

# DECEMBER 2024



## A Message From:

DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Bill Skinner



Well hard to believe that another calendar year is ending, and half of our Rotary year is also almost over. December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month. It is one of our 7 Areas of Focus. Through The Foundation there are many projects around the world going on such as in Ghana preventing guinea worm disease, in Liberia providing HIV for new mothers and prenatal care to reduce HIV in children. Of course, our signature project in this area is ending Polio, and we will eradicate that disease soon and have already done it in 122 countries. Our efforts in eradicating Polio have also created a system for tracking other healthcare issues such as Ebola.

I talked in previous newsletters about RAGS and Fellowships. If you are interested in this area of focus there are a number of Rotary Action Groups such as Malaria, Mental Health, Alzheimer's/Dementia, Hepatitis, Diabetes, Health Education and Wellness to name a few. If you are interested in this area of focus go to <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/rotary-action-groups> . There are also Rotary Fellowships that work in this area of focus also. RAGS and Fellowships are other areas in Rotary that can provide value to members and get them more involved. They can be used to engage our members and perspective new members, who may have an interest or passion in one of our 7 Areas of Focus.

Our Clubs continue to add new members, which is obviously a good thing. Schedule an informational night/meeting and invite key community members to the event to learn more about Rotary. All organizations are having membership issues, we need to continue to show the value of Rotary and make our Clubs "Simply Irresistible." Continue to collaborate with other Clubs and organizations on projects and fundraising. This also Expands Our Reach and Increases Our Impact.

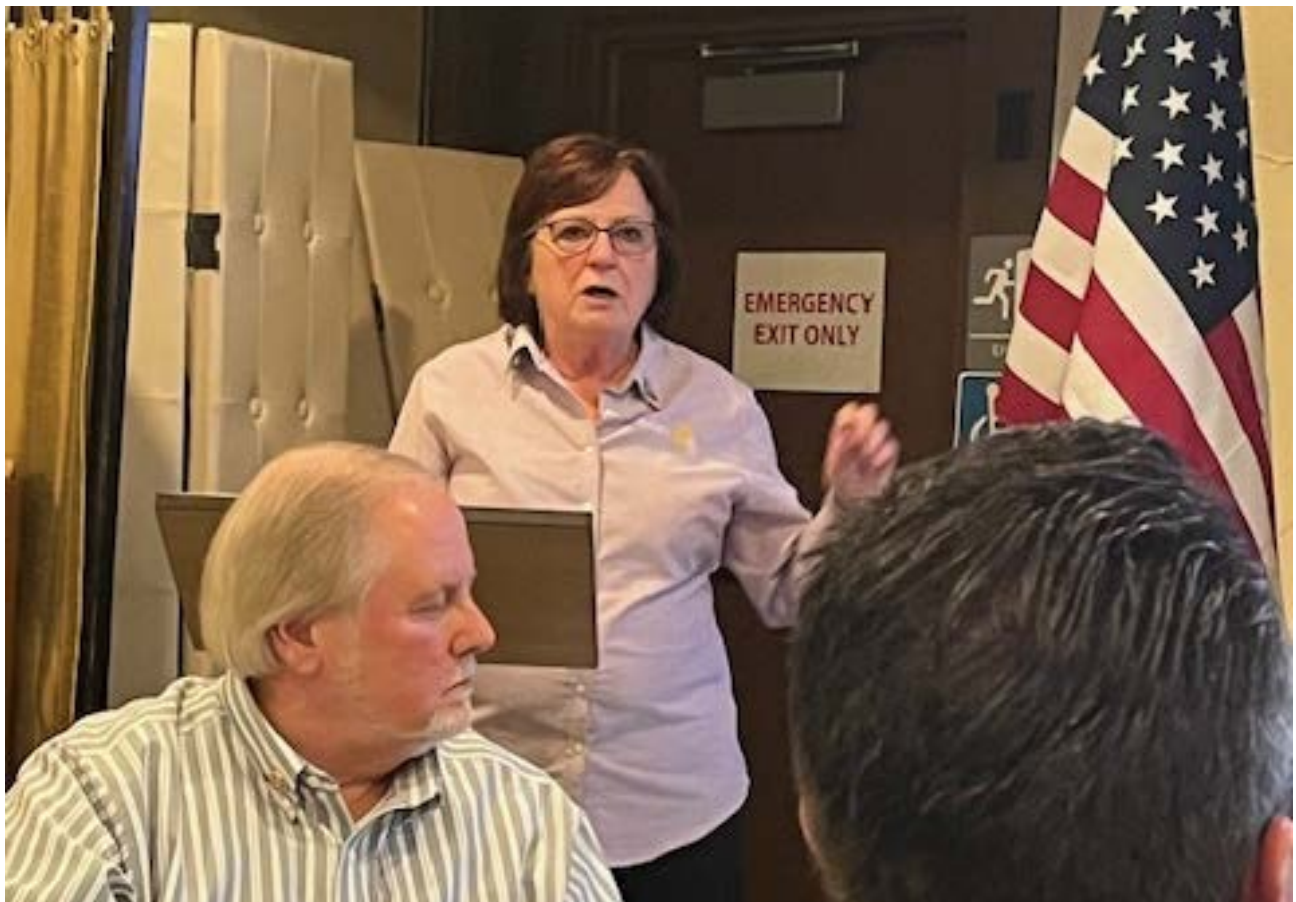
Do not forget to register for the District Conference in Hershey April 4-6, 2025. I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season! Enjoy the time with family and friends, if traveling, be safe. And a healthy and happy 2025.

Yours in Rotary,  
Bill

# Area 7 Hosts Foundation Dinner

The Rotary Club's of Wyoming, Dallas and Plymouth hosted Past District Governor Mary Ellen Bentler at a recent meeting to discuss "Our Foundation". PDG Mary Ellen provided insight on the programs that the Foundation offers and even offered incentive for those who want contribute.

Pictured in front is Frank Sobeck of The Rotary Club of Wyoming and PDG Mary Ellen Bentler standing.



# District Essay Contest



December 11, 2024

Dear Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Youth Activities Coordinators

The time for the Rotary District 7410 District Essay Contest for 2024-2025 is upon us. 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 7th, 2025 suggested. This year's theme is Rotary's Four Way Test, which guides all Rotary projects, including these questions:

-Is it fair to all concerned?

-It asks, "that we use empathy to see other points of view, in the context of problems to be solved."

**-How can we use teamwork, inclusion, empathy, acceptance, belonging, and accountability to solve problems or achieve the goals we set?**

The length of the essay should be 1,000 words. 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

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](mailto:kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com) (570) 309-8087

# 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)

- \$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)
- 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](http://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](mailto: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

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 December Bingo	5	6	7
8 Christmas In The Park	9	10	11	12	13	14 Salvation Army Bell Ringing
15	16	17 Christmas Cards	18 Flash Meeting (Tunkhannock)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 January Bingo	9	10	11

- Board Meeting Event

- Club Event

- Club Meeting

- Committee Meeting

- Deadline

- District Event

- Fundraiser

- General

- Official DG Visit

[12/17 - Tunkhannock - Christmas Cards](#)

[12/18 - Tunkhannock- Flash Meeting](#)

# See You There!

Don't see your event on the calendar?

Email [jpoperotary@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# 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 Directory**  
**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 ["Connect With Us" business card](#) to pass out to prospective Rotary members.

-Find a link to take you directly to [Rotary Internationals Brand Center](#). Here you can create and download videos, images, brochures, logos, business cards, flyers and much more.

-Download a copy of the [District Directory](#).

-Download your [club logo](#).



# CLUBS IN ACTION



## Exchange Student Welcome

This week Rotarian Chris Loftus and his wife Louise welcomed our Rotary Exchange student Johanna Lovisa Rydholm from Trosa Sweden. She joins the Rotary Club of the Abingtons from the Trosa Rotary and will attend Abington Heights High School. She is interested in basketball and volleyball now and track and field for Spring. She will be enrolled in all AP and college prep classes.

Pictured l to r: Chris, Johanna, Louise



## Guest

Thursday November 14th the Rotary Club of the Abingtons welcomed Lee to their weekly meeting held at Camelot Restaurant, Waverly PA.

L to R: President, Stephen Selige - Lackawanna State Park Manager, Lee Dillon - Vice President, Chris Loftus at Thursday's Rotary luncheon.



## Paul Harris Award

At the November 21 Rotary Vclub of the Abington's Thanksgiving Celebration member Char Short received Rotary's top award, the Paul Harris.

Pictured l to r: char and Rotary President Steve Selige.David Yefko.



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

For more than 39 years the Rotary Club of the Abingtons has been ringing the Salvation Army bell inviting the community to fill the red kettle for the needy. Seen here is Tata Mbugua, a member since 2004. This year the club will seek to fill 76 work slots, each two hours long. Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the week prior to Christmas you can stop by the Wine and Spirits store in Chinchilla.



## Meeting Recap

Thursday December 5th was a really busy day at the weekly meeting of the Abington Rotary. Member Chris Loftus shows the beautiful stocking that his talented wife Louise made for Rotary's Swedish Exchange Student Johanna Rydholm. The Loftus' are hosting Johanna who attends Abington Heights High School.

The second photo highlights two Rotary Interact students who administered the Angel Program at Abington Heights providing Christmas gifts for 9 children this year. Pictured are: Students Anna Flynn and Gabby Boucier, Rotary President Steve Selige and Rotary's Children's Gift Chair Leah Rudolph.

In the third photo Mike Latrella and Sherry Crolly spoke to Rotarians on the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter. The shelter is also known as the Humane Society of Lackawanna County. Their need for scores of animals is huge. If you can help please call 570-586-3700. Pictured: Mike Latrella, Rotary President Steve Selige and Sherry Crolly, Griffin Pond's Development Director.

In the third photo Rotarians Leah Rudolph, Dale Collins and Janice Bevaqua are seen with all the donated gifts that will be given to Empower for children enrolled in their North Scranton facility.



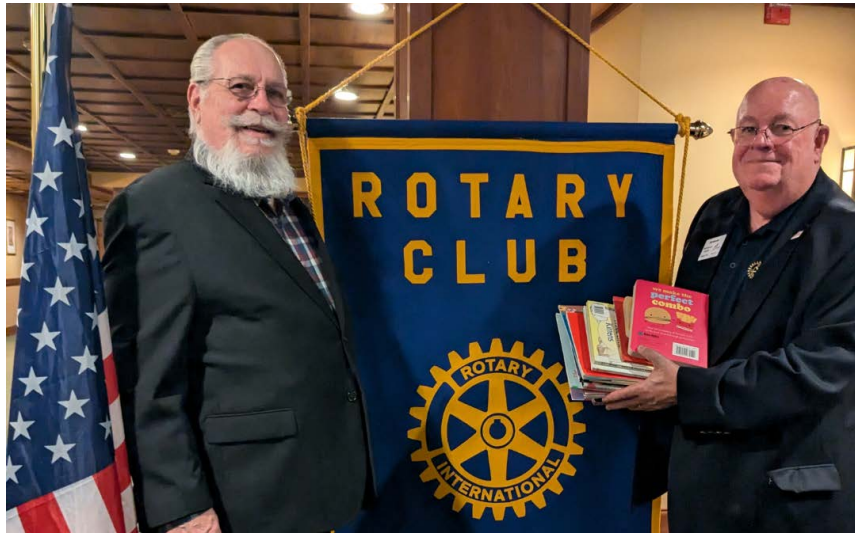


## Club Meeting Update

DG Skinner at Hawley Rotary: RYLA students, books for Headstart, new member induction

On November 7th, DG Bill Skinner provided the Hawley Rotary with update on District issues, with a focus on collaborative efforts with other Rotary Clubs and community organizations. The Club inducted Sarah Kraeft Boccio, Branch Manager of the NBT Bank in Lords Valley. The Club honored its two RYLA students, Teagan Harkel, Kaitlin Williams and their families.

DG Bill toted an armload of children's books, part of the Club's continuing project to support the Hawley Headstart program. The project ensures that every Hawley Headstart kid can have their very own books in their own home library. Club members have obtained hundreds of surplus books from local libraries over this multiple year service effort.





## Hazleton Rotary Volunteers at ACS Telethon

Following a yearly tradition, members of Hazleton Rotary volunteered at the 46th Annual American Cancer Society Telethon, Saturday-November 23, 2024, 11am-11pm, Pennsylvania Theater of Performing Arts.

Hazleton Rotary representatives were Pat Ward (right)-Announcer-Photo I and Gary Perna-Announcer, Mary Malone-Phones, Pat Korb- ACS Committee and Rossanna Gabriel-Phones .



## Annual Soup Kitchen Lunch

The Milford Matamoras Rotary Club held its annual soup kitchen lunch on November 20th at the The Dimmick Inn in Milford. Each club member shares their chef talents at preparing their favorite soup, bread and dessert recipe. On this day, we shared our Thanksgiving by donating our lunch money and donated additional funds which totaled \$820.00 dollars to help support the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Milford for the Thanksgiving holiday. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15PM at the Dimmick Inn in Milford. Anyone interested in becoming a member contact Shaun at 570-517-6654 or come visit us at a meeting.





## Lighting the Christmas Tree

This always falls on the coldest day of the year!

Our club "covered" with lights the Christmas tree at the small park near the Triangle in Mountain Top. The park is where the Rotary sign welcomes people to Mountain Top! The land in this park is the site of our club's beautification district grant project. Pictured are club members in front of the tree.



## Rotary Area 7. Get Together in Dallas

Many of our members attended the recent wellness presentation for the clubs of Area 7. The topic was mental wellness and was very interesting. It was held at Apple Tree Terrace in Dallas. Great job Brian Vnuk.





## NICHOLSON LUMBER RECOGNIZED BY AREA ROTARY CLUBS WITH PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIPS

The Nicholson United Methodist Church was the setting for a Paul Harris Fellow pinning on November 3, 2024. Paul Harris Fellow recognition is named for Paul Harris, who founded Rotary with three business associates in Chicago in 1905. The Paul Harris Fellow presentation was established in his honor in 1957 to express appreciation for a contribution of \$1,000 or a significant in-kind contribution to the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation.

Over many years, Bruce and Michelle Herron, owners of Nicholson Lumber Company have supported area Rotary Club efforts, including those of the Trail Rotary, and New Milford Area Rotary. Their contributions include free storage for Rotary District 7410's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards held each summer at Keystone College. Their contributions of raffle baskets and other fundraising support over many years to the New Milford Area Rotary and The Trail Rotary is allaying suffering, and improving living conditions, in our community and the world.

Presenting the Paul Harris Fellow pins and certificates were Ellen Kanton, President Trail Rotary, Joan Kupetsky, Trail Rotary, Annie Palmer, Treasurer New Milford Area Rotary, David Palmer and Grant Palmer, New Milford Area Rotary.

The Trail and New Milford Area Rotaries currently consists of forty-six members actively serving the community and world and welcomes new membership. Contact information can be found at [www.facebook.com/newmilfordrotary](https://www.facebook.com/newmilfordrotary) or [www.facebook.com/TrailRotaryClub](https://www.facebook.com/TrailRotaryClub)





## BLUE RIDGE INTERACT CLUB PRESENTS POLIOPUS DONATION

The Blue Ridge Schools Interact Club recently presented the New Milford Area Rotary with a check for \$75 for the PolioPlus Foundation of Rotary International. The donation was accumulated by the club during a “Crazy Hat Day” conducted at the Blue Ridge Middle School and to commemorate World Polio Day, held each year on October 24th.

The eradication of polio in the world has been a focus of Rotary and its clubs throughout the world for the past forty-five years. The wild polio virus is still endemic in only two countries. Efforts such as that by the Blue Ridge Interact Club will ensure it is eventually exterminated from the earth.

The Blue Ridge Interact Club consists of approximately twenty members, advised by Mr Paul Oliver and sponsored by the New Milford Area Rotary.

The New Milford Area Rotary currently consists of thirty-nine members actively serving the community and world and welcomes new membership. Contact information can be found at [www.facebook.com/newmilfordrotary](https://www.facebook.com/newmilfordrotary) or [newmilfordparotary@gmail.com](mailto:newmilfordparotary@gmail.com)





## “Service Above Self” Drawing Contest

Members with other local community leaders helping deliver meals to residents for Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston.



## Rotary Club of Pittston Keystone Mission Winter Item Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Winter Keystone Mission Item Drive! With the support from the community, we were able to donate over 30+ bags and boxes of winter clothing to the Keystone Mission Wilkes-Barre Innovation Center.

Left to right:

Mark Bugelholl, Club Secretary; Kathie Regan, Keystone Mission Operations Director; Jim Lewis, Club Treasurer; and Carmen Ciampi, Club President



## Rotary of Pittston partnering with Greater Pittston Santa Squad

The club collected toys and made a few children's Christmas a little more special. Thank you to the Greater Pittston Santa Squad for providing more smiles to children this holiday season!



## November Guest Speaker

Special thank you to Wyoming Area Regional Police Chief Mike Turner for being a terrific guest speaker at tonight's meeting. Chief Turner provided insight on the new Wyoming Area Regional Police Department, future goals for the department, and his story on becoming Chief.

Many of our Rotary members are residents of the Wyoming Area community and we were all very thankful to have brave men and women keeping our streets safe.



## Rotary Club of Pittston Fundraiser - Wise Crackers Comedy Night

The Rotary Club of Pittston is hosting a Comedy Show Fundraiser at Wise Crackers Comedy Club at the Mohegan Sun Casino for Saturday January 25th. Tickets are \$25 and they can contact me for any tickets.

Tickets are also good for ANY Wise Cracker Comedy shows until April 25th. Please reach out to club president Carmen Ciampi for tickets.

These will make perfect stocking stuffers for any family or friends!

**ROTARY**  
Club of Pittston 

**7:00 SHOW**  
DOORS @ 6:00

*featuring*  
**3 HILARIOUS**  
**COMEDIANS**

**SAT**  
**JANUARY**  
**25**

**COMEDY**  
**NIGHT**  
*for a cause!*

**\$25.00/TIC**  
**EXPIRES 4/25/25**  
**TO BUY TICKETS**  
**CALL**  
**CARMEN CIAMPI**  
**570-239-7534**

**WISECRACKERS**  
COMEDY CLUB

MOHEGAN PENNSYLVANIA 1280 HWY 315 WILKES-BARRE, PA

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ATTEND



## Christmas Lights in Plymouth

The Rotary Club of Plymouth, in conjunction with Plymouth Fire Companies #1 and #3 recently hung Christmas lights in the main thoroughfare located in Plymouth Pa. Pictured from left are Plymouth Boro #3 fireman Brian Opplert and Rotarian David Yefko.



## Annual Christmas Wrapping Project

The Rotary Club of Plymouth conducted their annual Christmas wrapping project on December 2 at St Ignatius Church, Kingston. 70 wrappers were on site to help with this massive undertaking. Presents were wrapped for 125 children and delivered the next day to children to put a little "magic" in their Christmas.

The event is organized by Rotary Club of Plymouth President Shelly Karavis and Carol O'Malia, spouse of the late PDG Budd O'Malia





Presents

# A Night at The Races

Saturday, January 25, 2025 / Doors Open: 5:00pm / Post Time: 6:00pm

## The Scorecard Bar & Grill

130 North Broadway / Wind Gap, PA 18091



Proceeds  
benefit:  
OPERATION  
WARM  
(Coats for  
Kids)



Admission: \$5.00 Donation  
Food & Drink Available from the Scorecard

### Horse Information:

10 races / 10 horses per race

Purchase & name your horse for \$15

\*\*\*If your horse wins a race, YOU WIN \$50!\*\*\*

Purchase your horse from a Rotary Member or the Day of The Races

### **RACE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE for \$100**

Make a race sponsorship from YOU or YOUR GROUP  
Race announcement & your group's information!

**50/50 Drawing & other prizes!**  
**Come for a fun time!**





# Slate Belt Rotary



## Night at the Races

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Circle/Check Your Choice

##### Event Sponsor - \$250

*Top Billing on All Advertising – Name Mentioned Each Race as Heline Sponsor  
Logo on Screen – Can Hand Out Information at the Event*

##### Race Sponsor - \$100.00

*You or your Company Acknowledged as Race Sponsor  
Given a Commercial Before the Race and Thank You After*

##### Prize Donation for Tricky Tray

*Recognition at the Event*

##### \*Horse Owner - \$15.00\*

*Purchase and Name Your Horse(s)  
If Your Horse Wins the Race You Get \$50.00*

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Add More Horses and Names to the Back of This Form\**



## Stroudsburgs HS Interactors - From Stroudsburg H.S.

“CAN THE PRINCIPAL” FOOD DRIVE....thank you Ms. Loughman and SHS’s Interact Club for once again doing their annual food drive for those in need during the holiday season and beyond. The high school collected nearly 1500 food items that filled Principal Sodl’s office for PVEN and congratulations to Mrs. Hakim’s 1st Period class for collecting over 300 items!! Great job giving back to the community SHS!



## High School Seniors Leadership Luncheon

Stroudsburgs Rotary brought back our High School Seniors Leadership Luncheon at the Shawnee Inn. We invited 155 high school senior student leaders representing the area schools from East Stroudsburg H.S. North & South, Stroudsburg H.S., MCTI & Notre Dame, along with two Administrators from each school. Rotarians and sponsors covered the cost for all of the students and administrators. Ryan Leckey was our guest speaker. Ryan did a great job relating to the students. It was interactive and students were asking and answering questions. One key point was the importance of a person’s digital footprint on the internet and to be very careful of what you put out there because some employers want to know a persons character and search back 5 yrs along with viewing their current content. Senator Rosemary Brown was a nice surprise as she attended and gave a few closing remarks. Thank you DG Bill Skinner, DGE Tim Genetti and AG Mitchell Marcus for attending this great event.

In conjunction with the luncheon we had the students participate in a food drive service project with a request from Valor for cake frosting. Good job to all that participated. Pres. Elect Ed Schaefer delivered the collection to Valor.



## Upcoming Events

Dec 19 - Holiday/ Paul Harris Awards/ Satellites 10th yr Anniversary Dinner  
(We have 18 Paul Harris recipients)  
Dec 27 - Bob Wehe Red Cross Blood Drive  
Lighthouse Full Gospel Church of God in Stroudsburg from 9am-2pm.

## 4 Way Test Coin

Rotarian Leslie Underhill sponsored the 4 Way Test Coin for each of the students in attendance.  
We couldn't have accomplished this great event if it weren't for all of our sponsors and Rotarians that stepped up this year.

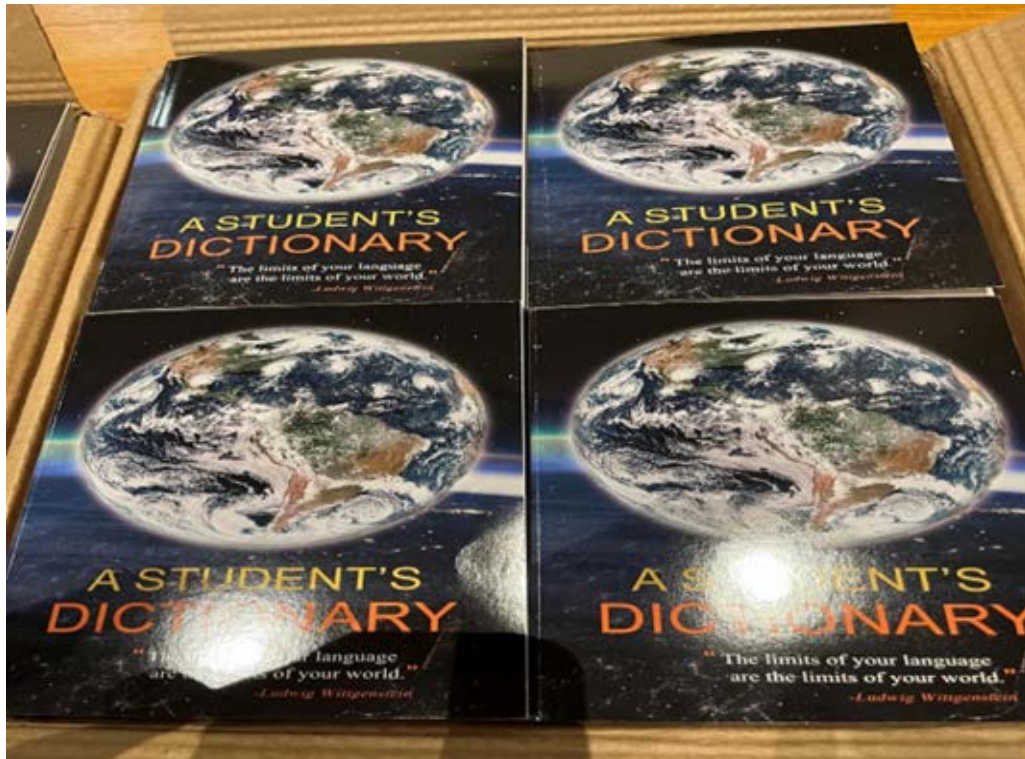




## Dictionary Day

With the holiday season among us, Tunkhannock Rotarians embraced the season of giving by providing service to others.

On October 30th, led by Sandy Lane, the Club participated in its annual Dictionary Distribution Day. Dictionaries were distributed to 3rd graders in the Tunkhannock School District. This project was started in 1997 by the late Rotarian Don Sick, who got the information on this program at a Rotary International Conference. Since that time, as of October 30th, 2024, the Club has handed out 4,896 books.



## Flash Meeting

Following Dictionary Day, the Club held a Flash Meeting at Father Nallin Hall on November 14th, 2024 where members put their culinary skills to the test. Chef Thomas Kotch demonstrated how to properly carve and serve a turkey and Pastry Chef Sisile Maruzzelli taught members how to make scones. Savory and Sweet !



## Paul Harris Award

At the November 21st Rotary meeting, Club Rotary Foundation Chair, Samantha Rogers Maruzzelli presented Terri Detrick with a Paul Harris +2 pin for her cumulative \$1,000.00 donation to the Rotary Foundation. Thank you Terri, for all you do for the Club and Community!



## Annual Candy Cane Day

After the Thanksgiving holiday, on Friday November 29th, Rotarians teamed up with students from Tunkhannock's Interact Club for its Annual Candy Cane Day. Members braved the frigid temperatures and collected donations at several locations throughout town. Money collected from this event will be given to Interfaith Friends & Wyoming County Children and Youth to provide Christmas gifts to children in need. Thank you to all those who donated!



## Upcoming Flash Meeting

On December 18th, 2024, the monthly flash meeting will be held at Nimble Hill Winery. The flash meeting will be the clubs "Christmas Social." All those attending are asked to bring their favorite holiday dish.

Happy  
Holidays



— AND A —  
JOYFUL NEW YEAR