



# NEW & LETTER

As District Governor, I make one "official visit" early in the Rotary year to each club. I share the theme of the new RI President as well as a message from District 7150. I want to thank all the clubs I've visited so far who have been so welcoming. Having these visits as virtual zoom meetings can be challenging, but kudos to most of our clubs who have adapted to these changing times. As I visit your clubs, I am encouraged to see that our Rotarians have continued to meet the needs in their communities. Rotarians truly are *People of Action*.

I enjoy recognizing Rotarians for their service and generosity. With two clubs, I helped award a new Paul Harris, a "plus 3" and a "plus 6". I also invited IPDG Randy Wilson and local ShelterBox rep, Rotarian Tom Deuson to 3 of my visits to recognize clubs who attained the status of ShelterBox HERO CLUBS in 2019-2020. They donated \$1,000-2,999 three years in a row to ShelterBox to attain Bronze status. Congratulations to the Rotary Clubs of Moravia, Fulton, and Tully.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Virtual Fall District Conference on October 16 & 17.

Watch for more information about this event in this newsletter and in future emails to every Rotarian.

Rotary International held their international convention virtually and had 3 TIMES the number of attendees. We hope to accomplish the same thing here. "Rotary Opens Opportunities"

**District Governor Cheryl Matt**

DeWitt Rotary Club

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# DISTRICT CONFERENCE SAVE THE VIRTUAL DATES

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - Our District 7150 VIRTUAL Fall Conference will be held on **Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17**. There will be five sessions offered per day from 9 am through 8:30 pm. Choose from speakers, a service project, musical entertainment, interactive seminars, a virtual social hour for Rotary Alumni, a virtual 5K Walk for Literacy and much, much more. *Watch for emails and next month's newsletter for information on offerings and registration.*

## RLI HAS NEW CHAIR FROM D7150

The Rotary Leadership Institute, RLI, is a training program many of our Rotarians attend to further their knowledge of Rotary, communication, organization, and leadership. RLI - North East America has just announced that our very own PDG Jerry Gortner has been named their Chair for the Rotary years 2021-24. Jerry is the first chair ever from our 7150 District. Congratulations Jerry!



## START PLANNING POLIO DAY

**World Polio Day will be October 24, 2020**

After several months of suspended activity to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Rotary End Polio Now Vaccination teams are now back at work in the mountains and villages of Afghanistan and Pakistan, delivering two drops of polio vaccine to children!

There are several Polio Resources that Clubs can access through the Rotary website. Plan a Polio Update Program for one of your Club's meetings in September. And **please begin now to work on your Club's plan for celebrating World Polio Day (or even World Polio week!)**. This is a great time to engage your local community with information and maybe come up with a new fundraising idea.

As the District Polio Plus Chairperson, I am willing to make a Polio Plus Presentation (my kind of PPP) to your Club virtually or maybe even in person with appropriate social distancing and face mask apparel in place!

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay Connected,

Randy Wilson

7150 PDG 2019-2020

District Polio Plus Chairperson

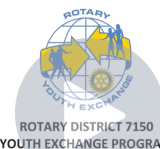
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## VIRTUAL WELCOME HOME

The District 7150 Youth Exchange Committee got creative in making the annual Welcome Home Dinner go virtual, with an hour-long video featuring all of this past year's outbound students. Instead of our usual large gathering over a meal, the video gives each student the opportunity to share their highlights, challenges and gratitude from the past year. With COVID cutting their year short, it was even more challenging than a typical exchange. "Upon their return to the US, each one of these students went into quarantine to protect their family, friends, and community. How hard it was for them to return from an adventure of a lifetime and not be able to sit face-to-face with family and friends, and tell them of their wonderful adventures, or to give them hugs and kisses. Yet these amazing students rose above all this. I can't tell you how extremely proud I am of this class," says outbound chair Mindy Taylor. The video was premiered a couple of times on the District Facebook Page, but the system didn't exactly work as planned. Thanks to all for their patience in that process! You can [click here](#) to view the video on where it will always live on our [Facebook page](#).

If you haven't had a chance to watch this yet, turn it on while you have dinner one night and enjoy.



**2020 VIRTUAL WELCOME HOME**

Welcome back class of 2019-2020

## VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING HELP

The district recently hosted a presentation from Cecily Smith, a source of help from our zone. She outlines ideas of how we can operate in a virtual world, including continue to raise funds and make a difference. Many club leaders were in attendance, but not everyone could be there. The session was recorded (both video and audio) and can be viewed [here](#). As Cecily shares, "generosity is not cancelled." We just have to find new ways to receive it!



## SUBMIT YOUR CLUB'S EVENTS

*Have a meeting that's open to all Rotarians? Let everyone know by posting to the District Event Calendar by using the Event Submission Form (download [here](#)). [Click here](#) to see what events are coming up around the district!*

## LEARN ABOUT TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION

The district's ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) invites Rotarians to a virtual presentation for their committee on Sunday, August 23rd at 6pm to learn more about tick-borne diseases. Presenter Brian Leydet, MPH, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Ecology, SUNY-ESF will provide information on ticks and their diseases, as well as how to protect yourself and your yard. [Click here](#) to register and get the zoom link to attend!



## NEW DISTRICT BYLAWS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The most recent version of the District Bylaws, our rules and guidance document, are now available on the web site at [www.rotary7150.org](http://www.rotary7150.org) under the Useful Pages tab. [Click here](#) to review. The most recent changes were updates related to the finance committee that all clubs were asked to review and approve this past spring.



## YOUR DISTRICT ESRAG UPDATE

Your district ESRAG taskforce leadership team is growing.

Thanks to team members: Phil Bean, George Carpenter, Cherie Clark, Frank Fazekas, Charles Harkola, Raul Huerta, David Jones, Nathan Keever, Peter Michel, Frank Mondy, Brenda Shae, and Chuck Tomaselli. If you're interested in joining the team, sit in on our weekly zoom meeting and check us out. Sundays at 6 pm. Contact Chuck [chuck.tomaselli@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.tomaselli@gmail.com) or any team member.

*Invite ESRAG to be a program at your club to learn more about their mission and how you and your club can get involved.*

### CHOOSE FROM THESE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

#### INTRODUCTION TO ESRAG

Find about ESRAG - the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group how you can engage in fulfilling the newest Rotary Area of Focus. To schedule, contact Chuck Tomaselli.

#### THE GREENING OF CNY – a Rotary tree planting project

An introduction to our initial district wide project for ESRAG To schedule, Contact Raul Huerta, [capeg15@gmail.com](mailto:capeg15@gmail.com) or Chuck Tomaselli.

#### PROJECT DRAWDOWN

Learn how the many existing solutions to our environmental sustainability problem can give us hope, inspire our actions, and put our efforts in a larger context of success. Contact Peter Michel, [peter@petermichel.com](mailto:peter@petermichel.com)



# IT'S MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

August is Membership Month in Rotary, so the District Membership Committee is celebrating by kicking off a series to help clubs with virtual meetings and making online connections. You will find this valuable information in this newsletter, on the [Membership page](#) on the district web site and it will be shared with your club's membership chairs each month! While some clubs have been able to resume in-person meetings, virtual meetings are likely to continue and we should be putting some energy into doing them well, for the health and wellness of our clubs. The meeting experience provides value to existing members and can help sell potential member on joining your club. It's important when meeting virtually that your members understand and practice how to be courteous online. Here are some quick tips to share with your club and improve your meeting experience. And remember to un-mute yourself when it's your turn to speak!

## • ONLINE VIDEO CHATQUETTE •



### HOSTING WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE GATHERINGS ON THE INTERNET



#### HIT THE MUTE BUTTON IF YOU'RE NOT TALKING

This gives whoever is speaking the space to be heard. It also means you can say 'ooh big stretch!' when your dog wakes up from their nap... and no one will hear it.



#### WAVE AT PEOPLE AS THEY ENTER THE CHAT

A friendly wave and a smile is a non-interruptive but welcoming way to greet people as they enter the video chat, especially if someone else is already speaking!



#### BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

This one probably seems a bit obvious, but it's important to recognise that some people are more confident with technology than others and for some, your gathering may be their very first. Be patient, gentle and kind. But probably don't blow kisses.



#### TAP YOUR EAR IF YOU CAN'T HEAR SOMEONE

There's a high chance that someone might forget they've muted themselves at some stage, so a gentle, non-intrusive way to remind them that they're muted is to tap your ears. Hopefully they won't think you're initiating a game of Charades.



#### RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK

If there are quite a few of you on a video chat and the conversation is booming, it might be handy (I scuse the pun) to raise your hand when you have something to say. A bit like an invisible talking stick.



#### PROP YOUR SCREEN UP IN ONE SPOT

The last thing you want to do is cause your fellow video-buddies some sea-sickness by moving around too much. We recommend propping up your phone or laptop in one spot so you reduce the amount of motion and hopefully avoid seeing these kinds of faces looking back at you.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Any questions relative to membership may be forwarded to District 7150  
**Membership Chair - Janet Joslyn**  
at [jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com](mailto:jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com)

She is being assisted by a new membership committee, including:

**Bernie** Bregman, Eastwood  
[bernardbregman@gmail.com](mailto:bernardbregman@gmail.com)

**Joe** Caruso, Utica  
[jpcaruso12@gmail.com](mailto:jpcaruso12@gmail.com)

**Sheree** D'Agostino, Liverpool  
[sheree7150@gmail.com](mailto:sheree7150@gmail.com)

**Lizzy** Martin, Baldwinsville  
[emartin@advancemediany.com](mailto:emartin@advancemediany.com)

**Patricia** Talaba, Little Falls  
[i4evropt@hotmail.com](mailto:i4evropt@hotmail.com)

**Jonathan** Yost, Eastwood  
[jonathanm.yost@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathanm.yost@yahoo.com)

**Alicia** Zaret, Eastwood  
[alicia.zaret@yahoo.com](mailto:alicia.zaret@yahoo.com)

*Never hesitate to reach out for membership assistance - whether it's to have membership as a program for a meeting or to get help for your leadership team!*



## DEWITT ROTARY KEEPING BUSY

Thank you to all who volunteered or donated blood at our co-sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive at DeWitt Community church Saturday July 18. We collected 32 donated units on our goal of 30 which will help potentially 96 patients! Our next blood drive is set for Sept 12 in the gym at the church. Mark your calendars. (Photo to right: Ken Souser volunteering at the blood drive.)



DeWitt Rotary works on maintaining the bench and planting areas of the Butternut Creek Trail in DeWitt. Join us one Saturday a month as we rake, mulch, weed and trim.

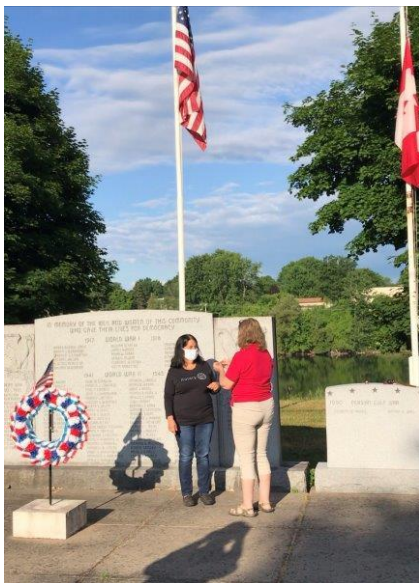
## B'VILLE CHALK CONTEST

Baldwinsville Rotary is hosting a fun, community event for local residents to try their hand at sidewalk chalk art and submit for a chance to win prizes, including the Community Choice Award of \$200 to their favorite charity. Submissions are already coming in and word is getting around the community through social media, television news and the local newspaper. The contest is free to participate in and open to all residents of the Baldwinsville School District, including local businesses. Participants are encouraged to incorporate their charity into the theme of the drawing and businesses to showcase their products and services. In addition to submitting a photo of their artwork, entrants need to share and encourage voting so they can earn the most votes and money for their charity. Submit entries, view all the submissions and cast your vote [here](http://www.BaldwinsvilleRotary.org). If you know any one in Baldwinsville that would be interested in participating, the deadline for submitting entries AND getting votes will be August 26th! As always, you can learn more at [www.BaldwinsvilleRotary.org](http://www.BaldwinsvilleRotary.org).



## FULTON WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

The Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club recently held its annual Changing of the Guard. Pictured, 2019-2020 President Abby Wiertzema, right, turns over the duties of the office to 2020-2021 President Peggy Donnelly.



## LIVERPOOL ON THE RADIO

Liverpool Satellite Club President Sheree D'Agostino was recently featured on 92.1 The Wolf, a radio station in Syracuse. Having only been in Rotary about six months, with no prior experience, Sheree did an amazing job representing and explaining our organization and her new club. All clubs are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to talk about Rotary with local media. It should come as no surprise that the Liverpool Club welcomed FOUR new members in July with this kind of outreach and energy! [Click here](#) to listen to the full interview and consider visiting one of this brand new club's virtual meetings in the coming weeks. You can find all of their meetings on the [Liverpool Rotary Facebook Page](#), under the events tab.





# SYRACUSE ROTARY SUPPORTS LOCAL POOLS

The fundraising campaign to open two city pools reached its \$100,000 goal. The money will be used to open the pools at Thornden Park and Onondaga Park. Mayor Ben Walsh announced a fundraising campaign by the Syracuse Parks Conservancy to pay for the lifeguards and other staff needed to open two city pools. The pools were to remain closed as part of budget cuts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Walsh also had to furlough 104 employees earlier this year, including those who staff the pools.

In under a week, the fundraiser reached its goal. More than 450 people and organizations chipped in to raise the money needed to open the pools. The Rotary Club of Syracuse donated \$6,000. The Club took great pleasure in backing the City of Syracuse's efforts to open the two additional swimming pools. We felt that having two additional pools open will greatly assist the youth of Syracuse to have a fun and safe summer. In this COVID-19 pandemic era, it is vitally important to provide as much support as we can muster to help all facets of our community. We especially wanted our youth to enjoy this recreational opportunity. To that end, the Rotary Club of Syracuse raised a total of \$6,000 to support the reopening of the pools. The Club donated \$3,000 which was matched with an additional contribution of \$3,000 by one of our club members.

When pools do open, the city will enforce strict distancing rules and require swimmers to make reservations in 40-minute time blocks. Swimmers will be eligible for only one time slot per day. The city will enforce state guidelines on public gatherings, limiting the number of people at each pool to no more than 50 at a time. Swimmers can make reservations by calling direct lines for each pool location. Masks will be required for people over the age of 2 while on the pool deck and in restrooms. Staff will take temperatures for each swimmer before they are allowed to enter. Happy swimming Syracuse!



# SKANEATELES REPLACES PANCAKES & CARVES WOOD

Following the cancellation of their traditional (52yrs) Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, Skaneateles Rotarians took to the internet, personal appeals and local papers to raise the funds needed to continue their efforts to provide food to those in need. They met and exceeded the funds they typically raise at the Breakfast, plus collected over 2 tons of non-perishable food for their two local food pantries. The IMPORTANT lesson here, is that our communities are exceeding generous and when called upon in these times of need, they will step up to the plate. Typically we just need to be creative and "get our ask in gear" and ask. Don't let COVID-19 get in the way of service to our communities. They need us now more than ever!



Skaneateles Rotarian Ward Vuillemot, already well known for his wood carving skills, spent his COVID downtime creating the new Woodastan Rotary Club from the community of Basswood, USA. It is a fully inclusive club and all very upstanding citizens of two inches. They promised to subscribe to and honor Rotary's basic plank of "Service Above Self" and all seem to share a common family tree. In addition, they are non-judgmental and let chips fall where they may. From left to right are: Moe, Flo, Joe, Ann, Abe, Sam, Mac, Sly & Dan. Founding, masked president Abe presided over the induction ceremony held at the open air Bass Grove Inn. The meeting was closed out with the traditional recitation of the Rotary 4-Way test. (A special shout-out to friend Hal for providing the itty-bitty Rotary pins to all the new members!)

**SUBMIT CLUB NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER'S NEWSLETTER**  
to Lizzy at [emartin@advancemediany.com](mailto:emartin@advancemediany.com) by AUG 25th

