

Governor Jeff's District News

Rotary



“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves”

“Striving for diversity throughout Rotary”

“Be the Inspiration”

“Rotary Connects the World”

The Rotary Season:

We are in the middle of what some say is the Rotary season. The DGE is busy organizing all of our training programs, getting the committees formed, developing a schedule for club visits and setting the stage for club and district goals. Below Dave will report on the recent President Elect Training Session where we were fortunate to hear directly from the President Elect of Rotary International, Mark Maloney, and many other great presenters. These events are great for networking and raising our sights on our potential to create lasting change.

The DG is working on the District Conference, meeting with community and business leaders, organizing another round of club visits and finishing up many loose ends like the development of an environmental sustainability strategy for the district and the formation of more community and Rotary collaborations on our

greatest needs and opportunities.

The DG Track: What is This?

The district provides for a quarterly meeting of the District Advisory Committee to provide advice and continuity to the DG Track: DGND, DGN, DGE and DG. The Advisory committee is comprised of PDGs, AGs and others.

This year the DG track decided to also meet on a monthly basis. There is an unprecedented level of change taking place in Rotary and in our communities. The DG track needed more time to address the changes and improve our organization. We have been selecting committee members, developing position descriptions, reviewing upcoming events, sharing perspectives on issues and opportunities and trying to make the DG track positions easier in the future. *You do not need to be retired to be a District Governor.*

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Some of the issues we discuss are difficult. How do we help Rotary in our District be attractive to all generations? What are the major needs in our District? When do we collaborate across clubs and community organizations to make a greater impact? How should we update the strategic plan for our District?

Members and clubs can submit issues and new ideas to any member of the DG track. We will do our best to address your thoughts.

April is Maternal and Child Health:

Maternal and Child Health is a Rotary Focus area around the globe and in our community. Other focus areas like **Water and Sanitation** and **Community Development** provide support.

Our District provided funding to the JHoole project in India to empower women to make money for their families through sewing. This project today offers clothing and scarves around the world. We are buying 300 Rotary Shirts for the District conference. Sales of these shirts promote Rotary, support the women in India and support the Rotary Foundation. This project would not have happened without the dedication of a young and energetic woman, Hannah Warren. I am pleased to announce that Hannah will be telling her story at our District Conference. She will also have some beautiful scarves for sale.

Shelter Box:

When you are District Governor you will receive many calls for support around the world. The latest is for the countries of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. South Africa was hit by Cyclone Idai and the flooding is very extreme. Shelter Box is a partner of Rotary that provides emergency supplies and shelter. They are setting up to do a needs assessment of the region and start the process of recovery.

Shelter Box has been urging Rotary clubs and Districts around the world for support. We will have the latest version of shelter box on display at the District Conference. The Binghamton Noon club has been raising funds to purchase shelter boxes. And their Rotaract club at Bing-

hamton University is conducting a run/walk event on the campus on April 6. See flyer below. Supporting this event is one fun way to support ShelterBox and Rotaract.

The link to attend this event or to make a donation is: [Click here](#)

ShelterBox and Rotary work together to shelter families after disaster by providing emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster or conflict, transforming despair into hope. Currently around 85 million people across the globe are without a place to call home. Not all of these disasters make the news but all of them devastate people's lives.

Our District currently has two older ShelterBox kits we have been using to raise awareness. Some, or part of the equipment, has been displayed, along with literature, in Unadilla by the Boy Scouts for their Unadilla Days, at the Dryden Dairy Day for several years, last year in Ithaca for the 4th of July fireworks, and at many District Conferences

Currently PDG Sam Kourey (Oneonta Rotary) and DGND Evan Kurtz (Dryden Rotary) are coordinating District's support of ShelterBox but we need a co-chair, a ShelterBox ambassador. Contact DGND Evan for details on training and expectations.

ShelterBox, started by Rotarians in England, is now its own entity, and a formal Rotary partner. This partnership allows Rotarians to do more for the world, more to help those in immediate need.



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RI Forms a Fund to Provide Emergency Aid:

In response to emergency relief, The Rotary Foundation recently established a new single support fund to receive contributions for disasters that strike around the world. Entitled The Rotary Disaster Response Fund, staff in Programs and Grants will reach out to the affected areas and their districts to assess the need and desire for funding. Upon a qualified response - much like a district grant - the district will be awarded grants in increments of up to \$25,000, consulting the TRF chair as needed. Only districts in the affected country may request a grant. These districts can apply for more than one grant and should some of the allocation not be used - the funds will be returned to the Disaster Fund. Should requests exceed available funds, the General Secretary of RI will triage requests until additional funds are available.

(The fund will accept DDF contributions and those in cash will be credited towards a club's Annual Giving Goal and per capita giving calculations. However the donations will NOT apply to SHARE or the DDF calculation.)

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation and their new fund exemplifies RI's mission to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. Thank you.

Providing Direct Support:

There are times when Rotary clubs get directly involved in emergency relief. Dennis Gray and Maricelis Acevedo of the Ithaca Noon club went to work immediately when Puerto Rico was devastated by a hurricane Maria. Dennis will provide their experiences at the District Conference.



Rotary Club of Ithaca, N.Y.

Unadilla Pie Night:



Jeanne and I were wondering whether we should have some dinner before going to "Pie Night". Don't do that. The first line takes you to 8 dinner pies along with pizza. A sampling of each provides a very full plate. After dinner you go to the dessert pie line.

A professional band, including one Rotary member, provides music throughout the event. "Pie Night" is a great event that attracts members from several clubs.

Interact Clubs:



The Groton Interact students are partnering with Crayola for "Crayola Color-Cycle". It is a pro-

gram designed to repurpose used markers instead of sending them to landfills. The markers are put through plastic conversion technologies in order to produce wax compounds for asphalt and roofing shingles, in addition to making energy to heat homes, cook food and power vehicles. All markers, of any brand, including dry erase and highlighters are accepted.

We will set up a table at the District Conference to collect markers for the Groton Interact Club. Please forward other Interact stories and projects. This project will be part of our Environmental Sustainability strategy. Please promote with your Interact clubs **as well as your club.**

Regional Events:

Some of our areas and regions organize special events. Please let me know of these events and I will promote. On April 9 the annual Inter-City luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn at noon. The Key Note speaker will be Tyrone Muse, President and Chief Executive Officer of Visions Federal Credit Union. Ty will speak about community partnerships. Ty will be awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for his significant support of our greater community. All Rotary

and community members are welcome to this event including Rotaract and Interact members. To register just contact me at jsmith1532@aol.com.

District Conference May 10-12 at the DoubleTree in Binghamton:

[Click here](#) to register for the District Conference

Details for the District Conference are coming together. One theme is to demonstrate how we can create lasting change **across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves**. I believe District 7170 has significant assets across our seven counties that can be leveraged. Our membership has talent and contacts that are not equaled by any other organization.

I am working with Southern Tier Eight to capture our assets in a slide presentation that will play between events. We have great display space at the Doubletree in Binghamton for the District Conference. We also are encouraging collaboration with other clubs and community service providers. Non-Rotarians are welcome to participate in our event. Let's provide a few examples.

- Southern Tier 8 can display their plans for the 8 counties that they serve including our District.

- The 6 clubs in the Catskills can develop a display on their beautiful and historical part of New York State.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension can develop a display on the Taste's of NY and the emerging trends for ag and food.

- 100 anniversary clubs now and in the near future can educate us about their community and their great history.

- United Ways can educate us on key issues like poverty and their program ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employment.

- Clubs with programs for early education of our youth can shed light on this very important topic.

To sign up, just contact me at jsmith1532@aol.com

I am encouraging participation by Interact Clubs, Rotaract Clubs and Rotary Community Corps. I can consider some financial assistance if required.

Many of our exchange students have significant musical skills and they will be scheduled throughout the event. We will also make use of local musical talent.

Fun events will be planned before, during and after the conference. Door prizes will be given throughout the event representing food, drink and entertainment from our own District. Perhaps you would like to offer a door prize from your community that you would like everyone to be aware of.

We are organizing a facilitated community panel that will be held Saturday after lunch. Panel members will come from Greater Binghamton, Cortland/Ithaca region and the East Region.

I will provide several updates throughout April.

Rotary Fun Day at Greek Peak: June 15
The District is joining up with Cortland Noon to put on Rotary Fun Day at Greek Peak. Plans are being developed. Cortland Noon wanted to put on a special event for the District to celebrate their 100th anniversary. I wanted to have fun.

Developing Powerful Positive Stories of our Communities: Southern Tier 8 is developing a new portal to post positive stories on our region. I will be one of the contributing editors. Please forward me positive stories about your community and region. Did you know that our region has over 150 waterfalls? Or that every second of the day an aircraft takes off in the world with flight controls from Endicott NY. Did you know that Cornell University produces the most number of Fulbright Scholars? Deposit and Hancock are part of the Bluestone capital of the United States.

Key Dates: We are in the Rotary season where there are many event opportunities.

April: Maternal & Child Health

District Training Assembly & Grants Management – 4/6 – Dryden

Inter-City Luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton – 4/9 - noon

Delivery of Tree Peonies

May: Youth Services

DFC & DAC – 5/7 at Cortland noon

District Conference – Friday, 5/10 – Sunday 5/12 – DoubleTree Binghamton

Deadline for District Grant Applications – 5/15 preliminary, 5/31 final

Industry Summit for Agriculture and Food – 5/23 at the DoubleTree in Binghamton

June: Rotary Fellowship

Club Youth Exchange Training – 6/15

District Pass the Gavel – 6/19

RYLA Banquet –

RI Convention – 6/1 – 6/5 Hamburg Germany

Rotary Fun Day – 6/15 at Greek Peak

PDG Richard and Tree Peonies



PDG Richard is being honored in this picture by the Johnson City Club for his work with Rotary and his tree peony program. Richard has a large order of Tree Peonies coming in February. Buy your Mother's Day gifts early through the order below support Rotary in process.

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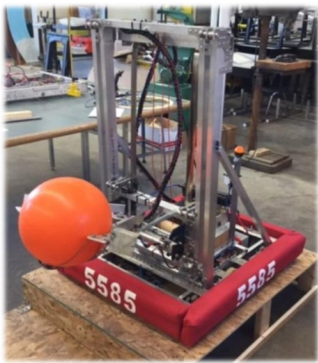
Rotary Salutes

Edmeston Robotics Achievements

The 19 members of the **Edmeston Rotary Club** have learned first-hand the power of Rotary's District Community Grants program.

In 2015-2016, Edmeston Superintendent of Schools Brian Hunt came to the club and expressed his desire to create a robotics club at his small, rural school district. Edmeston Rotary president Martin Winsor responded by applying to District 7170 for a \$2,500 grant. When combined with the club's contribution of \$500, the superintendent's goal of \$3,000 in seed-money was realized.

Superintendent Hunt was impressed with the challenges that the *FIRST* robotics system offers students of all ages. *FIRST* was founded by inventor Dean Kamen on March 20, 1989 – the same month Tim Berners-Lee created the World Wide Web. *FIRST*, an international competition with 3,790 registered teams in 2019, is an acronym representing the phrase **F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology. The thought was to offer “the excitement of sport, the rigors of science”.



The *FIRST* website explains: *High school-aged teams compete head-to-head on a special playing field with robots they have designed, built, and programmed. Under strict rules, limited resources, and the guidance of volunteer mentors including engineers, teachers, business professionals, parents, alumni and more, teams of students build and program robots to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. They must also raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and perform community outreach. In addition to learning valuable STEM and life skills, participants are eligible to apply for \$80 million in college scholarships.*

With Rotary's funds, Hunt started a *FIRST* Lego League for middle school students and a *FIRST* Robotics Team for high school students. The Edmeston school district has approximately 387 students in grades K-12. *FIRST* programs are usually found in much larger school districts. In fact, a *FIRST* program can be sponsored through BOCES so a single team can draw talent from multiple neighboring districts.

The official “challenge” changes each year. Once that season's rules and specifics are issued by the *FIRST* organizers the individual teams have about six weeks to work feverishly to design, build, and refine their robots before the competitions begin.

The current Edmeston high school team - *FIRST* Robotics Team 5585, nicknamed “Blood, Sweat & Gears” - competed recently at the Central New York *FIRST* Robotics Regional Competition at SUNY Poly in Utica, New York. During the course of the competition, they went from a low ranking to become a highly-respected defensive powerhouse. Team 5585 finished near the top of the field of 31 teams and qualified to compete in the World Championships in Detroit in late-April.

Like the mighty oak that grows from a tiny acorn, we all know that most projects start with an idea (plus a fair measure of determination). In the case of Edmeston, NY, thanks to the local Rotary Club and a Community Grant from Rotary District 7170, that “idea” has evolved into immense community pride. And when word of the team's accomplishments reached Superintendent Hunt,

Rotary Salutes cont.

now an administrator with the much larger Voochreesville school district near Albany, he promptly sent a generous check to help fund the Edmeston team's upcoming trip to Detroit.



Edmeston high school team - *FIRST* Robotics Team 5585, nicknamed "Blood, Sweat & Gears"

District 7170 share of the 24,000 plus meals that were packaged by ***75 President Elects*** and others on Friday before PETS started.



The Rotaract Club invites you to the



5K FOR SHELTERBOX PROJECT

**Join Rotaract on April 6th for our annual 5K
to raise money for District 7170's Shelterbox
Project!**

**Registration will be at the Old Dickinson
field at 10:30 AM**

**JOIN OUR 5K RUN FOR \$5 (ADMISSIONS FOR BU
STUDENTS: FREE)**

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED



**Find out more details about Shelterbox here:
<https://www.shelterbox.org/>**



Rotary

District 7170

Please join us!

2019 InterCity Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
12:00PM

Binghamton Holiday Inn
2 Hawley St, Binghamton, NY

Guest Speaker:
Mr. Ty Muse
President and CEO
VISIONS Federal Credit Union

"Community Partnerships"

Reservations Requested
\$12/pp – Payable at door

Reservation contact:
Jeff Smith
Jsmith1532@aol.com



Nimmonsburg Rotary Club is sponsoring a Chicken BBQ catered by Phil's Chicken House.

BBQ dinners include chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and a roll for **\$10**.

Proceeds go toward the club's scholarship fund supporting students from Chenango Valley and Chenango Forks school districts.

Please stop by the **parking lot in front of Lowe's on Upper Front Street**
(1318 Upper Front Street, Binghamton NY)

Saturday, May 4th, at 10:30am, until sold out (usually around 1pm), so come early!



Rotarians of the Month

The members of the **Sidney Rotary club (past and present)** are our Rotarians of the month. Each year the club hosts a party celebrating the honor society members and their families. A school staff member prepares a detailed story of each student who in turn gets the opportunity to discuss their plans.

The Rotary concepts of "Service Above Self" and the "Four Way Test" are included throughout the event and in the final lighted candle celebration that focuses on service. The Sidney Rotary Club has established very close ties to the school district over several decades.

This event is another example of the importance of attending club events. You have to be present to understand the depth of the connection between Rotary and this school district. The club is truly proud of this relationship.



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

State Senator James Seward
Assembly Member Barbara Lifton
County Legislative Chair Martha Robertson
and
Mayor of Groton Chris Neville

Invite you to participate in the New York State

Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program

Thursday, April 25, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Groton High School
400 Peru Road
Groton, NY 13073

All participants must register in advance at
www.prepare.ny.gov

Sponsored by the

Rotary



Club of Groton



April Notes from DGE Dave



PETS Was A Success

PETS is done and it was a success. 24 out of 44 President Elects and 12 others from District 7170 attended the event. These Rotarians went five breakout sessions which taught them about membership, the Rotary Foundation, public image, transitional leadership and technology. There was also specialized training for Assistant Governors. The breakout sessions were very informative and well attended.

In addition to breakouts, the Rotarians listened to three keynote speakers. Jim Holahan and Theresa Rusnak from Bond, Schoeneck and King, Attorneys spoke about "Sexual Harassment and Rotary". Wade Norwood, CEO of Common Ground Health, kept the audience spellbound as he spoke about "Health Equity: Community Challenges and Opportunities". The highlight of the Seminar was the address by Rotary International President Elect Mark Daniel Maloney.

The part of the Seminar that most people will remember the best was the service project. Below you will find the press release which was given out for immediate release. Many families in Districts 7120, 7150, 7170 and 7190 will benefit from this project. There is also photos showing what the project looked like and our share of the food at the end of this article.

Rotary Feeding the Hungry

Over 200 incoming Rotary Club Presidents and key personnel were in Syracuse on March 15th

and 16th to receive training for their upcoming responsibilities. This training program will reach over one-half of Upstate New York. To start the event, over 80 Rotary volunteers met together in the Comstock rooms at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center to pack 24,000 individual meals. These meals will be evenly divided among the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the Food Bank of Central New York and Foodlink, Inc and help to feed the hungry of the Upstate Area. Rotary collaborates with partners in order to make a bigger difference. Individuals, organizations and businesses willing to support this project can make donations to their local Food Banks. The Foodbanks are well known throughout the Upstate region. They provide critical nutrition to children, adults and families in need. They are a critical part of our social infrastructure and an excellent partner for Rotary.

There are 198 Rotary Clubs in the Upstate New York with a total of 5879 members. Around the world there are 35,000 clubs with approximately of 1,206,500 members. Rotary has a presence in over 200 countries. Each club is unique, and most members join to serve their local communities. Action items can include support to non-profits, scholarships, leadership training for our youth, student exchanges with other countries, capital improvements and collaboration on tougher issues in our communities. **Learn more at Rotary.org**

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To maximize our performance, Rotary provides business level education on a variety of topics including strategic planning, public image, information technology, public speaking, community needs assessments and many more. All Rotary Clubs are interconnected across the globe and we can often tackle challenges governments cannot.

Our largest international challenge is the eradication of polio. Starting over three decades ago and working with our many partners, such as the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation, Rotary has inoculated over 2.5 billion children. We are very close to eradicating this dreadful disease. The process and contacts developed for this program are being applied to other major health challenges.

The Rotary Foundation was formed in 1917 with a check for \$26.50. Today it is consistently rated as one of the top humanitarian organizations in the world. The foundation has six major areas of focus:

- Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development

The Rotary Clubs that came to Syracuse on March 15th and 16th are dedicated to improving the economy and well being of the Upstate region. We can be a strong partner. We also offer those with an interest in giving back to their community a strong set of contacts, training, camaraderie and the ability to connect around the world. Our approach is to Join Leaders, Exchange Ideas and Take Action.





Come to Hamburg, a city with a unique blend of historical and contemporary culture. This will be an exciting event with thousands of Rotarians from around the world. It will be held at the Hamburg Messe.

Enjoy the wonderful House of Friendship and special tours and events held by the Host Organizing Committee. There will be great entertainment, inspiring guest speakers and great breakouts.

REGISTER NOW for the convention. The registration fee is \$495. To register, go to:

www.riconvention.org.

There you will find information on hotels and transportation. If you have any questions, you can e-mail me at: pkriebel@stny.rr.com

Hope to see everybody there!

Submitted by Pat Kriebel, PDG





Save The Date

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2018-2019*

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District Conference

Friday, May 10th through Sunday, May 12th, 2019

DoubleTree Binghamton

[WWW.ROTARY
DISTRICT7170.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARYDISTRICT7170.ORG)



District Pass the Gavel

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

TBD

Register for Hamburg
International Conven-
tion June 1-5, 2019

[Hamburg 2019](#)