



JUNE 2019

Mike Slovak, District Governor

District Conference Issue

Rotary



BE THE  
INSPIRATION

Welcome to Rotary District 7120

2019 "Family Fun" Conference

May 3-5, 2019

Pocono Manor, PA



The Rotary 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?



Mike & Jo Slovak

Written by Elaine Tears

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR MIKE SLOVAK, A BATH ROTARIAN, PRESIDES OVER ROTARY DISTRICT 7120 CONFERENCE

District Governor Mike Slovak and other Bath Rotarians and their guests proudly hosted the approximately 250 Rotarians and their guests at the District Conference on May 3 – 5 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Pocono Manor, PA.

At the opening of the conference all attendees enjoyed the Parade of Flags by the Rotary Youth Exchange students. The parade was a most joyous and colorful event as the Rotarians celebrated the young people who had traveled to the U. S. to spend this past year learning about our culture and the American students who will travel to many countries throughout the world for the upcoming school year. Joaquin Ellena from Argentina spoke on behalf of all of the exchange students about the positive experiences she and her fellow exchange students had encountered.

On Friday night Dan Berlin from Fort Collins, CO and cousin of Julie Carney, Avon Rotarian, relayed his experiences as a blind endurance athlete, successful business entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. His journey through life, although diagnosed with a retinal condition at a young age and re-diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy in his early thirties, amazed and inspired the Rotarians and their guests. He recounted some of his accomplishments: climbing to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2 days in the dark to simulate low vision for the guides; running, cycling, and kayaking over 100 kilometers along the Great Wall of China; completing double, ultra-marathon trails on both islands of New Zealand; bicycling across America in 7 days, 15 hours, and 3 minutes. His journey indeed challenged all present to tackle whatever comes their way.

Jennifer Jones, Rotary International Vice-President 2016 – 2017, from Windsor, Ontario, Canada was live-streamed into the banquet room on Saturday night in order to extend Rotary International's heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a successful conference as well as to introduce the evening's keynote speaker, LaShonda Brown Delivuk from Lynchburg, VA, a rapidly rising star in Rotary. LaShonda's presentation was very inspirational and reminded all Rotarians how impactful their service is to their communities and the world. She concluded her presentation with these very thoughtful and stirring words – "Light yourself on fire with passion, and they will come from miles to see you burn."

Friday night all enjoyed the outstanding performance by Brad Ordway and his daughter and granddaughter, Aubri and Mia Enders. Ordway, a native of Hornell and resident of Bath, is a well-known singer/songwriter who performs in many venues across the Southern Tier. He is well-known for his song "The Pledge" which he performed during the opening session of the Presidents' Banquet.

Saturday night Marian Murphy Powell, a graduate of Avoca Central School and former student of three Bath Rotarians, entertained those in attendance with a vast array of vocal selections. Powell is an accomplished singer and theatrical artist who brings a versatile background to her work on stage, into the teaching studio, and to her directing. She is a veteran of national Broadway tours and major regional theatre productions. Her career has taken her to many stages here and abroad and to other venues, such as churches, cabarets, cruise lines, theme parks, dinner theatres, and benefit concerts. Regina McAllen, a renowned pianist who was personally invited by President Barack Obama to perform at one of his White House Holiday Receptions along with a private performance, was Powell's accompanist for the evening's entertainment.

Those in attendance at the conference also participated in several plenary and breakout sessions, a business meeting, receptions, banquets, and a silent auction which raised funds for The Rotary Foundation. In their free time the Rotarians, their families, and guests enjoyed viewing several clubs' service project displays, a walking tour of the resort's artwork brought directly from Africa by the owners of the resort, a chef's demonstration and tasting at the resort's Sortino's Italian Kitchen, and exploring the resort's indoor waterpark, the largest in the U. S. – most Bathites enjoyed the Lazy River, Swim-up Bar, and hot tubs but not the attraction experienced by Jim Carney, the daredevil from Avon.

On Sunday, the final day of the conference, an Ecumenical Service, A Celebration of Life, was held in memory of the 35 District 7120 Rotarians who had passed away within the year. Rev. Eleanor Collinsworth, Pastor of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath and a Bath Rotarian, led the worshippers in the service and presented small succulents in lovely crocks to club members of the deceased. Collinsworth and Nancy Latour, also a Bath Rotarian, were part of the service's choir.

The Bath Rotary Club was pleased to garner the following awards at the conference: Club Service Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Bath Membership Development; Community Service Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Bath Quality of Life; District Literacy Recognition Award; District Simplified Grant to be used for the purchase of a Krayola Kiosk, a computer learning center for children, for the Avoca Free Library whose director is Justin Zeh, a Bath Rotarian. This is an excellent, learning center, and two such centers have been presented in the recent past to the Dormann Library in Bath whose director is Carol Berry, a Bath Rotarian.

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Those Bath Rotarians who attended the conference and their roles as members of the host club for the conference were: Michael Slovak, District Governor; Joanne Sheehan, Conference Co-Chair and Treasurer; Elaine Tears, Conference Co-Chair; Nancy Latour, Conference Secretary; Eleanor Collinsworth, Memorial Service Pastor; Jane Russell, Reception and Menu Coordinator; Cheryl Muller, Conference Tote Bag Coordinator; Dave Stewart, Rotary Check-in Registrar; Carol Berry, Bath Rotary Club President; Robin Lattimer. Also attending were Jo Slovak, Mark Collinsworth, Woody Latour, Steve Sheehan, and Nancy Stewart.

District Governor Mike and Bath Rotarians would like to thank all district Rotarians who attended the conference – Rotarians, Youth Exchange students, Interactors, spouses, partners, families, and friends; all district Rotarians who served as coordinators for specific aspects of the conference; all members of the District Governor's tract for their advice and support; Past District Governors, Assistant Governors, Foundation Area Directors, District Directors, and Club Presidents for their support and participation; all Rotary clubs who donated items for the Foundation Silent Auction; all staff at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center.

The Bath Rotary Club, chartered in 1923, is proud to follow the ideal of "Service Above Self" and meets every Thursday at noon in the Empire Room of the Dormann Library.



Bath Rotarians attend Rotary District 7120 Conference May 3 – 5 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center. Standing left to right are: District Governor Michael Slovak, Jo Slovak, Jane Russell, Elaine Tears, Robin Lattimer, Nancy Latour, Joanne Sheehan, Eleanor Collinsworth, and Dave Stewart. Absent from photo are Carol Berry and Cheryl Muller.

## RI President Barry Rassin

Dear fellow Rotarians and friends,

Esther and I are excited to welcome you to your 2018-19 District Conference. I hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to come together, connect, and share ideas on how to help Rotary do its job in the world, better. By working together strategically and efficiently, your impact—and Rotary's impact—becomes much more significant.

We must ensure that Rotary continues to provide the best possible experience to its members, that it continues to grow and be useful through sustainable service. Our Rotarians need to feel the value of being a member of your Rotary Club. We have to make sure that we are transparent and accountable, all while changing the lives of as many people as possible. While setting goals and hitting milestones are important, it's even more important to always look beyond this year. We have to think about how what we achieve now will help set the tone not only today or tomorrow, but well beyond our own time in 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.

Paul Harris once said, "Rotary is a microcosm of a world at peace, a model which nations will do well to follow." To me, Rotary is not only a model but an inspiration. I'm looking forward to all that we can and will accomplish together as we work to *Be the Inspiration*. I hope you have a productive, inspiring time during your district conference.

Regards,



Barry Rassin  
2018-19 Rotary International President



### Barry Rassin, Rotary International President 2018-19 (Biography - August 2018)

Rotary Club of East Nassau

[barry.rassin@rotary.org](mailto:barry.rassin@rotary.org)

PO Box N-972, Oakhill Road, Nassau, Bahamas

Barry Rassin, of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, earned an MBA in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida and was the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in the Bahamas. He recently retired after 37 years as president of Doctors Hospital Health System, where he continues to serve as a Director. He is a lifetime member of the American Hospital Association and has served on several boards, including the Quality Council of the Bahamas, Health Education Council, and Employer's Confederation. In July 2018, The Bahamas Government recognized Barry as an Officer of The Order of Distinction. A Rotarian since 1980, Rassin has served Rotary as director and as vice chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees. He was an RI training leader and the aide to 2015-16 RI President K.R. Ravindran. Rassin received Rotary's highest honor, the Service Above Self Award, as well as other humanitarian awards for his work leading Rotary's relief efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake there. He and his wife, Esther, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.





### Special Thanks To Our Conference Planning Team

Co-Chairs: Joanne Sheehan & Elaine Tears    Secretary: Nancy Latour  
 Treasurer/Registrar: Joanne Sheehan    Master of Ceremonies: Julie Carney    Banquets/Hospitality: Jane Russell

#### Volunteers (Alphabetically by Function)

Activities	Nancy Latour & Woody Latour
Advice (Last Year's Team)	Daryl Christiansen, Marie Cinti, IPDG Don Milton
Audio / Visual	Jim Carney, Nathan Powell
Breakout Session Hosts	Bo & Patrice Lysell
Check-In	Dave & Nancy Stewart
Chef Demonstrations	Jane Russell
Celebration of Life- Service	Rev. Eleanor Collinsworth
Celebration of Life—Choir	Members of the Choir
Choir Director/Accompanist	Jean Bendix & Janette Tenreiro
Club Project Exhibits	Helen Gormont
Conference Tote Bags	Cheryl Muller
Design / Layout / Artwork	Heather Benedict & Randy Parker
District Awards	PDG Ellen Hughes
Facilities Oversight	Jim Carney
Foundation Silent Auction	PDG Ellen Hughes
Golf Outing	Tom Vonglis
Greeters	Skip & Judy Miller
Marketing /Publicity /Apps & Promotional Materials	Tom Brown, Marilyn Lyon, Heather Benedict & Randy Parker
Program	The Team
Sponsorships	Jack Fredericks & John French
YEX Additional Chaperones	Bob Vukosic, ???
Youth Exchange	Julie Carney, Nancy Loughlin & Gretchen DiNardo

Thanks to the Bath & Naples Rotary Clubs for their Many Contributions



DG Mike Slovak presented Bill Gormont, Scott MacDonell and Bruce Amey with "Outstanding Leadership Awards" for their exemplary roles in the District Strategic Planning Initiative, with Honorable Mention for Leslie Vecchiotti and Kevin Mooney as our 2 newest / activated Strategic Planning Facilitators.

# Rotary

## District 7120



**Past District Governor Mark and Linda Wyse** were recognized as Major Donors at the Rotary District 7120 Conference in Kalahari. PA. They are pictured with District Governor Mike Slovak and Ellen Hughes, Rotary Foundation Chairperson. The **Rotary Foundation** recognizes couples or individuals whose combined personal, or cumulative giving has reached \$10,000.

(Submitted by Carl Grovanz)



### *Certificate for Outstanding Leadership*

*in the Development and Implementation  
of the District 7120 Strategic Planning Initiative*

William "Bill" Gormont

May 5, 2019

District Governor 2018-2019

Date



### *Certificate for Outstanding Leadership*

*in the Implementation and Facilitation  
of the District 7120 Strategic Planning Process*

Bruce Amey

May 5, 2019

District Governor 2018-2019

Date



### *Certificate for Outstanding Leadership*

*in the Implementation and Facilitation  
of the District 7120 Strategic Planning Processes*

Scott MacDonell

May 5, 2019

District Governor 2018-2019

Date

# CLUB BULLETIN AWARDS

**Coordinator: Pat Overmoyer**

## **Division 1: Large Clubs**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Avon**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Newark**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Canandaigua**

## **Division 2: Medium Clubs**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bloomfield**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Spencerport**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Red Jacket**

## **Division 3: Small Clubs**

**No entries**



# CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

**Coordinator: Tom Brown**

Social media awards are given to recognize individual clubs that are attempting to use these new tools to get the message of Rotary out to the public.

## CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Newark**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Penfield**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Geneva**

## Club Website Awards

**1st Place: Geneva**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Newark**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tie: Geneseo and Rush-Henrietta**



# CLUB LITERACY AWARDS

**Coordinator: Pam Dean**

**Avon**

**Elmira Heights**

**Ontario-Walworth**

**Bath**

**Fairport**

**Palmyra-Macedon**

**Bloomfield**

**Geneseo**

**Penfield**

**Canandaigua**

**Greece**

**Rush-Henrietta**

**Corning**

**Honeoye Lake**

**Seneca Falls**

**Dundee**

**Naples**

**Spencerport**

**East Rochester**

**Newark**

**Waterloo**

# JACK KING AWARD

**Awarded to the club with the highest percentage increase in membership growth from ...**

**July 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019**

**Penfield Rotary 78%**



BE THE INSPIRATION



# CLUB SERVICE AWARDS

**Coordinator: Ellen Hughes**

## CLUB SERVICE AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bath Membership Development**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Waterloo Rotary Corp**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington**

**Weekly Newspaper Articles**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Waterloo Farmer's Market**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington Giving Tree**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Bath Quality of Life**

## **CLUB VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Rochester Northwest**  
**Membership Owned Projects**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Waterloo Service Above Self Award**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington Law Enforcement**  
**Recognition and Involvement**

## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Newark Rotary**  
**Agua Saludable**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ontario-Walworth and Webster**  
**Crutches for Africa**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Red Jacket**  
**Stomp Out Polio**

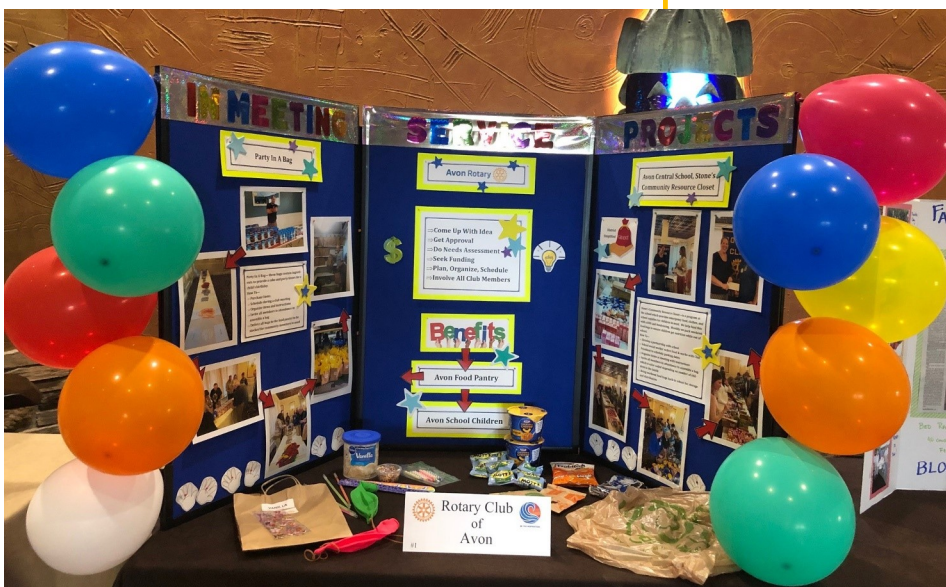
## **YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Clifton Springs School Supplies**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Rochester Northwest International**  
**School Interact**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Canandaigua School Based**  
**4 Way Test**



**Thank You to all the members of all the clubs for their commitment, persistence and achievement!**





## Avon Rotary

Avon Rotary's project display voted #1 featuring two of our very important 'in-meeting' service projects.

1 – Party in a bag which provides birthday party supplies for the local food pantry.

2 – Avon Central School's Stones Community Resource Closet – backpack program which provides food for kids on the weekend.

Below: Rotarians from Avon representing at the District Conference.



Avon Rotarians , team Vonglis/Ayers on the golf course. Tom Vonglis (R) organized a very fun tournament with 5 teams participating.





VICTOR-FARMINGTON ROTARY CLUBDISTRICT CONFERENCE

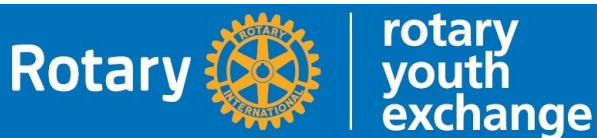
The Victor-Farmington club was represented at the conference by Karen Parkhurst, Russ Perrin and Judy & Dave Luitweiler. In addition to attending on-site conference activities they took the opportunity to arrive a day early and visit nearby dining attractions in the Pocono Mountains area.

High on their list was a visit to TV personality Guy Fieri's (Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives) restaurant located in the Mt. Airy Casino. They dined on specialties from various eating places across the US that Fieri has featured in his programs. With a stroke of "Rotary luck" they were also able to finance their gourmet experience from their winnings at the casino. All in all, a great side trip.

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler







Joaquin Ellena Murature, the Rotary exchange student hosted by the Victor-Farmington Rotary club was selected to be the speaker representing the Rotary exchange students at the Rotary District Conference. He was selected by the district's youth exchange committee for his exemplary commitment to the goals and objectives of the exchange student program during the current Rotary year.

Joaquin currently attends Victor Senior HS and resides with his host family in Farmington. He is seventeen years old and is from a farming community in Argentina. The Victor-Farmington Rotary club has participated in the youth exchange program since 1978. Joaquin is the first student hosted by the club to have been selected for the honor of being a keynote speaker at the conference.

The exchange students entered the conference floor in the traditional "Parade of the Flags", led by Joaquin who carried the flag of Argentina. Each student carried the flag of their home country.

In his comments Joaquin traced his personal experience as an exchange student arriving in Rochester last summer as a sixteen year old from Argentina who was coming to a country with a different language and culture. He was away from home for the first time in a land of strangers. He complimented the support Rotary provides the exchange students, particularly the support he has received from his host families and fellow students at school.

He noted, "There are always cultural differences between the families and the students, but through the days, a melting of cultures occurs that gives us the opportunity to learn from our host families' culture, and I am sure that they have learned from ours as much as we did."

After concluding his address, Joaquin joined with exchange students Hilda Johannson (Sweden) and Manuela Buffo (Brazil) in presenting a "piggy bank" with \$1,445.00 to District Governor Mike Slovak. The money was raised by the students in a fund raising effort to support the work of the Rotary Foundation. (Submitted by Dave Luitweiler)



Joaquin addressing conference







L to R – Manuela Buffo (Brazil – Watkins Montour Rotary) – Joaquin Ellena Murature (Argentina – Victor Farmington Rotary) – Hilda Johansson (Sweden – Rush Henrietta Rotary) – with piggy bank containing \$1,445 raised for Rotary Foundation)



Inbound and outbound students (Sweden) presenting flag to conference