



NEW & LETTER

DEC 2020

Connections! What Rotary is all about! What we all need during this pandemic! Last month, we enjoyed connecting with Rotarians from the Syracuse, Binghamton, Albany, and Rochester areas. Two events were well attended and gave our members another chance to connect with others without leaving the comfort of their own home.

We held a joint Rotary Foundation event that featured upcoming RI President Jennifer Jones. Kudos to those nine clubs in our District who received their 2019-20 Rotary Foundation Awards. We are so fortunate to have clubs who continue to support The Rotary Foundation, which is truly the backbone of Rotary service across the globe. In addition, the 4 Districts raised over \$20,000 for The Rotary Foundation.

There was also a multi-district event from our joint membership committees that featured enthusiastic presenter Jason Browne and our very own Lizzy Martin, one of our new Innovative Club advocates. After participating in this seminar, many of us were really motivated to invite friends and neighbors to our club zoom meetings and share Rotary with them. People want connections and what better than Rotary? Watch for news on another "Membership Monday" event on January 18th.

Speaking of connecting, our RI President Holger Knaack just recently told a group of us that they found that clubs that have newsletters or weekly emails to members actually prosper. That's another "opportunity" to connect.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to everyone who celebrates this month. Stay Safe!!

District Governor Cheryl Matt

DeWitt Rotary Club
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JOIN A ROTARY GREAT LAKES WATERSHED CLEANUP

EARTH DAY WEEKEND APRIL 24, 2021

The Rotary Districts that border the Great Lakes have partnered in an international, multi-district service project cleaning up the shores of our waterways. Looking at the watershed maps, the Great Lakes Watershed includes the Finger Lakes, Oneida Lake, the Erie Canal and other streams and rivers that empty into the Great Lakes. Did you know that the Great Lakes account for more than 20% of the world's surface freshwater?



Your club can pick a river, lake or any water source that connects to Lake Ontario and plan your own Earth Day event on Saturday, April 24th. We're also encouraging clubs to collaborate with other local groups in their clean-up efforts. It will also be a public image opportunity and we hope to have t-shirts for purchase to visually show our joint efforts and identify us as Rotarians. The Rotary Clubs of Oswego and Oswego Sunrise, as well as the District ESRAG, are already signed up. Will your club join us? Email cherylmatt7150@gmail.com if you're interested.

ATTEND MORE VIRTUAL ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES IN 2021

Now that Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is being offered virtually, you can sign up for any of the upcoming events and log in from the comfort of your home! This is your opportunity to conveniently complete all three levels and even attend a graduate session of this interactive Rotary training. It's also less expensive this way! RLI is the perfect way for a brand new member to get acquainted with our organization, for anyone to brush up on their leadership skills and even for veteran members to get inspired with new ideas for their club. Consider registering for any of these upcoming sessions at www.rlinea.org.

Jan 23 - Marlborough, MA
Feb 6 - Newburgh, NY
Feb 27 - Schenectady, NY
March 13 - Pottstown, PA



Each session offers levels I, II, III and graduate.
It is \$25/person to attend.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP UPDATE



ESRAG

ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group in District 7150 has been reaching out to clubs with presentations throughout the district:

Greg Michel of the Onondaga Earth Corps presented about their Tree Planting and youth empowerment work to the Syracuse Sunrise Club. Contact Greg to schedule a zoom presentation at gmichel@ecoaha.com

Frank Mond's team presented the Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Project to the Utica Club - presentation materials will be on the ESRAG District website soon. Contact Frank at docmond@aol.com to schedule a zoom presentation on this topic.

Chuck Tomaselli presented the introduction to ESRAG program to the DeWitt Club and is scheduled to present to the Auburn club in January. The DeWitt Club will have an upcoming Greening of Central NY presentation. Contact Chuck for either presentation at chuck.tomaselli@gmail.com

The Chittenango Club has scheduled the Drawdown zoom presentation by Peter Michel in December. Contact peter@petermichel.com to schedule yours.

Frank Fazekas continues to send out The Environmental Thought of the Week. If you want to get these emails contact Frank at apex01@roadrunner.com to get on the list.

Chuck Tomaselli and Peter Michel are meeting monthly with the national ESRAG-Drawdown Taskforce to get input on actions other districts and clubs are taking around the nation.

The Climate Conversation Challenge Project launched with the presentation by Ryan Hagen of <https://crowdsourcingsustainability.org/> to the ESRAG district leadership team. This project is about breaking the silence in conversations about the climate and how we can fix it. The presentation will be on our district ESRAG website soon.

**SUBMIT YOUR CLUB'S NEWS TO LIZZY
AT EMARTIN@ADVANCEMEDIANY.COM
BY THE END OF THE MONTH**



MEMBERSHIP OPENS OPPORTUNITIES SERIES

**SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY 18TH**

Diversity, Equity
& Inclusion
in Membership

Presented by Rotary Districts
7120, 7150, 7170 & 7190

Rotary 

KNOW MORE ABOUT POLIO

Here is what your Rotary Foundation donation for Polio Eradication has done! We are People of Impact!

- 19 million people are walking on earth who would otherwise have been paralyzed. An estimated 650,000 cases are now prevented each year.
- Since 1988, 3 billion children have received oral polio vaccine.
- In 2019, more than 430 million children in 40+ countries were vaccinated using 1.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine.
- We have gone four years without a case of wild polio virus outside Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- We have helped with other vaccine preventable diseases through PolioPlus and have assisted the world in responding to Ebola and Covid-19.



**Learn more and share on your
social media page from
www.endpolio.org**



DISTRICT 7150 FOUNDATION AWARDS

The 2019-2020 RI Foundation awards for clubs in our district were presented following the Multi-District Foundation event on November 24, 2020. Congratulations to the clubs who achieved recognition for their giving. If you want to see your club being recognized in this way, reach out to District Foundation Chair Mark Matt to learn more about the benefits of supporting the RI Foundation for your club, your members and your community!



BALDWINVILLE
CAMILLUS-SOLVAY-GEDDES
DEWITT
NEW HARTFORD
NORTH-UTICA WHITESTOWN
SAUQUOIT
SKANEATELES

Congratulations to these clubs being recognized for their support of the End Polio Now campaign.

100% GIVING CLUB & EREY CLUB

All members give to the Rotary International Foundation. Every Rotarian Every Year - every member gives and the club averages >\$100/member in total giving

Sweeping both prizes **Rotary** 

**Vernon-Verona-
Sherrill
Community**

HIGHEST GIVING PER CAPITA

- #1 - Avg over \$310/member New Hartford
- #2 - Avg over \$300/member Sauquoit
- #3 - Avg \$233/member Moravia

Congratulations to all award winners!



HOW IS VIRTUAL ROTARY GOING?

This is the fifth post in a series from your District Membership Committee 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! As we are about to flip the calendar to a new year, let's check in with how your club is doing virtually. How are your meetings going? Let's go back to square one and get the following basics down to start the near year off on a great path for engaging meetings.

GUIDANCE FOR MAINTAINING MEMBER ENGAGEMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Early on in the pandemic, our zone leadership provided a helpful guide and resources for conducting engaging online meetings. The meeting experience is under an even bigger microscope when it's virtual, so here are some of the basic tips for our year-end recalibration. Because a virtual Rotary meeting alone does not replace the entire Rotary experience, there are some non-meeting-related reminders too.

MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS

Keep in touch with members about club plans on a regular basis. If you have not already, consider implementing a weekly email with announcements and updates.

Be clear and consistent with your meeting communications so there's no confusion about how or when to attend. Step up communications when even virtual meetings are not possible.

BE CARING

Be sensitive to the experiences Rotarians are having in their personal and professional lives. Everyone is impacted by the pandemic in some way, but differently, so have patience.

TIPS FOR GREAT ONLINE MEETINGS

- Pick a time that is convenient for most (but doesn't have to be your in-person meeting time)
- Keep it under an hour
- Don't feel you have to keep all the same elements from your in-person meeting if they won't translate well in a virtual setting
- Definitely keep or add fellowship activities so members can connect in meaningful ways online - i.e. member moments, happy dollars, etc.
- Pre-plan with speakers to give them the ability to share if they have a presentation to put on the screen - don't work that out in front of the group, it feels very unprofessional
- Get familiar with how to share videos and consider sharing some of the great RI videos from Vimeo or YouTube - and don't forget to share audio before you share your screen!
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE - if you are struggling with the technology, practicing how to navigate around your virtual meeting room is important.

In-person meetings came to us easily and are in our comfort zone. Transitioning to virtual meetings requires thoughtfulness and effort, but will get easier over time - both for the hosts and attendees. At this point, most are familiar with "zooming," so you just have to plan a meeting that will be irresistible for them to attend!

[Click here](#) to download the full guide, which includes resources for commonly used virtual meeting systems, Rotary videos and more.

How is your club doing when you look at these tips?

YOUR DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Any questions relative to membership may be forwarded to District 7150 **Membership Chair - Janet Joslyn** at jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com

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

Bernie Bregman, Eastwood
bernardbregman@gmail.com

Joe Caruso, Utica
jpcaruso12@gmail.com

Sheree D'Agostino, Liverpool
sheree7150@gmail.com

Lizzy Martin, Baldwinsville
emartin@advancemediany.com

Patricia Talaba, Little Falls
i4evropt@hotmail.com

Jonathan Yost, Eastwood
jonathanm.yost@yahoo.com

Alicia Zaret, Eastwood
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!



SAUQUOIT ROTARY & COMMUNITY PARTNERS OFFER SEASON'S GREETING TO ALL!

Sauquoit Rotary members erected our Annual Christmas Creche Display with help from a former Inbound YE Host Dad and Brother, two friends from the Sauquoit Optimist Club, and former member Dave Bauer and his son Lucas. We light the display from dusk to dawn and we receive nice "Thank You" calls and notes from local folks for this project.



JOIN EASTWOOD MEETING FOR INSPIRATION

You are all cordially invited to a zoom event on Tuesday, February 2nd with the Eastwood Rotary Club featuring special guest Drew Kessler. A Rotarian since he was 20, Kessler became the youngest president of the North Rockland Rotary club at the age 25. He is the past District Governor of Rotary District 7210 in the Hudson Valley and was recently selected as the youngest ever Rotary International Director for 2022-2024 from Zones 28/32, which includes our District 7150.



Why not use this as your weekly meeting that week!

**EVENT: EASTWOOD ROTARY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2021 – 12 NOON – 1PM**

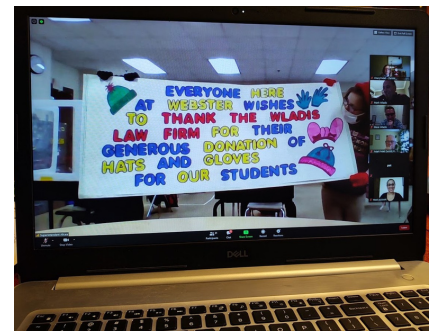
Special Guest - Drew Kessler - followed by Q & A

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84120941773?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84120941773?pwd=aGZRcEZJTjY4UndjeHpmK3dNMXpmdz09)
pwd=aGZRcEZJTjY4UndjeHpmK3dNMXpmdz09

Meeting ID: 841 2094 1773 Password: EWRz4-Way!

DEWITT GIVES HATS & GLOVES TO YOUTH

Several DeWitt Rotarians attended the annual Wladis Hats & Gloves Giveaway virtually this year. DeWitt Rotary has donated to this project for several years. For 20 years, the Wladis Law firm, along with donations from organizations, purchases new hats & gloves for children in the Syracuse City School District. Typically, several of our members have gone to the schools and personally handed out the hats & gloves to the students. This year, because of COVID, we are unable to do that. We were instead invited into a classroom at Webster School, via zoom, where we joined the Superintendent of SCSD, Jaime Alicea.



BALDWINVILLE ROTARY MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION & MORE

Baldwinsville Rotary's annual membership competition has wrapped, resulting in over 30 guests and three new members in 12 weeks. Rotarians were encouraged to invite potential members to attend in order to earn points for their teams. The Baldwinsville and Liverpool clubs were divided into seven teams (representing the seven areas of focus) and could earn points by bringing a guest, up to three times, for a max of five points if that guest submits an application for membership. It was more challenging engaging teammates virtually, but the results still speak for themselves! This is the third membership competition the club's membership committee has put on, all of which have netted the club multiple new members. Clubs interested in learning how they could replicate a fun contest for themselves are welcome to reach out to the Baldwinsville Club for assistance. In order to provide great meetings that members could invite a guest to, the programs committee booked speakers from OnPoint for College, Hope Print, SU's Rotaract Club and even an ambassador to Afghanistan with the US State Department. The club also hosted some socially distant club in a pub meetings and held big events in the community for World Polio Day. In addition to the recorded guests and newly inducted members, the club has received several online inquiries from people who now receive B'ville weekly email inviting them to meetings and keeping them in the loop with club activities. Read the latest newsletter to see what else the club has been up to at www.BaldwinsvilleRotary.org.