

Newsletter

January 2023

Rotary
District 7410



Message from the District Governor Craig Devenport

Making sense of membership

Rotary International requires districts to have a minimum of 1100 members to maintain their status as a district. We get good news and bad news. When our membership gets over the 1100 we leap for joy. When it drops we not only get concerns ourselves, but RI notices and sends us polite nastigrams (if there is such a word) and says that we need to develop a plan to merge with another district. They are not picking on just us. This is happening world wide.

To help have enough information to understand our district as a whole we periodically get charts from the "ZONE", which is the next step above the district level- just below RI itself. Three categories of clubs are provided.

The first is a listing of those clubs which are growing and have a 80% chance of thriving- if nothing changes. We have about fourteen clubs in that category. The second is a listing of clubs that are borderline; that is they may or may not have that 80% chance of thriving- if nothing changes. We have about six clubs in this category. The third is a listing of clubs that do not have an 80% chance of survival- unless something changes. The last half of our clubs fall into this category.

If you would like to know where your club stands feel free to contact our district membership chair- Mary Tempest (Tunkhannock club) at marytempest@gmail.com or myself at crd2864@ptd.net).

To understand the characteristics of what makes a successful district with thriving clubs, the zone (via Herb Klotz) is offering a zoom presentation as listed below.

Our next quarterly Zoom membership will be on Tuesday, January 17 at 7PM. Feel free to forward and invite others to this session.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81473268401?pwd=a2o5UnBLOUZINmNPYVQ3U1JMUi9Mz09>

At the seminar we plan to present the results of a survey that we recently completed (across the United States and Canada) on characteristics of clubs with a consistent membership Growth Culture. This will be a key part of our PETS training program.



Also, we will share the feedback we received from the recent assistant governor survey across our two zones (We received over 180 responses!). We will also talk about a possible path forward. You don't want to miss this!

We will be recording it and will send out a Zoom link in January for the session.

Lastly- as mentioned above- this information will be a key component of the upcoming PETS program. Registration opens January 15th. See you there!

Want more emails? I do

Believe it or not I welcome club emails. Please consider adding me to you member email list that you already send out. Do not do anything special. My email is crd2864@ptd.net.

My rationale is this. My physical location prevents me from volunteering in most of your service projects- as many past governors have done. However, I do like to see what is going on in the district and this would be a way to feel like I may handle on things. If your club already does this- thank you. Your have exceeded my expectations. Keep up the great work.

Yours in Service,
Craig Devenport DG

A Message From Your DGE:

Hello President Elects,

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season. 2023 is going to be your year to shine! Please put January 24th at 7pm on your calendar for our PE Zoom meeting.

We have special guest Stephen Moulton to guide us through Cub Runner. He will be giving an overview of Club Runner and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

We will also be covering information you need to know for getting ready for 2023-24 Rotary year. Last but not least, you will all be able to meet each other and share ideas and build friendships!

See you all on the 24th!

Yours in Service,
Samantha Maruzzelli DGE



PLEASE JOIN US TO

*mix, mingle,
and
imagine the possibilities*

APRIL 1ST, 2023

SHADOWBROOK RESORT

TUNKHANNOCK, PA

6-9PM

TICKETS \$25 INDIVIDUAL

*includes dancing, passed appetizers, and raffle
ticket for a chance to win a monetary prize*

CASH BAR • BASKET RAFFLES TO BENEFIT
POLIO PLUS • PHOTO BOOTH • DANCING

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Rotary
District 7410



CONNECT

RotaryDistrict7410@gmail.com

District Dance

Mix, Mingle, and Imagine the Possibilities!

Tickets go on sale February 1st!

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!](#)

Don't forget to book your discounted room at the Shadowbrook Resort!
Call (800) 955-0295 and state you are with Rotary District 7410

*What a great time we had at the annual Rotary fund raiser dance.
The DJ was great and it was nice to get to meet the exchange students. Can't wait to go again. - Alyce Hunsinger*

It was such a wonderful time at the Rotary Dance. Being with everyone and dancing all night was so much fun! I so plan on going again this year! - Debbie Montross

District Committee Needs

The district has some positions that need to be filled with Rotarians throughout the District.

Are you interested in working with the Youth in the District? If so consider one of the following:

Youth Service Chair

Rotaract Chair

Interact Chair

Youth Protection Officer

Are you interested in the Foundation Committee? Consider one of the following:

Annual Fund & Fundraising Chair

Polio Plus Chair

We also need:

Alumni Chair

International Service Chair

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair

Also a few years ago we combined Area 5 into Area 4 and 7. It would be great to get an Assistant Governor for Area 4.

The district also needs to build a strong membership committee so if you are interested in being a part of that committee please reach out. If you don't feel you could be a committee chair but are still interested in serving on a committee or know someone that would be interested please don't hesitate to reach out to me or DG Craig, DGE Samantha or DGN Bill.

If you have any questions on any of these committee, please don't hesitate to ask me? Also, just because the committee's above are what is needed don't hesitate to ask about any committee's within the district. The district is here to support the clubs and that can not be done with out members of the clubs on these committees.

PDG Mary Ellen

(570) 499-8901

mebrotary@echoes.net

Ukraine Relief

The letter that follows this introduction is an urgent message for assistance from our Rotary Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine. It highlights the war-time induced limitations of the Rotary International Disaster Relief focused fund initiative by the Rotary International Foundation Trustees to assist Ukraine. Meanwhile Rotary must and can do more.

Locally, Rotary District 7410 has executed one \$125,000 Global Grant earlier in calendar year 2022. You will see an update on that from PDG Mary Ellen Bentler in this newsletter.

Another Global Grant application is currently in process in collaboration with Rotary Districts' 2231, 2041, 7410 and 1940, including twenty-two (22) Rotary Clubs. These clubs include five (5) from Rotary District 7410, with approximately \$13,100 in combined contributions by these District 7410 clubs. The other seventeen (17) Rotary Clubs are spread across the globe, including Italy, Poland, The Netherlands, Scotland, Germany, and Ukraine. This effort was introduced to us in the district at the District Conference in November 2022, and we have acted! This Global Grant will total \$142,269 U.S. Dollars and purchase up to six (6) water filtration systems for communities in Ukraine.

Additionally, our District leadership has approved a protocol for clubs and individuals to donate funds directly to our District Treasurer function for international wire transfer to the Warsaw City Poland Rotary Club to support steady state requirements to continue providing long term relief to Ukrainian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This process was introduced last month to all club leadership positions and District Assistant Governors in the District via a Clubrunner e-mail message blast.

To date we have realized \$2,450 in contributions (including from non-Rotarians) to send to the Warsaw City Poland RC to support this steady state requirement. Bluntly, we need more! See your club leadership and consider donating to this initiative as soon as possible.

Service Above Self,
David Palmer, Chair, International Service Committee
Rotary District 7410



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Rotary
District 2232



**LETTER to RI PRESIDENT NOMINEE
Stephanie Urchick from D2232 team**

1st of January 2023

Dear RI President Nominee **Stephanie**.

We hope you and your family are safe and well now.
As you know, DRF funds collected for Ukraine by Rotarians of the world have been exhausted.

On behalf of every Ukrainian, we are sincerely grateful for all the help we were able to provide thanks to DRF. We are convinced that our efforts have significantly improved the situation in Ukraine.

According to the results of using the DRF, **442** grants were implemented by different districts. Including our D2232 was able to realize **24** grants.
About **30%** of the total amount was spent for the projects outside of Ukraine.
Another **40%** of the total amount was received by foreign districts based on applications for the individual projects of some Ukrainian Clubs, and the District does not have accurate information about their use.
Finally, only **30%** of DRF was spent in Ukraine under the fair rules of participation among all **66** Rotary Clubs.

Unfortunately, the situation in Ukraine remains extremely difficult. The biggest threat at the moment is the arrival of Winter. In our region, the temperature can drop to **-30 degrees Celsius**. The issue of providing Ukrainians with heat and electricity is a matter of survival. It is the infrastructure facilities that provide this and are now the main target of all missile strikes.

From every Rotarian and from every Ukrainian, we ask you to consider the possibility of further financial support of Ukraine. Perhaps, based on the results of the DRF distribution, the format can be somewhat optimized.

The D2232 team is ready to take full responsibility for every dollar of aid.
We have complete and absolute information about problems and needs in every region of Ukraine and are able to respond to all challenges as effectively as possible.

We are always ready, at any convenient time for you, to discuss the above facts and possible next steps in a joint Zoom meeting.

We are infinitely grateful for everything you have already done for Ukraine, and we believe that we will not be left alone with the enemy in this dark, cold and hungry winter.

Sincerely yours, DG2232 Ukraine

Vitalii LESKO

DRF Committee Chair

Bohdan SVIDOVYY

PDG, Primary contact of D2232 in RI relations
email: sniko@ukr.net, tel. +38 067 650 3018

Mykola STEBLJANKO

CONNECT

RotaryDistrict7410@gmail.com

Ukraine Relief District Foundation Committee

I wanted to inform the District Members of the efforts we have made to help the people in Ukraine. Rotarians throughout the world donated \$15 million to support 400 Disaster Response Grants that are providing essential support to people whose lives have changed because of the war in Ukraine.

District 7410 was the lead district on a multi-District Disaster Response Grant for \$125,000 with 4 other districts in New York and New Jersey and the District 2232 and the RC Kyiv International.

With this grant we provided \$125,000 to supply shelter, beds, water filters, linens, mattresses, refrigerators and washing machines to support some Internally displaced people in Irpin Ukraine.

Also, Dave Palmer the chair of the International Service Committee worked with the Milano Nord Rotary Club in Italy to support a Pure Water for Ukraine. The Milano Nord Rotary Club is apply for a \$142,269 US Dollars for the Global Grant to supply 6 Attrezzatura Water Purifies for Ukraine. District 7410 has committed \$40,100 to support this grant. This consist of \$15,000 of our District Designated Funds with the 80% match from the world fund of \$12,000 and club contributions of \$13,100.

These are two examples of how the Rotarians in this District continue to provide Service Above Self and improve the lives of the people in our communities and around the world.

By Supporting our Rotary Foundation we can continue to make the world a better place!

Yours in Service,
Mary Ellen Benter, PDG

Ukraine Relief

Rotary Membership grows by 23.5% in Ukraine

Recently I ran across an article on My Rotary <https://my.rotary.org/en/> that spoke of a 23.5% increase in Rotary membership in Ukraine since February 24, 2022. The article was by Tom Gump, member of the RI Membership Growth committee and past governor of District 5950 (Minnesota, USA), and Mykola Stebljanko, publicimage coordinator in Zone 21A and past governor of District 2232 (Ukraine).

It seems that the region, including Rotary District 2232 added four Rotary clubs and five satellite clubs. The article commented that the reasons behind this growth provide important insights for Rotary clubs and districts desiring to increase membership and or add clubs.

Clubs in Ukraine became more visible in their communities in the days and months after the war began, as people witnessed the positive impact clubs and members are having and wanted to join in making a difference. An example of this was one club whose members became volunteer firefighters so they could put out fires and provide emergency services when local buildings were hit by shelling.

Tom's ultimate point was that "people are drawn to the opportunity to find meaning and purpose when they see real positive change taking place."

Thank God we do not have to rely on a war to realize this opportunity for meaning and purpose, but we have dozens of needs in our communities each day that can manifest positive change taking place in our communities and region. The key is that we need to also publicize these activities outside our Rotary family in a fashion that provides a positive public image in our communities that manifests the opportunity for Service Above Self.

I spent thirty-seven years in the United States Air Force, (USAF), before joining Rotary in 2013. In the USAF, our motto was "Service Before Self," so I found the call to Service Above Self by Rotary familiar and attractive. I know from reading our monthly district newsletter that many of our District 7410 clubs are remarkably busy in their communities and the world, executing every type of service imaginable. We need the words and images that these articles transmit internally to also be expressed in our local and regional media, to witness the positive impact of our clubs and members.

If Rotary in Ukraine can increase by 23.5% in ten months, despite a war, we can certainly increase our membership under the environment of peace. I am immensely proud to be a Rotarian. Join me in expressing this pride in the public media venue. Send your District Newsletter articles to your local media as well.

Yours In Rotary,
DAVID PALMER, Public Image Committee
Rotary District 7410
Membership Chair, New Milford Area Rotary

Ukraine Relief

Do You Want To Help?

Rotary has been collaborating with our partners and other organizations to meet humanitarian needs in and around Ukraine. Clubs have been providing food, water, medical equipment, and other supplies.

What people who have fled their homes need most is safety — and Rotary members have been instrumental in finding them shelter. But people still need help.

Rotary and Welcome.US are working together to support displaced Ukrainians.

Sponsor a Ukrainian Family today!



Polio Plus Society

Fresh into the new year, our PolioPlus Society is now at 45 members! Twenty-five (25) members are current with their fiscal year payment; two (2) payments are pending (in the mail) and eighteen (18) are due for renewal. If you are one of those eighteen (18) you have received an e-mail inviting, you to renew. Please do!

For those of you who have not joined the PolioPlus Society, come on over! With the recent emergence of polio in New York State, it is now more important than ever to renew our fight against this dreaded disease. We can individually help this effort with our annual membership in the Rotary District 7410 PolioPlus Society.

Membership is amazingly simple and requires only a \$100 contribution to the Rotary Foundation for Polio. Chances are many of the 1,000 plus members in our district have already donated that \$100 but have not registered to join the society. Joining is simple.

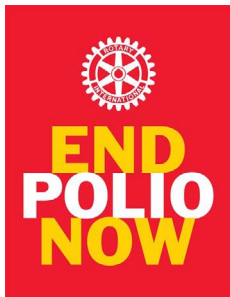
Just fill out the form you see each month in the District Newsletter or on the District Website and send it to me along with a copy of the acknowledgement/receipt you receive from Rotary International after you make your on-line donation, or just send me the check made out to the Rotary Foundation, place "PolioPlus" in the memo section of the check, and I'll take care of the rest. AND I will present you with your PolioPlus Society pin at a Rotary event of your choice. I have plenty of pins- get one! And if I run out of pins, I will get more. Come on- make me run out!

As we like to say- Polio, "it is only an airplane ride away." So, it is not over yet. The key to its eventual demise (like smallpox) is still vaccination of children. Vaccinations..... sound familiar?

END POLIO NOW ...The World is Waiting,

DAVID PALMER, Public Image Committee
Rotary District 7410

ROTARY DISTRICT 7410 POLIOPUS SOCIETY 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. If made on-line, one can establish a recurring donation.

E-mail or mail this completed form to the District PolioPlus Chair 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.

Public Image Committee

The Public Image Committee is working hard and has big plans for our District! A few projects to look forward to:

Updated website with a fresh, new look!

Advertising and take-a-way materials for use at events and sponsorships!

Coming Early 2023!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[RotaryDistrict7410](#)



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GROUP NIGHT OUT

w/ THE PENS

District 7410 Rotary Fundraiser Night

PENGUINS VS. SENATORS

Saturday, February 25th, 2023 – 6:05 PM – Military Appreciation Night

Support the District 7410 annual fundraiser night at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins game. \$4 from each ticket sold will benefit the District 7410 Rotary Fundraiser! Fans are also encouraged to attend to support local veterans as we celebrate our annual Military Appreciation Night!

\$52.00 – CCA Ice Level Lounge | **\$24 – Red Zone** | **\$22 – Gold Zone** | **\$19 – Blue Zone**

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets!](#)

District Fundraiser Night Penguins Hockey Game - February 25th

COME JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 25TH 2023 AT 6:05 PM FOR A NORTH AMERICAN TRADITION- ICE HOCKEY!

The home game in Wilkes-Barre is another opportunity to have fun and fund raise for any of our Rotary causes. This year, the Public Image Committee is considering it as a fund raiser for PolioPlus as in the past, or Ukrainian Disaster Relief.

As with last year's game, this year's game is Military Appreciation Night, which is a major event each year and typically is sold out. Let us help guarantee that "sold out." The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins opponent on this night is Bellville, Ontario Canada, thus an international event that deserves some competitive challenge to our Canadian Rotarians.

The District Public Image Committee is working out details of ticket pricing and other highlights, so keep an eye out for more details soon-from Clubrunner messaging and or your favorite Assistant Governor.

We have at least 175 tickets guaranteed to us from the Penguins and our own, Michelle Reilly, will be providing patriotic music that evening.

Membership

THE ROTARY CLUB OF TRAIL



Don Demarest, club president for The Trail Rotary Club, Factoryville summed up his feelings about his involvement with Rotary International as a whole:

"When you wake up and smell the coffee, then pour yourself a bowl of Wheaties, put your glasses on and shake the cobwebs loose, you pick up the paper and realize everyday what non-profit organizations ac-

complish in NEPA for the good of our citizens and children. Now magnify this by the thousands across this country."

He sees the big picture. "Rotary is not just a club, it's an education."

Demarest has witnessed firsthand what the organization has done locally as well as throughout the world. And he wants to spread to the world that people are needed in all walks of life to help the endeavors club members face.

The Factoryville resident has been busy with Rotary for three years, club president for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, and has experienced first hand what the organization does locally, as well as throughout the world.

"It's just amazing how much the government or county or non-profits have made a difference during times that are hard for citizens...so no matter how little, every bit is appreciated. It's a team effort. I stress that - T-E-A-M effort."

Though Demarest's team is small, he claims it is mighty. He says there are a lot of clubs larger and stronger than his, yet they are No. 1 in their district per capita in giving per member; 12 members and counting. The majority of them are baby boomers, born between 1946-1964. "At present, we have most likely achieved the American Dream. But, slowly, our future and dreams are fading fast. As far as tomorrow, most are taking it a day at a time. If you care about our young people, our children, and grandkids, how many tomorrows will it take so they have a brighter future? Will they be able to live the American Dream?"

Some of Demarest's successes with The Trail Rotary Club include having started a chess club, sponsored a bowling tournament for the last two years to raise money for polio, and helping out at the library every Saturday from 10 until

His goal is to increase membership. His hope is to start clubs for past alumni, teachers from any district club and 21-30 year-old graduates from Lackawanna Trail. Demarest said it only takes five members to start those satellite clubs and members can meet once or twice a month whenever and wherever they want. The Trail Rotary Club, they meets at Gin's Restaurant on Tuesdays at noon. Meetings are open to the public.

According to him, the difference is non-profit organizations do this with love, honor and most important, they do it peacefully. "There is little time left before we pass on, so be a mentor, volunteer, perform a service or join a club. We are the future. With positive thinking and an 'I Can Do' attitude, we can make dreams come true. Kindle the spark to continue. Ignite the flame toward mankind. Reach within and embrace humanity."

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WELLSBORO

As you know we are in collaboration with Endless Mountain Music Festival to help fund a scholarship for a local student, Kyle Rusk.

Kyle attended Rotary this past week and presented a brief presentation regarding his upcoming experience this summer. Of his \$2,000, scholarship he has acquired \$1,200 so far.

It was suggested and promoted at our recent meeting that Kyle would be willing to work for money and help Rotarians. Do you have some work for Kyle? He is very willing to work towards his scholarship.

Recently he helped Don Johnson with his lawn. Don is totally pleased with the results. So please contact Kyle if he can help you in any way. He has a little more than a month to raise the rest of his scholarship money. Here's your chance to have your own handy-man, painter, car-washer, yard-man, or whatever. Kyle can be reached at: 570-724-1718.

Also keep this in mind: We are planning a Rotary Car Wash for Kyle at Tom Lopatofsky's office on July 7th.

2022-2023 Essay Contest

Hello fellow Rotarians and Happy New Year!

Rotary District 7410 annual essay contest is fast approaching. Club Runner will be your source for all new information concerning this year's contest. It should be updated by this Friday or next week at the latest.

For now, please reach out to your school contacts. **The deadline for essay submissions to local clubs will be Friday, February 10.** Club Chairs, please be aware that you may submit one essay for each school district you serve.

You will find specifics on Club Runner when it is updated for 2023.

Thanks so much for all you do!!

Kate Farrell Kurosky
kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com

District Governor Nominee Designate Timothy Genetti

Timothy Genetti was born and raised in Hazleton and is a graduate of Boston College and has his MBA from Boston University. He is President of his family's commercial real estate businesses.

Tim joined Rotary in 1999. He was President of the Hazleton Rotary Club in 2014-2015. His Rotary activities have included Treasure of the Hazleton Rotary Foundation, chairperson of Rotary's Beer Festival, DUI Simulator and the children's holiday shopping spree, among others. As Treasure of the Hazleton Rotary Foundation, he helped manage their Kidz Coatz program. Kidz Coatz works with area teachers to identify and distribute new winter coats to needy children in the Hazleton Area School District. In 2019, he chaired 7410's District Conference, and was named Rotarian of the Year. He is highly active in the Hazleton community serving in numerous civic organizations.

An important aspect of his life is family. He is married to his wife, Michelle for 30 years and they have two sons, Stephen, and Douglas. He enjoys cooking, playing golf and traveling with his family.





New Members

At a recent Thursday meeting of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons four new members were installed and welcomed to the weekly meeting at the Glen Oak Country Club.

Pictured (l to r): President Diane Calabro, new member Steve Selige, his sponsor and brother Chris Selige, new member Ron Coccodrilli, sponsor Sandie LaManna, new member Gerri Carey, new member Joan Bird, sponsor Roger Mattes and installing Officer Past District Governor Gus Vlassis.



Oakwood Presentation

At a recent weekly program at the Rotary Club of the Abingtons Executive Director Michael Semian of Oakwood Terrace addressed members about nursing and assisted living options at their Avoca facility.

Oakwood offers independent, assisted, Memory care services in a personal care home setting.

In addition Edward Metzger, Director of Sales and Advertising, offered information on some insurance options including one program specifically developed for veterans.

Pictured (l to r): Edward Metzger and Michael Semian.





CHILI COOK OFF



CR CK POT CHALLENGE

SUNDAY JANUARY 15. 2023 3-6PM

RPLACE ON 590

50/50 AND BASKET RAFFLE

TASTING/ JUDGING: \$10

CONTEST ENTRY:\$15 FOR 1, \$25 FOR BOTH

RULES AND REGISTRATION AT

WWW.TheRotaryCookOff.COM

MUSIC BY "THE SCHEME"



Rotary
Hamlin - Lake Ariel





Hazleton Rotary Club Continues it's Christmas Community Service Activities

Hazleton Rotarians have been active participants in this annual project emphasizing the Rotary Club motto of "Service Above Self" since 1965. This year's project chair was Mike Cammisa. Store entrances were manned on behalf of the Salvation Army from 8AM-3PM.

Other participants were Alan Whitaker, Joe Cammisa, Lisa Marie Halecky, Paul Malone, Paul Oswald, Pat Ward, Jerry Panisak, Tim Genetti, Terry Jones, Gary Perna Jr., Michele Kushmeder, Katherine Silfa, Clara Garcia, Cal Herring, Stephen Seach, Mary Pat Stroia and Tony Columbo.



Hazleton Rotary Club Members Anne Frey and Nina Bonus rang in the Holiday season by taking part in the Greater Hazleton Salvation Army Kettle Drive at Wal-Mart on Saturday, December 10th.



Club Updates

Holiday Giving: 191 children each received \$50 GAP gift cards (\$9,550). Donations to the project were received from the Mauch Chunk Trust (\$1,500), the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank (\$500), and two Anonymous Angels (\$2,000).

Childcare: in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Children's Center, we are applying for a \$250,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to help fund our Childcare Project.

Community impact: a year-end review of our community impact revealed that we (with the support of our community partners – SHINE, Mauch Chunk Trust, and Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank), supplied over \$70,000 in funding for organizations, programs and services. This includes ~ \$3,200 in support of the Rotary Foundation and other international projects.

Membership: Robert Presley, Superintendent of the Jim Thorpe Area School District was officially inducted as a member on December 6, 2022.

Bloodmobile: 33 individuals (Rotary and community members) participated in our blood donation drive in December.

For the first time in two years, we were able to hold our
annual Christmas Party on December 16!



Community Giving & Sponsor Appreciation Dinner

On Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono will host its Community Giving & Sponsor Appreciation Dinner to:

- 1) distribute over \$20,000 to various local nonprofit organizations and schools that provide needed services to the Mt. Pocono community and beyond.
- 2) provide various high school & Vocational school students with scholarships.
- 3) present certificates/awards to numerous local business sponsors that helped make the Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono 2022 Fly-In/Drive-In fundraiser a fun filled and successful event.

For more info contact Hal H. Harris at hfh@harris3.com.



Rose Warner Inducted as newest New Milford Area Rotary Member

Ms. Rose Warner was officially inducted into the New Milford Area Rotary on December 1, 2022, during a regular meeting at Green Gables Restaurant in New Milford, Pennsylvania.

Rose is the Assistant Branch Manager of NBT Bank in New Milford. NBT Bank, New Milford Branch is also a Corporate Member of New Milford Area Rotary.

Rose is a resident of Montrose and an avid hunter and outdoors person. After graduation from Elk Lake High School, Rose earned a bachelor's degree in management/Finance from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

New Milford Area Rotary President Tom Kurosky officially pinned Rose at the meeting with approximately twelve other club members and guests witnessing and celebrating the event.

The Club currently consists of 40 members actively serving the community and world and welcomes new membership. Contact information can be found at www.facebook.com/newmilfordrotary. Or one can contact David Palmer, Membership Chair at davesolopalmer@gmail.com.





Plymouth Library Donation

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently donated to the Plymouth Library. The Plymouth club has been a long time supporter of the library and all of it's good work.

Pictured from left are Judy Rittenhouse, Library Board Member, Laura Keller, Librarian, Rotary member and Library Board Member Eric Cheatley, Thomas Hogan, Rotary President and JK Karavis.



Tip-Off Classic

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently conducted their Annual Wyoming Valley West Lady Spartans Mike Duda Tip-Off Classic.

Girls from Dallas, Honesdale, West Scranton and host Wyoming Valley West competed with Dallas beating West Scranton in the consolation game and Wyoming Valley West beating Honesdale in the Finals.

Pictured are the players and coaches from Wyoming Valley West High School along with Club President Thomas Hogan. The tournament is named for Rotarian Mike Duda, who was a Charter Member of the Club established in 1954.



Annual Kids @ Kristmas

The Rotary Club of Plymouth conducted it's Annual Kids @ Kristmas holiday wrapping event at St. Ignatius Church, Kingston.

Over 60 wrappers were on hand including the Rotary Clubs of Plymouth and Wyoming, Wyoming Valley West Cheerleading, Luzerne County Head Start and some kind folks looking to help a good cause.

Presents were wrapped for over 125 children and were delivered with Santa right before Christmas.



Plymouth Rotary and Wyoming Rotary Welcome Ukrainian Family

Plymouth Rotary and Wyoming Rotary recently welcomed a young family who have arrived in the United States from Lviv, Ukraine.

The family shared their experience being forced to leave Ukraine, traveling through Poland and Bellarus to arrive here on a special visa where they are allowed to stay for up to two years in the United States.

The Plymouth Rotary Club provided support for this family in the form of local business gift cards.

Pictured are the family's American sponsors: Trish Gallagher, Ken Marquis, John Karavis, Irina and Osman Karimov and daughter, Leila, and Club President Tom Hogan. Cheatley, Rotary President Tom Hogan and Rotarian JK Karavis.



Plymouth Rotary Inducts New Member

Plymouth Rotary recently inducted new member, Debra Popovich. Debra, from Larksville, has operated numerous nursing homes in our area as a director before starting her own home health services company.

She continues to work in the nursing home industry and joins our club as a recognized leader in her industry.

Nominating Debra was member: Loree Levulis. Pictured left is Plymouth Rotary Club, (Right) President Tom Hogan, New Member Debra Popovich, Nominating Member Loree Levulis.



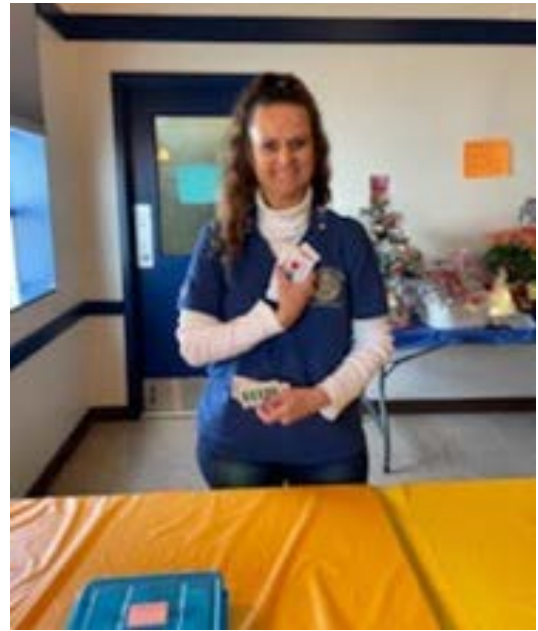
Plymouth Rotary Holds Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Plymouth Rotary Club held it's Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, November 13th, 2022 at the Plymouth American Legion Post 463.

Rotarians put together a delicious feast of spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert all for just \$9.00.



Club President, Tom Hogan, stirs the pot



Mary Jo Charney sells raffles to customers



Debbie Klopotoski dons festive wear to dish out dinners



Ed Karavis, Past President John Karavis, Helen Karavis and Sammy Karavis



Donation to Veterans

Stroudsburgs Rotarians teamed up with Valor in December & we collected men's underwear, and men/women toiletries such as razors, soaps, shaving cream, socks...

Crompton's Big and Tall also donated a brand new corduroy sports jacket for a lucky Veteran.



Donation to Veterans

Stroudsburgs Rotary had their annual Bob Wehe Red Cross Blood Drive at the YMCA in Stroudsburg on Dec 30, 2022. We filled all spots and earned a \$250 gift card for achieving more than 20 collections during the holiday season.

Long time Rotarians Jim and Margie Becker have relocated to South Carolina and have left us with great memories throughout their years of dedicated service to Rotary. They will be greatly missed.





Tunkhannock Elects Officers and Directors

Congratulations to the new Officers and Directors elected on Dec. 1 for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.

Officers:

President – 2023-2024 – Elaine Walker

President (Elect) – 2024-2025 – Ann Way

Vice President – Mary Tempest

Treasurer – Laura Charles

Secretary – Jill Tague (with Sandy Lane – Co-Secretary)

Directors – 2023 – 2024

Mike Markovitz Sr – Immediate Past President

Terri Detrick

Francine Kanyok

Samantha Maruzzelli

John Proctor

Scott Walburn

David Wilson

Ryan Visneski

Rotarians Play Bingo with Seniors

As part of the Club's Program to support senior citizens in Wyoming County, a few Rotarians go to the Wyoming County Active Adult Center to play bingo with the attendees.

Jodi Crimmel, Robin Rome, Patti Ehrenzeller, Samantha Maruzzelli and Mary Tempest go on the second Tuesday of the month after lunch.

Usually there are 20-25 participants, and they play about 20 games with small prizes.



Rotarian Robin Rome (left back at microphone) calling bingo numbers at the Center.

Christmas Gifts for Children

At the Dec 8 Tunkhannock Rotary Luncheon, President Mike Markovitz Sr. presented checks for \$3,000 each to representatives from Interfaith Friends and Wyoming County Children and Youth. Mike was also chair of the Black Friday Candy Cane Day collections with on day coordination of the event provided by his Rotarian son Mike Markovitz, Jr. The \$6,000 was used to buy Christmas gifts for children in need in Wyoming County.

On behalf of Interfaith Friends, Mary Foley thanked the club for this donation and her colleague Carissa Harvey noted that they have 165 registered families with 525 children signed up with Interfaith this year.

John Alunni also thanked the club for all the work that went into setting up this fundraiser. He was very grateful for the donation, particularly due to the current financial climate and increasing costs. As a result of this money, children in their purview “will experience the magic of Christmas”.

This event has been an annual Rotary fundraiser for over 32 years. In exchange for monetary donations, shoppers were offered individually wrapped candy canes as a thank you. The candy canes were generously donated by Northeast Data, Inc.

Over 40 Rotarians, Interactors, family and friends braved the weather on Black Friday to collect donations from generous shoppers at 4 shopping plazas in Tunkhannock. Coffee, donuts and hot cocoa to fuel the collection teams were provided by Dunkin Donuts.

In addition, from the proceeds from the Harvest & Wine Festival, Tunkhannock provided its annual donation for gifts for Children in the Bourger Women with Children Program at Misericordia University.



L to R: Pres. Mike Markovitz with Mary Foley and Carissa Harvey from Interfaith Friends.

L to R: Pres. Mike Markovitz presenting check to John Alunni for Wyoming County Children & Youth.

Christmas Tree in Memory of Norm Werkheiser

This year as part of Christmas in Our Hometown, the Dietrich Theater offered individuals or organizations the space to erect a memorial Christmas tree outside the Theater.

As a result, Rotary members decorated a Christmas tree in memory of long time Rotarian Norm Werkheiser, who passed in Jan 2022 at 95. Some of the ornaments were hand made by members of Norm's family, and many reflected his woodworking skills and military service.



Rotarians decorated a Christmas tree outside the Dietrich Theater in memory of Norm Werkheiser