



# Rotary

## People of Action



December 2018

### THE NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY DISTRICT 7300

Including Allegheny, Beaver and Parts of Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania



Dear Fellow Rotarians:

Season's Greetings to you and your loved ones.

During this period of celebration, festivity and self-reflection, we get a feeling of generosity to share our joy and resources generously with our family, friends, and community.

For Rotarians, this spirit of sharing their blessings continues all year, throughout their life, as they serve enthusiastically to the call of the time.

Surinder and I are privileged to have this opportunity to serve alongside you.

We wish you a JOYFUL Holiday Season and blessings of good Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

Yours in Rotary Service,

S. Singh Ajmani

### EIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS, \$5000 EACH

The Bob Williams Rotary Memorial Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications from current high school seniors and G.E.D. students.

This year eight scholarships will be awarded at \$5000 each.

All Rotarians are encouraged to seek applicants for this program. The application materials can be found on the Rotary District 7300 website ([rotarydistrict7300.org](http://rotarydistrict7300.org)) under "Bob Williams Scholarship." Many high school counselors have the materials as well. Please note that this is a need-based scholarship.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is the last day in February, 2019.

Please contact Bob Arbuckle, Committee Chair, at [rarbuckle66@gmail.com](mailto:rarbuckle66@gmail.com), for further information.



## Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotary Partners with Green Tree Rotary to Ring the Bell for Salvation Army

Again this year, Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon and Green Tree Rotary Clubs joined forces at Kuhn's Market on Banksville Road in Mt. Lebanon to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotarians Cheyenne Martinez and Robyn Vittek with Green Tree Rotarian Steve Burkett

Despite the cold and heavy rain on December 1, Rotarians from the two clubs showed up for their shifts as though it were a sunny day in June.

Christmas carols were playing from a CD player, and some Rotarians sang along.



Cheyenne Martinez, who works with the Salvation Army, is a member of Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotary. Other members were Robyn Vittek, Reg Tate, Ron Davis, Melissa Fuson, Bob Zelleznick, Chris Conroy, and John and Gretchen Wilcox. From Green Tree Rotary were Steve Burkett, Dick Rothrock, Rick Porach, Elaine Nowak, Mitch Dugan, Sandra Rebholz and Rick Canello, who showed up on crutches with a broken foot. He said he signed up for the shift, so he had to show up to be there. Some Rotarians also brought members of their family to ring the bell with them.

The Salvation Army later reported that the joint effort resulted in the highest red kettle intake that day.





## **Fox Chapel Rotary Awards Choir \$500 Honorarium for Competition Travel**

by Tom Benic

The Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area presented a \$500 honorarium check to the Fox Chapel Area High School Choir at the Club's annual Holiday Party Dec. 12 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. The check was presented by club President Walter F. Jenkins, shown at right. At left is Benjamin Murray, the director of the Fox Chapel Area High School Choir.

The choir's Madrigal Singers ensemble of 40 students sang a collection of national and international holiday music at the dinner, as it has for the past 30 years.

Rotary President Walter F. Jenkins presented the check to Benjamin Murray, choir director. The honorarium will be used by the full high school choir this spring to help defray the cost of a spring competition trip to Chicago.

"This is an absolutely outstanding choir and community asset," Jenkins said. "These talented young people have entertained us every year for as long as anyone can remember. They just keep getting better, with an ever-expanding repertoire that now includes not only traditional American Christmas favorites but also songs in Latin, Hebrew and an energized African medley. We are only too happy to support them."

Last year the Rotary Club gave the choir a \$500 honorarium that it used for a competition trip to Washington, D.C. where it placed first in a talented multi-state field.

A video sampling of the Madrigal Singers concert for the Rotary Club is at this link

<https://youtu.be/wc0oCgKEa1U>





Tom Benic, Fox Chapel Area Immediate Past President, accepts the Lou Piconi Memorial Membership Trophy from District Governor Singh Ajmani and PDG Linda Fischer Bruce, District Membership Chairman, for most new members inducted during the 2017-18 Rotary year.



Rotary Club of Pittsburgh members and their guests posed for a holiday photo at their annual celebration on December 11, 2018, at LeMont Restaurant, with members of the River City Brass providing entertainment -- James Gourlay, Music Director, conducting.



## KINDERGARTEN READINESS!!

The Bridgeville – South Fayette Rotary is pleased to support the Kindergarten Readiness program at the Bridgeville Public Library.

The Kindergarten Readiness program is for children scheduled to enter kindergarten in the fall. Through playful learning, the children develop early literacy, basic math and fine motor skills that will help them become better prepared to learn in kindergarten classrooms. They are also given opportunities to practice other skills which are essential to school readiness, such as cooperation, taking turns, and perseverance.

The Bridgeville – South Fayette Rotary's donation will help purchase materials used in the library programs that specifically assist in the Youth Services program as well as fill Kindergarten Readiness Bags with supplies and books to send home with each child for further skill reinforcement.

We thank Karen Verduci for attending our meeting and explaining more about this program. It was so exciting to see how passionate she was about helping young children learn how to read!

Rotarian, Glenn Schillo is pictured here with Karen Verduci.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Conference of Southern West Virginia**

**P.O. Box 1350  
Pineville, WV 24874  
304-732-6800**

December 7, 2018

The Rotary  
1608 Cook School Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Dear Rotarians:

What a blessing you have been to us and to our neighbors in need! Down here in the heart of Appalachia, poverty ranks high and is slowly increasing as coal demand slides and jobs become fewer. Families find it harder and harder to make ends meet.

We try to meet the needs of these families by supplying those eligible with basic household needs such as: used furniture, appliances, food at our Food Pantry, housewares, diapers, whatever...and winter coats.

It was a happy day to see Herman pull up at our Center with a truckload of winter coats. It seems we can never have too many coats for our folks. The coats you sent are gorgeous and warm!

Next week there will be many happy faces and relieved parents as they pick up a winter coat at the food pantry.

All we can say is once more...thank you for caring for families you don't even know and will probably never meet. Know that they are grateful as you continue to personify the community concern of Rotary.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold and Kathy Simonse  
304-732-8959  
arnoldsimonse@aol.com





## Membership Minute

### *We Need Each Other*

By Karl Ohrman

Barn raising and house raising were common events in the early days of the United States. The rural people of America would get together and help a neighbor build a new home or barn, because everyone realized that collective action was more effective than the work of a single person.



Although this method of construction has disappeared from our modern way of life, it still holds true that people working together will accomplish more than they could working separately.

That truth is an important reason why membership in an organization such as Rotary International is beneficial to you, your local community and indeed everyone in the world.

A Rotary club acting as one unit can be the source of great inspiration and ideas. A Rotary club can conduct wonderful projects both locally and internationally. Rotary's voice at the club level is a powerful voice.

The bigger the club's membership, the bigger things that can be accomplished. Whatever your club's size, don't be satisfied. There is always room for new members and new ideas.

A simple but effective goal this year is to have each club increase its membership by one member. This is harder than it looks, but with effort by all club members, it can and should be done. Go for it.



## District Rotary Clubs Sponsor 250 High School Students To Attend World Affairs Institute New Space Age Conference

District 7300 Governor S. Singh Ajmani joined students from Fox Chapel Area High School at the World Affairs Institute "Exploring the New Space Age" conference.

Rotary Clubs from District 7300 and District 7330 sponsored 250 high school students from throughout Western Pennsylvania to attend the conference at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders November 30 at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.



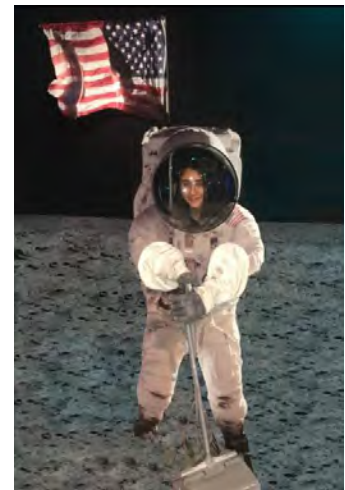
DG Singh Ajmani, FCAHS Gifted Education teacher Lisa Gibson and students: Brian Mulhern, Margaret Fletcher, Ameva Velankar, Mona Gerges, Ethan Werner, Connor McAtee, and Bill McConnel, Fox Chapel Rotary's Youth Committee Chair. Back row: Elizabeth Crookston, Cara Felman, Diana Crookston and Anna Jablonowski.

Students heard lectures and questioned speakers in the morning, visited the History Center's space exhibit and then met with other students to develop a plan to govern a future colony on Mars.

District Governor Singh Ajmani joined Angelica Ocampo, President of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, and Stephen Bullick, Heinz History Center Educator, in welcoming the students.

Lectures and panel discussions featured Laura Delgado Lopez, Editor-in-Chief of Space Policy Journal, Jan Osburg, Senior Engineer at the RAND Corporation, John Thornton, Chief Executive Officer of Astrobotic, and Justine Kasznica of Babst

Calland. Mike Fincke, NASA astronaut from Pittsburgh, gave a video address to the students.



## Rotary Club of Fox Chapel

Wally Jenkins, President  
Tom Benic, Publicity Chair  
412-781-9463  
[Tom@Benic.net](mailto:Tom@Benic.net)

More photos: [https://www.snapfish.com/photo-gift/share?via=link&token=wBg6wjZiPLQRXyld7\\_AA7A/AUS/27948918362070/SNAPFISH](https://www.snapfish.com/photo-gift/share?via=link&token=wBg6wjZiPLQRXyld7_AA7A/AUS/27948918362070/SNAPFISH)





You're invited to a  
roaring good time!

The New Kensington Rotary Club's 20th

# ROTARAMA

**MARCH 23, 2019**

Hill Crest  
Country Club  
Lower Burrell,  
PA

*Voted 2018 Best  
Wedding Venue by  
Pittsburgh Magazine*

**Sponsorship  
& Advertising  
Opportunities,  
as well as Tickets  
for Attendance  
Available**



**THE FUN BEGINS AT 5 P.M.**

**CONTACT: MIKE NEWELL  
MNEWELL@VPFYMCA.ORG**

## 20th Anniversary Event Features:

*This event's going to be the bee's knees!*

 Famous Reverse Raffle - \$4,000 Grand Prize

 Live Music with Neon Swing X-perience  
*Voted a Best of Pittsburgh winner by Pittsburgh City Paper*

 Dinner and Speakeasy  
*Includes beer, wine and soft drinks*


 Table Games and Raffles

 Photo Opportunities and Selfie Station

All gents and dolls are invited to put on the ritz in their best attire as we party like Gatsby & raise a glass of giggle water to benefit the Rotary's community grant program.



**WANT TO BE A TV STAR?**

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR ROTARIANS**



For further information:

Adam Dunhoff | Casting Recruiter

*Mindhunter* S2 | Late Seventies Productions, LLC

40 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor | Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412.999.4491 (c)

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