Keepin' Up With The District

APRIL 2025



A Wessage From: DISTRICT GOVERNOR Bill Skinner



April is here, which means by the end of this month temperatures will be warm, flowers and trees will be blooming, and winter will be a distant memory. As I write this newsletter we are putting the final touches on our multi-district conference, this first weekend in Hershey, PA. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there with Peace, one of our 7 Areas of Focus, being our theme. Hopefully many of you came and "Unwrapped the Magic" with good fellowship, learnings, and fun.

Now that spring is here, and the weather will be better, we will be having our projects and fundraisers going full speed ahead. Make sure you get your events, both fundraisers and projects on the District Calendar and on the website. After completing the event make sure you have pictures and a summary of the event with the positive outcomes. All this information should also be communicated to your Assistant Governor so they can disseminate the information to the other Clubs in their Area and get the information to the District Leadership Team. As you know I am a big proponent of collaboration, more hands means less work, more attendees, bigger and better results thus greater overall success.

Successful projects and fundraisers "increase our impact" and "expand our reach". We often say Rotary is the best kept secret. That is our fault. We need to shout successful project outcomes from every mountaintop. Sharing and combining with other Clubs will enhance a project, increase the project area, and allow you to have a greater impact. Our projects are what will create interest in our communities if they know about them. If they do know about them they may want to learn more about Rotary and all the good that we do. What a concept. Who knows, we may even get some people to join as a result, also a very positive outcome.

Every month Rotary has a theme. The month of April is Environmental Month in Rotary. It is our newest area of focus. There are many projects going on in Clubs and Districts around the world pertaining to the environment. Some of these projects include tree plantings, micro forest programs, river and watershed cleanup programs, and pollinator programs.

ESRAG is the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group which helps Clubs and Districts take actions to sustain our environment, particularly to help stabilize our climate. ESRAG is a resource to assist Rotary clubs, districts and multi-districts in planning, implementing and evaluating service projects, building awareness, and inspiring action. These projects promote environmental sustainability and awareness of climate change. What projects can your club undertake to protect the environment in your community? To learn more about ESRAG visit https://esrag.org/.

Thank you for all you do in your Clubs, for our District, and for Rotary that positively impacts our communities and our world.

Yours in Rotary, Bill

Rotary District 7410 Polio Plus Application





As a Rotarian and supporter of Polio Eradication, Rotary's #1 international priority, I wish to participate in this child focused humanitarian effort as a member of the PolioPlus Society of Rotary District 7410.

I hereby commit to making an annual donation to the PolioPlus program of the Rotary Foundation as follows: (select one)

- o \$100 per year to PolioPlus (this is the minimum amount to become a PolioPlus Society member
- A contribution of \$____per year to PolioPlus (more than \$100)
- o A contribution of \$____ only this year; unfortunately, I cannot do this every year

Society members will receive a PolioPlus Society membership pin and Paul Harris credit. Make your donation online at www.rotary.org/donate and select the Polio Fund, or through your Rotary Club and the Rotary International donor form. If made on-line, one can establish a recurring donation.

E-mail or mail the donation acknowledgement you receive from Rotary International and this form to me the District PolioPlus Society Coordinator at davesolopalmer@gmail.com or Dave Palmer, 443 Mateer Road, Hop Bottom, PA 18824. Contact Dave for questions at 570-498-6637.

Until the last child is immunized, and the world is certified polio-free, every child is at risk.

Name:
Signature:
Date:
Club Name:
Phone Number:
E-Mail:

Your PolioPlus Society pin will be presented to you at your club meeting or other appropriate meeting you might desire, to insure you are recognized for your commitment to eradicating polio from this earth.

Upcoming Events

Calendar

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2		4	5
Semi-Annual Paper Shredding &	Electronics Recycling			1		
			April Bingo Night	pril Bingo Night lewfoundland)	District Conference	
			(Newfoundland)			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Semi-Annual Paper Shredding &	Electronics Recycling					
District Conference						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Semi-Annual Paper Shredding &	Electronics Recycling					
	75th Anniversary Charter Night (Newfoundland)					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
- Board Meeting Event	Club Event Fundraiser	Club Meet General		Committee Meeting Official DG Visit	Deadline	

3/18-4/19- The Smithfields - Paper Shredding & Electronics Recycling 4/14 - Newfoundland - 75th Anniversary Charter Night

See You There!

Don't see your event on the calendar? Email jpoperotary@gmail.com for instructions on how to add it!



Thank you to everyone who contributes to the monthly Newsletter!

Instructions to submit your articles and photos to the newsletter:

Please send submissions to the email box:

RotaryDistrict7410Newsletter@gmail.com

Please remember to keep your content:

- -Simple & Brief, Limiting all articles to a total of 2 pages.
- -Connecting to trending topics or events if possible

Also, please submit your newsletter articles in **one Word Document with photos attached separately, not in the body of separate emails or in the document.** This helps assure that all of your articles are included in the newsletter and nothing gets lost.

International Service Committee

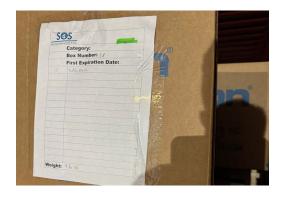
District 7410 Rotary Clubs and SOS International send Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

Beginning with a fund-raising dinner in September of 2024 at Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Scranton; a humanitarian aid effort realized its promise on March 10th, 2025, as over three hundred thousand dollars of donated medical and humanitarian supplies headed for Ukraine. The funds raised at the September 2024 fundraising dinner helped pay for the transportation costs for this aid. This effort also has included the purchase of three used ambulances in Poland, for donation to Ukraine medical entities.

SOS International is a non-profit humanitarian organization based in Louisville Kentucky that delivers aid throughout the world. Nine Rotary Clubs and the International Service Committee in Rotary District 7410 of Northeast Pennsylvania collaborated and assisted throughout this effort. These clubs include the Scranton Rotary, Tunkhannock Rotary, New Milford Area Rotary, Hazelton Rotary, Dunmore Rotary, Honesdale Rotary, Weatherly Rotary, Hamlin Rotary, and Jim Thorpe Rotary. The Heerlen Rotary of The Netherlands added an international flavor to this effort.

Rotary District 7410 is found in ten counties of Northeast Pennsylvania, including the Northern Tier, and consists of over forty clubs and 1,100 members serving the community and the world.









District Directory

The 2024-2025 District Directory is available to view on our website

Please click here to view a copy

The District Directory is housed under the District Info drop down menu on our website homepage.



District Pirectory 2024-2025

Serving 11 Counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania, USA

Public Image Committee

Don't forget!

Visit the Public Image page to:

- -Download a printable/fillable <u>"Connect With Us" business card</u> to pass out to prospective Rotary members.
- -Find a link to take you directly to <u>Rotary Internationals Brand Center.</u> Here you can create and download videos, images, brochures, logos, business cards, flyers and much more.
- -Download a copy of the <u>District Directory</u>.
- -Download your club logo.

CLUBS IN ACTION





NEPA Philharmonic

Months ago when a massive fire destroyed Gin's Restaurant near Factoryville the Trail Rotary Club lost all of their memorabilia including their ceremonial bell. Seen here are members of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons presenting a new bell to the members of the Trail Club at the new Gin's.

Pictured (L to R): Judy Kupetsky (Trail), Ellen Kanton (Trail President) and Gus Vlassis) Abington and Past District Governor). Standing (L to R): Bill Smarkusky (Trail), Steve Selige (Abington President), Chris Loftus (Abington), Roger Mattes(Abington and Past District Governor) and Mary Smarkusky (Trail).



Rotary 5K Run

Join the Rotary Club of the Abingtons in a fun-filled family event! We will be sponsoring our first ever 5K run on Saturday, May 24, 2025, 9AM utilizing the Trolley Trail, beginning at the Church of the Epiphany, 25 Church Hill Road, Dalton, PA 18414.

Pre-registration: runners \$25, walkers \$15, with packet pickup Friday, May 23, 2025 from 4-8 PM at Brown's Gym in Clarks Summit. Day of Registration: runners \$30, walkers \$20, with packet pickup Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 8 to 8:45 AM at the event.

Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers as well as the top three males and females in age groups: 0-19 years; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70-79; 80+. To register or to donate, go to https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Dalton/RotaryKRun.

All proceeds will benefit the Charitable Trust of Rotary Club of the Abingtons, a win for ALL of us!



Race Committee

New Members

Today Past District Governors Roger Mattes and Matt Cartwright installed two new members, Rev. Adam Miller and Michael Semian.

Pictured I to r: President Steve Selige, Sponsor Bruce Valentine, Rev. Miller, Michael Semian, Sponsor Gail Cicerini, Past District Governors Roger Mattes and Matt Cartwright.



Abington Heights Interact Club

The Abington Heights Interact Club is in their second year conducting two programs to benefit the environment and their community. They have been recycling plastic bags for 2 years to make 'plarn' that is crocheted into ground cover mats to go under sleeping bags for the homeless. They have also been collecting pliable plastic during this same time period, as well as scraps from plarn making, to be recycled with the NexTrex Recyling Challenge (https://nextrex.com/view/recyclingchallenge).

Through those efforts they received a free polywood bench for their high school courtyard and are currently working to procure a second bench. The NextTrex program can be easily duplicated by any Rotary or Interact Club in the District. Locally, over 5,000 lbs of pliable plastic have been successfully recycled!

Pictured are Interact Club members with their first bench; Gabby Bourcier, Interact NextTrex chair and Anna Flynn, Interact plarn making chair; and an example of a mat made from plarn. Anyone interested in starting either program may contact Rotary Club of the Abingtons Interact liaison, Leah Rudolph, at leahdrudolph@gmail.com.







Rotary Club of The Greater Poconos (RCGP) has made a real difference in the lives of hundreds of residents from Monroe & Pike County, PA. By joining forces with our affiliated Rotary Foundation of The Greater Poconos (RFGP), RCGP has already provided <u>FREE</u> income tax return prep services to over two hundred and fifty (250) elderly and low/moderate-income taxpayers via the Rotary-GP VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program.

Since January 2025, a team dedicated volunteers, recruited and trained by members of RCGP manned three (3) Rotary-GP VITA community-based sites in Monroe County, PA and prepared Federal, State and Local tax returns and PA 1000 RE Tax/Renter Rebate applications that helped hundreds of people save tons of money in paid preparer tax prep fees. The FREE services provided by these dedicated Rotarians and community volunteers also helped scores of low/moderate-income taxpayers secure earned income tax credits, child tax credits, education credits and tax refunds that they used to pay past due bills, stop evictions, heat their homes and feed their children, families and pets.

Notably, all tax returns prepared in the Rotary-GP VITA program are 1) prepared and quality reviewed by volunteers trained by RFGP and/or IRS and Certified by IRS and 2) E-Filed via an encrypted software program, approved by IRS, so Taxpayer(s) refunds can be direct deposited in their personal bank account quickly and safely.

Hal H. Harris, President of RCGP & CEO of RFGP, states: "Rotary-GP VITA is a real economic stimulus program that allows Rotarians to be <u>People Of Action</u> who team up with community volunteers to help Elderly, Disabled and Low/Moderate-Income residents, in our shared communities, in a way that is quantifiable." Mr. Harris goes on to say: "TOGETHER WE, as Rotarians, can touch the Hearts, Minds, and Wallets of those in need in The Greater Poconos and beyond".

Since 1905 Rotary International members, throughout the world, have Taken Action, and connected our 1.4 million members, from 30,000+ Rotary Clubs, in 200+ countries, improve people's lives at the local level. Rotarians who embrace our "Service Above Self!" axiom contribute their time, energy, and expertise to carry out meaningful projects that Promote Peace, Fight Disease, Provide Clean Water, Help Mothers & Children, Support Education, Protect The Environment and Grow Local Economies via service projects like the Rotary-GP VITA program.

For 76+ years **Rotary Club of The Greater Poconos** (formerly Rotary Club of Mount Pocono) helped hundreds of Monroe County residents by raising funds at our annual fundraiser and donating the over \$200,000 raised to local charities, giving scholarships to high school & vocational school students, providing dictionaries to 3rd graders, and/or donating two (2) "Buddy Benches" to local schools. Now, members of **Rotary Club Of The Greater Poconos** work with our affiliated **Rotary Foundation Of The Greater Poconos** to bring together a network of Rotarians, community volunteers, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and financial institutions to tackle two of the most pressing needs most communities in American are facing today; 1) Economic Insecurity and 2) lack of Financial Literacy. For more information about our **Rotary-GP VITA** program, to become volunteer, and/or to make a muchneeded financial donation to support our Rotary-GP VITA program please visit **www.Rotary-GP.org.**

Our team of dedicated Rotarians stands ready to help <u>YOUR/ANY</u> Rotary Club set-up a "community-based" Rotary-GP VITA site, for the next tax filing season, that kicks off in October 2025. If interested, email Hal H. Harris at <u>President@Rotary-GP.org</u> before May 15, 2025. Finally, <u>Rotary Club Of The Greater Poconos</u> extend our sincere thanks to the organizations, community members, donors, clients, and Rotarians and that gave time, equipment, supplies, funds and/or other support that helped make the <u>Rotary-GP VITA</u> program inaugural year a success.





Proceeds Benefit Shine Program of Pike and Wayne County

Sunday May 18, 2025

Registration 9:30 to 11 AM

Lunch provided to all participants after the ride.

Ride Begins and Ends at Baer Motorsports





New Member

Meghan Remiszewski, center, was inducted as the newest member of the Lehighton Rotary Club by Assistant District Governor, Pat Ward, left, at a recent regular meeting. The Club President is Susan Lovejoy, right.





Warrior Cafe Lunch

On February 26th, The Milford-Matamoras Rotary Club had the pleasure of having an exceptional lunch in the Warrior Café, at the Delaware Valley High School. The lunch was hosted and prepared entirely by the Culinary Students from the Career Technical Education Program. Chef Alex Niosi explained to the Rotary members that he runs an instructional program that prepares students for employment related to institutional, commercial or self-owned food establishments or other food industry positions. The Milford-Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at the Dimmick Inn at 12:15PM. Anyone interested in becoming a member, contact Jamie Dykstra at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting,



Spelling Bee Winners Dictionaries

The Milford Matamoras Rotary Club recognized the winners of this year's Delaware Valley School District's Spelling Bee Contest on February 26th at the Delaware Valley Warrior Café luncheon. Winners were presented with a Websters Collegiate Dictionary with Rotary's 4-Way Test on the inside cover. Pictured from the left are Wyatt Malenczak, Delaware Valley Middle School, Mattias Itjen, Dingman Delaware Middle School, Aria Gonzalez, Delaware Valley Elementary School, Anya Nielsen, Shohola Elementary School, Logan Yearwood,

Dingman Delaware Primary School, and Garrett Follansbee, Dingman Delaware Elementary School. The club thanked all of the students for going above and beyond to reach their success. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at the Dimmick Inn at 12:15 PM. Anyone interested in becoming a member, contact Jamie Dykstra at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting.





Weinberg Food Bank

In February, six club members (& a guest) joined other clubs of the Rotary Area 7 for this annual volunteer event. A record number of Rotarians helped pack boxes of food for distribution by the Weinberg Food Bank. We packed around 700 boxes! It's always a worthwhile event, and lots of fun! Afterwards everyone went to Betteli's Villa for fellowship and food! Photo of our club participants.



Purse Bingo Fundraiser

Our annual Purses Bingo event was also held in February. It benefits the school back pack program and other community needs. We had great attendance and it was enjoyed by all!

Andrea, our new exchange student, and Dexter, her host sister & previous exchange student, both talked to the crowd about the exchange program and their experiences! Also speaking was Dawn Kenzakoski, District Inbound Exchange Coordinator.

In the photos are Andrea, Dexter, and Dawn with the exchange program. Also, members of the Crestwood High School Interact program who helped with the event. Finally, also pictured are our hardworking club members!





Essay Contest Winner!

The winner of this year's essay contrast is Addison Pirrone! Pictured in photo is Kathryn Murphy, President, presenting a check to Addison..



Grants Management Training

Two of our members recently attended the Grants Management Training program held in Drums. Pictured are Kathryn Murphy and Claudia Vitiello.



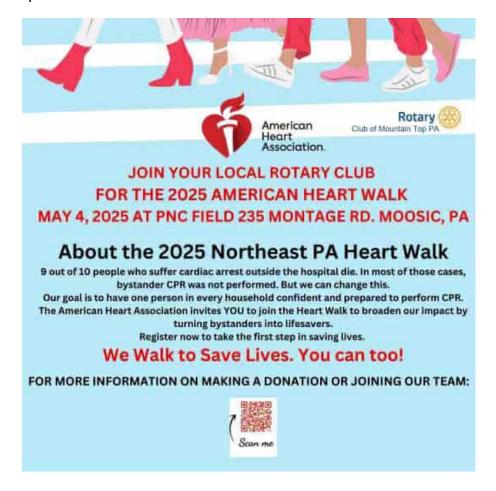
Rotary in Action!

Joanne Joseph, President Elect, recently delivered hygiene products for the area high school students. Rotary in Action: Finding a Need in the Community and Finding a Way to Help! Pictured are Joanne Joseph and school nurse Nicole Tomek, RN.



American Heart Association Walk

Join our club, and other Rotary Clubs, for the American Heart Association "Heart Walk" on May 4, 2025 at PNC Field! See attached flyer.



Rotary Meetings on the Move!

Our annual membership satisfaction survey revealed a suggestion for having one dinner meeting per month at a local restaurant. So we're doing a trial of it. The first dinner meeting was held at the Mountain Top Pub. It proved to be a nice get-a-way! See photo of those in attendance. More to come!



President Elect Learning (PELS)

Our president elect recently attended PELS. Joanne said it was wonderful, she enjoyed it, and met a lot of new friends! Also, she left there with some new ideas! Photos of Joanne and our District Governor Elect Tim Genetti!





Blue Ridge High School Interact Distributes Rotary Dictionaries

Third Graders at Blue Ridge Elementary School recently received their Rotary dictionaries from their fellow students at Blue Ridge Middle and High School. The Blue Ridge High School Interact Club continues the annual tradition of distributing these dictionaries on behalf of the New Milford Area Rotary Club.

The New Milford Area Rotary has conducted this annual event since 1991 and has reached over 5,500 third grade students. For many students, this may be the first book that they have owned.

The Club currently consists of thirty-seven members actively serving the community and world and welcomes new membership. Contact information can be found at NewMilfordPaRotary@gmail.com.



New Milford Area Rotary and Peoples Security Bank and Trust Foundation Collaborate

The New Milford Area Rotary recently celebrated a successful application for a grant from the Peoples Security Bank and Trust (PSB+T) Foundation on behalf of the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Health Care. On March 18, 2025, the \$1,000 grant was presented to NEPA Community Health Care at its facility in Montrose. The grant will be combined with a Rotary District 7410 District Designated Fund (DDF) grant of \$2,500 and a New Milford Area Rotary Club grant of \$1,000. The \$4,500 total is to purchase refrigerator/freezer vaccine storage units that include emergency power backup features. Units will be installed at all four of the NEPA Community Health locations.

The provision of this combined grant enables NEPA Community Health to continue providing key public health efforts, consistent with the Rotary focus areas of Fighting Disease and Saving Mothers and Children.

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Semi-Annual
Paper Shredding
Electronics Recycling

9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Peppe's Parking Lot
Eagle Valley Corners

DES Community Partners in Recycling & The Rotary Club of the Smithfields, are partnering in this community service.

Bring all paper, documents and files that need to be shredded.

Also, electronics & computers

All Electronics Minimum \$10 each File box of paper \$8 each box

For more information contact Glen Segond at 570 424 6049





Special Guest

Stroudsburgs Rotary had the pleasure of having entertainer Don Oriolo, whose dad co-founded Felix The Cat and Casper. Don shared his life as a producer, musician and artist, along with his non-profit Blue Arrow Farm in NY, a multipurpose farm and entertainment venue. Helping animals in need. Within a matter of minutes, Don drew Felix The Cat for us to auction off.



Essay Winners

We had 10 essay applicants, and chose 3 essay winners: Leyla Yilmaz received \$300 for 1st place (Stroudsburgs H.S), Tess Hopkins \$200 for 2nd place (East Stroudsburg South HS) and Alexis Binkos \$100 for 3rd place (Stroudsburg HS). The 1st place winner, Leyla Yilmaz was elevated to the District Level. We are so proud of all the applicants and it was a very difficult decision to make. A big thank you to Youth Chair Timaki Johnson and all the committee members for taking time to read through all the essays.



Youth Infusion

Elika Almeida co-founder of Youth Infusion invited Stroudsburgs Rotary Essay winners to attend her NEPA Youth Led Leadership Conference at Kalahari on May 7 from 6-9pm at no cost to them. If you are interested in attending or having your youth attend go to <u>youthinfusioninc.com</u>

Stroudsburg Rotary will have a table there sharing what Rotary is all about. Contact Stacy if you'd like to be at the table with me sharing to all of these youth leaders.

Annual Golf Outing

Stroudsburgs Rotary Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser is Wednesday June 4 at The Historic Shawnee Inn & Golf Center.

If you're interested in being a golfer, sponsor or giving a raffle prize see attached flyer or please email Don Hannig dhannig@ptd.net





Fun Day

At our March 13th meeting, a donation in the amount of \$250.00 was given to the Tunkhannock Area School District Fun Day Program. Numerous districts from around the area participate in Fun Day.



Donations

On March 20th two donations were handed out. One to Victims Resource Center and One to Patriots Cove. Victims Resource Center provides services to men, women, adolescents and children who are victims of crime, as well as their family members and friends affected by the incident. Services provided are free and remain confidential.

Patriots Cove received a \$1000.00 Donation. Patriots Cove was founded by Jeff Swire, a military veteran. The goal of the Cove is to empower other veterans, first responders, and their caregivers to heal and adapt to life after service. The Cove consists of 18 acres. The cove provides restorative outdoor activities, environmental service projects, and educational events and retreats for caregivers. Our President, Ann Way and members Frank & Muriel Oliver visited the Cove and were amazed by its beauty and offerings.





Flash Meeting

Our Flash Meeting was a success. Many Rotarians gathered at Tri-State Insurance to enjoy pizza & music bingo. Music Bingo was so enjoyable that many asked to incorporate it into future meetings. Our winners were Mary Tempest & Wendy Meehan!





Wyoming Rotary 🎇

34th Annual Golf Tournament Thursday, June 5, 2025

11:00 AM Registration & Hoagie Lunch – 12 Noon Shotgun Start!

Irem Country Club

\$110.00 per person (if paid before June 1) includes

Food, Raffle and Prizes!!!

After Golf Dinner on the Deck @ Grotto Pizza Harveys Lake

Hole Sponsorships SILVER \$50 or GOLD \$100 or PLATINUM \$150 PLEASE Donate Gifts or Gift Certificates to be used as Prizes Contact: John Piszak 570-313-8586

SPECIAL NOTES:

- ANY OUTSIDE ALCOHOL IS POSITIVELY PROHIBITED. IF ANYONE IS CAUGHT BRINGING OUTSIDE ALCOHOL, THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE STOPPED AND EVERYONE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES.
- 2. IREM'S DRESS CODE APPLIES: COLLARED SHIRTS TUCKED IN, NO JEANS, ETC.

Captain ————	Wyoming Rotary
Address	PO Box 4002
City State Zip	Wyoming, PA 18644
Phone	570-313-8586
Crew Members:	Captain & Crew (\$440) Silver Sponsor (\$50)
	Gold Sponsor (\$100)
	Platinum (\$150)
Name on Sponsor Sign:	
0.000.00	Total Amount Enclosed
***\$120.00 per/person, \$480.00 per/foursome if	\$
paid after June 1st***	
Join us for just Food & Refreshments & Raffle @ the Grotto	¢35 00