

# FEBRUARY 2025



## *A Message From:*

DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Bill Skinner



Hello fellow District 7410 Rotarians. Now that we are into February, I hope you all made it through the cold of January. Spring hopefully is not too far away. This is written before Ground Hog Day so I do not know whether we will have or not have another 6 weeks of winter, and I am not going to predict.

Besides Ground Hog Day, President's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, and Valentine's Day. February 23rd is the 120th anniversary of Rotary.

It was on that day in Chicago in 1905 that Paul Harris held the first Rotary Club meeting with three other colleagues, a special anniversary for Rotary International. We know Paul Harris was an attorney, Gustavus Loehr was a mining engineer, Sylvester Schiele, a coal dealer, and Hiram E. Shorey was a tailor. By October, the Club had grown to 21 members and look where we are today.

February is the month of Peace Building and Conflict Prevention in our Rotary Calendar and is one of our Areas of Focus. Today millions of people are displaced because of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children. Rotary creates environments of peace throughout the world. We have 7 Peace centers around the world with the eighth to open this month at Bahcesehir University in Istanbul Türkiye, which will host the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference February 20-22nd.

Each year Rotary awards, up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers' program develops the capacity of peace, and develops professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The other Peace Centers are Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Duke University/UNC in NC, University of Bradford in England, International Christian University in Tokyo, University of Queensland in Australia, Makerere University in Uganda, and Uppsala University in Sweden.

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect. Our service projects and peace fellows address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of education and healthcare, and unequal distribution of resources.

If you want to do a local peace project, consider putting a peace pole in your community. A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message May Peace Prevail On Earth in the language of the country where it is placed. It usually displays 3 to 7 additional languages meaningful to the host site. The message is referred to as an affirmation of peace and its placement furthers Rotary's goal of building a culture of peace throughout the world. To learn more here is the link:  
<https://rotarypeacepoles.world/>

What better way to increase our impact and expand our reach than by promoting Peace every day! It is also the theme of this year's conference, so let peace begin with us.  
Thank you for all you do for your Clubs, communities, our District and Rotary internationally.

Yours in Rotary,  
Bill

# 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

# District Grants

## REGISTER HERE



## District Grants

Any Club expecting to submit a District Grant proposal for 2025-2026 must complete annual GRANTS MANAGEMENT TRAINING.

This training is provided by the District to certify Clubs to meet the Rotary Foundation's requirements for District Designated Funds (DDF).

The training also certifies the District to be able to administer local grants. This process ensures The Rotary Foundation maintains its financial transparency and anchors its 4-star rating with Charity Navigator.

### Dates and Time

March 8, 2025	Sand Springs Country Club 10 Clubhouse Rd., Drums, PA 18222	10AM
<i>*lunch will be served</i>		
March 12, 2025	Hilton Inn 100 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18503	6PM
<i>*dinner will be served</i>		
March 15, 2025	Tri-County Insurance Agency 5513 SR6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657	10AM
<i>*lunch will be served</i>		

**To qualify your club to apply for a grant 1 person from the club must attend:**

- 1 In-Person Training
- 1 In-Person OR Virtual Training

***Pre-PETS will be conducted following each Grants Training.***

***President Elects are highly encouraged to attend in-person.***

# 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

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Valentines Day Cards (Tunkhannock)	Tunkhannock Wine Fest Committee Meeting Tunkhannock Flash Meeting			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						District Grants Training Sand Springs Club House

☐ - Board Meeting Event

☐ - Club Event

☐ - Club Meeting

☐ - Committee Meeting

☐ - Deadline

☐ - District Event

☐ - Fundraiser

☐ - General

☐ - Official DG Visit

[2/11 - Tunkhannock - Valentine's Day Card Making](#)

[2/12 - Tunkhannock - Wine Fest Committee Meeting](#)

[2/12 - Tunkhannock - Flash Meeting](#)

# See You There!

Don't see your event on the calendar?

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

# Global Grant Opportunity

I recently received communication from Bob Pruitt of the Cupertino, California Rotary. He and his colleague, Marcia Elmer are seeking support for two projects “that have the potential to transform lives in Ecuador.”

- Marcia’s project is to fund a mobile operating room truck that travels throughout the rural areas of Ecuador providing surgery for people in need. This mobile operating room truck has helped almost 10,000 Ecuadorians over the last 30 years. The equipment in the mobile surgery truck is now at the end of its useful life and needs to be updated. This project speaks to Marcia as she appreciates the difference that life-saving surgeries can make in remote areas.
- Bob’s project champions providing equipment for a medical nonprofit in Cuenca, Ecuador that works with a local hospital) to provide end of life hospice care for patients in need. Hospice care in Ecuador is in its infancy and this project will provide assistance to 1200 patients and 4000 families in the first five years. This project is very near and dear to my heart. Recently we lost my brother-in-law to a long fight with cancer. This project helps those facing this difficult time to spend the end of their days in dignity.

Copies of a flyer and overview for both projects are attached. Any consideration of these projects by other Rotarians in support of these global grants would be greatly appreciated.

If any clubs or Rotarians would like to participate, contact me at 570-498-6637 or [davesolopalmer@gmail.com](mailto:davesolopalmer@gmail.com) and I will put you in touch with the Rotary leads in Cupertino Rotary to determine the best donation method (DDF, cash, etc.)

Yours In Rotary Service,

DAVID PALMER, Chair  
Rotary District 7410, International Service Committee





## NEEDS:

- Increase in patient demand and limitation in specialized medical equipment.
- Physical and emotional exhaustion of staff due to lack of adequate resources.
- Need for a safer and more efficient work environment.
- Lack of palliative education programs for family members and caregivers.

## PROJECT:

- Acquisition of: Cranes for mobilization, oxygen tanks, ergonomic chairs, concentrators, etc.
- Training: staff, family members, caregivers and volunteers.
- Psychosocial support for families.
- Optimization of care time: More efficient health personnel.
- Implementation of home care models.

## More information

Host Club: Rotary Club Tomebamba  
International Sponsor: Rotary Club of Cupertino  
Amount of the grant: USD \$55,546  
Global Grant: GG2572096

## Palliative Care

Foundation for the Service of Cancer Patients, non-profit, dedicated to the comprehensive care of palliative and end-of-life patients.

[www.fundacionfasec.com](http://www.fundacionfasec.com)

✉ [jf\\_ordonez@hotmail.com](mailto:jf_ordonez@hotmail.com)  
✉ [rpruitt727@gmail.com](mailto:rpruitt727@gmail.com)

## THE PROJECT

**Help us update the medical equipment of  
a mobile operating room in Ecuador.**

### WHAT IS CINTERANDES

We partner with CINTERANDES, a non-profit organization with a mobile operating room adapted in a truck, providing medical, anesthesia, and surgical care to Ecuador's most remote and underserved communities. Cinterandes has a 30 year proven track record of success with nearly 10,000 surgical interventions in over 120 remote communities.



### THE NEEDS

- Electro-hydraulic surgery table
- Defibrillator for the OR
- Vital signs monitor
- Electrosurgical unit ESU
- Portable anesthesia machine
- Sterilizer
- Laparoscopic surgical equipment
- Annual maintenance of all equipment acquired

**TOTAL AMOUNT  
WE NEED TO RAISE  
\$155,127 USD.**

Marcia Elmer: [marciaelmer@gmail.com](mailto:marciaelmer@gmail.com)  
+1 (408) 832-2559 RC Cupertino

Javier Ordóñez: [jf\\_ordonez@hotmail.com](mailto:jf_ordonez@hotmail.com)  
+593 99 952 6930 RC Tomebamba



# Pure Water for Ukraine

On January 25, 2025, the District's International Service Committee received confirmation from the Milano North, Italy Rotary that four of the five communities are currently using the water filtration systems with power generators built under Global Grant GG2345372. Videos of their operation will be available soon and then distributed throughout District 7410 social media. The fifth and last community will soon start, after delays caused by the war. These units will go a long way to helping Ukraine stabilize its clean water infrastructure affected by the war in Ukraine. Quoting the lead Rotary Club in Milano North Rotary-

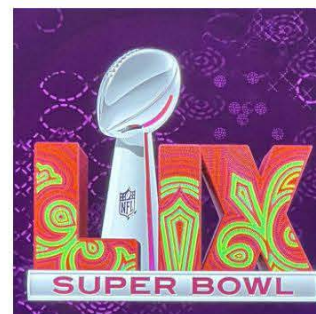
"The USA contribution to the project has been significant! Thanks again..."





# SUPER BOWL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Proceeds benefit DOGGIEPADDLE.ORG with their mission to raise funds and awareness for veterans in need of service dogs in addition to our club projects & scholarships.



**\$25 / SQUARE**

**OR**

**3 FOR \$70**

Each purchase will get you 1 square on the board. Using the link or QR below, add your name to any box that you want to reserve.

**PAYPAL:**  
paypal.me/RotaryEClubofII  
"super bowl box"

**VENMO:**  
@E-Clubof-InternationalInnovato

Please add a note with:  
Your Name- Email - cell number



**venmo**

## RESERVE YOUR SQUARES



**PW: ROTARYRAFFLE25**

[HTTPS://SUPERBOWLPOOLSITE.COM/CONTEST/571508?P=ROTARYRAFFLE25](https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/571508?P=ROTARYRAFFLE25)

**REACH OUT TO A CLUB MEMBER FOR  
MORE INFO!**

**INTLINNOVATORSECLUB@GMAIL.COM**

**\*\*MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE\*\***

LIMITED ENTRIES AVAILABLE! YOUR ENTRY IS NOT CONFIRMED  
UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED. LAST DAY TO ENTER IS FEB. 5TH!



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
NEW MILFORD AREA  
ROTARY CLUB



**Rotary**  
E-Club of  
International Innovators



@intlinnovatorseclub



## OUR CLUB IS SEARCHING FOR 2 STUDENTS TO SEND TO RYLA

Do you know of any cyber school or homeschool students in the area that may be a good fit? Send them our way!

*\*Students must be sophomores to attend\**

[intlinnovatorseclub@gmail.com](mailto:intlinnovatorseclub@gmail.com)

# 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 International's 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

Rotary  
Club of The Abingtons



## Salvation Army Check Presentation

At this week's weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons President Steve Selige presented Captain Neil Childs a check for the Salvation Army. Childs is the Corp Commander, Administrator and Pastor here in Scranton. Each Christmas since 1985 the Abington Rotary rings the bell for 18 days to fill the red kettle with donations.



## PA Sports Hall of Fame Guest Speaker

Two time Olympic rower and Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame honoree shared her Olympian experiences from the 1984 and 1988 games. Following her extraordinary Olympian experiences Abby pursued a master's degree in exercise and sports science and did research for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Today Abby is NROC's trainer, counselor and friend to many cancer survivors. NROC is the Northeast Radiation Center, a 35 year old radiation oncology practice based in NEPA.





## Plastic Bag Collection

The Abington Heights Interact Club has again begun collecting pliable plastic for two projects. Grocery store bags will be recycled into plarn (plastic yarn) to be crocheted into ground cover mats for the homeless and the scraps and other pliable plastic will be recycled as part of the NexTrex program whereby the school will receive their second free bench after recycling 1,000 lbs. Chairing the committees are (pictured) Gabriella Bourcier and Anna Flynn. The Club is under the supervision of Mr. Adam Baker and supported by Rotary Club of the Abingtons. Donations, that must be clean, dry and free of food residue, may be dropped at the Abington Heights High School including: grocery store, bread and produce bags; pallet wrap and stretch film; newspaper sleeves; case overwraps; dry cleaning bags; Ziploc and other resealable food bags; product wrap; retail bags; air pillows; bubble wrap; plastic shipping envelopes; plastic films labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films); ice bags; wood pellet bags; salt bags; and cereal box liners.



## Dedication and Blessing of the Rotary Trash Bins/Cans

During the Clarks Summit Ice Festival, Pastor Adam Miller of Clarks Summit Methodist Church, took time out of the festivities to dedicate and bless the new Rotary of The Abingtons trash receptacles. There are seven receptacles throughout the Borough.

From left to right, Pastor Miller, Chris Loftus, Rotary Club VP, Phyllis Ruzbarsky and Beth Caucci Rotary Beatification Committee.



## Paul Harris Medal

At our last Rotary meeting member Beth Caucci was awarded a Paul Harris medal, the highest Rotary honor. It is given to a member who has displayed service above self and outstanding generosity. In addition, member Guy Cali was a recipient of this medal.



## Paul Harris Medal

During the 2023-2024 Rotary presidency of Virginia Johnson an idea was nurtured and came to fruition this past Saturday morning. See below...

> During the Clarks Summit Ice Festival, Pastor Adam Miller of Clarks Summit Methodist Church, took time out of the festivities to dedicate and bless the new Rotary Club of The Abingtons trash receptacles. There are seven receptacles throughout the Borough.

>> From left to right, Pastor Miller, Chris Loftus, Rotary Club VP, Phyllis Ruzbarsky and Beth Caucci Rotary Beati-fication Commitee.





## Dallas Rotary Raises food and Funds for Food Pantry

The Dallas Rotary Club recently held their annual auction and raffle to raise food and funds for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Through the generosity of their club members and friends, they raised \$2,000.00 and more than 300 pounds of food.

Some of the committee members, first row from left: Allison Fox, Todd Buckley, Janie McRoy, Maureen Doerfler, Barbara Rinker, John Doerfler, event chairperson Sandy Peoples. Second row: Jason Jolley, Kerry Freeman, Jerry Reisch, Eric Martin, Art Peoples.







## Annual Chili Cook-Off

This year's Annual Chili Cook-Off was a heartwarming (and tastebud-tingling!) success! Held to benefit our scholarship program for a Western Wayne student, the event brought together our community for an afternoon of delicious food, fun, and fellowship with raffle baskets and 50/50 tickets.

Congratulations to our winners, who truly brought the heat and a huge thank-you to everyone who participated—whether by cooking, tasting, or volunteering.

Thanks to your generous support, we're thrilled to continue making a difference in the lives of local students through our scholarship program.

We look forward to seeing you again next year for another bowl of fun and community spirit!



One Pint Can Save 3 Lives

# DONATE BLOOD

*in memory of Larry Ditty*



Larry was a dedicated servant of our community since 1982. He tirelessly gave his time to those in need, serving with the Ledgeale Volunteer Fire Co. for 38 years including over 20 years as the company's President. He was a charter member in 2012 of the Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club serving several years as Treasurer. He received recognition as Rotarian of the Year (2017/2018) and was also a Paul Harris Fellow. His commitment to our community extended beyond these roles as he also served on the Salem Twp Planning Commission for over three decades.

Larry never missed a donation opportunity! Let's honor Larry's legacy of service by donating blood and helping others in need.



**Tuesday  
March 11, 2025**

1:00pm-6:00pm



**Ledgeale Vol.  
Fire Department**

529 Goose Pond Rd -  
Lake Ariel

*For an appointment,  
please visit  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and use sponsor  
code: **Ledgeale**, or  
scan the QR code.*



**SCAN ME**

**Supported By:**

Hamlin Lake Ariel  
**Rotary**  
Club



**For More Information, Visit**

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Code: **Ledgeale**





## Hazleton Rotary Club Continues it's Christmas Community Service Activities

Hazleton Rotary manned the kettles at Walmart's on Saturday, December 21st. The club has actively participated in this community service since 1956 and neither rain nor sleet nor snow has stopped their participation!



## Hazleton Rotary Celebrates The Holidays

Hazleton Rotary celebrated the holidays at a “Winter Party” held at Four Blooms, 668 N. Hunter Highway, Drums on January 24, 6:00pm-9:00pm. Thanks to Rotary Vice President Paul Oswald for planning the event which was held to “celebrate the beauty of winter with the warmth of friendship”, a memorable thought for this time of the year.







## Welcome Andrea! From New Zealand!

A small group of locals were at the WB Scranton Airport in late December. The reason? To welcome our newest exchange student, Andrea, from New Zealand! The Mountain Top club is her sponsoring club. She is attending Abington Heights High School.

In the photo are: Andrea, her host family, Mountain Top Rotarians Kathryn Murphy, Joanne Joseph & Joe Aquilina, and also Dawn Kenzakoski, coordinator of the Inbound Student Exchange Program & a Pittston club member!



## Donation to Mountain Top Food Bank

Our club recently presented a check to the Mountain Top Food Bank. The donation was made possible from the proceeds of our successful Farmers' Market! Thank you to member John Kanyuck who coordinates the Market!

In the photo presenting are President Kathryn Murphy, and President Elect, Tylene Dodge.





## Holiday Party

Our members had a great time at King's Pizzeria for our annual holiday party! It gave us an opportunity for time to just have good conversation! Thank you to Michelle Reilly for coordinating! The decorations and tables looked great!



## Wellness in Mountain Top!

Free 'yin yoga' and 'Sound Meditation' classes were made available to interested residents! Our club decided to offer these wellness classes as part of the Rotary International focus on Mental Health. Yin Yoga is a gentle class where basically the stretches (shapes) are held for a few minutes. The Sound Meditation was led by a certified instructor, who 'tapped' various 'singing' bowls. The sounds have been shown to promote relaxation. The classes were well received. Funding for classes was made possible from our "Taste of the Mountain/Wine Fest" event.

In the photo is program coordinator Joe Aquilina, instructor Rachael Wydra, and President Kathryn Murphy.



## Purse Bingo Fun!

Our annual Purse Bingo event will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2025 at the Crestwood High School in Mountain Top. See flyer below.

We appreciate all the Rotarians who attended last year! You can contact event chair Joanne Joseph at 570.262.0548, or any club member, to donate a prize or for tickets.

THE MOUNTAIN TOP ROTARY CLUB  
**DESIGNER**  
**PURSE**  
**BINGO**

**\$25** PRESALE **\$30** AT THE DOOR

Join us for an afternoon of excitement, camaraderie, and the thrill of the win at Bingo! Get your dabbers ready and mark your calendars for a fun filled time all to benefit programs in our community!

## PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

LIMITED TO 200 PLAYERS



Sunday February 23, 2025  
1:00 PM Doors open at  
Noon



Crestwood  
High School  
Cafeteria

FEATURED PRIZES INCLUDE  
MICHAEL KORS, VERA BRADLEY,  
KATE SPADE, TORY BURCH AND MORE



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT JOANNE JOSEPH, EVENT CHAIR @ 570.262.0548 OR ANY ROTARY MEMBER  
TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT FIDELITY OR M&T BANK OFFICES IN MOUNTAIN TOP





## Paul Harris Recognition to Brian Michael Lione of Montrose

The Inn at Montrose was the venue for formal recognition of Paul Harris award during a regular meeting of the New Milford Area Rotary on January 2, 2025. Club member Brian Michael Lione was presented with his third and fourth Paul Harris Fellow pin by District 7410 Governor Bill Skinner and Club President Peggy Foster-Kelemen in recognizing his demonstrated shared purpose with the objectives and mission of The Rotary Foundation to build world understanding and peace. 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 substantial contribution to the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation. Those programs include an array of projects that save and invigorate the lives of people in one's community and world and enhance international friendship and understanding. Foundation programs provide educational opportunities, food, potable water, health care, immunizations, and shelter for millions of people.

These activities are funded, implemented, and managed by Rotarians and Rotary clubs around the globe. Brian resides in Montrose with his wife and serves Rotary District 7410 as the Chair of the Grants Subcommittee.

The New Milford Area Rotary 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](mailto:newmilfordparotary@gmail.com)



## POLIOPLUS AWARD PRESENTED TO NEW MILFORD AREA ROTARY

The Rotary District 7410 Governor Bill Skinner and Assistant Governor Mary Tempest presented the New Milford Area Rotary Club a formal recognition at its January 2, 2025 meeting for its outstanding efforts to rid the world of polio the 2024 fiscal year. The presentation recognizes the continuing efforts by Rotary International and its thousands of Rotary clubs in ridding the world of this childhood preventable disease. The New Milford Area Rotary and its Interact Club at Blue Ridge Schools continue supporting this effort locally.

New Milford Area Rotary are members of Rotary District 7410, which includes forty other clubs in the Endless Mountains and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The New Milford Area Rotary currently consists of thirty-seven members actively serving throughout Susquehanna County and the 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)





**Rotary Club of The Greater Poconos (RCGP)** brings economic stimulus to Monroe and Pike County residents via the **Rotary-GP VITA** (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program by providing **FREE** income tax return prep services to many of the 30,000+ Monroe & Pike County PA residents that qualify for these much-needed services.

By joining forces with our affiliated **Rotary Foundation of The Greater Poconos (RFGP)**, RCGP is providing **FREE** income tax return prep services, during the 2025 income tax filing season (from Jan 29, 2025 to April 15, 2025) at five (5) **Rotary-GP VITA** sites in Monroe County, PA. **Rotary-GP VITA** volunteers also prepare PA 1000 forms to help elderly and disabled residents secure their PA State real estate tax & renter rebates.

**Hal H. Harris**, President of RCGP & CEO of RFGP, states: “**Rotary-GP VITA** is a real economic stimulus program that helps 1) Low & Moderate-Income taxpayers save hundreds of dollars in tax prep fees they’d otherwise pay to paid preparers 2) qualify Taxpayers secure thousands of dollars from Earned Income Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits, and other tax credits 3) elderly and disable residents secure real estate tax & renter rebates.” Hal goes on to say, “The funds taxpayers receive helps them catch up on past due bills, stop evictions, and feed their families”.

**Sylvester E. Williams, IV, J.D, MBA, CCLE** the Dean of the College of Business and Management at East Stroudsburg University (ESU), who serves as Chairman of **Rotary-GP VITA** Advisory Board, adds “ESU is happy to contribute twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) to help support the **Rotary-GP VITA** program, through which some students, from ESU’s College of Business and Management, will enhance their business skills while also serving residents from The Greater Poconos.”

Notably, all income tax returns prepared by the Rotary-GP VITA program are 1) prepared by an IRS Certified Preparer 2) reviewed for accuracy by an IRS Certified Quality Reviewer and 3) E-Filed, after being approved by the Taxpayer, via an encrypted tax software program, approved by IRS, so Taxpayer(s) refunds can be direct deposited in their personal bank account quickly and safely.

Since 1905 **Rotary International** members, throughout the world, have Taken Action to make communities better by connecting our 1.4 million members, from 36,000+ Rotary clubs, in over 200 countries, to improve people’s lives at the local and international level. Rotarians contribute their time, energy, and expertise to carry out meaningful and sustainable projects to Promote Peace, Fight Disease, Provide Clean Water, Help Mothers & Children, Support Education, Protect The Environment and **Grow Local Economies** via service projects like **Rotary-GP VITA** program.

For 76+ years **Rotary Club of The Greater Poconos** (formerly Rotary Club of Mount Pocono), under its current and former Presidents, including but not limited to, *John Davis, Vern Moyer, and Assistant District Governor Mitchell K. Marcus* helped thousands of Monroe County residents by raising and donating over \$200,000 to local charities, giving scholarships to high school & vocational school students, providing dictionaries to over 1,500+ 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and donating “Buddy Benches” (with Rotary District 7410’s help) to local elementary & intermediate schools. Now, members of **Rotary Club Of The Greater Poconos** and the **Rotary Foundation Of The Greater Poconos** are bringing together a network of Rotarians, volunteers, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and financial institutions to tackle two of the most pressing needs facing our local communities; 1) Economic Insecurity and 2) lack of Financial Literacy. For more information about our **Rotary-GP VITA** program, to become a volunteer and/or make a much-needed donation to support our Rotary-GP VITA program visit [www.Rotary-GP.org](http://www.Rotary-GP.org).

Kindly note, we are the only non-profit organization providing **FREE** income tax return preparation services to the low- and moderate-income residents of Monroe County, PA. With YOUR help, **TOGETHER WE, as Rotarians**, can and will touch the hearts, minds, and wallets of those in need in The Greater Poconos.





# The Winter Event of the Poconos

## The 13th Annual Beer Tasting + Small Bites



Friday, March 7th, 2025  
Starting at 6:30pm, ends at 9:30pm  
at The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort  
For Advance Tickets Scan the QR Code  
or go to

[www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofthesmithfields/](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofthesmithfields/)  
or Call (570) 350-9246  
Advance tickets \$30 at the Door \$35



The Rotary Club  
of the Smithfields



## Christmas Card Making

Tunkhannock Rotarians were jolly and bright this holiday season. On December 11th Rotarians gathered at the Tri-county General Insurance Agency Inc. to make Christmas cards. The Christmas cards were handed out to residents at United Methodist Homes Tunkhannock Campus. The cards certainly spread holiday cheer, bringing smiles to the residents faces.



## Holiday Party

On December 18th, 2024, Rotarians with their family and friends gathered at Nimble Hill Winery for a Holiday Social/Monthly Flash Meeting. Fun was had by all.





## Candy Cane Drive

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club had a successful Candy Cane Drive. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the Club was able to donate \$2,500.00 to Wyoming County Children and Youth and \$2,500.00 to Interfaith Friends. Each organization utilized the funds to provide presents to children throughout the county.

