

Keepin' Up With The District



A Message From: DISTRICT GOVERNOR Samantha Maruzzelli



Dear Rotarians,

Happy December! The holiday season is upon us. I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday for you and your families. This is indeed a time of joy for many, but for others it can be challenging. I encourage you all to remember that the holidays can be a very tough time for people suffering with mental health issues, people who have lost loved ones, and those who are lonely. Please remember to be a safe space for them to share their feelings and offer them empathy and hope for a brighter future. Kindness can go a very long way. It can save a life. I am wishing you all a warm and compassionate holiday season!

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month! Rotarians are working hard to keep our promise to the world to eradicate Polio and help provide children across the globe with all basic vaccinations. We are proud of the work we have done and we are determined to finish the job. We must continue to support these efforts by donating to our foundation. We have 7 months left in this Rotary year. Get your donations in sooner rather than later this year.

For all of you who attended the District Foundation Dinner in November, thank you. It was a great success. Rotary International Past VP, Dean Rohrs, did an excellent job reminding us how all our hard work is paying off. Many awards were given out to clubs for donating to the foundation and many Paul Harris's were given out to Rotarians who have earned their next PH. Thank you Mary Ellen Bentler to you and your committee for putting on a wonderful event.

Membership is still and always on our radar. What has your club done lately to increase your membership? Who have you invited to join Rotary this month? I personally invited a person who owns a local furniture store in my town. He did not commit yet, but I planted the seed. I will return and ask again. I am also encouraging my niece who lives in Queens, New York to attend RYLA. This will bring Rotary into her home. It will not only make a positive change in my niece's life, but it will also make my brother and sister-in-law see what Rotary does in their community. Boom, three potential future Rotarians! Times these monthly efforts by 1.4 million Rotarians across the globe and we can substantially grow Rotary! Don't get hung up on only trying to grow your own club. Reach out to any person you know and encourage them to join a Rotary club that is close to them. This is a global effort!

This is a friendly reminder to update your club membership and officer information in Club Runner before January 1, 2024. This information will be used to generate your January 2024 club invoice for your dues. If you need help with this please call me at 570-885-1810. I suggest that when you are done doing this, you keep an eye on Rotary.org and make sure your changes are showing up there.

DGE, Bill Skinner, needs all President Elects and their contact information to be in Club Runner. He will be contacting all PE's to schedule your events and notify you of the dates for PETS (President Elect Training).

Enjoy your December and have a very happy and healthy New Year!

Yours is Rotary,
Sam

DECEMBER 2023

District Foundation Soriee



Dean Rohrs, Sam, Chris at the Foundation Soriee

DON'T BOTTLE IT UP



**Mental Health
Initiatives**
Rotary Action Group

**“I’m not afraid to speak up –
Neither should you”**

Samantha Maruzzelli
Tunkhannock Rotary Club
District 7410 DG 2023-2024

Approximately 1 in 4 people
officially suffer with some form of
mental illness and due to Covid this
is rising.

In reality, almost everyone will
encounter a mental health issue
either directly or indirectly at some
point in their lives.

Even if you’re not in the 25%
directly affected, help break the
taboo of Mental Health.

Don't suffer in silence.
#dontbottleitup



Upcoming Events

Calendar

December 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
						Christmas In The Park (Newfoundland)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						

- Committee Meeting
- Deadline
- District Event
- Fundraiser
- General
- Official DG Visit
- Club Event

[December- Newfoundland SHINE Volunteer Program](#)

See You There!

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

Submit to the Newsletter!

**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.

Rotary Convention



**SHARING
HOPE
WITH THE
WORLD**

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

#Rotary24



SHARING HOPE WITH THE WORLD SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024



REGISTRATION CATEGORY	27-31 MAY 2023	1 JUNE 2023 TO 15 DECEMBER 2023	16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024	1 APRIL 2024 TO 29 MAY 2024
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$450	\$500	\$595	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$100

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.



Register today at convention.rotary.org
#Rotary24

Rotary Convention

Fellow Rotarians,

Our 2024 International Convention in Singapore is just beyond the horizon!

Be sure to register prior to Dec. 15th to take advantage of the lower pricing. Visit <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/> for all the great details and registration.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Karen DeMatteo, as I am the District and the Zone Promotion Chair for the convention.

So far we have 7 members from the District signed up for the fun, fellowship and education! [Enjoy this little video](#) that my zone partner and I put together.

Polio Plus Society

ROTARY DISTRICT 7410 POLIOPUS SOCIETY CONTINUES GROWING

The new Rotary fiscal year continues to witness growth in the District 7410 PolioPlus Society. This growth points to a continued dedication to the elimination of this predominately childhood disease throughout the world.

As of this date, 50 Rotarians have joined the PolioPlus Society sponsored by District 7410, since its inception in 2019. Several pinning's of new members are planned for late summer or early fall.

The PolioPlus Society is an opportunity for Rotarians and others to designate at least \$100 in donations each year to the Rotary Foundation, and specifically for the PolioPlus focus area. To date, \$5,900 in donations has been realized from this District initiative.

It is that simple! PolioPlus Society members earn the opportunity to wear a distinctive lapel pin, which is delivered to them in an appropriate club setting or other Rotary event. Go ahead! Join us and manifest your dedication to ridding the entire world of this crippling and deadly child-hood disease. We are almost there! Only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan still have the wild polio virus endemic in their country. "Let's get to zero."

If you would like to join this society or renew your annual membership - fill out the application form on the district website and send it to the point-of-contact noted on the form.

David Palmer, PolioPlus Society
Rotary District 7410

Essay Contest

It's time for the annual Rotary District 7410 District Essay Contest for 2023-'24. The contest is open to students who are high school juniors or seniors. The goal of the contest is to gain visibility for Rotary in your community, and to foster student creativity and positive outlook.

The district winner will receive \$1,000.00. There will be a second place prize of \$500.00 and a third place prize of \$250.00. Each club may only submit one essay from each high school in its service area. It will be up to your club to judge your local entries, and to determine if there will be a local prize. Many clubs invite the local winner and his or her family to a Rotary meeting to read their essay and be recognized. It is also up to club membership to determine if a local winner should receive a monetary award.

A club deadline of February 2, 2024 is suggested. This year's theme is "Create Hope in the World: How can Communities, Schools, Families, and or Friends support mental health with caring, giving and compassion?"

The length of the essay should be 1,000 words, which is a change from past years. In addition, student names must only appear on a title page. Essays must be completed and saved as a PDF. Google Docs cannot be used for this contest.

If your club has made consistent contact with a teacher, school counselor, or administrator, I would recommend contacting that individual as soon as possible to request their participation. Essays may be submitted by the club chair as an attachment to my personal email, but only with Essay/Club name/Club Chair name/Student name in the subject line. Essays may not be embedded in the email.

Entries must be received by me on or before March 1, 2024.

Please ascertain if the Student Guidelines and poster may be delivered to the school, or if they should be emailed. Those materials will be updated on the district website.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this Rotary District 7410 Youth Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kate Farrell Kurosky, District Essay Chair
New Milford Area Rotary
kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com (570) 309-8087

Rotary Foundation

Area 7 recently conducted their annual Rotary Foundation Education seminar.

The seminar was organized by Area AG Brian Vnuk and held at Appletree Terra hosted by the Rotary Club of Dallas. Nearly 50 Rotarians from 7 clubs participated in the event.

The speaker was District Foundation Chairperson Mary Ellen Bentler. She educated Rotarians on the history of "Our" Foundation, current programs and how to make a donation to the cause.



PGN Tim Genetti, PDG Mary Ellen Bentler and AG Brian Vnuk



Event MC JK Karavis and PDG Art Peoples



Dallas Rotarian Kevin Smith and Wyoming President Andy Judge take a break from their dinner to smile for the camera



Dallas Rotarian Fred Dimarria serving dessert



PDG Mary Ellen Bentler educates us on "Our" Foundation

CLUBS IN ACTION



Dallas Rotarians Decorate the Triangle

Several Dallas Rotarians recently gathered at the triangle at Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas to decorate it for the holidays to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

They trimmed the sign and the large Christmas tree with colorful lights to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Kneeling from left: Paul Saxon, Ted Horn, Ken Chapple, Bill Nafus, Reid Davenport, President Fred Hunt.



Officer Dilly visits the Dallas Rotary

At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Dallas, their members were pleased to welcome three very special guests.

Speakers for the evening were Kingston Twp. Police Chief Marty Maransky, Officer Jeffrey Carter and K-9 Officer Dilly. Officer Dilly didn't have much to say because she is a German Short-haired Pointer born in the Netherlands, and receives all of her commands in Dutch.

Her expertise is detecting narcotics and assisting in human tracking.

From left: Past Rotary President Art Peoples, Chief Marty Maransky, Officer Jeffrey Carter, K-9 Officer Dilly, and Joann Prohaska, Rotary event chairperson.



Dallas Rotary delivers dictionaries to third grade students

Members of the Dallas Rotary recently delivered more than 400 dictionaries to third graders in the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts.

Their gifts of knowledge were well received by the teachers and students. The children at the Dallas Intermediate School posed for this photo with their teacher and representatives from the Dallas Rotary.



Dallas Rotary sponsors tree for Child Advocacy Center

Several members of the Dallas Rotary recently decorated a Christmas tree as a fundraiser for the Luzerne County Child Advocacy Center at the Parade of Trees at the Grotto at Harveys Lake.

For their decorations, they chose to use the center's signature pinwheels to represent the hundreds of children who are victims of abuse every year. The Dallas Rotary has been a loyal sponsor of the center for more than a decade, recognizing the excellent work done by the Executive Director Shannon Peduto and her staff to provide a place where children can go for much needed assistance.

Standing from left: Rotarians Joann Prohaska, Maureen Doerfler, Allyson Fox. Kneeling from left: Rotarian and Project Chairperson Becky Reinert, Kadyn Hernandez, Shannon Peduto, Executive Director of the child advocacy center.



Dallas Rotary sponsors fundraiser for Back Mountain Food Pantry

On Thursday evening, October 26th, the Dallas Rotary held their 23rd annual auction and raffle to raise food and funds for the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

The event was held at their weekly meeting place, the Appletree Terrace in Dallas. Through the generosity of their club members and friends, they raised \$3,050.00 and 400 pounds of food. It is an honor and a privilege for the Dallas Rotary to conduct this annual event to help their neighbors in need.

Some of the committee members, first row from left: Maureen Doerfler, Janie McRoy, Allison Fox, Todd Buckley, event chair Sandy Peoples, Fred DiMaria. Second row, from left: John Doerfler, Jason Jolley, Phil Mertz, Jason Moran, Jerry Reisch, Kerry Freeman. Additional committee members not in photo: Art Peoples and Eric Martin.



Join the E Club!

Hello from the E-Club!

We are a virtual club in the district! We meet on Zoom, Thursdays at 6pm EST. Anybody is welcome! If you'd like to make up your meeting attendances or just want to DO MORE ROTARY as DG Sam says, please drop in. Our current link is:

Topic: E Club of International Innovators Weekly Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696438529?pwd=Q2E5aDRTUkxrYXo0bzloakl6VCtiQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9643 8529

Passcode: 370798

Our speakers are listed on our website: <https://rotaryclubofintlinnovators.com/speakers>

Past speakers have included:

Rotary International President Elect Stephanie Urchick: Charter Celebration

Ranger Ann Malys Wilson: Preservation of Sea Turtles

Kenton Lee: Because International ~ Featuring The Shoe that Grows

Anil Srivatsa: Gift of Life Adventure Foundation

Caitlin Dermody: Rotary Global Grant Fellowship Recipient

Carol Ferguson: Polio Truths from a Polio Survivor



Hamlin Lake Ariel
Rotary
Club 

Chili

COOK OFF

To Benefit Rotary's Scholarship Fund

4PM Sunday

January 14, 2024

RPLACE ON 590

482 HAMLIN HIGHWAY

HAMLIN PA 18427

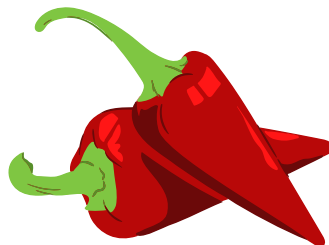
**\$5 TO ENTER
\$10 TO TASTE**

**The best chili
wins \$100 CASH!**

Scan Code Below for
More Information:



venmo





Hazleton Rotary participates in 45th Annual ACS Telethon

Hazleton Rotarians Rossanna Gabriel, Donna Dougherty and Judy Fuentes answered phones at the American Cancer Society 45th Annual Telethon on November 18th.

Row 2 L-R Rotarian Pat Korb was involved with telethon publicity and Gary Perna was an announcer.

Not available for the photo were Pat Ward, an announcer and Katherine Silva, who also answered phones. "Our club has been involved with the telethon for a number of years," explains President Michele Kushmeder "and we are proud to continue to help fight this dreaded disease and continue to hope for it's eradication."



Pat Ward, Hazleton Rotary, Receives ACS Gans Award

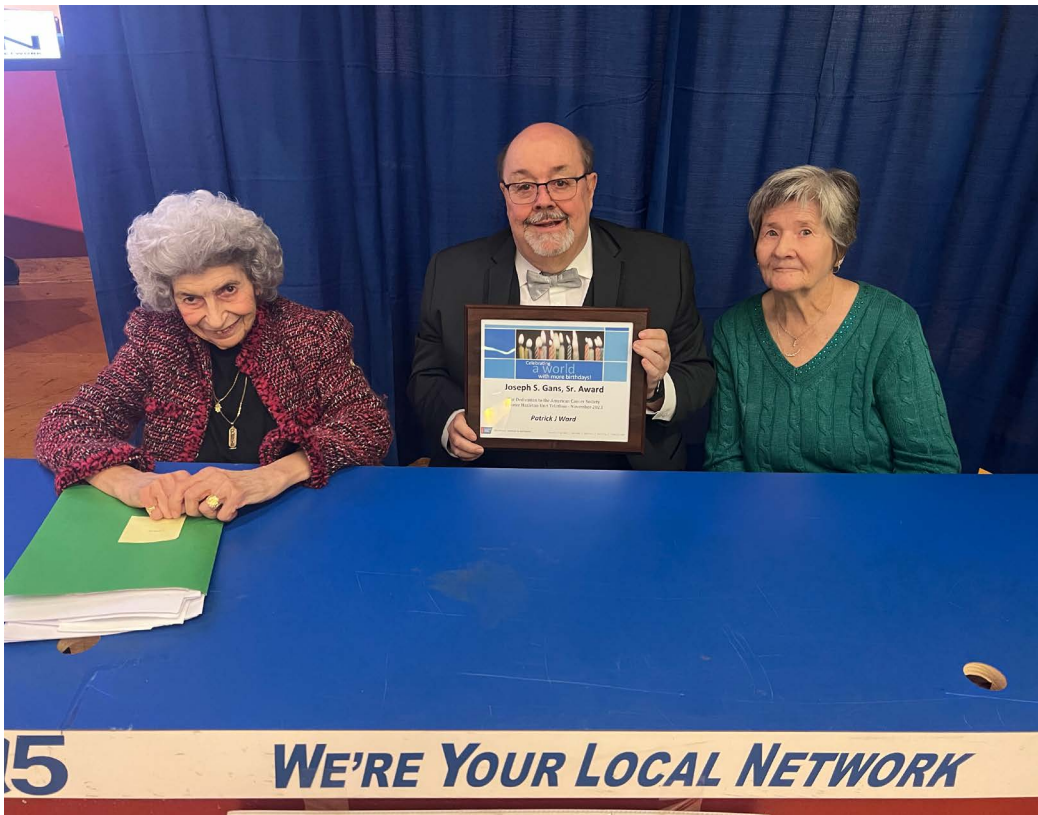
Clemie Yamona, ACS Telethon co-chair, (R) presented the Joseph S. Gans Sr. Award to Pat Ward, Hazleton Rotary (Center) during the 45th Annual American Cancer Society Telethon-Hazleton on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Co-chair Jane Dougherty (L) offered her congratulations.

“We congratulate Pat.” said Mrs. Yamona. “We appreciate his service to the community and to us, most especially, in helping us as an on-air host for 44 years-almost the full time existence of the event.”

The Gans award is in memory of Joseph Gans and his wife Irene, who along with Henry and Leona Kreisl were the originators of the local telethon event.

“We think they all would be delighted that their original idea is still going on today to continue in the local battle against cancer.” said Mrs. Dougherty. “However, we also know that they would be saddened to learn that despite great advances, cancer is still with us and a local telethon is still needed.”

“I am very humbled to accept this honor,” said Mr. Ward, “and I thank the American Cancer Society-Hazleton for recognizing my efforts.”



Pints for Polio

Hazleton Rotarians Lisa Marie Halecky, Eileen Perchak and Robert Collado were guest bartenders for the “Pints for Polio” fundraiser held at The Pines.

The Hazleton Rotary Club held a “Thirsty Thursday” event at The Pines Eatery & Spirits, 8 W. Broad Street, Hazleton on Thursday, November 2nd, and lifted a glass for “Pints for Polio”.

Sincerest appreciation to The Pines and the following Rotary members who were guest bartenders at this event: 5-5:30PM-Alan Whitaker and Pat Ward; 5:30-6PM Robert Collado, Lisa Marie Halecky and Eileen Perchak; 6-6:30PM-Rossanna Gabriel and Anne Frey; 6:30-7PM-Tim Genetti and Gary Perna; 7-7:30PM-Tessa Peluso, Claudia Stroia and Tamear Henegain.



Hazleton Rotary Brings Thanksgiving to Those In Need

Hazleton Rotarian Robert Collado helped fellow Rotarian Rossanna Gabriel distribute turkeys to those in need on Tuesday, November 21st.





YMCA Wellbeing Initiative

Courtnie Perri, coordinator of the Wellbeing Initiative at the Pittston YMCA, recently talked to the Mountain Top club about that program. She explained that this free program is available at all of the YMCA's in NEPA. The purpose is to help strengthen the emotional, mental, and social wellness of community members. The grant for this program was secured by local Rotarian, Congressman Matt Cartwright!

Examples of programs are "Art with Self", "Mind, Body, Breath", "Mindfulness Through Music", "The Science of Calm", and for children, "Groove and Grow With Me". For more details, check out the websites of the Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Carbondale, and Wayne County YMCA's. These programs are also free to non-YMCA members.

Pictured in photo are Joe Aquilina, club secretary, Courtnie Perri, and Kathryn Murphy, club president.



Exchange Students & Interact

Recently, three of our district's exchange students attended the Interact meeting at Crestwood High School in Mountain Top. It was a great meeting! There was a speaker from an animal rescue facility. The exchange students talked about their high schools back home, and the Interact members asked them questions too! Very interesting!

Attending were Boti from Hungary, Tungal from France, and Sebastian from Chile. Also, Anika Sehne accompanied Boti and Tungal from Tunkhanock. Anika is Treasurer USA of Rotary E-Club International Innovators. Joe Aquilina from Mountain Top accompanied Sebastian.

Pictured, left to right, on stage: Boti, Tanguy, Sebastian, and Anika.

Pictured in front row in group: Boti, Tanguy, Segastina, and Anika



Christmas Raffle Drawing/Christmas Tree Lighting

Our club decorated our outdoor tree located in the heart of Mountain Top.

The tree has grown over the years, so luckily one of our members, Joe Corner, has a bucket truck from his business, American ArborPro Tree Service. While we had the bucket truck.....the winners of our Christmas raffle were selected by Michelle Reilly, way up in the air overlooking Mountain Top. Accompanying Michelle in the bucket was Tylene Dodge, club treasurer.

Pictured are Tylene Dodge and Michelle Reilly.

Other photos include group decorating tree and Tylene and Michelle in bucket.





Rotary Foundation Program

The Rotary Club of Pittston attended Dallas's Rotary Foundation Program filled with delicious food and fellowship. The Rotary Club of Pittston also had a collection of new unwrapped toys for the Greater Pittston Santa Squad. Thank you to all for donating!



Meals on Wheels

The Rotary of Pittston along with other volunteers and local police officers delivered Thanksgiving dinners for Meals on Wheels in Pittston.



Santa Squad

The Rotary of Pittston met at the Greater Pittston Santa Squad home base for their November 21st meeting. They were able to have a very informational tour of the facility and made a bulk donation supplying toys to 15 children this holiday season.





Jack Grimes Golf Classic Outing

The Rotary Club of Plymouth conducted their annual Spaghetti Dinner on November 5th at the Plymouth American Legion. Over 300 dinners were served and it was a great day of fellowship in the Rotary Club of Plymouth.



Rotarians Janet Franchella and Deb Popovich work the door selling tickets and taking orders



Tom and Suzanne Hogan and AG Brian Vnuk(rear) pause for a quick photo



Gary Moran poses for a photo



Deb Popovich, Janet Franchella, President Shelly Karavis and Lorree Levulis prior to the days events



Rotarian Eric Cheatley working the take out stand



Rotary Serves Meals to Clients of Patriot's Cove

On Tuesday, November 14th, Tunkhannock Rotarians provided and served brunch at 10 AM and dinner at 6:30 PM for the clients and volunteers at Patriots Cove in Noxen.

As stated on their website: "Patriots Cove is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in northeastern Pennsylvania and founded by a military veteran and his spouse to empower other veterans, first responders, and their caregivers to heal and adapt to life after service. Through events on our eighteen acre refuge, we provide restorative outdoor activities, environmental service projects, and educational events and retreats for caregivers."

Rotarians provided lots of food and help preparing, serving and cleaning up after the meals. The clients and volunteers were very appreciative!

New Member Orientation

There was a Tunkhannock Rotary New Member Orientation on Wed, Nov 15 at Tri County General Insurance for all new members, their sponsors, and any other Rotarians who could attend. Four out of five of the newest members were in attendance.

District and Club Membership Chair Mary Tempest led the orientation with input from experienced Rotarians: District Governor Samantha Maruzzelli, Club Treasurer Laura Charles and Exchange Student Club Coordinator Terri Detrick.



L to R: Laura Charles, Terri Detrick, Nicky Morgan, District Governor Samantha Maruzzelli, Kristine and Ryan Werkheiser, and Fred Orlando (with Mary Tempest taking the photo)

Fall Roadside Cleanup

On Thursday, Nov 16 after the Thursday noontime Rotary Meeting, Rotarians gathered for Fall Roadside Cleanup. Since 1997, the Tunkhannock Club has participated in the Adopt a Highway Program, adopting a 2-mile stretch of Route 6 in Tunkhannock from the Fireplace Restaurant to beyond Route 87 towards Meshoppen.

This Fall, a new 2-mile section of the bypass from Dunkin Donuts to the NAPA field has been adopted by the Club.



Rotary Collecting Winter Hats and Gloves

During the month of November, Tunkhannock Rotarians will be collecting winter hats and gloves as was done in 2022. Any paired sets will be put in a clear plastic gallon bag with a card added saying it is from Rotary.

In early Dec, the hats and gloves will be taken to the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen, where their patrons will be free to take hats and/or gloves if they need them, same as was done last year. The feedback from last year's give-away indicated that the patrons really appreciated them.

Rotarians Collect Money for Toys for Kids on Candy Cane Day

Every year on Black Friday (Nov 24 this year), Tunkhannock Rotarians, family and friends collect monetary donations from shoppers at several locations in Tunkhannock (including Gay's, Weis, Pizza Hut and Tractor Supply Plazas) from 8 AM to 3 PM. to buy toys for kids for Christmas. Shoppers are offered candy canes as a treat for their donations.

This fund-raiser has been undertaken by the Tunkhannock Rotary for more than 33 years and is known as Candy Cane Day or has been referred to affectionately as the "annual dodging of the cars" event.

The money raised is divided between Interfaith Friends and Wyoming County Children & Youth to buy Christmas gifts for children in need or in foster care in Wyoming County. The generosity of the shoppers has made this a highly successful fund-raising event for the Club and ensures that these children receive at least one toy/gift for Christmas.



Norm Kelly and Mary Tempest



Dictionary Donation to Area 3rd Graders

On November 16th, 2024 several of the Wyalusing Area Rotary Club's members, Mary and Wes Skillings, Michèle and Jonathan Naugle, Carol Goodman, and Christine Heyman, gave each third grade student at the Wyalusing Area School District's Elementary School a Dictionary.

The students, 84 in all, were excited and thrilled to receive their own dictionary. Photos and an article, courtesy of Warren Howeler, from The Rocket-Courier, described our yearly commitment to give each third grade student a dictionary, and also described Rotary International goal to eradicate Polio as well as our own club's efforts in that regard, as well as other local projects that we support in our community.



HAPPY
Holidays!

The text "HAPPY Holidays!" is centered on a white background. "HAPPY" is in a simple, black, uppercase sans-serif font. "Holidays!" is written in a large, black, cursive script font. The entire phrase is surrounded by decorative elements: several blue, six-pointed snowflakes of varying sizes and a scattering of small, multi-colored dots (red, yellow, green, blue) that resemble confetti or glitter.