration to an outstanding climax.

### **1981 - Field House Project**

On Sept 10, 1981, Rotary President Richard Stark informed the School District that the Rotary Club had approved a commitment of \$3,000 toward the erection of a Field House at Memorial Park.

Rotary took a leadership role in implementing the project and in obtaining funding from other community service clubs.<sup>79</sup>

The Rotarians also took a hands-on approach and physically helped with building and completing the field house in 1982.

### **1983 to present - July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks Display**

For over 30 years<sup>80</sup>, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has presented an outstanding Fireworks display on July 3<sup>rd</sup> for everyone in Tunkhannock and the surrounding areas at the Memorial Park. Families and friends picnic on the lawn and enjoy each other's company. Admission is free, although donations are gratefully accepted to help fund the next year's Fireworks.

In 1992, a \$3 per vehicle parking charge was instituted and in 1997, the Club decided to sell glow wands to help defray the cost of the Fireworks, since donations did not equal costs.<sup>81</sup> The Club also ran a food stand to generate income until it was turned over to the Senior Class in 2011.<sup>82</sup> The sale of glow wands was turned over to the Senior Class in 2015.

As Fireworks event chair for 2007, Tom Kukuchka announced that there would be a new twist that year, which included entertainment for those partaking of the light show. He remarked in an article in the Wyoming County Press Examiner:

*"This brings family's together to celebrate the Fourth of July, even if it is early. We would like to encourage people to come down to the field for the entertainment."*

In 2007 and 2008, the entertainment was provided by the Jimmy Welch Band and GEM 107.7 FM broadcast from the event. Beginning in 2008, both the Jimmy Welch and amRadio bands performed. In more recent years, the music has been provided by amRadio until it is dark enough for the fireworks.

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<sup>79</sup> From 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation by Eugene Milnes.

<sup>80</sup> The first mention of the Fireworks in the Board of Directors Minutes was 1983.

<sup>81</sup> From July 7, 1992 and April 9, 1997 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes.

<sup>82</sup> From May 17, 2011 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes



Preceding the fireworks is the presentation of the flags by an honor guard of former members of the armed services, including Rotarian Fran Turner. Then the fireworks display begins.



Presentation of the Flags by the Honor Guard (photos courtesy of BP Wind Energy)

Every year, generous businesses in Tunkhannock and Wyoming County (including P&G, Deer Park Lumber, etc.) have provided sponsorships to help defray the cost of this event, although some years since 2009, some costs have been covered by the proceeds from the Annual Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival. In 2014 and 2015, the Club was the recipient of a significant financial donation from PB Wind Energy that helped fund this event.





Rotarians and Interactors at Fireworks 2014



The 2014 Fireworks display (photos courtesy of BP Wind Energy)

### **Ongoing - Spring and Fall Road Side Clean-ups**

Although the Club investigated the possibility of participating in the Adopt a Highway Program in 1994, it may have not been until 1997 that the Club decided to join this program when the 2 mile stretch of Route 6 from the Fireplace Restaurant to Russell Hill became available for adoption.<sup>83</sup>

For at least the last 18 years, twice a year, usually in the Spring and Fall, Tunkhannock Rotarians clean-up both sides of the roadside along Route 6 from the Fireside Restaurant to beyond Route 87 towards Meshoppen. Although much of the material found is garbage and debris, other more interesting things have also been found such as money, shoes, pants and miscellaneous items. All money found is donated to the Club.

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<sup>83</sup> From Jan 11, 1994 and Apr 9, 1997 Board of Director's Minutes





L to R: Year 2000 Clean up Crew (Bart Blankers exchange student in center)  
and a Fall Clean up Crew (pre-2000)



April 2012 Road-side Clean-up Crew



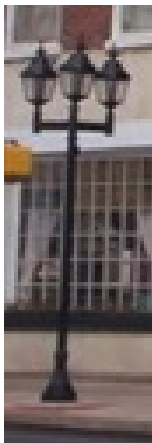
Fall 2013 Road-side Clean-up Crew



Spring 2015 Road side Clean-up Crew, including Indian Exchange Student Shiv Naik

### **Downtown Tunkhannock Business District Benches, Light and Clean-up**

In 2005 during Pat Ehrenzeller's Presidency and as part of Tunkhannock's Centennial Streetscape Project, 11 benches were purchased by the Club for placement in prime locations in the downtown revitalized business district. Upon their arrival, the benches were assembled by the students at St. Michael's School, metal Rotary emblems were attached and the benches placed in the town's Tioga St. business district. The first bench was placed in front of the Prince Hotel, where Club meetings were held.<sup>84</sup>



In addition to the benches, the Club also sponsored a 3-bulb street lamp for the Streetscape project. The location selected for the lamp was the corner of Tioga and Bridge Streets in front of the Prince Hotel.

In the Tunkhannock Heritage Communities Program documentation, some of the elements noted by the inspection committee were the visible benches and street lamps in the business district.

*The business district is inviting to travelers with its attractive street lamps, flags, and building facades, in addition to the interspersed benches, street trees, and trash receptacles throughout.*<sup>85</sup>

Annually, a group of Rotarians inspect, tighten and when necessary re-paint the benches.

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<sup>84</sup> From Board minutes of March, May, Sept and Oct 2005.

<sup>85</sup> Tunkhannock Community Workplan pp 56-57. Tunkhannock Heritage Communities Program 2011.



In 2010 and 2011, the Club donated a total of \$700 for Town Clean Up. In 2010, the money was designated for the purchase of topsoil for the planting areas downtown.

The Club has also supported trees for Arbor Day and the Tree Association.

### **Welcome to Tunkhannock and Rotary Signage**

As mentioned in the minutes of multiple Board of Directors meetings over the last 50 years, the Club has been actively involved in sponsoring, solely or in cooperation with other local organizations, Welcome to Tunkhannock signage at the outskirts of the town. References to signage can be found in minutes from the 1960s through 2009. These reference include selection and contracts for sign locations and maintenance, interactions with the town officials to get the appropriate permits and discussions with Penn Dot to get signs erected when their help was necessary.

Sometime in the 1990's, the Club commissioned Rotarian Eugene Milnes to design a Welcome to Tunkhannock sign for placement on what is now the Route 6 by-pass across from Dunkin Donuts. The sign remained in place until several years ago when it needed to be refurbished. The sign has since been re-erected near its former location.

In 2005 during the Presidency of Patricia Ehrenzeller, the Club funded the replacement of 2 of the 5 Welcome to Tunkhannock Signs at a cost of over \$6,000. In addition in 2006, Rotary purchased a sign for the Creekside area and in 2007, for Route 92 at a similar cost.



In 2009, Rotary signage was purchased for Routes 29 and 6 to advertise that Tunkhannock had a Rotary Club.

## Upgrades at Lazybrook Park



Lazybrook Park is a public recreation facility provided by Tunkhannock Township with funding assistance from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, which included our Rotary Club.

In 1999, the Tunkhannock Rotary donated materials to help with the Lazybrook Acres Forest Health Assessment Project to improve the health of vegetation on the site and along the Creek. Efforts included: selective removal of non-native vegetation, reduction of stream bank erosion, enhancement of stream bank buffer and identification and labeling of existing plantings.<sup>86</sup>

The Club also applied for and was awarded 2 District Grants in 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 to add electrical hook-ups to allow larger Festivals and community events to be held at the Park, especially those involving music and food vendors. The area that was electrified is used by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, Antique Tractor Club, Blue Grass concert, Native American pow wows, and the local high school among others. These upgrades provided benefits to the community in that it helps various functions/activities attract visitors into the area throughout the Summer and Fall, benefiting shop keepers, campgrounds, restaurants and area hotels.

In 2009-2010 during the Presidency of Ron Flatness, the Club was awarded \$1,000 from District Designated Grant Funds for Phase 1 of this project with the Club contributing a \$1,000 match. Since the total cost for this electrical upgrade was \$7,500, other organizations such as Chesapeake Energy, the Antique Tractor Club and the Blue Grass Club also provided some funds for the project.

In 2012-2013 during the Presidency of Bill Barber, the Club was awarded an additional \$1,000 from District Designated Grant Funds for Phase 2 of this project to extend the electrical hook-ups deeper into the Park, with the Club contributing \$4,362.

In Feb 2011, the Club spent \$2,000 to purchase 10 picnic tables for placement in the Park.<sup>87</sup> The picnic tables are utilized during the Harvest and Wine Festival.

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<sup>86</sup> USDA Forest Service, Stat and Private Forestry, Northeastern Area – Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program 1999 - Small Grants p. 53.

<sup>87</sup> From Feb 15, 2011 Board of Director's Minutes.



**Right:** 2011 Sign for Lazybrook Park acknowledging Rotary's Power Upgrade Project.  
**Left:** One of the Rotary sponsored picnic tables in use during the Harvest & Wine Festival

## Founders' Day

Founders' Day is an annual event celebrating Tunkhannock's heritage that was started 33 years ago by Gay's True Value (owned by Rotarian George Day) to encourage commerce in town.<sup>88</sup> More than 150 vendors line Tioga Street and some side streets with arts, crafts, food, etc. Many of the artisans demonstrate their art and skills. There are also live music acts and local food specialties.

Since at least June 2009<sup>89</sup>, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has had a booth at Founder's Day. The Club provides information on Rotary, our Rotary Club and in 2014 premiered our new Rotary brochure. The Club also uses Founders' Day to kick-off the sale of tickets for our Annual October Harvest and Wine Festival.

In 2014, the Club sold fabric purple crocus pins/boutonnieres to raise money for the End Polio Now campaign. This pilot sale was so successful that the pins sold out within 2 hrs. Members manning the booth were touched by the stories from the more mature members of the public, who stopped to talk about how their own lives were touched by someone in their family or neighborhood who contracted polio.

For the children who stopped by the booth, it was a great opportunity to teach them a little about a disease that has been eradicated in the US and about which many have never heard, but which could return if not completely eradicated worldwide.

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<sup>88</sup> From June 26, 2015 Wyoming County Advance article: " Founders' Day returns to T-Town"

<sup>89</sup> Fran Turner's April 2009 Meeting Minutes.





**Left (l to r):** Al Noble, Pat Ehrenzeller and Norm Werkheiser at 2010 booth  
**Right (l to r):** Norm Kelly, Jeanne Brady, George Gay and Barbara Yuhas at 2012 booth



**Left photo (l to r):** 2013 Founders' Day booth manned by Dave Wilson, Ruth Gorski, Norm Werkheiser and Karen Fuller **Right photo (l to r):** Rotarians Jennifer Williamson, Dave Wilson and President Karen Fuller with the purple crocus pins laid out on the table and the new brochure at 2014 Founders' Day.

### Wyoming County Fair Booth, Saturday Gate and Donations

Labor Day weekend brings the Wyoming County Fair sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The old Wyoming County Fair that had closed in 1942, was revived by the Kiwanis in 1985 and moved to its current location in Meshoppen in 1991.

The year that the Fair sold shares, the Club purchased some and has received free tickets and parking passes to the Fair each year as a result. These tickets are donated to the families hosting our exchange students and to the Triton Firehouse for them to distribute as they see fit. Some years, tickets were also provided to families in the Habitat for Humanity Program and a few were used by Rotarians.

Over the years, the Club has contributed funds to the Fair (see photo below) and to help cover repairs to: a barn roof, 4H Hall ceiling & new lighting and an additional building

ceiling & lighting repairs.<sup>90</sup> In 1991, the Club was also responsible for erecting a snow fence at the Fairgrounds.



For many years, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock had a booth at the Fair at which they promoted Rotary and raised money through several raffles. Examples of the type of items raffled were a laptop computer with printer and a signed Penn State football in 2002.

In 1991, the Club made and sold funnel cakes at its Fair booth, but the \$1,000 income was deemed too little for the work involved<sup>91</sup>, so there were no funnel cakes at the Rotary Booth the next year.

For 3-4 years, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club also sponsored an Antique Car Show at the Wyoming County Fair. The organizers included Rotarians Wayne Krause, Fran Turner and Otto Keil. Forty to 50 antique and classic cars were on display and the Club awarded trophies to outstanding cars in several categories.

Up to the present, on the Saturday of the Fair, volunteers from the Club help man some of the ticket booths at the entrances to the Wyoming County Fairgrounds.

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<sup>90</sup> From July 21, 2009, June 15, 2010 and April 14, 2011 Board of Director's Meeting minutes

<sup>91</sup> From Aug 6, 1991 Board of Director's Meeting minutes





L to R: Fran Turner and Harry Sharpe in 2013 ticket booth. Aaron Hovan putting on wristbands in 2013



L to R: Jeannie Brady and Pat Ehrenzeller at Fairgrounds in 2013

### **Anti Drug Abuse Programs**

Over the years, the Club has supported various anti-drug abuse initiatives in Wyoming County, including the Wyoming County Detective Unit D.A.R.E. program, the drug offenders program and the Wyoming County Drug Take Back program.

#### *Wyoming County Detective Unit D.A.R.E. Program*

In his presentation for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2000, Eugene Milnes noted that the Rotary Club has supported the Wyoming County Detective Unit D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program<sup>92</sup> over the years. This was confirmed by notations in the minutes of various Club Board of Director's minutes and budgets over at least a 10 year period.

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<sup>92</sup> From 75th Anniversary Presentation by Eugene Milnes.

The D.A.R.E. program<sup>93</sup> began in the Los Angeles police department in 1983. It teaches students good decision-making skills to help children lead safe and responsible lives. A D.A.R.E. Instructor must be a uniformed law enforcement officer.

The D.A.R.E. middle school curriculum is comprised of 10 lessons, designed to be taught in 45 to 60 minute time periods. The topics discussed with the children are about good decision making, defining problems, responsible choices, responding to pressures, communication styles, the five W's of reporting events and avoiding risky situations. In order to graduate from D.A.R.E., the students must attend classes, complete a handbook, write a D.A.R.E. essay and be a good citizen.

In Oct 1994 early files from the Wyoming County Examiner, it mentioned that:

*“The Tunkhannock Rotary donated a color television and VCR to the Wyoming County DARE program recently.”*

This equipment was necessary to help the Wyoming County Detective Unit give presentations on drug abuse in the schools and other venues.

On at least one occasion, Rotarians judged the D.A.R.E. essays and at least twice provided \$50 savings bonds for the children writing the winning essays (1999 and 2010<sup>94</sup>). At some point, the D.A.R.E. may have been discontinued in the Middle School and thus Rotary funding for this activity ceased.



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<sup>93</sup> From <http://www.dare.org/starting-a-dare-program/>

<sup>94</sup> Minutes of April 24, 1999 and June 15, 2010 Board of Director's Minutes



At a presentation to our Club on April 1, 2010, Detective Rich Seaberg, Tunkhannock School District's Resource Officer for all grades, indicated that the D.A.R.E. program was reinstituted in the Middle School.

According to the Middle School website, this program is still ongoing in the Tunkhannock Area School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade under the direction of Rich Seaberg. This is program that the Club is re-considering for funding once more to enhance our anti-drug abuse area of focus.

#### *Drug Offender's Program-Drug Court*

Wyoming/Sullivan Counties have a drug court<sup>95</sup>. The goal of these courts is to directly address the problems, such as addiction, that bring a defendant into a court system. These courts involve a unique approach where the judge, public defender, district attorney, probation, counselor, law enforcement, and a community liaison sit on a team to address the needs of accepted defendants.

Only non-violent defendants can be admitted. A defendant still pleads guilty and is sentenced, but the sentence is deferred pending completion of the program. If they complete the program, they do not go to jail. If they do not complete the program, the defendant must serve the original sentence.

Court programs require intensive supervision based on frequent drug testing and court appearances, and implement tightly structured treatment processes and recovery services. The two year program focuses on treatment, helps those in it to get their GED diplomas, works on employment skills and education and helps them establish a more stable home environment.

Since at least 2010, the Tunkhannock Rotary has been providing annual financial support for the Wyoming County drug offender's program or drug court.

#### *Wyoming County Drug Take Back Program Community Outreach*

The Club's most ambitious program to date to try to reduce prescription drug abuse is outreach for the Wyoming County Drug Take Back Program. Drug Take Back Days (originally coordinated by the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency - DEA) take place twice a year in Wyoming County. Although the Wyoming County District Attorney's (DA) office runs this program, and is responsible for the collection, security and proper disposal of the drugs, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club helps the DA's office educate the public about this important program to clean old, expired or no longer needed prescription drugs out of people's medicine cabinets. Most abused prescription drugs come from family and friends. Any one of us could become a drug dealer and not even know it.

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<sup>95</sup> <http://www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/drug-courts>

The program has been in operation in Wyoming County since 2010. In March 2014, in cooperation with the DA's office, a Tunkhannock Rotary committee led by Matt Pompey took responsibility for all public relations and advertisement for this program, including:

- distribution of posters to local businesses to advertise the event,
- public service announcements that aired over 250 times on 10 radio stations,
- newspaper articles and ads highlighting the dangers of these unneeded medications, especially for the young,
- radio interviews on the program and
- communications with civic organizations, Tyler Memorial Hospital administrators and church clergy who alerted their membership at meetings, from the pulpit and in their newsletters.

Two very successful Drug Take Back Days were held in 2014 at CVS and Lech's Pharmacies in Tunkhannock and Lech's Pharmacy in Laceyville. In 2015, Lech's Pharmacy in Nicholson was added as a collection point.

When Wyoming County District Attorney Jeff Mitchell spoke to the Club on Aug 14, 2014, he reported that April 2014's Drug Take Back Day resulted in the collection of 131 pounds (Table 11) of drugs from people's medicine cabinets, significantly more drugs than ever before.

Detective David Ide from the DA's office credited the amazing turnout and success of the April 2014's collections to the educational outreach conducted by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club. Many people said they never knew this program existed and were thankful for all the information the Club provided prior to Drug Take Back Day. As a result, the DA's office indicated that the Club made a big difference and asked for the Club's continued educational and outreach support for this twice annual program.

**Table 11 Drugs Collected on Drug Take Back Days after Rotary's Outreach Efforts**

Collection Date	Lbs of Drugs Collected
April 2014	131
Sept 2014	162.5
May 2015	> 300

Table 11 shows that the program has been becoming increasingly successful as we expand our community outreach efforts. Since the program began in 2010, about 1,000 pounds of pills and drugs have been collected on designated collection days. The first collections cumulatively took approximately 400 pounds of prescription drugs out of people's medicine cabinets. The last 3 collections that occurred after the Rotary Club took responsibility for the community outreach efforts accounted for almost 600 pounds of pills and drugs, demonstrating the power of the Club collaborating with the DA's office to educate and inform the community.

Committee Chair Matt Pompey has given presentations at several Rotary Clubs on the Tunkhannock Rotary Drug Take Back Outreach Project and at District 7410 Conference on April 25, 2015. Matt's talk was aimed at encouraging more Rotary Clubs to get involved in community outreach efforts for their county Drug Take Back events. He directed attendees to the display that was set up on the project in the Hospitality Suite and to the rack cards that described the Program with details on how to get more information.



Matt Pompey giving his presentation and with the Drug Take Back Project Display

### Senior Citizens' Programs

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, Rotary funded a picnic for seniors at the Roadside rest on Route 29 and also provided transportation for senior citizens to a program held at the school.

In 1989, the Club made arrangements to present a 55 gallon fish tank and fish to the Carpenter Care Center. At the same time, plans were made to take people from the Susquehanna Apartments to the Tunkhannock Library Musical.

In addition, the Club supported the Dial-a-Driver Program that was discontinued in the early 80s and the Meals on Wheels Program for shut-ins.

Other senior citizen programs have also been supported with Club funds.

### Miscellaneous Programs

Several "ongoing" projects during the first 90 years included support for several health initiatives such as: a poison control center at Tyler Hospital and glaucoma and blood pressure testing.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Rotary Club of Tunkhannock Golden Jubilee program - 1975

In meeting minutes, it was noted that the Rotary Club helped fund the replacement of the liners at the Riverside Park Ice Rink<sup>97</sup> on at least 3 occasions. The ice rink provides winter fun for our exchange students, some of whom have never seen snow or ice skated before.



**L to R:** Skaters on the ice rink and 1998 Australian exchange student Suzanne Mortimore enjoying the skating.

In 2009, the Club donated \$200 towards a playground for Tunkhannock Township, the location of Lazybrook Park used for our Harvest and Wine Festival.<sup>98</sup>

#### DONATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Each year, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club makes donations to local charitable and service organizations in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County and our Nation, such as, the Boy and Girl Scouts, Tunkhannock Public Library, Dietrich Theatre, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Friends, Wyoming County Children & Youth, Special Olympics and the Victim Resource Center (to name just a few of the recipient organizations).

Additional donations are made for the sponsorship of scholarships, exchange students and student leadership clubs that will be described in a later section under Youth Services.

These donations are funded from the proceeds from the events sponsored by the Club during the year and by additional monetary donations from Club members. Due to the great success of the 2014 Tunkhannock Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival, the Club was able to increase its donations in 2014-2015 to several local charitable and service organizations and add some new ones to the list.

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<sup>97</sup> From meeting minutes it appears that this was done on at least 3 occasions (1976, 2005 and 2010) but the minutes are incomplete so it could have occurred on several more occasions.

<sup>98</sup> From April 21, 2009 Board of Director's meeting minutes.



## **Tyler Memorial Hospital**

As mentioned previously, the Club supported for many years the poison control center at Tyler Memorial Hospital. In an article in the Feb 14, 1974 New Age, a letter from Tyler Hospital to Rotary President Fran Turner was published in which the Hospital publically thanked the Club for its support for the poison control center at the Emergency Room.

In 1979, this program became the Joint Community Service Project that funded a free clinic for glaucoma, hypertension and diabetes screening. The Club continued to provide funding to this endeavor through 1983.

In 2006, the Club received a matching District 7410 grant of \$1,000 for a special project at Tyler Memorial Hospital to help them acquire an upgraded software for control of drug dispensing. The club matched the grant money, so that \$2,000 was donated to the Hospital for this project.

In 2007, Tyler Memorial Hospital began a capital improvement fund-raising campaign to expand/renovate portions of the hospital. The Tunkhannock Rotary Club made a 3 year commitment to donate a total of \$25,000 over that period.



Rotary Donation to Tyler Memorial Hospital: Rotarian Al Noble on the extreme right side

## **Victims Resource Center**

Victims Resource Center (VRC) is a private, non-profit organization that has helped clients of all ages from children to the elderly, both male and female, including victims of child sexual abuse. The Center provides one on one counseling, crisis intervention, support groups and support through the criminal justice system.

Janet MacKay, Executive Director of VRC, provides the Club with an annual update regarding the role and activities of the VRC in Wyoming County. Since at least 1989, the

Club has donated approximately \$100 (1989-2012) or \$500 (2013-2014) to VRC most years. In 2015, the Club was able to increase its donation to \$1,000.



L to R: Janet MacKay receiving a check from Club President Bill Barber in 2013 and Janet giving her presentation to the Club in 2015

### **Dietrich Theater**

In 2005, the Club was awarded a District Grant for \$1,000 with a Club match of \$1,000 to support the establishment of the Sheldon Art Studio at the Wyoming County Cultural Center at the Dietrich Theater.<sup>99</sup>

In 2008, the Club was also awarded a District Grant for \$1,000 with a Club match of \$1,000 to furnish a Children's Room in the Wyoming County Cultural Center at the Dietrich Theater.<sup>100</sup>

The Rotary provides sponsorships for the Fall and Spring Film Festivals each year. Annually, the Club donates money ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 to the Dietrich Theatre to help support its various programs for the community.

In Nov of 2010, the Club donated \$500 toward the purchase of new decorations for the outdoor Xmas trees outside the theater.<sup>101</sup>

In the 2014-2015 Rotary year, the club asked that the donated money be used for some type of community program rather than on any capital repairs or improvements.

Rotarian Marta Kovacs-Ruiz recently reported that the Dietrich Theater is using the \$5,000 that the Club donated to them this year, to fund a program called Warrior Writers. It is a writing workshop that will encourage the sharing of stories, opinions and ideas about

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<sup>99</sup> From June 14, 2005 Board of Director's meeting minutes.

<sup>100</sup> According to the Nov 20, 2008 meeting minutes and a letter dated Dec 12, 2008

<sup>101</sup> From Nov 16, 2010 Board of Director's meeting minutes.

various military issues and experiences. These welcoming and casual workshops empower veterans and military families to release bottled up thoughts and emotions through writing and art. The workshops are open to all veterans, service members, military families and members of the community.

### **Tunkhannock Public Library**

The Tunkhannock Public Library (TPL) has a large variety of learning & literacy programs used by the members of the Tunkhannock and Wyoming County communities. In 1992, the Club provided the funds (\$564) for the TPL to purchase a set of encyclopedias on its wish list. Over the years, the Club has provided funding to the TPL ranging from \$200 to \$7,000 per year.

In June 2001, a Community Assistance Program Application to purchase books for the new Tunkhannock Public Library was submitted by the Club and approved by the Rotary Foundation. The amount of the award was \$1,064.48.

In 2007, the Club was awarded \$600 from a District 7410 Grant, which it matched with \$700 from the Club, to establish the TPL Job Center and acquire the Learning Express Library.

Since 2007, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has sponsored the Learning Express Library, which provides robust, online, interactive materials to help learners of all ages to succeed in the workplace and at school.

The Learning Express Library provides free and unlimited access to interactive skill-building courses and a broad range of 128 practice tests that includes the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, Firefighter, Police Officer, Paramedic, Postal Worker, Real Estate Agent & Broker Exams and more. Practice tests include instant score reports that help target those skill areas that need the most attention and complete answer explanations accompany each test question.

It is widely used on an annual basis at TPL with, for example, in 2012: 601 people doing GED, 288 using reading, 287 practicing mathematics and 110 using reading comprehension modules.

Library Director Kristin Smith-Gary, who also joined our Rotary Club in 2015, provides annual updates on how the money the Club donates has been used. In addition to the Learning Express Library, our donation is used for a subscription to the Wall Street Journal. Kristin reported that part of our 2014 donation was also used to buy books for kids to promote Literacy, a Rotary Club area of focus.

The Club was able to increase its annual donation to the library in 2015 to \$7,000 due to the overwhelming success of the 2014 Tunkhannock Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival.



TPL Director Kristin Smith-Gary accepting a check from 2014-2015 President Norm Kelly

In addition to the donations to the Library, the Club also provides sponsorships for the annual TPL wine tasting event and for the TPL golf tournament, where some years the Club has also sponsored a hole and a golf team.

### **Interfaith Friends**

In addition to its annual donation to Interfaith Friends for Toys for Kids for Christmas from the proceeds of Candy Cane Day, the Club has also participated in other programs at Interfaith. For example, in 1996, a donation of \$100 was made to an Interfaith Health Program<sup>102</sup> and in 2008, \$250 was supplied to buy boots for kids for the winter<sup>103</sup>.

In the Sept 4, 2008 Club meeting minutes, it stated that the Club was awarded a \$1,000 District Simplified Grant for the Interfaith Sign Project. The Club had to match the \$1,000 grant amount, so \$2,000 was donated to Interfaith Friends for this Project.

### **Candy Cane Day Recipients**

The money collected from shoppers on our annual Candy Cane Day (see Fundraising Section) to buy toys for kids for Christmas has been split over the years among Interfaith Friends, Wyoming County Children and Youth and St. Michael's School. After St. Michael's was sold in 2010, the money has been split between Interfaith Friends and Wyoming County Children and Youth.

### **Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen**

The Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen is entirely manned and operated by volunteers in Tunkhannock with no salaried employees. Local businesses, organizations and individuals provide the funding, food, supplies and labor. Volunteers provide regular hot, hardy, nutritious, well-balanced meals five days a week at no charge to their guests.

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<sup>102</sup> From Dec 11, 1996 Board of Director's Meeting minutes

<sup>103</sup> From Jan 20, 2009 Board of Director's Meeting minutes



The Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen recently acquired a 4,000 square foot building with significant parking. It will allow volunteers to serve meals for many more guests, including an increasing number of families who have begun to utilize the charity's largess.

Due to the unprecedented success of the 2014 Tunkhannock Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival, the Club was able to present a check for \$10,000.00 to Mary Lu Shaffer, President of the Executive Board for the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen and Ken Price, a volunteer for the community campaign, for their Capital Campaign for the new building.



**L to R:** Ken Price, Mary Lou Shaffer, 2014-2015 Club President Norm Kelly and Club Treasurer Sandy Lane making the check presentation for the Seven Loaves Food Kitchen

### **Additional Donations over the Years**

In keeping with the tradition for love of music by Rotarians, the Club has provided an annual donation to the Wyoming County Chorale (since at least 2005) and a donation to the Northern Tier Symphony Orchestra (starting in 2012).

For several years, the Rotary had given money to Habitat for Humanity to provide Christmas gifts to the families and/or send their children to camp. This service was continued by the Tunkhannock Interact Club, which has donated gifts for the children of Habitat for Humanity families for many years.

Donations of \$700 had also been supplied to the Commission for Economic Opportunity in 2010 and 2011 to provide food, money for shelter, transportation and utilities for families in need. The Club has provided money to area clergy for needy families at Christmas and has even borne the cost of medical treatment for a young person from a needy family.

Monetary donations have been made to: the George Gay Foundation, the Walter Tewksbury Foundation, the Tunkhannock Ambulance Association, the Triton Fire Company for its new fire station, the Tunkhannock Police Athletic League Guardian Angel Project, the Factoryville Little League, the National Federation of the Blind, the Neurofibromatosis

Project, Pegasus- Pass the Hat, the Deutsch Institute Foundation and the Children's Foundation to name a few.



### Rotary donates

Dick Stark, left, treasurer of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club presents a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the club to Triton Hose Co. Chief Paul Shaffer for Triton's new fire station. Staff photo by Mary Baldwin.



GRACIOUS DONATION was recently made by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club who contributed money to the Tunkhannock Area Clergy to spend on needy families during the Christmas season. Seen in the lower photo is John Shaffer, left, handing the check to Father Richard Bisser, chairman of the Tunkhannock Area Clergy. —Photo by Patty Watson.

**L to R:** Rotarian Dick Stark giving Chief Paul Shaffer a donation for the new Triton fire station and Rotarian John Shaffer giving Father Richard Bisser a check for needy families during the Christmas season.



**PRESENTING A CHECK** for \$300 to the Factoryville Little League to help defray the costs of replacing equipment lost in a fire last month are members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club. The club donated the money after a motion from

club member Stuart Swetland. At the presentation were, from left to right, Don Davis, treasurer, Stuart Swetland, Randy Mase, of the Factoryville Little League Committee, and Otto Kiel, Tunkhannock Rotary Club vice-president.

NEW AGE-EXAMINER

Friday, March 19, 1982



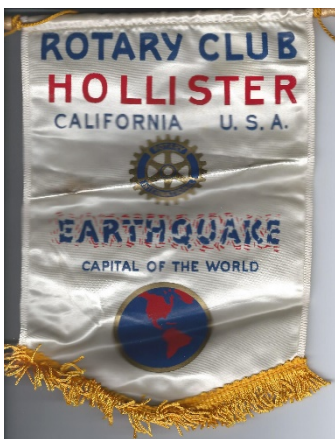
## US DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS

The following examples of the Club's efforts for US disaster relief are only those found in the limited minutes of Club and Board meetings from 1989 onward, so this list is incomplete. Even for this period, there are minutes missing especially from May 1999 through Aug 2004.

### **Hay/Grain for Animals in the Midwest US**

In the late 1950's or early 1960's, during bad winter in the mid-west, farmers were unable to get hay and grain for their animals. A group of Tunkhannock Rotarians acquired and loaded a truck with hay and grain and sent it out to help the mid-west farmers feed their farm animals.

### **1989 - Hollister CA Earthquake**



District 715 in California appealed for donations to help approximately 50 families left homeless by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on Oct 18, 1989 in Hollister CA, the county seat of San Benito County, CA. The earthquake killed 62 people and injured 3,757 individuals.

The Calaveras Fault (a branch of the San Andreas Fault System) bisects the city north and south. Hollister is one of at least 3 CA towns to claim the title of "Earthquake Capital of the World".

The Tunkhannock Club donated \$2,500 to provide disaster relief after this event.

### **1993 - Hurricane Andrew**

In Aug 1992, Hurricane Andrew was a Category 5 hurricane when it made landfall on Elliott Key and later in Homestead Florida. Throughout the southern portions of Florida, Andrew brought very high winds. About 63,000 homes were destroyed and over 101,000 others were damaged. This left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm.

The Tunkhannock Club donated funds to provide disaster relief after this event.

### **2005 - Hurricane Katrina**

Early in the morning on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of the United States. When the storm made landfall, it had a Category 3 rating and brought sustained winds of 100-140 miles per hour and stretched some 400 miles across. The storm itself did a great deal of damage, but its aftermath was catastrophic. Levee breaches led to massive flooding, and hundreds of thousands of people in Louisiana, Mississippi and

Alabama were displaced from their homes. Experts estimate that Katrina caused more than \$100 billion in damage.<sup>104</sup>

Rotary District 6200 in Lafayette LA appealed for help after the storm. The Club donated \$500 to help with the disaster relief efforts in Louisiana.

### **2011 - Tropical Storm Lee Flood in NEPA**

On Sept 8, 2011, communities across Northeast Pennsylvania were under floodwaters from Tropical Storm Lee forcing over 100,000 residents across the area to evacuate their homes, and forecasts predicted the Susquehanna River would rise another 18 inches. The Susquehanna River at Meshoppen crested at 44.48 ft and surpassed the 43.51 ft crest during Hurricane Agnes in 1972<sup>105</sup>. Parts of Tunkhannock were flooded including businesses and homes along Tioga St. and the historic Dietrich Theater.

The Club joined in Flood Relief efforts to help those in Tunkhannock impacted by the Flood of Sept 2011 with a donation to Interfaith Friends for supplies for flood victims.

### **2012 - Hurricane Sandy**

Hurricane Sandy (unofficially known as "Superstorm Sandy") was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, as well as the second-costliest hurricane in United States history. While it was a Category 2 storm off the coast of the Northeastern United States, the storm became the largest Atlantic hurricane on record as measured by diameter, with winds spanning 1,100 miles.<sup>106</sup> It devastated parts of the New Jersey shore and New York.

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club joined in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts to help people affected in Brooklyn, NY. Rotarian Tom Kukuchka coordinated this effort.<sup>107</sup>

*"We got in touch with Congressman's Marino's office to see what we could do," Rotary member Tom Kukuchka said before the trailer was hauled to New York.*

*"Marino's office contacted New York's congressmen and they told us about this area in Brooklyn," Kukuchka continued. "There is a 12 block area that was coved in six feet of water."*

A truck loaned by Rob Parry of Kapmeyer Trucking was loaded with over \$6,000 worth of paper towels, cleaning supplies, gloves, breathing masks and canned goods. In addition, the Tunkhannock Moose Lodge donated 2,500 flashlight batteries, which Kukuchka said were in great demand. With Rob at the wheel, and accompanied by Rotarians Tom Kukuchka

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<sup>104</sup> Taken from <http://www.history.com/topics/hurricane-katrina>

<sup>105</sup> Take from <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=bgm&gage=MHPP1>

<sup>106</sup> Taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane\\_Sandy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Sandy)

<sup>107</sup> Nov 21, 2013 Wyoming County Press Examiner article "Rotary Club donates to victims of Sandy"



and Peter Geschwindner, the donated items were delivered to the Gerritsen Beach Fire Department in Brooklyn, NY on Friday Nov 16. 2012.



L to R: Norm Kelly, John Proctor, Tom Kukuchka, Marta Kovacs-Ruiz, Peter Geschwindner, Fran Turner and Bill Barber.

### **2012 - Toys for Kids Impacted by Hurricane Sandy**

At the suggestion of Past Club President Harry Sharpe, the Club also donated \$1,000 for Toys for New Jersey Kids impacted by Hurricane Sandy. This Dec 2012 donation was made with the cooperation of Bob Cooper, President of the Point Boro NJ Rotary Club to St Gregory's Pantry in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. St Gregory's is the distribution center for several towns in the area including, Point Pleasant Boro, Point Pleasant Beach Boro, Bay Head, Mantaloking, Lavalette and parts of Brick. It is also the distribution center for the Ocean County Welfare Bureau in these same towns. The Point Boro NJ Rotary Club helped with the wrapping and distribution of the gifts.

Bob Cooper wrote to Harry:

*"St Gregory's does a wonderful job of making sure that everyone is contacted and I thank you again on behalf of all those children that will have a Merry Christmas or whatever they celebrate at this time of year because of you and Tunkhannock Rotary's generosity."*

The following report appeared in the Ocean Star paper in New Jersey the first week of Jan.

*Robert Cooper, who is the president of the Point Pleasant Boro Rotary Club, said he was contacted by Harry Sharpe of the Tunkhannock Rotary. He said*

*Mr. Sharpe just wanted to help out the area and so he asked what was the best way to do so.*

*When Mr. Cooper was contacted, he suggested the club help out St. Gregory's Pantry in Point Beach, as the pantry has been serving residents of the surrounding areas since Sandy hit.*

*"They're way up in Pennsylvania and they saw the trouble the storm had caused and they contacted me because they wanted to make a donation," Mr. Cooper said. "Because St. Gregory's takes care of all those communities, it was the appropriate place to make the donation to help everyone."*

*The Tunkhannock Rotary decided it would donate \$1,000 to St. Gregory's to help out with the toy drive it was holding this holiday season.*

*"He [Mr. Sharpe] wanted to have it go to kids for Christmas," Mr. Cooper said.*

*Mr. Cooper said it worked out perfectly because the Tunkhannock Rotary specifically wanted to help out children and St. Gregory's was looking for donations of new toys for children.*

*Because Tunkhannock is nearly four hours away, the club overnighted a check to the Point Boro Rotary, which presented the check to Joy Blazak of St. Gregory's Pantry on Wednesday, Dec. 19.*

*The Point Boro Rotary also presented \$500 in \$50 gift cards from Stop & Shop to St. Gregory's to give to families in need.*

*Mr. Cooper said he was happy to help and thought it was "a great thing" that the Tunkhannock Rotary was thinking of Point Pleasant this holiday season.*



## International Service

One of the Five Avenues of Service for Rotary Clubs is international service either directly through sending Rotarians aboard to help in other countries, through international cooperation or by providing funding for projects in other countries.

### **1939 - The International Goodwill Trees-Planting Project<sup>108109110</sup>**

In 1939, the Club decided to undertake a project to further international fellowship and good will. A committee was formed who wrote to Rotary Clubs all over the world requesting soil samples to be mixed with native soil to plant two Koster blue spruce trees, one on either side of the entrance to the Tunkhannock Junior-Senior High School.

On May 19, 1939, the “International Trees” planting program was held at the School. The program began with a welcome from Rev. Harry Somers, president of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, the reading of the names of the participating countries, and the reading of excerpts from letters from the Rotary Clubs in these countries.

Grade school students were dressed up in the costumes of the participating countries and performed folk dances and folk songs from some of the countries.

The keynote address was given by Rev. Peter Emmons of Scranton, who had just returned from a 7 month tour that took him to many countries of the world.

The program ended with the planting of the trees in the soil carried to the site by the pupils dressed in the costumes of each country.

Soils were obtained from 29 different Rotary Clubs with every inhabited continent represented. Some of the countries no longer exist. The Clubs that sent dirt and letters included: Rotterdam, Holland; Asuncion, Paraguay; Bogota, Columbia; Warsaw, Poland; Tunis, Tunisia; LaPlata, Argentina; Athens, Greece; Tartu, Estonia; Melbourne, Australia; Havana, Cuba; Sofia, Bulgaria; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Paris, France; Hamilton, New Zealand; Cape Town, South Africa; Cairo, Egypt; Manila, Philippine Islands; Bombay, India; Medan, Netherland Indies; Colombo, Ceylon; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Bangkok, Siam; Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia; Kobenhavn (Copenhagen), Denmark; Budapest, Hungary; Quebec, Canada; Montreal, Canada, and Glasgow, Scotland.

The letters from the participating Rotary Clubs were bound into a volume that was placed in the School library. A wooden plaque bearing the names of all the Rotary Clubs that sent soil samples was hung on the wall of the main hall of the School building.

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<sup>108</sup> “International Planting. Trees at High School Will Grow in Dirt from Many Countries”, Tunkhannock Republican, April 27, 1939.

<sup>109</sup> “Unique Tree Planting. Soil from Thirty Countries Will Blend with Native Earth to Nurture Evergreens” Tunkhannock Republican, May 11, 1939.

<sup>110</sup> “International Tree Planting” Tunkhannock Republican, May 18, 1939.

In 2007, the Club received an inquiry from the Rotary Club of Tartu in Estonia for information on the status of the International Trees to which they had sent 1 lb of their soil. Unfortunately, it appears that both trees had been removed from the site over the years.

#### **1969 - Mobile Medical Unit in Chile**

In 1969, the Tunkhannock Club helped send a mobile medical unit to Chile. <sup>111</sup>

#### **1989 – Furman Toys Project for Zimbabwe**

Tunkhannock Rotarian Ed Furman started doing some investigations prior to his leaving for 3 yrs. in Zimbabwe and discovered that the kids there had no toys. The Club acquired 25 soccer balls for the boys and 25 jump ropes for the girls, along with additional materials to make more jump ropes. These items were loaded into a container along with donated agricultural equipment that Ed shipped to Zimbabwe.

#### **1995 – Hospital Equipment for Turkey**

The Club was part of a matching grant in Dec 1995 to fund pieces of medical equipment for a unit in Turkey. The Club contributed \$250 to this initiative.

#### **2001 - Sewing Training in India**

In 2001, the Club took part in a District Matching Grant project to provide learning-earn-own sewing training to indigent women in Madras/Chennai, India. The Club donated \$504 of the total cost of \$4,120. <sup>112</sup>

#### **2004 - t-Shirts for Iraq**

In 2004, t-shirts were purchased and shipped to our troops in Iraq.

#### **2004 – Tub Wells in India**

The Dec 23, 2004 Board of Director's meeting minutes indicate that the Board approved the expenditure of \$250 to be part of a matching grant to install tub wells in India. The grant funded 40 new deep wells to provide safe drinking water to a population of 32,000 in West Bengal, India. The Clubs that participated in this grant were: Lords Valley, Mid-Valley and Tunkhannock.

#### **2005 – Solidarity in South Asia Fund**

In Feb 2005, the Club contributed \$1,000 to the Solidarity in South Asia Fund.

#### **2005 – Mattress for Woman in Ghana**

Two hundred dollars was donated by the Club to buy a mattress for a woman in Ghana.

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<sup>111</sup> From Article in New Age Examiner, Aug 23, 2000 (p. 3) entitled "Rotary celebrates 75 years of community service".

<sup>112</sup> Minutes of the Oct 24, 2001 Tunkhannock Rotary Board of Directors Meeting



### **2006 – Taipei Matching Grant**

In the minutes of the July 19, 2006 Board minutes, it was noted that the matching grant for the Taipei project was approved. The District contributed \$1,000 and the Club matched that contribution for a total of \$2,000 dedicated to this project.

### **2006-2007 – Health Care Center in Peru**

During the Club Presidency of Al Noble, the Tunkhannock and North Pocono Clubs were part of an international project to implement a health care center “El Bosque” in Chiciayo, Peru at a total cost of \$17,413.94. Our club donated \$1,000 to this project, with \$2,000 from North Pocono Club, \$4,082 from District 7410, \$2,500 from the Peru Club and District and \$7,832 from a global grant from the Rotary Foundation.

At the time of the Thank You letter from Luis Valencia Rivera of the Rotary Club of South Chiciayo, over 5,000 children, young and adults living in extreme poverty were provided with health services. These were mainly malnourished children and desperate but thankful mothers. They delivered food, medicines, new medical equipment and lots of love.

As stated in the letter to PDG Dave Whipple:

*“Please do tell our Rotarian friends their contribution made the difference between life and death, sadness and joy for the poor people of La Victoria in Peru. Many children have now the option to live healthy lives and to a decent future.”*

### **2008-2009 - Haiti Clean Water Project**

A \$2,000 Haiti Clean Water Project was approved with \$1,000 from District Designated Funds and Tunkhannock contributing a matching \$1,000.<sup>113</sup>

### **2010 – Van for Rehab Hospital in Columbia**

The 5 clubs of Cluster 2 were asked by AG Ray Petty to contribute \$1,000 each to fund a \$5,000 matching grant project towards a van to transport people to a rehab hospital in Columbia.<sup>114</sup> The Club voted to donate \$2,000 to this effort.

### **2014 - Leadership Training for At-Risk Youth in Medellin, Columbia**

During Karen Fuller’s presidency in 2013-2014, the Club contributed \$2,000 to a Global Grant (identified by PDG Ted Silver) to provide leadership training for 200 at-risk youth from low income and vulnerable areas of the city of Medellin, Columbia.

The aim of the program was to:

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<sup>113</sup> Dec 4, 2008 meeting minutes

<sup>114</sup> Oct 28, 2010 meeting minutes.

- Provide leadership to youth between 14 and 18 years through a process of personal transformation and to develop skills.
- Discover the individual talents in each person.
- Make the connection to the purpose of life and from this self-transcend and engage with their environment.
- Make them an active member of their community.
- Provide basic tools and practices to enhance leadership in the service of the dreams of young people in their environment and their society.

#### GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE (GSE)

The Group Study Exchange Program was established in 1965 with the first exchange between Districts in California and Japan. GSE teams introduced young professionals to their counterparts in other countries, where they experience another culture first-hand. The teams were comprised of young professionals who weren't Rotary Club members, headed by a team leader who was a Rotarian.

The last District 7410 Group Study Exchange (Mexico) occurred in 2012-2013 and the Program was discontinued in its former form and replaced by Vocational Training Teams beginning in July 2013.

As a member of District 7410, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has played host to several inbound GSE teams from 1954 onward. However, little information is available on some of the visits that took place between 1955 and 2002.

#### **Inbound GSE Team Visits to Tunkhannock Rotary**

##### *1954 - GSE Team Visit from Australia*

In May 1954, the Club cooperated with District 262 in an exchange of adult leaders for a month with Australia. Tunkhannock hosted a team of six businessmen from Queensland, Australia for two days touring our local industries.

##### *1974-1999 – Various GSE Teams*

During the period of 1974 to 1999, the Club was visited by many GSE teams (Table 12), but little information is available about the composition or activities during these visits. The information that these visits occurred are buried in the minutes of Board of Director's meetings over this time frame. The lack of information during the 1980's suggest that this information may be very incomplete.

**Table 12 GSE Team Visits from 1974 Through 2000**

Year	Country/District	Year	Country/District
1974	Australia	1995	Unknown
1976	India, District 310	1997	Brazil, District 4740
1984	Brazil	1998	India
1990	Norway	1998	Korea
1993	Venezuela	2000	Argentina
1994	Turkey		

The 1976 GSE Team from District 310 in India was composed of: Dr. Jai Hari Har Lal (Leader), Jagdish Batra, Ramesh Chander Gupta, Dr. Promod Kumar Panday, I. D. Shukla and Karam Singh. During their visit to the Tunkhannock Club, they toured Whipple Brothers Lumber Company, Cornell Manufacturing Company and Charmin Paper Products Company



**L to R Photos:** 1998 Korean GSE Team with Dave Whipple (middle) and 2000 Argentinian GSE Team with Sandy Lane (white jacket with blue lapel pin) and exchange students.

#### *2001 – GSE Team Visit from Cameroon Africa*

In exchange for a GSE Team led by Tunkhannock Rotarian Patricia Ehrenzeller visiting Cameroon and Gabon, Africa, a GSE Team from Cameroon visited District 7410 in 2001.



**L to R: Sandy Lane and GSE Team from Cameroon**

*2003 - GSE Team Visit from Taiwan*

In exchange for a GSE Team led by Tunkhannock Rotarian Jeannie Brady visiting Taiwan, a GSE Team from Taipei, Taiwan visited District 7410 in 2003, when Dave Whipple was District Governor.

The Taipei Team were briefly hosted in Tunkhannock and attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock.

During their month in our District, they visited many of the District 7410 Rotary Clubs and also attended that year's District Conference.



**L to R: Tommy Wei-ko Chen, Henry Wu (Team Leader) DG Dave Whipple ,  
Jim Ying-Chin Chen, Ted Tai-chi Fang Chiang and Savi Tzu-chuan Hung**





#### *2007 - GSE Team Visit from Pakistan*

A GSE Team from Pakistan visited the Tunkhannock Club in May 2007.

Team leader Jalal Ansari, 62, of Karachi, shared some of his country's culture and presented a short video about Pakistan and a second one of his son's traditional Muslim wedding at a meeting of the Tunkhannock Club. The team also included: Sarah Ahmed, a telecommunications manager, Naida Arabi, a hospital physician, Salma Butt, a trainer in communications and technical writing and Javed Jistani, a police officer.

#### *2008 - GSE Team Visit from India*

From May 6-10 2008, a GSE team from India visited the Tunkhannock Rotary Club. The team was composed of 3 women and 2 men and were hosted by members of our Club during this portion of their visit to District 7410.

At the May 9, 2008 Tunkhannock Rotary luncheon, they presented the Club with their District 3290 Nepal Banner. They have had 13 matching grants in 10 years between their District and ours. After June 2008, District 3290 was divided into Calcutta District 3291 and Nepal District 3292. Their Rotary Community Corp. helps rural people, for example with vocational facilities. They all work together to help fight diseases, such as polio etc. They ended their presentation by singing their national anthem.

#### *2009 - GSE Team Visit from Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine*

On May 7, 2009, a GSE team from District 2230 that encompasses Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine visited the Club. Earlier in the day, they took a tour of the Proctor and Gamble plant and saw an American manufacturing plant at work.

The team was comprised of Galyna Skibo and Roman Serebryakov from the Ukraine, Alexander Bulah from Belarus and Malgorzata Moczarska and Piotr Chomecznski from Poland.

Their District is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the world with over 2,500 Rotarians. They showed slides of Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, where their Rotary Club started in 1991 and also slides of

Poland and Warsaw. Members of the GSE team told the Club that prices are lower here in the US, than in the Ukraine, Poland and Belarus.



L to R: Galyna Skibo, Roman Serebryakov, Piotr Chomcznski, Malgorzata Moczarska and Alexander Bulah

#### *2011 - GSE Team Visit from Mexico*

In May 2011, a GSE team from Mexico, District 4130 visited the Club.

The team was composed of: Rodolfo Cisneros (Team Leader)- psychotherapy, Jorge Azuara - English professor, Mario de la Portilla - MD, Diana Marisol Cardenas - industrial engineer and computer technology, Pamela Ayata - housing development project designer.



2011 GSE Team from Mexico

## Outbound Tunkhannock Rotary Led GSE Teams

Three Tunkhannock Rotarians have served as Group Study Exchange Team Leaders: Patricia Ehrenzeller, Jeannie Brady and Robert Whipple.

*2001 – Cameroon, West Africa*

Patricia Ehrenzeller led a group of young professionals to Cameroon and Gabon, West Africa (March 11-April 21, 2001). The team included: Deborah Brown, Montrose; Steven Kulikowski, Wilkes-Barre; Marny Mead, Tunkhannock & Matthew Banford, Wilkes-Barre.

Team Leader Patty summarized their trip in an article in the Wyoming County Press Examiner on June 6, 2001. Patty reported:

*“Our adventure to Africa lasted five weeks, and during that time, we lived among the people, visited their schools, hospitals and businesses, shared in some leisure activities and learned about their culture.*

*We arrived in Douala, our first stop, a city of approximately three million people, unprepared for the cultural shock of a third world country. While the poverty and congestion had been dealt with in training sessions, I believe that I, personally, was not as prepared as I thought I was.*

The team visited Limbe, Bamenda, Bafoussam, Yaounde, Libreville and Lamborene, West Africa. The team stayed at the homes of Rotarians and found the people either poor, according to our standard of living, or extremely wealthy. Regardless of their wealth, the team found the people offered their homes, their time and their gracious hospitality. There was laughter and singing,

*“ . . . . a reminder that connection to spirit does not have a price tag”.*



**L to R:** District 7410 GSE Team: Marny Mead, Deborah Brown, Patty Ehrenzeller, President of a Cameroon Rotary Clubs, Steve Kulikowski & Matthew Banford. Patty demonstrating a hairstyle of some of the women of W. Africa, which took 3 French women over 3 hrs. to complete.



### 2003 - Taiwan

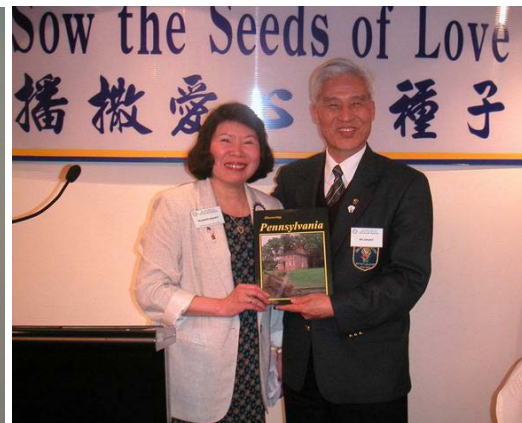
In March 2003, Tunkhannock Rotarian Jeannie Brady led a GSE Team to Taiwan for 4 weeks. Jeannie was born in Taiwan so this was a trip back to her roots and she could serve as translator for her team.

The team included: Anne Marie Jennings – registered nurse with specialty in obstetrics/gynecology , Carla Engelbrecht – children’s media editorial specialist, Chad Silverstrim – physical therapist and Roberta Steadele – broadcast communications and journalism. They were met at the airport by their hosts with a large red banner of welcome. As can be seen from the agenda below, it was a very busy 4 weeks for the team which included meeting with numerous Rotary Clubs and visiting historic and beautiful sites.

The Rotary theme for that year was “Sow the Seeds of Love” and Jeannie and her team did just that during their trip.



**L to R:** Taiwanese host, Jeannie Brady, Ann Marie Jennings, Carla Engelbrecht, Chad Silverstrim, Roberta Steadele and Taiwanese host.





# Agenda for Group Study Exchange Team from D7410

Prepared by GSE Committee of D3480 revised on March 9, 2003

Date	Day	Time	Activities
2003/3/18	Tuesday		Departure from San Francisco via UA845
2003/3/19	Wednesday	20:05	Arriving at CKS International Airport; transferred to Caesar Park Hotel, Taipei for rest.
2003/3/20	Thursday	09:30	Visit Taipei City Government
2003/3/20	Thursday	12:00	noon: Attend R. C. Taipei Weekly meeting at Caesar Park Taipei
2003/3/20	Thursday	14:40	Afternoon : Getting acquainted with transportation system in Taipei (at Caesar Park Hotel Taipei)
2003/3/20	Thursday	18:30	Welcome Party and meet with host families (at Caesar Park Taipei)
			<b>Move to 1st host family after dinner</b>
2003/3/21	Friday		Professional Day - write report
2003/3/22	Saturday		Activities with host family
2003/3/23	Sunday		Activities with host family
2003/3/24	Monday		Tour to Ping-Ling - visiting Tea Museum
2003/3/25	Tuesday		Visit Taipei old districts - Manga, Da-Tao-Cheng, Lung-Shan Temple, Hwa-Shi Street
2003/3/26	Wednesday		Visit Palace Museum and Shun-Yi Aborigine Museum
			<b>Move to 2nd host family after dinner</b>
2003/3/27	Thursday		Attend Rotary weekly meeting
2003/3/28	Friday		Professional Day - write report
2003/3/28	Friday	18:30	Attend R. C. Taipei Tatung Charter Night Celebration
2003/3/29	Saturday		Activities with host family
2003/3/30	Sunday		Activities with host family
2003/3/31	Monday		Touring Shih-Men Dam, Ying-gue and San Sia area

Date	Day	Time	Activities
2003/4/01	Tuesday		Touring Yang-ming-shan National Park, Peitou Folklore Museum, Hot Spring Museum
2003/4/02	Wednesday		Touring Tamsui - oldtown, Fisherman Warf, Hong-maw Castle
			<b>Move to 3rd host family after dinner</b>
2003/4/03	Thursday		Attend Rotary weekly meeting
2003/4/04	Friday		Professional Day - write report
2003/4/05	Saturday		Activities with host family (Ching-Ming Festival)
2003/4/06	Sunday		Activities with host family
2003/4/07	Monday		Visit central part of Taiwan earthquake reconstructed communities served by Rotary
2003/4/08	Tuesday		Visit central part of Taiwan earthquake reconstructed communities served by Rotary
2003/4/09	Wednesday		Visit central part of Taiwan earthquake reconstructed communities served by Rotary
			<b>Move to 4th host family after dinner</b>
2003/4/10	Thursday		Attend Rotary weekly meeting
2003/4/11	Friday		Professional Day - write report
2003/4/12	Saturday	Morning	Free
		Afternoon	Attending D3480 District Conference
		Evening	Attending Welcome Dinner Party for R.I. President's Representative
2003/4/13	Sunday	Whole day	Attending D3480 District Conference
		Evening	Attending DG Night Dinner Party after District Conference
2003/4/14	Monday		Trip to Wulai Area to appreciate aborigine's culture (accompanied by aboriginal Miss Alice Lin)
2003/4/15	Tuesday		Report writing
		Evening	18:30 p.m. Farewell Party at Caesar Park Taipei & hand in report
		Night	Team Leader & members check-in at Caesar Park Hotel
2003/4/16	Wednesday	05:00	Departure from Caesar Park Hotel Taipei for C.K.S. Airport. Departure flight: UA844 at 08:15 a.m.



2005 – Philippine Islands

Tunkhannock Rotarian Bob Whipple led a 4 person GSE Team to the Philippine Islands in 2005. The Team consisted of Bob, Gregory Shahun from Greeley, Dale Shotwell from Montrose and Daniel Conklin, originally from Moscow, PA.

Bob has summarized the highlights of this visit.

*“My goal for this GSE visit to the Philippines was to have a unique "Cultural & Vocational" exchange that would educate and inspire the team to pursue something in their lives that matters.*

*The "Vocational" visits included Universities, hospitals, food manufacturing, banks, stock market, and real estate development. We also visited a fish farm, duck farm, casting plant and apparel factory.*

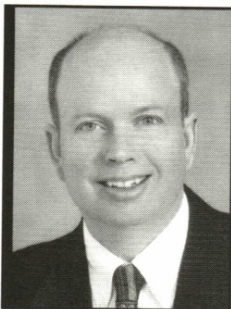
*The team attended 12 Rotary meetings, plus their district conference. We also got to see a number of special Rotary projects that they had worked on through the Matching Grants Program.*

*The Philippine Rotarians also provided us with a number of "Cultural" opportunities to national museums, historical forts, art galleries, churches, a philharmonic performance, cock fights, US war memorials, and a former US Air Force base.*

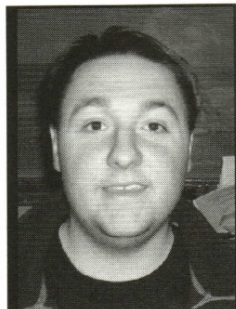
*We had an opportunity to experience a very blended, yet unique, culture. From the lavish trimmings of extreme wealth to the conditions of extreme poverty. What better way to get a deeper appreciation, and broader perspective, of the Philippine way of life. Best of all, we met wonderful people, and made many new friends. I even met my son's host family from when he was a Rotary Youth Exchange student in 2002!*

*The GSE program had far exceeded my expectations for the trip.”*

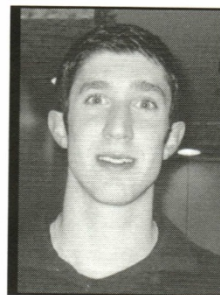
**Bob Whipple,  
GSE Team Leader**



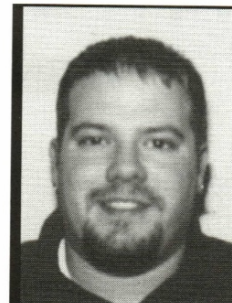
**Daniel Conklin**



**Gregory Shahum**



**Dale Shotwell**



2005 District 7410 GSE Team to the Philippine Islands