

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”

Our DGE Returns



Our District Governor Elect, Dave Bensley, returns from the International Convention. Dave is now equipped with the new Strategic plan for Rotary International and will be working with his team to craft a five-year plan for our District. This process begins in earnest with the Leadership meeting on February 9. The new theme “Rotary Connects the World” is a perfect fit. We need sustained collaboration to improve our communities and the world. Please support our DGE as he prepares for the coming Rotary year.

Izzy Expands

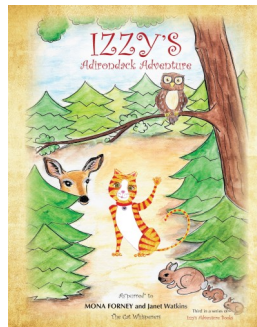
Each of our clubs is unique and often develops ideas that can expand through time. The Groton Rotary club through the leadership of Janet Watkins developed the children's book series about the adventures of a neighborhood cat named Izzy. This book series helped Groton Rotary to promote

reading for youth in their community.

In 2015 Izzy's Closet was formed with help from a District Community Grant and sales from the Izzy Adventure Books. Izzy's Closet is now a non-profit corporation that provides basic school supplies, clothing and books, distributed by teachers, to children in need. Izzy's Closet can now be found in Edmeston and Unadilla. Edmeston Rotary has now added basic hygiene items to their Izzy's closet

In 2017 Izzy Reads was added as an off shoot program for Groton Elementary and Head Start and in January 2019 at Dryden Head Start. Izzy Reads targets our youngest community readers with funding help from the United Way, Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library and Ithaca Rotary. Community volunteers read to the 3-4 year classrooms once or twice a month and 4 times a year give each child a free book. They also send home book marks and advice on the importance of reading to children.

The December 2018 article in the Rotarian by Dana Suskind about the importance of rich vocabulary for the building blocks of literacy is exactly what the Izzy program is all about. “Izzy's Adirondack Adventure” was published last year and “Izzy's Thousand Islands Adventure” is in the works for May of this year. To learn more about this program contact Janet at ja-net@brittanystation.com.





RYLA: I am very pleased to announce that Julie Lambiaso will be serving as Director of RYLA again this year. The program will be shortened to three days due to the school schedule this year: June 30 to July 3. Please thank Julie and Jack Sullivan for their long-standing service. Our RYLA program is one of the best in Rotary.

Public Image Grants Return: This spring we will be awarding ten \$250 grants to clubs to support Public Image. The guidelines for competing for these grants will be made available during February.

Clubs Changing Locations: Three Clubs have changed locations recently.

Unadilla Rotary now meets at The Meeting place at 187 Main St. Unadilla is the site of the very first Boy Scout troop. The Meeting Place happens to make the best scones on the East Coast.

Owego Rotary is now meeting at the Belva Lockwood Inn at 249 Front Street. The Inn has been created from an updated mansion on Front Street. The Owners were featured on House Hunters. The entrepreneurial proprietors also own the Owego Kitchen. This move complements Owego Rotary's plan for their 100 year anniversary in 2020.

Endicott Rotary is now located at Food Fusion across from Enjoie Golf Course at 737 W. Main Street. Endicott Rotary is also preparing for their 100 year anniversary in 2021. Three contiguous clubs, Waverly, Owego and Endicott, have consecutive 100 year anniversaries. I am looking forward to three years of partying along the Susquehanna.

Key Dates: We are entering the Rotary season where there are many event opportunities. I will send an updated District Schedule to all members. As with the previous version, please be sure to that your major club and community events are included at the end of the schedule. Please take advantage of the various programs.

February: Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution

President-Elect Fireside Chats – February – March

District Leadership Meeting – 2/9

DFC & DAC – 2/7 At Waverly Rotary

Multi-District PETS Planning Meeting – 2/2

March: Water & Sanitation

Rotary Leadership Institute – 3/9 in Owego

Multi-District PETS – 3/15-16

Grants Management Seminar – SUNY Broome – 3/23

District Training Assembly & Grants Management – 3/30 – SUNY Oneonta

April: Maternal & Child Health

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

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 & 5/30

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

Continued from pg. 2

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 form below and support Rotary in the process.

District Conference: Detailed plans are being developed for the District Conference. Registration will be open in early February. We look forward to showcasing our exchange students and will be developing some breakout sessions just for them. We are looking for creative ways to showcase all seven of the counties we serve, our community leaders and the entire family of Rotary including RYLA, Rotaract Clubs, Interact Clubs and Rotary Community Corp.

We do have a large space for exhibits. We encourage innovative approaches from clubs, committees, and community service providers. You can partner with other clubs or community organizations. We will have a rotating picture show of all of the great assets in our seven counties and some of the great products we produce. Your group picture will be taken by a drone.

Priorities: The next five months are a busy time in the Rotary World. DGE Dave will be setting his leadership team, developing an updated five-year strategy, training incoming Presidents and organizing the District Training Assemblies.

My role will be to organize the District Conference, continue meeting with clubs and community organizations, and making progress on our many goals: membership, Foundation Giving, additional Rotaract Clubs and RCCs, Public Image, an Environmental Sustainability Strategy etc. This is also the time that clubs develop applications for District and International Grants.

Peace and Conflict Resolution: February is Peace and Conflict Resolution Month. This topic underlines the importance of Rotary. Scholarships are provided to students in this field through 6 Universities in the World. Over 1,000 individuals have been trained so far. Conflict resolution does not just apply to war zones, it can apply to your school. Unfortunately our schools have been the scene of conflict and violence. Take some time this month to learn more about Rotary's program and reflect how District 7170 can get more involved.

DG Jeff



Rotarians of the Month

Our Rotarians of the month are **Janet Watkins and the members of the Groton Rotary Club** for the development of the IZZY program and a sustained focus on our youth. This program is a perfect example of the value of collaboration within and outside of Rotary to make a bigger difference.



Interact reading to Pre-K



Pre-K student with Izzy



Izzy's Closet full of books

“Izzy’s Closet, from pencils to pants providing what kids need to succeed in school”. The program began in 2015, for Groton Elementary, by Groton Rotary with help from a District Community Grant and sales from the Izzy Adventure Books. It is now a nonprofit corporation. The “closet” is filled with basic school supplies, clothing and books, distributed by teachers, to children in need. Izzy’s Closet with school supplies can now be found in Edmeston and Unadilla. Edmeston Rotary has now added basic hygiene items to their Izzy’s Closet. In 2017 Izzy Reads was added as an off shoot program for Groton Elementary and Head Start and in January 2019 at Dryden Head Start. Izzy Reads targets our youngest community readers with funding help from United Way, Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library and Ithaca Rotary. Community volunteers read to the 3-4 year classrooms once or twice a month and 4 times a year give each child a free book. We also send home info, book marks, how to and reasons to read aloud to children etc. We want to encourage parents to read aloud to children. If you still have the Rotarian Magazine of Dec. 2018 the article about Dana Susskind about the importance of rich vocabulary for the building blocks of literacy is exactly what this program is all about.

Three Children’s have been written to help fund the program, the latest “Izzy’s Adirondack Adventure” was published last year with “Izzy’s Thousand Islands Adventure” is in the works for May 2019.

Check out the Izzy’s Closet Facebook page, with the waving cat, or website www.izzyscloset.org

If your club would like more information on implementing either of these programs in your community contact Janet Watkins, janet@brittanystaion.com; janet@izzyscloset.org or Heidi Goldstein Hjorganics@aol.com



Transforming our Communities And Rotary

May 10-12, 2019

Binghamton NY Doubletree Hotel

- Our 30th annual District Conference will be an opportunity for Rotarians and community members to celebrate progress, exchange ideas and take action on the future of our communities and Rotary
- Transformation experts from across the country will speak as well as regional Rotary and community leaders.
- Fun events will be sprinkled throughout the weekend including:
 - Drone tour of District 7170
 - Taste of New York room
 - Polio Plus fun walk and riding tour
 - Exhibits: clubs, Interact, Rotaract, Partnerships, Exchange Students
 - Virtual Reality and the story of LUMA FEST
 - Running tour (5k fun run) of Binghamton, Golf
 - Biking tour of Binghamton
 - Fun raffles and door prizes
 - Musical performances from our exchange students and others

***We want to showcase all of our communities
Local clubs, communities, service providers and RI will have marketing space.***



cont.

Transforming our communities will transform Rotary

Topics to be addressed include:

- The art of community collaboration
- Making your club irresistible and creating new clubs
- Creating resources through Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Community Corp, Friends of Rotary, Community Collaboration and Partnerships
- Raising funds inside and outside of Rotary
- Transforming communities around the world
- Environmental sustainability strategy
- A strategic plan for our smaller communities
- Arts and culture in District 7170
- Needs assessment of our District with expert panels
- Building the “people of action” brand
- Vision 2025
- New Generations

Other topics can be suggested by Rotary and community partners. Our entire District is invited to participate in the design of this event

Look for **Early Bird** special.



Rotary Salutes

The **Morris Rotary Club** recently honored long-time **Rotarian Royce Webster** with an **Avenues of Service Award** for his dedication to Rotary and the projects of the local club.

The Avenues of Service Award comes from Rotary International and is the highest recognition that can be attributed to an individual Rotarian for exceptional work in each of Rotary's Avenues of Service. A club president can only nominate one member of the club for this award.

In Webster's case, he joined the Morris Rotary Club in September of 1976. Webster led the club as president during the 1980-81 service year and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

As noted in his letter of nomination to RI, "His real value has always been his steady, behind-the-scenes efforts. He's the first person to roll up his sleeves on every project" for the club and community. "As a lifelong resident of the Morris area, Webster has boundless energy to 'get things done' for the general good. He has generously donated his talents, his equipment and his employees to assist many worthy community projects, regardless of the sponsoring organiza-

tion."

Throughout his Rotary career, Webster has been one of the club's strongest supporters of the Youth Exchange Program. His own daughter was an outbound participant. In addition, the Webster family has hosted several visiting exchange students, even after the Webster children had moved to their own homes.

To make the evening an even more special event, the Morris Rotary Club ar-

anged for a former exchange student to present the award. Alan Pavinsky Bitar, now a researcher at Cornell University, was hosted by the Webster family twenty years ago. (Bitar was also hosted that year by the families of Morris Rotarians

Gerard Bourgeois and Sharon Bosco who were also on hand for the reunion.)

Webster becomes the fourth Morris Rotarian to be honored with an Avenues of Service Award. The club's current senior member James Pasternak was cited many years ago. Michael Virgil was recognized when he retired as the Superintendent of Schools at Morris Central, and the late Rev. Norman Tiffany was lauded for his unflagging support of the club.



Rotary Salutes cont.

Lansing-Ithaca Rotary Club held a Grocery store run on December 12 and collected \$2400 for the Food Bank. The winner was able to collect \$199 worth of groceries.



L-R Wil Buttner (from the Dryden, Club, Ed Siemon, Kathryn Mapes, Dennis Osika, Willie Evans,(winner) Ronna Anthony (his partner), and Don Wells

The **Hillcrest Rotary** is assisting the United Methodist Church in Chenango Bridge with the Tim Tebow Foundation on February 8 at Chenango Valley High School with "A Night to Shine." This exciting night is a worldwide movement to provide "an unforgettable prom night experience to celebrate life" with people with special needs. Guests will receive a red-carpet entrance, hair and make-up sessions, shoe shining stations, limo rides, corsages and boutonnieres, a catered dinner, and special treatments.

The Hillcrest Rotary is honored to be part of this night.

For more information on this wonderful event click on: [Night to Shine](#)

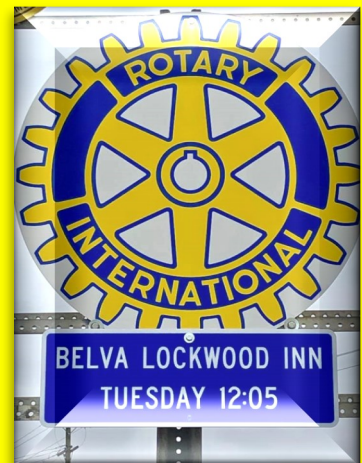


Changes, Changes, we have CHANGES

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January Notes from DGE Dave



Assistant Governors are in the process of scheduling Fireside Chats for all the President Elects of the District. The Fireside Chat is an informal meeting where we can meet one another and discuss our plans for 2019-2020. If you haven't heard from your AG yet, you should hear from them in the near future. If it is impossible for the President-Elect to attend these events, please send someone else from your club. I hope to see all of you at a Fireside Chat in the near future.

A reminder that it is time for all President Elects and Assistant Governors to register for PETS. The event will be held on March 15-16, 2019 at the University Sheraton Hotel in Syracuse, NY. To register go to the following website: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/101497/sitepage/empire-md-pets>. Once at the website go to the top of the page and click on PROGRAMS. Follow the instructions carefully. Remember, if you are going to stay overnight, the hotel registration must be done separately. **Please note that the hotel "Block Rate" of \$130/ night ends on February 10, 2019.** This training is mandatory of all President Elects even if you have attended PETS in the past. Many new topics will be covered this year as well as an exciting new service project which will benefit our District. If you have any questions or problems, please contact me at yep7170@gmail.com or (315) 447-3112.

Save A Date

District Training Assemblies

Grants Management Seminars

This year's District Training Assemblies and Grant Seminars will be held on **Saturday, March 23rd at Broome Community College, Saturday, March 30th at SUC at Oneonta and April 6 at Dryden High School.** **The March 30th event will be a Grants Management Seminar only.** The other two dates will be Grants Management and General Training Assemblies. The Grants management seminar is required for any club planning to apply for grants this year. The General Training Assemblies will be designed for all club officers as well as for any other Rotarians who want to learn more about Rotary. On line registration will be available starting March 1st. Please try to find time to attend one of these events.



Please join us on Rotary Night on February 23rd. There will be no charge for Exchange Students.

ROTARY NIGHT



Join the Binghamton Devils for Rotary Night on Saturday, February 23rd as they host the Utica Comets at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena. As a thank you, tickets will be just \$17. To order tickets, or questions, contact Robby Hess directly at 607-722-8467, or email rhess@binghamtondevils.com



**Saturday, February 23rd
7:05 PM**

VS.



All sales are final. No exchanges or refunds. All persons two (2) years and older require their own ticket.

For more information on other ticket offers please contact us at 607-722-7367

BINGHAMTON DEVILS HOCKEY

www.bingdevils.com / [@bingdevils](https://twitter.com/bingdevils) / 607-722-7367



ROTARY DIRECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR ROTARY DIRECT?

There are three ways to enroll in Rotary Direct, The Rotary Foundation's recurring giving program:

At www.rotary.org/give: Enrolling online is the easiest and most secure way to support Rotary with a recurring gift. Rotary members and friends can set up Rotary Direct accounts by clicking on the **Give** button from any part of Rotary's website, then choosing how to direct their donations. Rotary's online system can accept one-time or recurring contributions in a number of currencies. For a recurring gift, in Step 2 of the donation process, under **Frequency**, choose a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift.

By mail: Donors may enroll using one of the Foundation's various contribution forms, such as [The Rotary Foundation Contribution Form \(123\)](#) or the [Rotary Direct enrollment form](#). □ By phone: Enroll in Rotary Direct by calling +1-866-976-8279.

IS THERE A MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION?

Because we pay processing fees for credit card contributions, we ask for a minimum of \$10 per transaction (i.e., \$10 per month, \$10 per quarter, or \$10 per year).

CAN I HAVE MY DONATION DEBITED DIRECTLY FROM MY CHECKING ACCOUNT?

Direct debit using a checking account number is not an option for Rotary Direct. Donors can, however, donate using a credit card or a debit card that is associated with a personal checking account. Which card types can be used depends on the donor's country and currency.

CAN A CLUB TREASURER ESTABLISH RECURRING GIFTS FOR AN ENTIRE CLUB ONLINE?

No. Club leaders can make one-time contributions on behalf of the club or individual club members online, but they can't enroll their members in recurring giving. Each donor must enroll in Rotary Direct with his or her own credit or debit card.

WHAT FREQUENCY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ROTARY DIRECT GIFTS?

You can choose to make your gift every month, quarter, or year. Monthly gifts are charged on the first day of the month. Quarterly gifts are charged July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. For annual gifts, you choose the month, and your card is charged on the first of that month.

HOW DO I CHANGE OR STOP MY ROTARY DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS?

To change the amount or frequency of your gift, or your method of payment, or to stop your contributions, contact the Rotary International office that serves your area or Rotary's Support Center at +1-866-9768279. For security reasons, please do not send credit card information by email.

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WILL THE ROTARY FOUNDATION CONTACT ME IF MY CREDIT CARD EXPIRES?

Yes. Rotary staff will contact you approximately two weeks before your credit card expires, first by email and later, if necessary, by phone.

ONE ROTARY CENTER 1560 SHERMAN AVENUE EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-3698 USA • T +1-847-866-3000 F +1-847-328-4101 • WWW.ROTARY.ORG

WILL THE ROTARY FOUNDATION CONTACT ME IF MY CARD IS REJECTED AND I MISS A SCHEDULED CONTRIBUTION?

Yes. The Rotary Foundation will notify you by email if a scheduled transaction fails. If we are unable to reach you by email, we will attempt to notify you by phone and then by mail. If you miss a scheduled contribution, we can arrange a one-time make-up gift to help you meet your annual contribution goal.

MY CREDIT CARD IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE OR HAS EXPIRED. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU NEED IN ORDER TO UPDATE MY ACCOUNT?

To update your account, we need your complete credit card number, expiration date, and the three- or four-digit security number. Remember not to send credit card information by email; instead, call the Rotary International office that serves your area or Rotary's Support Center, at +1-866-976-8279.

DO I HAVE TO NOTIFY ROTARY IF I TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT ROTARY CLUB?

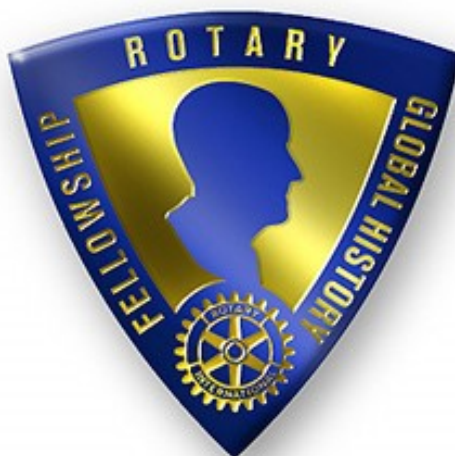
Yes, please do. Notifying the Foundation of your transfer allows your new club to receive credit for your contributions.

DO I HAVE TO BE A ROTARY MEMBER TO ENROLL IN ROTARY DIRECT?

No, you do not need to be a Rotarian to give through Rotary Direct. Anyone who wishes to support the Foundation's mission is welcome to do so with a recurring contribution.

HOW WILL MY ROTARY DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS BE ACKNOWLEDGED?

Upon enrollment, new Rotary Direct participants will receive an acknowledgement letter confirming the amount and frequency of their contributions. Gifts made to The Rotary Foundation via Rotary Direct will be receipted individually at the time of contribution. Each scheduled contribution will be credited to a donor's individual account, Rotary club and district and will be used wisely on quality Rotary projects.





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



We have made some changes to the grants seminars to be held in Spring 2019.

March 23, 2019 - Global Grants seminar **ONLY**. This will be held at SUNY Broome. See the attached registration form, which will also be posted on the District website.

March 30, 2019 - District Community and International Grants. Part I and Part II will be breakout sessions at the District Assembly in Oneonta.

April 6, 2019 - District Community and International Grants. Part I and Part II will be breakout sessions at the District Assembly in Dryden.

The Assembly registration forms will be posted on the District website in March.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Cynthia Burger, Chair 2018-2019 District Grants Subcommittee Rotary District 7170

csburger@frontiernet.net

(H) 607-692-3442. (C) 607-644-3760.

110 Walters Road, Whitney Point, NY 13862

Rotary District 7170 GLOBAL GRANT SEMINAR

March 23, 2019

Libous Room, SUNY Broome

907 Front Street, Binghamton New York

AGENDA

8:30 am Registration and refreshments

9:00-11:00 am Seminar

There is no charge to attend.

Please register no later than **March 15 with Lana Rouff via email to lanarouff@gmail.com** or by mail 396 Clarkson Drive, Vestal, NY 13850 or by phone (607) 427-8400.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Rotary Club of _____

Have you attended any of the grants seminars before? If so, which ones?

Are you presently working on a Global Grant? Which one?

Have you applied for a Global Grant before? Which one?

Rotary Leadership Institute of Northeast America



www.rlinea.org

Our district will be holding our annual RLI workshop on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at The Owego Treadway Conference Center at 7:30 AM to 3:30PM with **breakfast and lunch provided**. The cost of this event is \$80 and is typically paid for by the club. At a past District Visioning session it was agreed upon that we make a better attempt to offer more education with a greater emphasis on attending the annual RLI workshop. I tell all who will listen of the value in attending, not simply because of the Rotary education, but also because of the teamwork that it promotes between all Rotarians in the District. As I have stated in the past, you will get to see the larger world of Rotary outside of your club and into the District and beyond. Also, I try not to promote this event based on the word “leadership” because this can be intimidating to some if this is not their goal to become a club leader. I believe that participation in an event such as this one will grow your club’s leadership naturally. The District Leadership thinks that attending the upcoming RLI program is **so** important for all clubs, that they have decided to show their support financially. The District will support **two \$50 scholarships per club** (up to \$2000 – first come, first served) to help defray some of the cost of attending this worthwhile program. **We are asking each club to submit their applications along with a check to RLI and let me know if your club will be taking advantage of the scholarships offered. I will have the District reimburse your club after the March 9th event.** Normally each club pays the registration fees to have their members attend RLI. The \$50 mentioned above will certainly help, but for those clubs that may be having financial difficulties and still would like to participate, it was voted that the District will help those clubs with additional full scholarships. The District may provide a total of **seven full \$80 scholarships**. This is seven across the entire district, BUT within the \$2000 allotment. Please submit your request for assistance to me and we will let you know if your request was chosen ASAP with the final decision made by DG Jeff.

Matt Adler
RLI Chair
District 7170

President Elect Maloney Announces 2019-2020 Theme

On January 14th, President Elect Mark Daniel Maloney announced the theme for the 2019-2020 Rotary year. The theme is “Rotary Connects the World”. This theme fits the plans of District 7170 perfectly. Our Current Governor, Jeff Smith, has been working tirelessly to connect Rotary with our communities and Rotary clubs with each other. Through these connections a synergy will be created which will enable much more to be done to help our communities and the world. Governor Elect David Bensley plans to continue the work that Jeff has begun.



An Interview with Jeffry Cadorette, Rotary International Director (2018-20) Rotary Club of Media, PA

1. Re-zoning - will this change anything for District 7170? If so, how? When will this go into force and what do we need to know?

Rotary bylaws require the Board to complete a comprehensive review of the 34 Rotary zones no less often than every eight years to ensure that each zone has an approximately equal number of Rotarians. The Board's previous review of the zones occurred in 2008. The most recent rezoning was approved by the Board in January 2017. The 4 New York districts were affected by this decision. On July 1, 2020, they will no longer be a part of Zone 29. They will become part of Zone 32 which is comprised of the Rotary districts from Montreal to Philadelphia. We are currently in a transition phase and are actively welcoming the New York districts into what will be their new Zone. To that end, the recent publication of the annual Zone 24/32 Directory included all of the Rotary Officers (Governors) past, present, and future, into that Directory encouraging all to reach out to their classmates and begin to get to know each other. Many other initiatives are underway with a goal of allowing a seamless transition of the New York districts from Zone 29 to Zone 32. All of the Rotarians and leadership of the 4 New York districts are invited to attend the Zone 24/32 Conference that will occur in Niagara Falls in September 2019. You can learn more about that and register at our Zone website. <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077> Additionally, you're all invited to the Beyond Borders Dinner we will host at the International Convention in June, 2019 in Hamburg, Germany (<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077/sitepage/beyond-borders-dinner-hamburg>).

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2. The Future of Rotary - what is your insight? We hear all the time negativity regarding membership numbers - what can we do to help move the needle at a local level?

Declining membership across North America over the past 15 years is what has caused our districts to be affected by rezoning over the past decade. The bottom line is that we each need to be a part of the solution that reverses that trend. We need to Grow Rotary. Part of the solution is growing our existing, traditional Rotary Clubs. Average club size is now down to 34. Average age in our clubs is now up to 54. Even 30 years after having women in our membership, we still only have a female membership of 24%. These statistics are alarming. They are also an opportunity. The 2016 Council on legislation gave us unprecedented flexibility relative to our clubs and how they operate. (Passport Clubs, Satellite Clubs, etc.) We need to do a better job of communicating the value proposition to clubs of that flexibility and those new tools and helping them with the change management resources necessary to allow for that change. We're working hard on that and our President-elect, Mark Maloney, will be rolling out his primary initiative for his year, Growing Rotary, at the International Assembly in January 2019. Locally, clubs can take advantage of the amazing resources to help them at Rotary.org, connect with their District Membership Committee, and reach out to their Zone Rotary Coordinators whose primary subject area expertise is growing Rotary. It's a choice. Every company/organization reaches a pivot point. The choices they make at that point determine their future. We can either be the Netflix of global service organizations or we can be Blockbuster video. We can be digital photography, or we can be Kodak. We can be the bullet train, or we can be Baldwin locomotive. This is our pivot point.

3. What is it like to be a Director of Rotary and serve at such a high level? Any interesting thoughts to share on leading such a large, international, and diverse organization? Highs? Lows?

It is the highest privilege and honor to be selected to serve on RI's Board of Directors. With that comes a large, and sometimes daunting, responsibility. When the 17 of us sit in the Board Room or participate in our committee assignments, it becomes immediately apparent that our organization's greatest strength, a global organization that spans 200 countries and regions, 8 official languages, and numerous cultures, also provides us with a platform that can be challenging relative to decision making. A single decision or initiative potentially doesn't fit or work any more across the entire world of Rotary. We need to think more regionally, and we are. We need to be consistent globally with our core values and our value propositions, but we need to be aware that the way Rotary is delivered across our platform varies, and that's OK.

On a personal note, I am simply a club Rotarian with a great assignment. We're all a part of the same team. Rotary Senior Leader or Rotary VIP does not resonate with me. We're each Rotarians. I don't consider myself to be "above" anyone else in the organization and I don't view those I serve as subordinates. We're all equal and striving for the same thing. To ensure that our organization is relevant for the decades to come. Our 113-year history does not guarantee that. Especially in North America, we need to pivot to ensure that.

4. Is there a way to become more involved on a global level with Rotarians across the world? Fellowships, etc.? Who would be a point of contact to explore such opportunities?

Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups are an amazing way for club Rotarians to engage with like-minded Rotarians locally and across the globe. Fellowships tend toward social activities and Action Groups tend toward service projects and activities. Unfortunately, they are invisible to many Rotarians. (We're working on that) To learn more about fellowships go to <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>

To learn more about Rotarian Action Groups go to <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/join-rotarian-action-group>

Both Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups offer opportunities for club members to engage. Lack of engagement is one of the primary reasons we lose members. Ultimately then, Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups can be another tool to help us to Grow Rotary.



Tree Peony Club Order Sheet

Name:

Rotary Club:

Address:

Phone Number, E-mail Address:

\$25 through March 30, 2019

Color	Price/Plant	Quantity	Sub-Total
Pink	\$25		
Red	\$25		
Purple	\$25		
White	\$25		
Yellow	\$25		
Total			

Make check payable to: Rotary District 7170

Send check and club order form to: Tony Salerno, District Treasurer
8 Hanford Dr.
Dryden, NY 13053

\$10 from each plant sold by your club will be donated to the Rotary Foundation in your club's name. Your club will receive the per capita credit and Foundation points.

Your order will be ready to pick-up at the District Training Assemblies and Grants Management Seminars in spring 2019.

**Tree Peony Planting Project | Richard Matsushima | 3405 Almar Dr. | Vestal, NY 13850 |
607-770-9428 | dg7170.2016@gmail.com**



Save The Date

Jeff Smith
District Governor
2018-2019

3600 Lorne Drive
Endwell, NY 13760

Phone:
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(C) 607-727-0341

E-mail:
jsmith1532@aol.com



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](#)