



# NEW LETTER

It's the beginning of a new Rotary year, unlike any we've seen in our lifetime. An international pandemic has turned our world upside down. Instead of where to go out to eat, can I safely get groceries? Instead of where will I spend my paycheck, the fear is whether or not I'll get a paycheck. Instead of scheduling school events, the concern was how will I homeschool my children and keep my job and my sanity? How will I deal with the isolation of staying home? Masks are not just worn at Halloween; essential workers now include grocery store clerks. Testing and tracing, curbside, and social distancing have whole new meanings.

Our Rotarians didn't shy away, they stepped up. The District started a COVID-19 fund, partnered with the District Foundation Committee, and supported immediate projects. Within weeks, 24 clubs answered the call and supplied food, masks, hand sanitizer, equipment, cleaning supplies, and meals to meet the needs in their own local communities. This is what Rotary is all about! This is why we joined Rotary! This is why Rotary is more important than ever to us, our families and to our communities!

We all stand on the shoulders of those before us and we're up for the challenges this year will bring. We'll take this journey together, all of us. I'm looking forward to a year that is not "business as usual," but one open to opportunities for fresh and unique ways to grow Rotary.  
"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

**District Governor Cheryl Matt**

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## LEARN ABOUT NUCLEAR POLICY

Eastwood Rotary Club is proud to invite you to a program titled "Back from the Brink", the call to prevent nuclear war. The keynote speaker, Dr. Ira Helfand, is a Rotarian from Massachusetts and Nobel prize winner.

Back from the Brink Is a national grassroots initiative seeking to fundamentally change US nuclear weapons policy and lead us away from the dangerous path we are on. You can learn more On the website prevent nuclear [www.war.org](http://www.war.org). This virtual program will be held:

**Tuesday, July 21st at Noon**

Click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84120941773?pwd=aGZRcEZJTjY4UndjeHpmK3dNMXpmdz09) for the zoom meeting or save these meetings details:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84120941773?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84120941773?pwd=aGZRcEZJTjY4UndjeHpmK3dNMXpmdz09)  
 pwd=aGZRcEZJTjY4UndjeHpmK3dNMXpmdz09

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

## MEET RI PRESIDENT HOLGER

Hailing from the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln in Germany, Holger Knaack is our new Rotary International President. He is pictured here with his wife Susanne.



Holger wants to make sure Rotary is fun, that we grow with purpose and that we invest in our young people. Joining Rotary back in 1992, Holger's house has hosted dozens of Youth Exchange students over almost three decades and that is his biggest passion in Rotary. He hopes everyone will do what they can to make Rotary an organization that they are proud to be a part of and that we welcome young members (including Rotaractors). [Click here](#) to read more about RI President Holger.

## WELCOME YOUR NEW DG

The 2020-2021 District 7150 Governor is Cheryl Matt from DeWitt Rotary. In her career as a postmaster with the United States Postal Service, she was moved to different posts around Central New York, joining Rotary Clubs in each area to maintain her membership. She and her husband Mark, who is also a Rotarian in the DeWitt club, live in Fayetteville and are both retired, but full time volunteers. They have a son who is a firefighter in Syracuse and a daughter who is a doctor in Austin, TX, with a total of seven grandchildren. Cheryl enjoys nature photography and ice fishing. The Matt's are also currently caring for a grand-kitten, Oliver. DG Cheryl will be making her way around the district conducting her official visits to your clubs. Please remember these tips when hosting the District Governor on an official visit:

- You should not book any other program for that day - the DG is your program
- Your AG should be in attendance to do the formal introduction. If they are unable to attend, please be sure to connect in advance so someone else can do the introduction.
- It will be a little different with virtual meetings, but it is the tradition to stand when welcoming the DG after their official introduction.

## DISTRICT YE REMEMBERS ERIN

Past District 7150 Outbound Youth Exchange Student Erin Atanasoff Hamalainen passed away May 27, 2020. Our district exchange committee has posted a touching letter remembering the impact Erin's life had on those around her, and how exchange impacted her. [Click here](#) to read the article, which includes a link to her full obituary. Past President of Utica Rotary Linda Allen writes so eloquently, "By teaching us that whatever our differences, people all over the world are fundamentally the same, the Rotary Youth Exchange Program offers each of us an opportunity to make the world a better place. Being an exchange student opened the world for Erin, and she left it better for her time here."



## RI VIRTUAL CONVENTION CONTINUES INTO JULY

Hopefully everyone was able to attend or watch a recording of the opening session and maybe some break out sessions from the Rotary International Convention. If you missed it, it's all still available at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org)! The good news is that the break out sessions are continuing, with sessions all kinds of interesting topics throughout the month of July. Here is a sampling of topics:

Rotary Can Prevent & Reduce Substance Abuse  
Pump Up Your Engagement With Fellowship  
The Future of Online Learning  
Transforming Leadership Through Mental Health  
What Can I Do As A Rotarian To Help End Alzheimer's?  
Achieving a Polio-Free World  
"When I Was Your Age..." - Bridging Generational Gaps

These educational sessions continue to be offered free of charge, with all zoom links available [here](#). It's not Hawaii, but it's accessible to so many more of us and a really extensive collection of break out topics!

## REMINDER: PLEASE PAY YOUR DISTRICT AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DUES PROMPTLY

*They are due upon receipt. Please contact District Treasurer LaVerne Deland at [laverne7150@gmail.com](mailto:laverne7150@gmail.com) if you have any questions on district billing or remitting payment.*

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE GOING VIRTUAL

Please continue to save the date of October 17, 2020 for this year's District Conference, but plan on attending from where ever you are as this will be a virtual conference. More details will be coming soon, but we hope many more Rotarians will plan on attending as this makes it extremely affordable and convenient!

## MEET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM

This year's District Membership Committee will continue to be led by Janet Joslyn of Baldwinsville Rotary and will also include: Bernie Bregman, Eastwood Rotary, Joe Caruso, Utica Rotary, Sheree D'Agostino, Liverpool Rotary, Lizzy Martin, Baldwinsville Rotary, Pat Talaba, Little Falls Rotary, Jonathan Yost, Eastwood Rotary, Alicia Zaret, Eastwood Rotary. The group is working on goals for the new Rotary year to be able to support the 41 clubs in the district. If your club needs assistance with a membership strategy, contact chair Janet Joslyn at [jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com](mailto:jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com).

## ROTARY ADDS NEW AREA OF FOCUS

Rotary International's Board of Trustees approved a brand new SEVENTH area of focus for our organization: Supporting the Environment. "It is time for us to use our collective resources to invest in a smart and efficient way to protecting our environment," says Foundation Trustee Chair Gary C.K. Huang. "We are qualified to take this initiative because we are a global group of problem solvers with diversified talents." Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact. More information about this new cause will be announced soon. [Click here](#) for the full announcement.





## VVS ROTARY NEWS

At the June 18, 2020, meeting of the VVS Community Rotary Club, VVS High School Agricultural Teacher & FFA Advisor, Mark Peavey, was recognized for his vocational accomplishments. Mr. Peavey was given the **Service Above Self Vocational Excellence Commendation Award** for exceeding expectations and demonstrating conspicuous, professional service, well above and beyond the call of duty, at VVS High School during the COVID-19 Pandemic (March 2020 to June 2020)! Mark Peavey has been part of the Agriculture and FFA operation at the VVS High School for almost 30 years. His leadership and incredible work ethic have been instrumental in the success of these important programs and more importantly in educating hundreds of young students in the science, business, and skills of agriculture. In particular, his efforts throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic have been extraordinary and noteworthy. Even without students, agriculture activities continue, and Mr. Peavey's selfless efforts kept it all going smoothly!



Switching over to community service, the club cleaned trash and debris off the sides of NYS Rt. 31 from VVS High School down to the border of Vernon, NY, on Saturday, June 20, 2020. This task is normally performed by the VVS High School Interact Club students, but since the school is closed, students are not permitted to do such projects. Since the Interact Club is sponsored by the VVS Community Rotary Club, Rotary decided to step in for the Interact Students and take care of this necessary project. Even though it was a hot and humid Saturday morning, many Rotarians volunteered their time and efforts to walk the road and collect the debris and trash. An amazing amount and variety of material were collected. Although it is a shame that some people are still littering, it is commendable that groups like the VVS HS Interact Club and VVS Community Rotary are willing to clean it all up.



## SICRC PROMOTES CENSUS

Shown below at the Valley Worship Center on Midland Ave., Syracuse on June 25, volunteers from the Syracuse Inner City Rotary Club encouraged people to complete their census forms. The worship center was hosting its pantry and SICRC took advantage of the opportunity to reach people about the importance of the census.



## B'VILLE ROTARY NEWS

The Baldwinsville Rotary Club is proud to announce the club's latest Paul Harris Fellow Awards presented at their annual Changing of the Guard. Congratulations to all multiple PHF awardees: Ann Smiley – PHF+1, Marcia Benson - PHF+1, Bruce Stebbins – PHF+2, Dave Horan – PHF+2, and Jenny Doane – PHF+4.

Outgoing president Lizzy Martin also surprised her husband Scott (shown in photo) with the gift of his first Paul Harris Fellow as a symbol of her appreciation of his support and participation during her year as president.

The club was also excited to be featured on the front cover of The Messenger, the weekly newspaper, with an article about their Backpack Program. The program was scaled up to assist hundreds of families and children while school was closed for the spring due to COVID. [Click here](#) to read the online version of the article.

