

7150NEWS

ROTARY DISTRICT 7150
JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7150 | DISTRICT GOVERNOR JERRY SEGUIN




**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

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District Governor

 2022-2023 Governor
Jerry Seguin..... Fulton

District Executive Committee

 **DG Elect**
Elise Hereth V.V.S. Communit


 **DG Nominee**
Lizzy Martin Baldwinsville


 **Immediate Past DG**
Dana Jerrardt Utica

 **District Trainer 2021-22**
PDG Deb Glisson..... Marcellus

 **District Trainer 2022-24**
PDG Dennis Schonewetter..... V.V.S. Comm.


Assistant Governors

 **Area 1**
Steve Mercurio Rome


 **Area 2**
Dorene Gortner New Hartford

 **Area 3**
Jim Cook New Hartford


 **Area 4**
Jim Eklund Chittenango

 **Area 5**
Steve Osborne Fulton


 **Area 6**
Linda Ervin DeWitt

 **Area 7**
Charlie Smith Marcellus

Assistant Governor Trainer

 Jenny Doane Baldwinsville

Newsletter Editor

 James Morrow Syracuse

A MESSAGE FROM DG JERRY
2022-2023 Rotay Theme: Imagine Rotary

Jerry Seguin | DG | Fulton



As the new Rotary year opens we face many new and exciting challenges. We are moving out of the pandemic, and clubs are starting to meet in person again. We have acquired some new ways to communicate and have learned that we need to “unmute” to speak during a zoom meeting. While the world was giving us excuses to do nothing our clubs continued to provide service to our communities and the world with meaningful projects, providing food, protective masks, clean water, health care for children, and literacy.

Rotary International President Jennifer Jones has captured the very essence of Rotary with this year’s theme “Imagine Rotary”. I cannot think of theme that is better suited to express where Rotary is and where Rotary is going. Whatever you can imagine, Rotarians can do. They can cure Polio, provide disaster relief through the Shelter Box program, develop young leaders through Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and teach children to read.

When I Imagine Rotary: I see us doing more creative projects that connect our clubs and communities. I see clubs engaging club members and community members in projects that both benefit and improve our communities. I see our district and clubs working together to engage our members. I see our district and clubs continuing to develop focus based clubs that support individual interests in one or more areas of focus. I see a district that supports our members and clubs with training and resources.

We should not limit ourselves when we Imagine Rotary. Dream big, include everyone, work hard, and have fun. ♦



GET TO KNOW 22-23 DG JERRY SEGUIN

Lizzy Martin | D7150 Public Image Chair

Let’s hear a warm welcome for our new District Governor Jerry Seguin and get to know him a little better. Jerry is a member of Fulton Rotary (the one that meets at noon), as is his wife Bridgette, and he is currently retired. He has had quite the career, attending SUNY Plattsburgh and then serving for eight years in the US Marine Corps before entering the civilian workforce. During his time in the military he was a pilot and he got to see quite a bit of the world, traveling to Japan, Korea, China, Australia and Singapore, as well as being stationed a few places around the US too. Upon completing his years of service, he started working for a risk management company in Oswego, later moving into the job he retired from in working for the Fulton City School District.

Jerry’s family is truly a modern, blended bunch with lots of love. First you should know that Jerry is the oldest of eight children (three boys and five girls), so he’s used to the big family scene. He and Bridgette brought came together with three children between them and now have more than a dozen grandchildren. “They are the best grandkids in the world,” Jerry proudly reports. They are a little spread out with his son and two grandkids in Lake Placid, daughter and NINE grandkids in Rochester, and then another daughter, whose family includes two of his grandsons, just moved to Fulton to be closer. When asking about his hobbies, besides fishing, hunting and a little golf, Jerry said most of his time is spent with the grandkids.

Jerry has earned multiple Paul Harris Fellows and is a sustaining member. He has been in Rotary since 2005, serving in many roles for his club and our district in almost two decades of membership.

He has also served on boards for Girl Scouts, the YMCA, Salvation Army and National Ski Patrol (he used to be a very good downhill skier!). He is very excited about this year’s theme of Imagine Rotary and looks forward to club visits where he can encourage all clubs to not only imagine what their club could do, but to be people of action who make it happen. ♦

DG Jerry and his seven siblings, all traveling from around the country to CNY, recently surprised their mother for her 90th birthday with multiple days of parties and to be with her.




District Officers

 **District Secretary**
Pete Cardamone..... Tully

 **Co-Treasurer**
Tara Renner Onondaga North

 **Co-Treasurer**
LaVerne DeLand Fulton

 **Finance**
PDG Randy Wilson..... Sauquoit

 **District Conference**
Chair, Linda Iannone..... Utica

 **District Rotary Foundation**
Chair, Don Reese Utica

 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
Co-chair, Darnell Hayes DeWitt

 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
Co-Chair, Cheryl Matt..... DeWitt

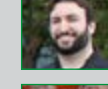
 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
Co-chair, Devin White..... Eastwood

 **Membership**
Joe Caruso Utica


 **Innovative Clubs**
Lizzy Martin Baldwinsville

 **Public Image**
Lizzy Martin Baldwinsville

 **Parliamentarian**
PDG Dennis Schonewetter... VVS Community

 **Rotaract**
Jonathan Yost..... Eastwood

 **Veterans Service**
John “Ziggy” Zygmunt..... New Hartford

 **Youth Exchange & Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**
PDG Phyllis Danks..... Marcellus

 **New Generations**
Tom Taylor Onondaga North

EIGHTY-THREE SENTENCES OF SERVICE FROM 2021-22

We in District 7150 certainly Served to Change Lives during the just-completed Rotary year. Here are eighty-three Sentences of Service, submitted by our clubs, illustrating a fraction of all that we accomplished in 2021-22. If you see something that might work in your club or community, talk to your club leadership.

Thank you, Rotarians of District 7150, for an outstanding year of service. ~ **PDG Dana**

1. Hosted two wildly successful donation drives for Ukrainian Relief efforts, and awarded a Paul Harris Fellow to the leader of the initiatives.
2. Earned a mention in Rotary International's magazine for broadcasting the Auburn Rotary's "5-in-5" segment, where Auburn Rotarian Toni Collela recites 5 questions in 5 minutes in an effort to debrief the Club on the Rotary Magazine.
3. Inducted three new members, bringing total number of Club members (including honorary and corporate) to 52.
4. This year we expanded our weekly Backpack Program, which provides snacks and breakfast items to students on free or reduced lunch programs who are at risk of hunger on weekends. We now serve students in all the schools in the Baldwinsville School District.
5. Our club introduced a new fundraiser called Pizza for Pantries, which created and sold pizzas with one slice from eight different pizzerias in the area. Proceeds went to support local food programs, including our Backpack Program, the Baldwinsville Community Food Pantry and the VFW's Veteran Food Pantry. It also supported local businesses through the purchase of 24 pizzas from each of the eight pizza locations.
6. Our club also formed a Donations Committee which organized two separate collections of household items to donate to Catholic Charities & InterFaith Works of CNY to help with resettling refugees, collected 99 pounds of pet food for Humane CNY and donated over 40 new board games for local families as part of the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau.
7. Held our first walk for hunger last September to support food insecurity in our community; as a result we donated \$5,000 to the Food Bank of CNY.
8. Provided assistance, including new pumps to Camillus Fire Department, to the Village of Camillus recovery effort from the Nine Mile Creek flooding last August.
9. Recognized a Club milestone for Matt Ludice - 50 outstanding years of service and counting!
10. Collected 300 pounds of non-perishable food items for our Loads of Love event in April.
11. Assisted with the purchase of the swings for the local Community playground through the grant program.
12. Donated to the Disaster Response fund to aid Ukraine in their time of need.
13. Cato Rotary provided the citizens of the town of Cato a beautiful new Gazebo for the public to enjoy at Mott Park, as well as a rest-shelter on a local hiking trail.
14. Cato Rotary collaborated with the Auburn Rotary, fundraising with numerous local businesses, and provided warm new coats for any child in need throughout our district.
15. Cato Rotary had many fundraising efforts, to include donut sales, Mother's Day flower sales, and frequent food truck sales, to provide funding for many high-school scholarships, as well as to assist four local Odyssey of the Mind teams to travel to the world finals in Iowa.
16. Donation of \$500 to Clear Path for Veterans for dog training, and also contributed to the Cazenovia Welcomes Refugees fund.
17. Holiday service included giving away a Huge Teddy Bear at the Annual Christmas Walk in Cazenovia, and donation of \$500 to Caz Cares our local food pantry for holiday meals.
18. We round the year out with a \$500 Scholarship to a graduating senior.
19. Chittenango Rotary opened up new possibilities for growing our club by revising our bylaws and procedures to include Corporate Memberships.
20. In addition to the routine support we give to local agencies, we responded to current world needs and developed fundraisers to support Haiti via Shelterbox USA, Ukraine through Rotary's Disaster Relief Fund and locally, Vera House.
21. We lent a helping hand to a newly developing nonprofit in our area, Fishing for a Cause, with a financial donation and partnership to help spread the word about their mission to provide recreational fishing experiences for individuals with terminal diagnoses.

22. Celebration of 60 years as a club and first fundraiser in at least 10 years.
23. Membership growth! We are now over 40 active members looking to hit 50 by July 1.
24. Strides in DEI: we continue to look internally as a club and remove barriers that has lead to more member engagement and better opportunities for all.
25. We got back to a regular in-person meeting schedule this Rotary year for both our club and Board meetings. This after almost two years of sporadic in-person meetings and an erratic meeting schedule due to Covid.
26. We developed and cultivated an ongoing world service project with a "sister" US Rotary club some 1500 miles away.
27. We were able to hold a couple of successful fund raisers which enabled the club, after two years, to resume a somewhat normal donation schedule in support of community initiatives.
28. Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club collaborated with the City of Fulton and installed the first ADA compliant parking pads and walkways in one of our community parks.
29. Despite the pandemic Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club met for the entire year by blending a combination of remote, hybrid, and outdoor meetings.
30. Fulton Sunrise Rotary club maintained our relationship with Seneca Manor Nursing Home residents by writing letters and making cards for every holiday when we could not visit in person.
31. The Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary Club has added a new member.
32. We also had as our Community Project - Food Insecurity. We have provided mostly meat which was very well received.
33. We kept our club alive during 2021 by using a hybrid model of meeting in-person and online. We even increased our number of members to 36! It was the fellowship for many of us, that our club offered which was most needed.
34. We were able to fundraise enough money this year to make donations to all of the charities in our town that we normally patronize. Many of us in our club were worried that we would not be able to raise enough this year to afford to keep contributing to our usual charities, but we did it!
35. We were able to gather in a safe way to make Corsi Rosenthal cubes for air purification for all organizations in town who requested them.
36. The Little Falls Rotary Club found a way to give back to our local hospital by donating a \$2500 check to help pay for the new UV sterilization equipment that the hospital was purchasing and committing to donate \$1000 per year for the next three years for maintenance on the machine.
37. The Little Falls Rotary Club held multiple work days at Rotary Park (LF Marina) cleaning up the grounds, painting interior walls, and rebuilding the boat launch docks, as well as funding a new pictorial display about the history of the canal as it relates to the city of Little Falls.
38. The Little Falls Rotary Club presented scholarships to graduating seniors from Little Falls High School in the amount of \$2500.00.
39. We did a scarf project (111 scarfs) to give young adults aging out of foster care a knitted scarf to go along with the other items the people received.
40. We are joined with the Auburn Club and OWLA to spread the word about the Hemlock Woody Adelgid that is killing the hemlock trees on the east coast (we donated \$2,500.00).
41. At Thanksgiving time we bought 100 pies for the Moravia Food Pantry to give out as part of their food giveaway and donated \$423.00 to a local deli to help them give out free meals on Thanksgiving.
42. We began the year with a membership challenge with Sauquoit Rotary, we both added two new members but they, being the smaller club, won the challenge.
43. I guess New Hartford should have renewed the challenge, little did we know we would be beginning an environmentally focused Rotary Satellite club and add 31 new members.
44. PDG Randy always seemed to be visiting our club and presenting another Polio Plus Society certificate. I'm not sure how many members received them, but it did help us to surpass our Polio goal.
45. In addition, on June 8th we awarded our annual \$500 scholarships to 3 high school seniors from within our area.
46. Our club's notable endeavor in the last year was adopting a portion of canal trail for cleaning and beautification.
47. In December, we supported the North Utica Senior Center's Breakfast with Santa fundraiser with manpower.
48. Last fall, our club joined with a local church to provide a full turkey take-home dinner with all the trimmings for 215 households.

- 49. In the fall and spring, members rolled up their sleeves to groom ornamental gardens on the grounds of the Community Library and the Madison County Historical Society
- 50. This year, with the support of the District Foundation we are able to award two scholarship grants to deserving graduates.
- 51. We completed our first ever Club Health Check and learned a lot about what our club needs and wants.
- 52. Navigated through differing opinions/concerns how to hold club meetings vs. in person.
- 53. Brought back our Flags of Honor and Gratitude and held in-person ceremony which was well attended.
- 54. The Oswego Rotary Club is proud to have conducted 19 service projects since July 1 with the environment being the focus of four of them including Earth Day clean-up, planting and weeding of the city planter, monthly upkeep of the herb garden at the SUNY Rice Creek Field Station and planning a butterfly garden.
- 55. Another group of activities focused on literacy including the financial support of the Bookmobile and the Imagination Library, scholarships for graduating seniors and the recognition of the top 25 high school students in each class and the support of the Interact Club.
- 56. We responded to needs in our community such as the need for blankets and outfits for newborns at Oswego Hospital, snacks for children coming to the Child Advocacy Center, winter clothing for those reaching out to the Salvation Army, helping with the food distribution and the delivery of meals to the elderly among others.
- 57. Our Recovery from COVID Summer included support of the United Way Griffiss Block Party, and CanalFest 2021.
- 58. We continued our Annual Children's Christmas Party and Wreaths Across America Remembrance
- 59. International disaster assistance included \$2300 to the Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Fund, and continuing aid to Ukraine and local students.
- 60. We are small but we are strong and to quote my favorite song "525600 minutes" that's how you measure a year in the life of a Sauquoit Rotarian.
- 61. Senior picnic, multiple blood drives, two scholarships, a grant to help our high school, sponsorship of a Freedom Writer winner, continued support of our Veterans, Hope House, and the Clayville Library is how we spent our Season of Love.
- 62. And, if there was one more minute, Sauquoit would give it.
- 63. This Rotary year our Skaneateles Sunrise Club continued our favorite monthly service activity (15+ continuous years) of packing and delivering of Food Pantry groceries to two local senior complexes.
- 64. In the Winter our small club held our hugely popular annual Winterfest community event / fundraiser (10+ years now).
- 65. In the Spring we were able to re-purpose our Winterfest online donation site into a Ukraine Relief donation site where we have collected over \$20K from the local community and passed every penny on through to Shelterbox's Ukraine shelter relief effort
- 66. We adapted a new vision statement and strategic plan.
- 67. We funded a book program for Onondaga County newborns. \$70000 will provide children's books to age 5.
- 68. We installed benches at Webster Pond for the enjoyment of the community.
- 69. Syracuse Inner-City has increased membership by two members.
- 70. We are in the process of establishing a Civil Air Patrol group with the youth of our community.
- 71. We have sponsored a Bidy Basketball League at the Fayette Street Boys and Girls Club.
- 72. We increased our per capita giving to the Foundation annual fund from \$104 to \$196.
- 73. Our club reached out to other area Rotary clubs and organizations to support Vera House in its struggle to overcome COVID-related financial and programming challenges.
- 74. Despite the pandemic, we continued our club tradition giving away food baskets at Christmastime
- 75. We started a new environmentally themed project, T.R.E.E.S. This stands for Tully Rotary Ecological and Environmental Sustainability.
- 76. We are youth oriented and pride ourselves on our strong Interact program, youth exchange, yearly scholarships, Dictionary/Atlas project, etc.
- 77. One of the programs that sets our club apart is the Tully Rotary Business Backstory Series. A monthly-event highlighting innovators, entrepreneurs and idealists, and the stories behind their passions.
- 78. Giving back to our community through scholarships, Interact partnerships and addressing community needs.

- 79. Our club donated \$11,800 combined to the Rotary Foundation annual fund and polio fund (#2 in the district for total giving).
- 80. Raised more than \$12,000 for the CABVI Camp Abilities program at our Service Above Self gala.
- 81. Planted trees, served meals, and cleaned parks and highways during our monthly Project Fridays.
- 82. Coming back together with our Rotary Family and engaging with our community and other Rotarians, by fundraising and event hosting.
- 83. Proud District interaction and leadership past, present and future.

FULTON ROTARY - PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Terry Bennett | Fulton

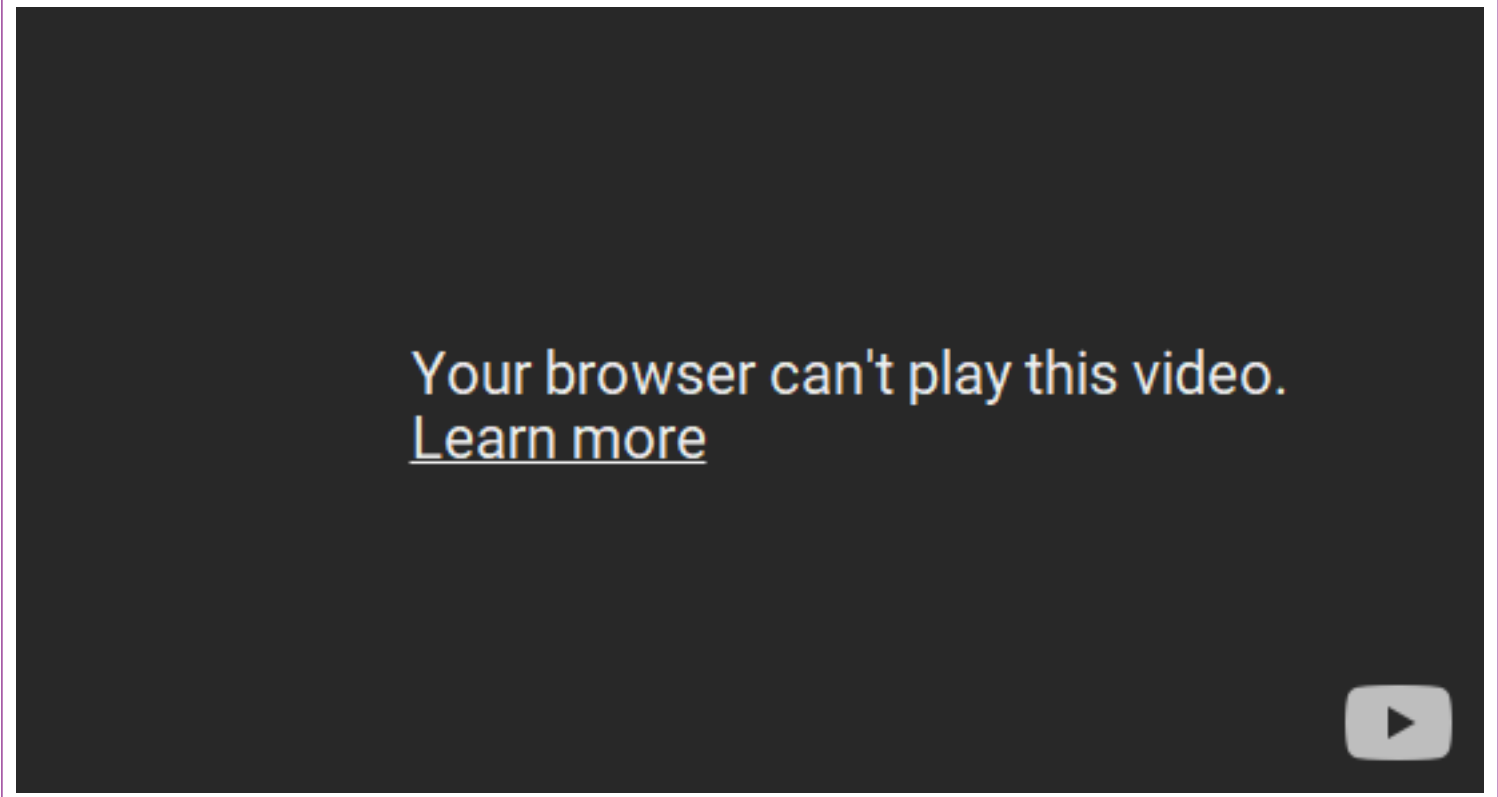
Fulton Rotary Club Foundation recently honored two members with Paul Harris Fellow Awards, making a \$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation in recognition of their many contributions to Rotary. Kelly Montagna, center, Director of Fulton and Central Square Medical Center for Oswego Health, has served the Fulton community for many years. As a member of Fulton Rotary and President in 2020-21, she spearheaded community projects that meet the organization's mission of service. Steve Osborne, right, Fulton Co-President and D7150 Assistant Governor, is a past president of the Fulton club, and has served many Fulton community organizations. The Fulton Rotary Club meets on Thursdays at the Tavern on the Lock. ♦



DIVERSITY VIDEO WORTH YOUR VIEWING TIME

District 7150 DEI Committee | District 7190 DG

Your DEI Committee wanted to be sure all D7150 Rotarians get a chance to see the video from a virtual program hosted by Albany District 7190 and their incoming District Governor Denise. It's really important that all clubs are thinking about this aspects of DEI. Stay tuned for new DEI resources coming to the district web site this summer too!



PRESIDENT JENNIFER JONES EAGER TO ADVANCE ROTARY'S NARRATIVE

Diana Schoberg | Rotary Magazine July 2022
Photography by Monika Lozinska

[Listen to the story, narrated by award-winning broadcast journalist Linda Yu.](#)

Jennifer Jones, Rotary International's first female president, is the perfect leader to spread the word about the good Rotary does in the world, and inspire its members to keep going.

At a training seminar for Rotary club presidents-elect at a Dallas-area hotel in February, sergeants-at-arms wearing yellow vests and Stetsons lead participants, grouped by Rotary district, into a small room for a photo op with 2022-23 Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. As the groups enter, the club leaders mob Jones — the room a flurry of handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, and the occasional squeal. For each photo, the Stetson-clad Rotarians (nicknamed "Rangers") give instructions on who should stand where, then Jones, who is seated front-row center, stands up, turns around, and warms up the crowd. "Is this the best district?" she asks one. She challenges a district to dance, busting a groove on the tan and gray patterned hotel carpet. Another, she teases, is the best looking. And then there's the "party" district, whose members give a raucous cheer. **Click. Click. Click.**

The groups file out. More than a few people linger to get selfies with Jones and her husband, Nick Krayacich. One young woman, dressed in cobalt blue, shouts, "Congratulations and thank you for being a leader for women in Rotary!" More cheers. She and Jones bump fists as she departs.

"She's just amazing. She's a rock star," says Rhonda Walls Kerby, past governor of District 5890, who has been observing the scene.

When the photo session is finished, Jones signs several Star Wars collectors' helmets that will be auctioned at an upcoming district conference in Houston. She pulls on a Stormtrooper helmet. The phones of the Rotarians still in the room shoot up in unison to capture the moment. **Click. Click. Click.**

"She makes everyone feel special. That's why everyone feels like they are best friends with Jen," says Eric Liu. Liu met Jones at the International Assembly in 2016, when he was an incoming district governor and

she was the incoming RI vice president, and they hit it off.

Liu's sentiment is among the common refrains heard during a whirlwind weekend traveling with Jones. Over and over, people mention that she has an easy way with people, that for years everybody "knew" she would be the first female Rotary president, that she's a new kind of leader.

And that she's the leader Rotary needs right now.

The laughter in the room grows to a warm buzz as Jones jokes around with her friends. But it's been a long day after an exhausting trip. Jones and Krayacich spent nine hours in the airport the previous day due to weather delays, then had to solve logistical issues with their travel to Dallas. They are in bed by 11, a brief respite before the pre-presidential duties start all over again the next day.

"She believes in something that is so necessary. This time calls for peace and unity, for embracing despite our differences."

Jones, 55, was born in Windsor, Ontario, and — save for a few post-college years working in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Manhattan — has lived there her whole life. The oldest of three children, she'd run lemonade stands to earn money to give to charity, and recalls organizing a carnival in her family's yard to benefit kids with muscular dystrophy. "Growing up, my parents had given us wings to do service in our community," she says. Today, her mom, dad, and one of her brothers and his wife are Rotarians. Her other brother created a painting that inspired Jones' presidential-theme ties and scarves.

Both Jones and Krayacich are originally from Windsor, but the two met in the Caribbean. Burned out after finishing university and working in the newsroom at a radio station, Jones took time off and worked at a resort in the Caribbean, while Krayacich, a physician, had just finished his internship in Toronto and went to the islands to go scuba diving. They struck up a friendship, and when they both eventually moved back to Windsor, they started dating and got married soon after.

In many ways, Krayacich, the governor-nominee of District 6400, is the opposite of Jones. He's quieter and more serious, preferring one-on-one conversations, traits that are suited to his vocation. "Jennifer is definitely an Energizer Bunny. She's outgoing and very much a connector," he says. "We complement each other very well."

Jones started her own television production company when she was in her late 20s, wowing bank officials with her business plan, negotiating a lease, and investing in hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment. "I've always wanted to carve my own path," she says. "Sometimes that's meant taking risks and making yourself open to new experiences."

One of those was Rotary. As a rookie radio reporter in the late 1980s, she'd covered the organization and remembers attending club meetings where the members were nearly all men. "I remember feeling very intimidated by the experience," she says. "I was in my early 20s. It was the power brokers of the community." Fast forward to 1996, months after she'd started her business, Media Street Productions. The manager of the local cable station invited Jones to a meeting. She realized she had found her home. "It was clearly one of the greatest gifts I've ever received," she says. "I didn't think walking through the door that day that it would change the trajectory of my life."

The next day at the Dallas training seminar, during a soup and salad lunch, the 1980 Kool & the Gang song "Celebration" blares over the speakers. People around the hotel ballroom begin to dance, clapping and swaying to the music. Among them is Jones, waving a colorful light stick above her head. She dances among the tables, stopping for a selfie here, a hug there, grooving with the crowd. The flash mob lines up in front of the stage, Jones at the center. When the song ends, Past RI Director Don Mebus introduces Jones, who makes a heart with her hands as she arrives onstage.

Her speech brings listeners through the full range of emo-

tions. As she speaks about witnessing a pediatric heart surgery in Jordan, the room is so quiet you could hear a Paul Harris Fellow pin drop. When she finishes, the crowd stands and erupts in applause. But there is no time to bask in it. Jones has a plane to catch. The emcee asks the throngs of enthusiastic Texans to please let her through. And with that, she's off to the airport, her sprint aided by a pair of purple sneakers that she wears throughout the trip ("I save heels for when I'm presenting," she says). She doesn't like to eat before she speaks, so now she grabs a bag of chips and settles into her seat to rest.

Four hours later, she arrives in Los Angeles for another presidents-elect training seminar. Tonight's duties involve stopping by the hospitality suites to meet Rotarians from the participating districts. In one room, Rotarians drinking umbrella-festooned mai tais mingle as Hawaiian music emanates from speakers decorated with grass skirts. Jones barely makes it in the door before she is again swarmed by Rotarians eager to meet her. Randy Hart, 2022-23 governor of district 5000 (Hawaii), presents her with a lei. "All I can think about is the energy she has," comments one man. "To think, this is the third room she's visited!"

Lakecia King is one of the well-wishers, embracing Jones when they meet. "She's so warm and genuine,"

says King, the incoming president of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu and the diversity, equity, and inclusion chair for District 5000. Eight weeks out from surgery for a torn meniscus, King has flown from Hawaii for this opportunity, drawn by Jones' rally for diversity in Rotary. "I was not going to miss it for the world," King says. "She believes in something that is so necessary. This time calls for peace and unity, for embracing despite our differences and based on what we have in common."

Jones finally makes it to the back of the room, where she's swept into a hula dance with seven other women in front of an "Aloha" backdrop. She visits a few more of the hospitality suites and ends



Jones & Krayacich pose beside a towering redwood tree during their stop in California.

in that of District 5500 (Arizona), where she chats with a circle of Rotarians. As she raises her glass to leave the room — "Well, cheers, everybody!" — an older woman with close-cropped white hair calls out, "Thank you for being the first!" Jones responds, not missing a beat: "But not the last."

Jones leads attendees in Danville, California, in a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" in honor of Ukraine.

Jones and Krayacich took their first international service trip in 2000, shortly after Jones joined Rotary. (Due to schedule conflicts, Krayacich didn't join until 2010 when a breakfast club was chartered, two minutes from their house. "She wasn't even the one who asked me to join Rotary," he chuckles.) They went for five weeks to the Brazilian Amazon, where Krayacich ran a medical clinic and Jones produced a fundraising video for the clinic and created a training program for local journalists. "Once we went on an international Rotary service trip, it resonated very profoundly with me," she says. "I knew this was something I wanted to do more of — to help people tell their stories, to find the narrative in what we were doing and come back and share it."

In 2001-02, she served as president of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland. Every meeting, she'd randomly pick a member, have them stand, and tell them why they were important to the club. "Every week, people would show up to see who the next person would be," she says.

It taught her a lesson about the importance of taking care of members, a priority now that she is RI president. "We were having fun, doing good work, and we liked each other," she says. "Sometimes we try to over-manufacture the reason why people join and stay."

At that point, her district had never had a female governor. She was under 40, and she "wanted to try to take that for a ride," she says. "I knew I wanted to put my full-on energy into Rotary. I loved it."

After her term as governor in 2007-08, she chaired the local chamber of commerce and the University of Windsor board of governors. "It was the most amazing precursor to sitting on the board of directors of Rotary," she says. "Each one was a building block."

In 2009, when Jones was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 42, her days turned to chemotherapy and radiation. She got the diagnosis in the fall, and she had been asked to speak at the International Assembly, the training for incoming district governors-elect, in

January 2010. Then-RI President-elect Ray Klinginsmith encouraged her to come if she was able. In consultation with her oncologist, she decided to attend. "The Sunday before, I lost all of my hair," she says. "I showed up at the event in a wig."

Some technical issues interrupted her speech, but it still made an impact, most of all on her. "At one of the lowest points in my life, someone didn't count me out," she says, tearing up. "It was just such a message that I needed at that point in time. That I had value, that I could contribute and participate. He gave me hope at a time when you think that maybe hope isn't what you're going to get."

"She really inspires me to keep doing what I'm doing. That it's OK that I'm a leader and that I'm a woman."

Jones went through eight rounds of chemo and 21 rounds of radiation. Her employees stepped up to keep her business running as she stepped back. That too proved pivotal. When her health improved and she prepared to re-engage with her work, she looked at what her team had accomplished. "I sat back and thought about it," she says. "If I go back in as I was, I'm going to rob them of the leadership growth they would have had." She decided to pass the day-to-day operations of the company to her team so she could pursue Rotary almost full time.

"I wouldn't orchestrate having cancer again," she says, "but I can definitely say I wouldn't be sitting here where I am today if all of these things hadn't happened."

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world in March 2020, Jones was fresh off a monthlong Rotary trip, which started in India for its Rotary centennial, continued in Nepal to visit a project started by a Rotary Peace Fellow, and concluded in New Zealand for the South Pacific presidents-elect training seminar. In the airport traveling home, she began to see people wearing masks, but she still thought she'd be back out on the road within weeks for a scheduled appearance at a district conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Then, suddenly, the world changed. "I remember the moment I heard that the border between Canada

and the United States shut down," she says. "In my life I could never have envisioned hearing those words."

Jones and Krayacich isolated at their cottage on Lake Erie, about half an hour from their house. "I still remember waking up at 3 o'clock in the morning and flipping open my phone to look for a newsfeed to find out what was going on. That sense of unknown we all went through at that time was so horrific."

Jones was a Rotary Foundation trustee at the time. She watched with pride and amazement as Rotary members quickly applied for disaster response grants from The Rotary Foundation to fund service projects. But she wanted to do more. Previously, she'd drawn on her vocation to plan large fundraising events for the Foundation, such as a golf outing with Jack Nicklaus in 2019. She called then-RI President Mark Maloney and pitched the idea of a telethon.

The idea came together over a matter of weeks. Jones reached out to her vast network of contacts in the Rotary world and asked them to send videos. "We really wanted to capitalize on what we could do in real time for people," she says. "Yes, raising critical funds was important, but more than anything, it was an opportunity to bring together people from around the globe and to showcase that we're people of action — even though we were all isolated in our own homes, we were able to do something." (More than 65,000 people tuned in to the event, hosted by Past RI President Barry Rassin and Past RI Director John Smarge, which raised more than \$525,000 for the Foundation.)

One of the people who contributed a video was Anniela Carracedo. A Rotary Youth Exchange student in Mississippi in 2019-20, Carracedo could not return home to Venezuela when the pandemic struck. Stuck in the United States, she started Rotary Interactive Quarantine, a global youth network for Interactors and Youth Exchange students. Jones messaged her in a chat during an online zone meeting and asked her to create a video about the youth network for the telethon.

"After that, I Googled her," Carracedo recalls. "Who is this person, and why is she organizing this? I told my host mom about it, and she said, 'People say Jennifer will be the first female Rotary president.'"

Carracedo and Jones kept in touch. They've never met in person, but they've formed a strong bond. Jones has spoken at Carracedo's meetings and invited her to speak at the International Assembly. Carracedo has made TikToks about Jones. In an interview over Zoom,

she holds up her phone to show Jones-themed stickers on WhatsApp. "I'm her biggest fan, I guess," she says. "She really inspires me to keep doing what I'm doing. That it's OK that I'm a leader and that I'm a woman. If she did it, that means that I can do it too."

And Carracedo's not the only one who feels that way. Another TikTok posted on the @rotaryyouthnetwork account juxtaposes a video of Jones with an audio clip declaring, "She's an icon, she's a legend, and she is the moment."

Jones' ability to inspire extends beyond young women. Following her visit to Los Angeles, Jones attends a District 5170 dinner at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, California. At a pre-dinner reception for Major Donors, Jones gives a speech in an exhibit about the American West. "I knew back in 2013 that someday she'd be RI president. She has an aura about her," says Joe Hamilton of the Rotary Club of Cupertino, who has been mingling in the crowd. The vibe is more subdued than it was at the seminars she'd attended earlier in the weekend. Sequined partygoers line up to take photos with Jones, who is elegantly dressed in a flowing cream-colored top and palazzo pants with gold embellishments that she bought on her trip to India before the pandemic. **Click. Click. Click.**

It's dinnertime now, and the donors leave the American West for the classic car exhibit on the first floor, where tables are set up among a kaleidoscope of gleaming sports cars. The weekend has felt like an episode of The Amazing Race. In the past 48 hours, Jones has taken two flights, spoken at three major events in three cities, and posed for possibly hundreds of selfies. ("There's the paparazzi — this is the Rotarazzi," Krayacich jokes.)

Even so, Jones, standing in front of a black screen with the words of her presidential theme, Imagine Rotary, projected behind her, is practically glowing as she speaks again. The war in Ukraine has intensified over this weekend, and this speech ties the troubling current events to the peacemaking power of Rotary. She says, "You can't underestimate the importance of what you're doing today."

Jones calls the district governors and governors-elect onto the stage and leads everyone in attendance in a teary rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine," in honor of Ukraine. People in the crowd hold hands and sway along, imagining the power of Rotary with Jones at the helm. ♦

UTICA HONORS SEVERAL OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

Jerry Kraus | Utica

The Rotary Clubs of Utica, North Utica/Whitestown, and Sauquoit honored six Utica-area teachers on Friday, June 3rd, at their annual Outstanding Educators Awards Program. The program, presented during a Utica Rotary luncheon at the Yahnundasis Golf and Country Club in New Hartford, is an annual event of the area Rotary Clubs' community service committees. The 2022 recipients of the Outstanding Educators Awards are:

- Clinton Central High School:** Kathleen Washburn
- New York Mills Junior/Senior High School:** Tim Papienuk
- Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School:** Noah Howard
- T.R. Proctor High School:** Master Chief Mark Williamson
- Sauquoit Valley High School:** Brett Cardillo
- Whitesboro Central High School:** Charles Hamilton



(L-R) Susie Hamilton, accepting for Charles Hamilton, Principal Brent Dodge, accepting for Tim Papienuk, Master Chief Mark Williamson, Brett Cardillo and Noah Howard.

The awards program comes at the culmination of a year-long program during which area Rotary clubs hosted two students from each of six area high schools. At each of two weekly Rotary membership meetings over the past school year, the students each had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Rotary members, and to learn about Rotary's community, regional and international service, which are the fulfillment of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

At the end of the school year, the students from each school are asked to select the teacher whom they believe exemplifies the Rotary motto, and the values of Rotary, as exemplified in its Four Way Test. ♦

ROTARY CHUCKWAGON

Karen Fauls-Traynor | Chittenango

While some form of mobile kitchens had existed for generations, the invention of the chuckwagon is attributed to Charles Goodnight, a Texas rancher known as the "father of the Texas Panhandle," who introduced the concept in 1866. Goodnight modified a Studebaker-manufactured covered wagon, a durable Civil War army-surplus wagon, to suit the needs of cowboys driving cattle from Texas to sell in New Mexico. He added a "chuck box" to the back of the wagon, with drawers and shelves for storage space and a hinged lid to provide a flat working surface.

One of Chittenango Rotary's constant fundraisers is the Chuckwagon, a food truck that travels to local events to provide CNY summer staples at reasonable prices: Basillio-Buda hamburgers & cheeseburgers, Hoffmann hot dogs & coney's & salt potatoes, all at reasonable, family friendly prices. The Chuckwagon is staffed by Rotarians and volunteers and proceeds support local projects and organizations.



The Chuckwagon can be found every Tuesday evening at Chittenango Tuesdays in the Park from 5-8 pm through August 30th. Each week features music, local vendors and food venues. Details can be found on Facebook at @ChittMarket. Take a drive to Chittenango and support Rotarians at work! ♦

LITTLE FALLS EVENTS

Mary Trombley | Little Falls

Join Little Falls Rotary Club for some All-American Baseball

On **Wednesday, July 6**, the owner of the Little Falls Diamond Dawgs, Travis Heiser, along with the Little Falls Rotary Club, are offering **free admission** to the doubleheader that evening with donations to the Food Pantry, Animal Care Shelters, or Personal Care Pantry. Bring your donations to the field entrance at the Eastern End of Burwell Street (past the Hospital) starting at 4:45 for free admission. Know that you are doing good for the community, and enjoy a great evening of baseball in the beautiful Mohawk Valley.

Annual Dr. Anthony Piana Little Falls Rotary Golf Tourney

Attention Golfers: The Little Falls Rotary Club will be hosting its Annual Dr. Anthony Piana Little Falls Rotary Golf Tournament at the Mohawk Valley Country Club, Route 5, between Little Falls and Herkimer, on **Saturday, August 13**.

- Sign-in starting at 8:00am
- Coffee & light breakfast included
- Start time: 9:00am
- Full luncheon, awarding of prizes and raffle items after 18 holes (approximately 12:30pm)
- Cost per person: \$85 (teams of four - \$340.)

Get your team together and register by sending your check(s) to:

**LF Rotary
P.O. Box 181
Little Falls NY 13365**

Special bonus-swig for Rotarians

UTICA ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Jerry Kraus | Utica

Rotary Club of Utica is again holding a charity golf tournament to support the Club's Urban Tree Planting Project. The Tees for Trees tournament will take place Sunday, August 14, at Hidden Valley Golf Club in Whitesboro, NY.

The registration and sponsorship forms are attached. Forms may be filled out by downloading the forms and opening in Acrobat Reader or print forms and fill in by hand.

The tournament is only a little over a month away so start forming your team(s). Everyone is welcome to play so please pass this email and forms to others or send them to the event page on our Club website at: Tees for Trees Charity Golf Tournament. Questions? Contact [Jerry Kraus](#).

The fun starts at noon with registration and lunch. The tournament is a four-person scramble format. The fee is \$95 per person, and includes lunch before golf, golf fees and cart, dinner after golf, door prizes, trophies, team photos and more! Tee-sign hole sponsorships are available for \$100 for an 18" x 24" sign.

The Rotary Club of Utica Urban Tree Planting Project is planned in cooperation with Unitarian Universalist Church and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency. The project's goal is to aid urban homeowners in enhancing the value of their property, improving the air quality within their community by reducing carbon emissions, and providing a canopy of shade to lower the heat index during summer months.

DOWNLOAD FORMS TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP FOR SPONSORSHIP



2022 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION ELEVATES EQUITY AND INCLUSION, APPROVES DUES INCREASE

Wen Huang | Rotary magazine

Representatives to the 2022 Council on Legislation voted overwhelmingly on their first day of sessions to add "equity and inclusion" to Rotary International bylaws, affirming the organization's continued effort to be inclusive of all cultures, experiences, and identities, and to reflect the communities it serves.

The four-day conference, held in Chicago in April, marked Rotary's first successful attempt to host a hybrid international event since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. About 520 representatives represented Rotary districts around the world; about 60% attended in-person, and the rest participated via Zoom.

This year's Council reviewed and voted on more than 90 enactments that would change RI's constitutional documents. Among the highlights is the legislation that promotes diversity and builds a well-balanced Rotary membership.

Proposed by the Rotary Club of Annanagar Aadithya, India, (District 3232) the enactment passed by a vote of 420 to 56. Amended Rotary bylaws now state that "each club or Rotaract club shall endeavor to build a well-balanced membership that celebrates diversity, equity, and inclusion." Rotary prohibits clubs from denying an individual membership due to gender, race, color, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation.

"We have now made growing and diversifying our membership a top internal organizational priority," said Valarie Wafer, who chairs RI's Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force.

"Feeling welcome and comfortable with fellow club members is the single greatest driver of member satisfaction, and retention," Wafer maintained. "By adding equity, we are thoughtfully considering how to provide differing levels of support, opportunities, and resources so everyone can have a welcoming and valuable experience. Adding inclusion ensures that we focus on creating experiences in which all people are welcomed, respected, and valued."

Club Administration Pilot

Duane Benton, a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City and a federal judge, who co-chaired this year's Council, characterized multiple items at this Council as

part of Rotary's continued commitment to improving club and organizational flexibility.

An enactment that generated vigorous discussion before passing by a vote of 324 to 150 would allow the RI Board to pilot a new regional governance structure for clubs and Rotarians.

The pilot will be limited to Rotary Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) as well as clubs and districts in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific for a duration of six years.

Cosponsors of the legislation - the RI Board and the Rotary Club of Merimbula (District 9705) in Australia, stated that the current regional governance structure, put in place over 70 years ago, has grown into a "significant hierarchy" with too many layers and roles.

"It is appropriate to modernize and consider new models that can enhance our efficiency, increase the ability of members to access support, and look at new ways to make volunteer positions more manageable and doable," said Wafer, who spoke on behalf of the RI board.

Representatives who opposed the enactment argued that the plan for the pilot lacks specifics and could reduce the number of districts and put a district governor's role at risk. One representative from District 3490 (Taiwan) expressed concern that the plan could alter the autonomous structure of Rotary clubs, leading to centralized governance and decreasing localized management.

Wafer, reassured Rotarians that the districts and the role of district governors will not be eliminated while the pilot is being implemented. Following a six-year experiment, she said if the findings indicate that the existing model needs to be reverted, the role of district governors will still exist.

"This is not to force fit a new governance structure," Wafer added. "Rather, we try to work in partnership with districts to see what works and what doesn't for a more sustainable future."

Dues Increase

Representatives approved a dues increase for each of the next three years. Dues that clubs pay to RI per member are set at \$35.50 per half year in 2022-23.

Dues will increase to \$37.50 per half year in 2023-24, \$39.25 per half year in 2024-25, and US\$41.00 per half year in 2025-26.

"The proposed dues adjustment is based on the most current forecasting information," said RI Director Elizabeth Usovicz. She attributed the dues increase to lower membership, lower earnings, and fluctuating inflation. "The approval will now enable Rotary to respond quickly and compassionately to humanitarian needs."

The Rotary Magazine Network

Rotary currently has 33 magazines across worldwide. Representatives rejected a proposal that would have required members to receive a digital copy of any of the magazines unless they request a printed copy.

Currently, every Rotary magazine is required to offer a digital alternative for the readers, said RI Director Ananthanarayanan S. "Venky" Venkatesh. But subscriber data show that only 8% have opted for a digital copy. The majority prefer the print version. Moreover, nearly 70% of members have reported in recent surveys that they still read books and magazines on paper.

At the same time, Rotary magazines are exploring ways to make their output more environmentally friendly while balancing the cost of publication.

On a related vote, delegates have also affirmed Rotary's bylaws that mandates magazine subscription for each member.

A 2020 Rotary survey shows that 84 percent said the magazine strengthens their connection with Rotary, allowing them to better understand the organization. Making the subscription optional will decrease the level of consistent Rotary knowledge and engagement

among its members, said Sylvia Whitlock, a trailblazer who was the first female club president in the history of Rotary.

"The magazine is a primer for Rotary members keeping us informed on the who, what, when, where, why and how of the world," said Whitlock. "Without the magazine everything is just happenstance. Any good primer is beside you all the time."

Standing ovation for Ukraine

During a legislative session on April 12, RI President Shekhar Mehta recognized Hennadii Kroychik, a delegate from the Ukrainian city of Lviv, who left his war-torn country and took a circuitous journey to Chicago for the Council. "Hennadii made the trip here even with the tragedy that is unfolding in Ukraine," said Mehta. "We want you to know that we stand with you and your country."

Kroychik received a standing ovation from attendees in the room for what Mehta called "fulfilling his duties under extreme circumstances and demonstrating such commitment to Rotary."

Electronic Policymaking

"What we have done for the 2022 Council on Legislation is unprecedented," says Benton. "About 200 delegates from every continent participated in the deliberations via Zoom. Despite the time differences, participants debated and voted on proposals as if they had been there in person. This is the full flowering of electronic policymaking."

Benton added, "What we accomplished in this session shows that we can do both in-person and hybrid Councils." ♦

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Email your photos and well-written articles to rotary7150@gmail.com

The deadline to submit your news is the 25th of each month.

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