

FEBRUARY 2026



Greetings from our 2025-2026

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Tim Genetti



As we began this year on our membership journey, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible pride I have in this district. Since the beginning of January, our membership goal of surpassing 1,100 members seemed like a difficult task ahead, but this is not just a number; it represents saving all our clubs located in North-east Pennsylvania. I believe that our clubs serve as the foundation of our community due to the meaningful impacts we achieve. The excitement shown by your club's presidents has continued to energize the leadership team.

Recruiting new members is not merely about numbers; it's about expanding our family. It's about finding those who share our commitment to service and who are eager to contribute. With every new face that joins us, we strengthen our mission and amplify our voice in the community.

New members will contribute significantly to the advancement of our district by bringing fresh energy, new perspectives, and a broad range of ideas that can drive us toward future success. Together, we can tackle challenges, inspire change, and create opportunities that resonate far beyond our district.

Let's embrace this opportunity to reach out and to invite others to be a part of something greater. Remember, together, we can achieve our membership goal. Let's inspire one another, support each other, and work collaboratively to welcome new members into our fold. I encourage each of you to engage with your community, reach out to potential members, and showcase the incredible work we do.

I want to thank everyone for your dedication and passion. Let's make this a remarkable year for District 7410, one where we not only meet our membership goal but also enrich our communities.

Sincerely,
DG Tim

Register for the Multi District Conference!

Join us for our 7 District Multi District Conference and early bird registration

Click on : NOTYOURTYPICALCONFERENCE.ORG



Rotary  Regional Leadership Summit
Districts 7390, 7410, 7430,
7450, 7475, 7490, 7505

**Rotary Regional
Leadership Summit for Peace**
In conjunction with the Lincoln Leadership Institute
April 17-19, 2026
Wyndham Gettysburg

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 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.



RYLA 2026 Planning Underway

It's that time of year again – time to start thinking about RYLA 2026! This will be the 14th year Rotary District 7410 has hosted this wonderful leadership program for our area youth.

What is RYLA? RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and is a highly curated program that provides leadership training for young people in our area. From icebreakers and team-building activities to motivational speakers and hands-on workshops, RYLA offers opportunities to connect with peers while learning valuable leadership lessons. The schedule is full of activities that engage conferees physically, mentally, and emotionally, strengthening their relationship skills, building their confidence, and equipping them with the tools to lead.

RYLA is open to NEPA students who recently completed 10th grade. A local Rotary Club must sponsor students, and there are only 80 spots open each summer. This year, RYLA will be held at Keystone College from Sunday, June 21, through Thursday, June 25, 2026. The cost to send a student is \$375.00 per person. Certainly, a deal for a 5-day leadership camp!

Please visit our website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50202/sitepage/ryla> for detailed information and the application. Click the “What We Do” tab on the homepage to access the RYLA 2026 application. The application deadline is March 2nd, so please submit your application promptly to secure a spot.

The true strength of the RYLA program is that it's for students, by students. Every RYLA attendee can apply to serve as a Junior Counselor and help lead next year's conference. After a successful year as a Junior Counselor, staff can advance in the program to serve as a Senior Counselor. Beyond that, positions are open for Program Director, Facilities Director, Conference Director, Counselor Director, Conferee Liaison, Media Director, and more. Not only does the program teach leadership skills, but it also enables students to grow into leadership roles and apply what they learned as conferees.

Will your club be sending students this year?

For more information on RYLA, how your club can send a student, or how you can get involved with this exciting district-wide program, please contact a member of the RYLA Committee:

Amy Leiser rotarianamy@gmail.com, Mary Tempest maryptempest@gmail.com, Mary Ellen Bentler maryellenrotary@gmail.com, Dave Palmer davesolopalmer@gmail.com, or Lynne Goodwin rotarianlynnegoodwin@gmail.com

THANK YOU for supporting RYLA!



The 2025 RYLA Graduating Class



RYLA Staff met last month to begin planning this year's event

2026 Essay Contest



Each year, Rotary District 7410 invites high school students from across Northeastern Pennsylvania to share their voices through our annual Essay Contest. This is an opportunity for students to express their ideas, build confidence, and reflect on the Rotary values that shape our world.

Essay topics are designed to spark thought and creativity, with prizes awarded at the local and district levels. Students typically enter through their local Rotary Club and compete for recognition, scholarships, and the opportunity to be honored at a Rotary event.

This years theme is: Unite for Good

[Click here to visit the Essay Contest Webpage for helpful documents to promote the contest and encourage submissions](#)

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.

Upcoming Events

Calendar

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Monthly Meeting (Blakeslee)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gift Card & Designer Purse Bingo (Mountaintop)						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Grants Training and Pre-PELS

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

Connect with Us!

 RotaryDistrict7410@gmail.com

 RotaryDistrict7410.org

 [@RotaryDistrict7410](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict7410)



Rotary 
District 7410

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](#).

Public Image Committee

Membership Growth Starts With Public Image: Let's Make Rotary More Visible!

Rotary District 7410 is doing incredible work, supporting youth, serving communities, funding scholarships, responding to local needs, and showing up where it matters most.

But here's the honest truth: if people don't see Rotary, they can't join Rotary.

Membership growth isn't only about recruiting. It's also about visibility, making sure our communities recognize Rotary as a group that is active, welcoming, and relevant. When Rotary becomes more visible, membership growth naturally follows.

Our District Governor has shared that membership is a pressing priority, and without growth, districts can face difficult changes in the future. The good news is: we can strengthen our clubs simply by improving our public image and making it easier for new people to discover us.

10 Public Image Tips That Lead to More Members

1. Share impact regularly

Post what you did, who it helped, and why it mattered.

2. Show people in action

Service photos and candid moments beat "check pics" every time.

3. Use plain language

Keep Rotary terms simple so newcomers instantly understand what you do.

4. Always include an invite

Add: "Guests welcome!" or "Message us to visit a meeting."

5. Host a casual open house

A "Rotary 101" coffee or meet-and-greet lowers the pressure to join.

6. Be visible in the community

Wear Rotary gear and bring a banner/table to local events.

7. Highlight member spotlights

Share why members joined and what Rotary means to them.

8. Partner and get tagged

Work with schools/nonprofits and ask them to tag your club online.

9. Keep your club page active

Update meeting info, post recent photos, and pin a "Visitors Welcome" post.

10. Follow up fast with guests

A quick thank-you and personal invite back makes a big difference.

CLUBS IN ACTION

Rotary
Club of The Abingtons



Rotary Donates \$10,600

Rotary of the Abingtons donated to the Salvation Army. Seen (l to r) are Chris Loftus, Rotary Club of the Abingtons President and Captain Neil Childs, Salvation Army, Corp Commanding Officer/Administrator/Pastor. Rotarians volunteered for 19 days during the Christmas season, ringing the bell to fill the red kettle. Many thanks to all the doners!



Latest Paul Harris Fellow!

Special thanks for all the work, Mike Wademan, outstanding Abington Rotarian and latest Paul Harris Fellow! Mike has been a valued member of The Rotary Club of The Abingtons since 2013.

He has worked for years as our Parking Guru at our annual Fireworks. Recently, he has been instrumental in developing and disseminating our Membership Survey. Mike received his Paul Harris during the monthly social event at NYX restaurant Mike Wademan receives his Paul Harris Fellow award from Chris Loftus, Rotary President and Joe Loughman, Past District Governor.



Abington News

Recently Attorney Ken Lee joined the weekly of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons to share Hillside Park news for the Clarks Summit facility. Free ice skating began December 28th and free sticks and 200 pairs of free skates are available.

Rotarians, Mr. Lee and other community leaders are currently discussing the possibility of moving the annual Rotary Fireworks to Hillside Park to accommodate the Middle School expansion.

Follow the Hillside Facebook information as well as the Rotary Facebook page for updates. Seen here (l to r): Ken Lee and Rotary President Chris Loftus.



AI Insights

Michael, president of the Strat Edge Group, brought an amazing educational program on A I to the weekly Rotary Club of the Abingtons meeting. The Q & A that followed were many and members lingered well past the meeting time to listen to Michael's broad knowledge of Artificial Intelligence.

The ways to use A I include Drafting Emails, Summarizing Documents, Creating Marketing, Simplifying Language and Brainstorming Ideas.

Member and Past President Diane Calabro and Michael Pickreign.





Hazleton Rotary Celebrates The Holidays

Hazleton Rotary celebrated the holidays at its annual “Holiday Party” held at Four Blooms Restaurant, 668 N. Hunter Highway, Drums on January 31, 6:00pm. Thanks to Rotary Vice President Stephen Seach 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.

Looking forward to more Hazleton Rotary accomplishments and celebrations throughout 2026!



Hazleton Rotary Prepares for Kidz Coatz

Photos 1: Hazleton Rotarians Nadine Bott, Michele Kushmeder, Nina Bonus, Anne Frey, Donna Dougherty, Joan Buffington, Michelle Genetti and Altagracia Arias, HIP Volunteer sort and pack coats delivered to local schools. Pat and Kathy Ward also assisted.

Some lucky children from the Greater Hazleton Area will be warmer during the upcoming winter season, thanks to the Hazleton Rotary Kidz Coatz project.

Ever since the Kidz Coatz project took off in 2007, Hazleton Rotary has continued the work and effort put into purchasing, sorting and delivering winter coats to area children.

Working with local retailers, primarily Boscov's, brand new coats were purchased for children who need them from all elementary/middle schools in the Hazleton Area School District. Children who will receive coats were confidentially identified by their teachers.

Rotarians Rossanna Gabriel, Katherine Silfa and Donna Dougherty are project chairs.

Rotary President JoAnn Buffington says, "This has always been an awesome project. Unfortunately, through the years Rotary has been told that there were kids going to school who were definitely not dressed for the cold, winter days. It's a great feeling for the club to be able to bring this warmth into their lives. For this reason, I am very glad we have dedicated Rotarians who help us continue our Kidz Coatz project. Thank you all so much!



Hazleton Rotary Inducts New Members

Photo: New Hazleton Rotary Club Members Nadine Bott-Bryanna Polascik-Jessica Spare, Rotary President Joan Buffington and Rotary Vice President Steve Seach. Photo Two: District Governor Tim Genetti, New Member Amy Roslevege and Rotary President-Elect Paul Oswald.

Hazleton Rotary held a new member induction at a special meeting on January 21st at Booty's Café Italiano, 1087 N. Church Street, Hazleton.

President Joan Buffington welcomed everyone and thanked Paul Oswald for organizing the event.

Rotary District 7410 Governor Tim Genetti inducted the following new members: Nadine Bott, Bryanna Polascik, Amy Roslevege, Jessica Spare and Dominic Medina-Rosario.

"New members are encouraged to take advantage of their club membership and become active participants in meetings, fundraisers and special events, as well as, enjoying club social activities," explains President Buffington. "Congratulations and welcome to our all! I'm so excited to have these new people join our club which offers us the growing potential to do more great things for the Greater Hazleton Area."





Paul Harris Fellow

On Wednesday December 10th the Milford-Matamoras Rotary Club presented Bill Kerstetter with Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship Award. The Paul Harris Fellowship Award is one of the highest honors Rotary can bestow upon a person. Recipients are Rotarians and community professionals, recognized for their outstanding contributions, exemplifying the highest ideal in Rotary in placing "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." Their commitment to excellence has been an inspiration to us all. Our club is very proud and thanks you. Pictured left to right are Jamie Dykstra-President, Bill Kerstetter and Christine Kerstetter. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM at the Dimmick Inn in Milford. Anyone interested in becoming a member contact Jamie at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting.



Guest Speakers

On January 14th, the Milford Matamoras Rotary Club enjoyed guest speakers was Sharon Daniels and Bethany Wulf from local non-profit Choosing Integrity. Choosing Integrity's mission is to improve the lives of justice-involved individuals through support, education, mentorship, advocacy, and compassion-helping them build stronger relationships and successfully return to their communities. They also support men and women during and after incarceration and educate the community about the challenges faced by justice-involved individuals. Choosing Integrity's goal is to build understanding, reduce stigma, and promote a more accurate story of reentry and recovery. Visit www.choosingintegrity.org or give them a call at 570-229-2007. Pictures left to right Bethany Wulf, Jamie Dykstra, Rotary President and Sharon Daniels. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM at the Dimmick Inn in Milford. Anyone interested in becoming a member contact Jamie at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting.



Rotarian of the Year Award

On Wednesday, December 10th, the Milford Matamoras Rotary Club presented Tommy Murante the honor of being this year's "Rotarian of the Year". Tommy is the owner of Community Self Storage Center has been a long time Rotary member involved with numerous projects. Those projects include helping store and transport hospital equipment to South America where Rotary opened an Emergency Room, leading the 3rd Grade dictionary distribution for 20+ years, playing with his band, Broke Down and Rebuilt, at our Blues, Brews and BBQ Fundraiser, and recently helping with Milford Christmas lights in town. Tommy is a great asset to our club and we are very happy to have him as a member now and for many to come. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM at the Dimmick Inn in Milford. Anyone interested in becoming a member contact Jamie at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting.



Guest Speaker

On January 7th, the Milford Matamoras Rotary Club invited Liam Hutchinson to speak about the mission and services of The Health House, located at 110 E. Catherine Street in Milford. They offer a unique combination of traditional therapies and latest bio-hacking technology to better support the body's ability to heal itself. Their focus is to provide professional tools that optimize nature's potent healing potential. Liam is also the owner of BetterWorld Store & Cafe located in Milford. Visit www.milfordhealthhouse.com or call the Health House directly at 570-832-0003 for information. Pictured is Jamie Dykstra, Rotary President and Liam Hutchinson, Owner of Health House. Milford Matamoras Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM at the Dimmick Inn in Milford. Anyone interested in becoming a member contact Jamie at 201-388-7107 or come visit us at a meeting.





Wreaths Across America

In December, our club once again participated in this nationwide event....placing wreaths at Veterans' graves around the holidays! It's always emotional and rewarding for all present!

Pictured in the photo are left to right: Representative Eddie Day Pashinski, Vice Commander Al Finn, Sue Ellen Engelman, Rotarian, Martine Columbo, Commander and Rotarian, and Lenny Biel, Commander.



Weinberg Food Bank

Another annual event which is dear to our club is the volunteer effort at the Weinberg Food Bank in Pittston. It's an honor and privilege to serve our community in this way! Along with Rotarians from the Wyoming Valley clubs, we packed boxes of food which will be distributed to senior citizens who need supplemental food. Afterwards, the Rotarians gathered for a meal and fellowship!

Pictured in the small group photo are our club members Joanne Joseph, Nicole Cooper-Cefalo, Joe Aquilina, Kathryn Murphy, and Alicia Gibbons.

In the larger group photo are the Rotarians from all the Wyoming Valley and Mountain Top clubs who helped that night.



Grateful to the Fire Department!

We wanted to show our appreciation to the Mountain Top Hose Company for their valuable service to our community, but also for them helping to provide parking for our annual Train to Jim Thorpe event!

We made a donation of \$500 to the Department. Thank you for all you do!

In the photo left to right are: Rachael Kohl, Hose Company, Joanne Joseph, club president, Peter Kohl, Hose Company, and Claudia Vitiello, Rotarian.



THE MOUNTAIN TOP ROTARY CLUB

GIFT CARD AND DESIGNER PURSE BINGO

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

\$25

PRESALE

USE THIS
QR CODE



\$30

AT THE DOOR

PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

LIMITED TO 200 PLAYERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 1:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT NOON

Crestwood
High School
Cafeteria

FEATURED PRIZES INCLUDE

VISA GIFT CARDS, RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS,
MICHAEL KORS, VERA BRADLEY,
KATE SPADE, TORY BURCH, AND MORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR
CALL CLAUDIA VITIELLO, EVENT CHAIR 570-466-9528

TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT M&T BANK OFFICE IN MOUNTAIN TOP

New Milford Area Rotary Prepares Dictionaries for Distribution

The regular meeting of the New Milford Area Rotary on January 21, 2026 consisted of preparing approximately three hundred and eight-four dictionaries for distribution to third graders in Susquehanna County. An annual Rotary tradition each year, this year's distribution will include the elementary schools in Susquehanna, Blue Ridge, Mountain View, Montrose, Elk Lake, and Faith Mountain Academy. The Blue Ridge Schools own Interact Club students will arrange the delivery to third graders at Blue Ridge.

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

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





Rotary Club of Plymouth Gains New Member

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently installed Laura Keller as a new member in the Club. Keller serves as the Librarian at the Plymouth Public Library. The Rotary Club of Plymouth conducts fund raisers and supports local efforts in Plymouth and surrounding communities. Pictured are Rotary President JK Karavis, District Governor-Elect and installing officer Andy Lane Chapman, Laura Keller and Eric Cheatly, Sponsor





Guest Speakers

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club started the new year off with excellent weekly speakers. Two of note, were Bill Ruark of the Wyoming County Healthcare Center and Joe Butkiewicz of North Brand Land Trust.



Bill Ruark spoke of his efforts to revitalize the former Tyler Memorial Hospital as he recognized the void of accessible health services to the Tunkhannock area with the closure of Tyler Memorial. Rotarians had the opportunity to tour the facility and learn about the services offered. The Wyoming County Healthcare Center offers a plethora of services from imaging to counseling.

Joe Butkiewicz spoke about the North Branch Land Trust. The trust is a non-profit land conservation organization focused on identifying and conserving important watershed lands, agricultural lands, woodlands, scenic lands, and critical habitat for plants and animals in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Joe spoke about the ways individuals can become involved by attending sponsored events or engaging in work first hand.

Swearing in of fellow Rotarian

On January 2nd, 2026, a group of Rotarians attended the swearing in of fellow Rotarian, Nina M. Sordoni. Nina was sworn in as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Wyoming & Sullivan Counties. Nina is the 15th Judge to serve the judicial district and is the first female to serve the district. Rotarians were proud to share this moment with Nina.

