

## Rotary International - District 7120



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE



June 2018

Don Milton, District Governor

District Conference Issue



Don Milton and Ruth

*"it has been a truly wonderful and memorable journey...thanks to all of you ....we will always remember this Rotary year and all of you as you will forever remain in our hearts."*





Trudy Hicks, Newark Rotary  
(Submitted by John Zornow)



May 4th-6th  
Saratoga Springs, NY



SAVE THE DATE 2019 District Conference  
May 3rd—5th at Kalahari Resort, Mt. Pocono PA.



## ROTARY AND THE SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD



During the District 7120 Conference in Saratoga Springs, participating Rotarians had the opportunity to visit the Saratoga Battlefield National Park. Many were unaware of the special connection between Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, the Battle of Saratoga, and Rotary's involvement in establishing the battlefield as a national park.

Harris had two great-grandfathers who fought at the battle - Salathiel Harris and Reuben Bryan. Although they were from New England they fought as detached members of Morgan's Rangers, the legendary Pennsylvania/Kentucky unit of sharpshooters. Morgan's

Rangers saw extensive combat action on both days of the battle.

However, this is not the end of the story of Rotary's connection to the battlefield. For decades after the battle the land on which it was fought was private property. The first attempt to erect monuments to recognize the historical significance of the battle occurred in 1856 when the Saratoga Monument Association was established.

The Civil War delayed the progress of the Association but eventually a monument recognizing the battle was erected on a site near the battlefield. The State of New York assumed the financial costs and responsibility for the monument.



*Surrender at Saratoga*

However, the land on which the battle was fought remained in private hands. It consisted of four separate farms, the largest two being the Freeman farm and the Sarle farm. Visitors to the battle site were technically trespassing on private land if they did so without permission.

In 1923, Charles E. Ogden, a member of the Rochester Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), was the driving force behind a resolution calling upon the SAR to purchase the farms in furtherance of establishing the battlefield as a public park. The resolution was approved by the national SAR and resulted in the formation of the Saratoga Battlefield Association. Charles E. Ogden was the first president of the Saratoga Battlefield Association.

This would eventually lead to the purchase of the Freeman Farm and the Sarle Farm.

Rotary clubs in the Capital Region of New York, as well as Rotarians in the neighboring states of Vermont, and Massachusetts, began an organized campaign to preserve the battlefield.

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

One of the Rotarian leaders in organizing support for preserving the battlefield was George Slingerland, president of the Mechanicville Rotary Club. He would eventually be appointed the first superintendent of the battlefield park. He worked to secure the involvement and support of Adolph Ochs, publisher of the *New York Times*.

In October 1925 over 400 Rotarians gathered at the battlefield site to push for the state and federal governments to get involved in the park project. Charles E Ogden, president of the Saratoga Battlefield Association, was a keynote speaker at the event. Ogden commented on the valuable contributions Rotarians were making towards securing park status for the battlefield. The goal was to have this accomplished by 1927, in time for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.

*"The Saratoga Battlefield Association is immensely pleased that the Rotary Clubs of the Capital District have given their assistance to this cause. Rotarians everywhere are live wires and will bring things to pass."*

Rotarian George Slingerland noted, *"....it will be a mecca of not only Rotarians but the whole nation, who will come here to do honor to our forefathers, and to walk reverently over this sacred spot where our own United States was born."*

In 1926, the state purchased the land to create a state historic preserve that was known simply as the Saratoga Battlefield. The November 1926 *Rotarian* magazine carried an article crediting Slingerland and Adolph Ochs, for their contributions in making this happen. The article noted, *"Thanks to the efforts of interested citizens, including Mechanicville Rotarians, the battlefield has been incorporated as a state park."*

On October 8, 1927, a crowd of over 100,000 people gathered at the battlefield to mark the 150th anniversary of the battle. This was a proud day for Rotarians and the Sons of the American Revolution, in particular George Slingerland and Charles E. Ogden, all of whom had worked so hard to make the dream a reality.



In 1938, New York State passed control of the battlefield over to the US government and the battlefield became the Saratoga National Historic Park. The December 1938 edition of the *Rotarian* magazine contains a photo of a large group of Rotarians gathered at the battlefield for the dedication of a memorial to George O. Slingerland, noted as *"The Father of the Saratoga Battlefield."*

Rotarians had risen to the occasion and were instrumental in preserving for posterity an historic and sacred part of American history.

As Charles Ogden said in 1925, *".... Rotarians are live wires and will bring things to pass."*

( Submitted by DAVE LUITWEILER )

## Governor's Special Recognition Awards

### **Bruce Spector**

Quietly serving Rotary over the years and truly a person of action, he served as Pittsford Club Pres, Treasurer, representative to Camp Haccamo and district attendance chair for many years. He also served as District Treasurer. He currently serves the Foundation as a Foundation Area Director and is just transitioning to the position of Chair of the District Simplified Grants. It is my pleasure to present this certificate in recognition of his great service.

### **Glen Balch**

Every so often there comes before us one who just gets the tough job done with little or no fanfare. That is Past District Governor Glen Balch. Glen has been our District go to person with respect to new club development. Thanks to his leadership efforts we have successfully chartered two (2) new clubs in this Rotary year. Therefore, it is my extreme honor to present this plaque to Glen for his dedication to Rotary.

### **Norma Madayag Reilly**

If there ever was a word in our District that could be a substitute for Membership it would be Norma. She has always been at the ready when it comes to addressing membership. Her name is synonymous with membership. She has steadfastly placed membership as number one for our District. So it is my distinct pleasure to present Norma with this certificate and gift.

### **Chuck Turner**

I would like to honor one individual who has given an inordinate amount of his time to our District. He serves us in many capacities: District legal advisor, totally immersed in our Grants programs both Global and District Simplified Grants. He has always been quick to respond to any contractual questions with the most salient advice. There is so much more that he has done for Rotary but I can feel him saying "stop." I am sure you will all agree that he deserves this recognition.

(Submitted by DG Don Milton)



## Paul Harris Society

Timothy Dickinson, Avon  
Michael Slovak, Bath  
Mahendra Nanavati, Brighton  
Daniel Cole, Caledonia-Mumford  
Thomas Rogers, Canandaigua

Mahendra Shah, Elmira Heights  
Kenneth Steadman, Geneva  
Albert Meilutis, Greece  
David Nagel, Greece  
Barry Kissack, Honeoye Falls- Mendon

Bret Vanzo, Ontario - Walworth  
Jai Goel, Pittsford  
Beth Cross, Rochester  
Albert Broccolo, Rush – Henrietta  
Eric Schmidt, Rush – Henrietta

Wendy Friedman-Kolsin, Seneca Falls  
Karen Parkhurst, Victor-Farmington  
Ellen Hughes, Waterloo  
James Hughes, Waterloo  
Stephanie Ross, Waterloo

Jane Shaffer, Waterloo  
Nancy Loughlin, Watkins-Montour



The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who elect to contribute \$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants.

### **Special Major Donor Award Level 1**

Lee & Marci Loomis

### **Special Major Donor Award Level 1**

Barry Kissack

(Submitted by DG Don Milton)

## CLUB BULLETIN AWARDS

**Coordinator: Pat Overmoyer**

### CLUB BULLETIN AWARDS – DIVISION 1

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Watkins-Montour**

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

### CLUB BULLETIN AWARDS – DIVISION 2

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

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

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

### CLUB BULLETIN AWARDS – DIVISION 3

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

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

## CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

**Coordinator: Tom Brown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Rochester Southeast**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Naples**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Irondequoit**

### Honorable Mention

**Penfield**

**Fairport**

**Pittsford**

## Club Website Awards

**1st Place- Geneva**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Irondequoit**

### Honorable Mention

**Geneseo**

**Greece**





## CLUB VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Fairport: Learning Tree**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington: Law Enforcement**

**Vocational Service Recognition**

## CLUB INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Newark: Purificadora Itzae Living Waters for the  
World Purification Water Plant**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington: International Understanding  
Making a Difference**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Honeoye Lake: Valley of Acosi Rica School Supplies**

## CLUB YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brighton: Creation of Solar Lab at Brighton  
High School**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Fairport: Oratorical Training**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Waterloo: Elementary Reading Project**

## GLENN BALCH CLUB EXTENSION AWARD

**Awarded to the Rotary Club(s) newly chartered by Rotary International from ...  
May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018**

**The Rotary Club of Rochester Southwest, NY  
The Rotary Club of Roc City (Rochester) NY**



**CLUB LITERACY AWARDS - Coordinator: JoAnn Terry**

<b>Avon</b>	<b>Honeoye Falls-</b>	<b>Perry</b>
<b>Bath</b>	<b>Mendon</b>	<b>Rochester</b>
<b>Bloomfield</b>	<b>Honeoye Lake</b>	<b>Seneca Falls</b>
<b>Corning</b>	<b>Monroe County</b>	<b>Spencerport</b>
<b>Dundee</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Victor-Farmington</b>
<b>East Rochester</b>	<b>Naples</b>	<b>Wayland</b>
<b>Elmira Heights</b>	<b>Newark</b>	<b>Waterloo</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Ontario-Walworth</b>	<b>Wolcott</b>
	<b>Penfield</b>	

**CLUB SERVICE AWARDS - Coordinator: J. J. Johnson**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Greece: Area 9 Rotary Clubs: Euchre Tournament**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Honeoye Lake : Hosting at the Gazebo**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Victor-Farmington: Giving Tree**

**CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Honeoye Lake: Drug Take back Initiative**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Elmira: Free Community Kitchen**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Webster: The Barber House**

## CLUB ANNUAL ATTENDANCE AWARDS

**Coordinator: Marc Kreuser**

### JACK KING AWARD

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

**July 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018**

**Rochester Deaf Rotary 36%**

### HOWARD AND MARY FISCHER AWARD

**Awarded to the club with the highest percentage attendance from ...**

**May 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018**

**Perry Rotary Club - 100%**

## CLUB ANNUAL ATTENDANCE AWARDS

**Given to the club with the top three clubs with the highest % attendance from ...**

**July 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018**

**Awarded by Division**

**Division A: over 400 members (no clubs)**

**Division B: 300-399**

**Division C: 200-299 (no clubs)**

**Division D: 100-199**

**Division E: 50-99**

**Division F: 25-49**

**Division G: under 25**

**Division B**

**Rochester Rotary: 50.00%**

**Division D:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Newark 68.00%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Canandaigua 66.00%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Corning Rotary 46.00%**

**Division E:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Perry 100.00%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Avon 78.00%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Fairport 71.00%**

**Division F:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Spencerport 98.00%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bath 94.00%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Palmyra-Macedon 85.00%**

**Division G:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Belmont 99.00%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gananda 96.00%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Wayland 96.00%**



**Newark Rotary's** display, put together by Rotarian Trudy Hicks, centered on their activities and fundraising during the year. (Submitted by John Zornow)



## Newark and Penfield Rotary



Past presidents Dave Sturtz, Penfield club, and Bob Bendix, Newark club, reunited for coffee and conversation Saturday morning.

(Submitted by Jean Bendix)

## Newark Chefs



Bob Bendix, Mitch Ruffalo, Mark Kreuser, Holly Kreuser, and Jean Bendix display their culinary creations at the convention.

(Submitted by Jean Bendix)



## **TWICE AS NICE! WAVING HANDS! Rochester Deaf Rotary Club Receives Two Awards at the 2018 District Conference**



*Above Photo : Left: RDR Club President Robert Tawney, President Elect Karen Beiter, Past President John Haynes and Secretary Val Nelson-Metlay*

The Rochester Deaf Rotary Club has received two awards for the 2017-2018 Membership Award for achieving 30% growth in our district and the Jack King for the Attendance Award with 36% Attendance (Division B-First Place). Not only did the club receive the two District Governor's citation awards but the Jack King Award plaque as shown on the photo above.

Congratulations again to the Rochester Deaf Rotary Club for their achievements! Waving Hands to All!

*Article submitted by Rochester Deaf Rotary Club & Photo by Gary Morris.*



## Elmira Heights Rotary Child Poverty Initiatives Project

### Receives \$1500 District Award



Jeannie Lupisella, President Honeoye Falls-Mendon, DG Don Milton, Terri Bommarito, President -Elect, Elmira Heights Rotary.

At a January 2018 EHRC meeting, a speaker from The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County (CCEC) shared information regarding an innovative anti-poverty endeavor to empower people in poverty in the local community **"The Poverty Stoplight Program."**

The EHRC determined the PSP program provided an opportunity to address child hunger and poverty in our local community. Additionally, this PSP program is directly aligned with the DG's District's Child Poverty Initiatives Project. Terri Bommarito, President-elect established a connection with the CCEC, indicating our EHRC was interested in exploring ways to contribute to the PSP program. We received a positive response to collaborate with CCEC.

**Through the grant award, the EHRC will provide support in the following areas:**

1. Distribute \$10 gift cards for food at the local Weiss grocery store upon completion of the survey.
2. Assist with child care/activities during the 8 Leadership training sessions.  
(10 -20 participants trained as Leaders will connect with 10 families in their neighborhoods).
3. Assist at the East Side Farmer's Market by setting up displays & teaching families how to make healthy snacks. (July – Sept.)

#### **The Poverty Stoplight Program:**

The CCEC and the Poverty Reduction Coalition of Chemung County (PRCCC) identified poverty as a critical issue in the Elmira area. More than 26 % of families in Elmira are living below the poverty line with the situation being exacerbated by the crisis of controlled substance abuse.

Given these alarming facts, the CCEC and PRCCC decided to take action to address this critical situation utilizing the "The Poverty Stoplight Program."

The goal of these organizations was to implement the following two strategies:

1. The Poverty Stoplight Survey (PSP)
2. Natural Leader's Initiative (NLI)

**The Poverty Stoplight Program** implements a tool created by a Paraguay based non-governmental organization. Communities in 25 mostly developing countries have implemented this PSP. The United Nations recognizes the PSP as an example of a successful poverty reduction plan. Most noteworthy, only three cities in the U.S. have adopted this PSP, New Orleans, Washington, D.C. and Elmira, NY.

The PSP developed a 50-Question survey to assist families in identifying their own levels of poverty related to employment, income, health, housing, education, participation in the community and motivation.

**The Natural Leaders Initiative (NLI)** trains leaders from the targeted neighborhood to conduct the PSP survey to their neighbors. The training includes eight 2-hour sessions which began in February 2018.

This entire program will help families identify strategies and community resources to help themselves out of poverty.

The EHRC is enthusiastic to be involved in this Community Child Hunger & Poverty Initiative. Funds from the Grant Award will assist the club to provide monetary support and manpower to this Significant Humanitarian Community endeavor.

The EHRC expresses sincerest thanks for receiving the \$1500 District Grant Award for Child Hunger and Poverty Initiatives. We are delighted and honored to be able to support this unique community initiative in Elmira, NY. (Submitted by Liz O'Brien)



## Avon Rotary at the District 7120 Conference in Saratoga

May 4—6, 2018

Saratoga was the place to be for this year's district conference. A great city to visit, especially if you're a horse fan. We enjoyed derby fun on derby weekend including some fancy fascinators adorned by most of the women. Avon had an impressive showing with 19 representatives and it's safe to say that we all enjoyed our time together.

The venue, entertainment, speakers and meals were all top notch but for me, the time together with club and district members is priceless. It's always a weekend with learning opportunities and a chance to 'refuel' our Rotary spirit.



Our club was acknowledged for:

- ◆ 1st place in Division 1 for our bulletin
- ◆ A Certificate for our literacy projects
- ◆ Awarded a District Simplified Grant
- ◆ Club attendance

There was a special acknowledgement for our exchange student from the Netherlands, Veerle Beckers, for her volunteer work this year and Mark A Wish fundraiser. She is a shining example of what an exchange student should be.

We are looking forward to next year's conference: May 3—5, 2019 at Kalahari Resort, Mt. Pocono PA.

(Submitted by Laurie Vonglis)



## Elmira Heights Rotarians

Terri Bommarito, Liz O'Brien, Jan Brewer & Dorothy Kurta decked out in their

'Official Derby Fascinators.'

(Submitted by Liz O'Brien, Past-President)



## Fairport Rotary

Spring is a very busy season for the Fairport Rotary Club, highlighted by our Savor the Flavor event in early March, which again was well attended and continues to expand. Our weekly programs have been informative and inspiring. Most recently we our club was very proud to support our District Governor Don Milton and his partner Ruth Cronkwright, with the planning and organization of the recent successful district conference in Saratoga.

Our Fairport Team, came away with several awards this year, including winning the Top Chef competition. (Submitted b Thomas Wolanski)





## VICTOR-FARMINGTON ROTARY AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A group of ten from V-F Rotary Club participated in Saratoga Spring conference. Representing the club were Rotarians Bonnie & Ross Cottone, Judy & Dave Luitweiler, Karen Parkhurst, Russ Perrin, Jim Crane and Galen Powers. Also at the conference were the



– L to R – V-f Rotarians dining at Chez Pierre – Judy Luitweiler, Ross Cottone, Bonnie Cottone, Jim Crane, Karen Parkhurst, Galen Powers & Ross Cottone

club's current inbound RI student, Claudia Deiana from Italy and the clubs outbound student, Grace Morgan, who will be spending the coming year in Latvia.

In addition to participating in the scheduled events at the conference the group, that arrived two days early for the conference, explored the many scenic, culinary and historic locations in the area. This included dinner at two of the most famous of the Saratoga area's restaurants – the Wishing Well and Chez Pierre – and lunch at the iconic Parting Glass Pub, well known to devotees of Irish music.

The group also visited the Saratoga Battlefield National Park. Several club members did a day trip through the scenic countryside into Vermont and traveled to Hubbardton, VT, where they visited the site of the important Battle of Hubbardton, a precursor to the Battle of Saratoga. This was the only battle of the Revolutionary War that was actually fought in Vermont. The Battle of Bennington was fought in Rensselaer County, NY.

At Battlefield Visitors Center – Park Ranger Bill Valosin explaining battlefield layout to Jim Crane, Galen Powers, Ross Cottone & Bonnie Cottone



The club's exchange students participated in the Youth Exchange program at the conference. (Submitted by Dave Luitweiler)



At the Parade of Flags at conference opening – Youth Exchange student Alena Freiberga from Latvia with outgoing V-F Rotary Youth Exchange student Grace Morgan



**Newark Rotary** —ladies, with President Kevin Mooney in center, are all decked out in preparation for the Saturday night Governor's Ball. (Submitted by John Zornow)



**Newark Rotary**  
Past President  
Hannelora Reinhardt  
sporting her Kentucky  
Derby hat.

(Submitted by Jean  
Bendix)



**Newark  
Rotary's**  
inbound, Alēna  
Freiberga, Latvia,  
and outbound,  
Lindsay Whiting,  
Italy, pose for a  
Kentucky Derby  
moment.

(Submitted by  
Jean Bendix)



**Canandaigua  
Rotary**

(Submitted by  
Nancy Stelnyk)





## Celebration of Life Memorial Service

30 Rotarians were celebrated at this service with about 120 people attending.....

(Submitted by Kathleen Doerner)

