



# Rotary

## DISTRICT 7330



INTERACT NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2018

## 712019 7305

What do the numbers 712019 and 7305 mean? Well I can answer some of the questions but only time will tell what they mean. On July 1, 2019 District 7330 will cease to exist, we will become District 7305. Why the change, well it all comes down to membership. Our Rotary District (7330) was unable to reach the threshold of 1,100 Rotarians as of September 1, 2018. It is all economics, because of the cost to Rotary International to administer and provide services to the District Leadership. Therefore, our entire District (all seven counties) will be merged with District 7300 which encompasses Allegheny and Southern Beaver Counties. The new District will be known as District 7305.

What does this mean to you as Interactors? It means that your "District" will all of a sudden double the number of Interact Clubs that we currently have. There should be no changes in how you operate your Interact Club. There will no doubt be changes in District activities, some will probably continue and others may cease to exist.

Currently there are committees composed of Rotarians from both affected Districts who are meeting to decide how the merger will work. Rest assured that you and your District (7330) are represented on that transition committee. Stay tuned.



Members of the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club volunteered at Greater Johnstown Elementary school to teach students valuable lessons about business and the community through the Junior Achievement Program.



The Rotary Club of Connellsville recently hosted their Interact Club Officers and Advisor at one of their Meetings. Shown are the Officers and their Advisor along with the Club President.



## LOOKING AHEAD



Deadline for **Cards for Veterans** is Friday, December 7—see Page 3

**Interact Club of the Year Nominations Forms** are due March 31, 2019.



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The Hempfield High School Interact Club recently held a PJ Pants to End Polio Day at the school. Students and faculty donated money and in return they were permitted to wear their pajama bottoms for the day. The event raised \$323 for End Polio Now.



Since its launch in August, the location list for the Read Return Repeat Community Library box initiative has grown longer.

Organizers with the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club said the project – which allows children to pick up a book at several safe locations throughout the area, return it and exchange it for another – has gained popularity in just a few short months.

During a dedication ceremony in August, Interact Club leaders announced a goal of 25 library boxes in Johnstown's neighborhood to house 5,000 donated books.

The club is about halfway to that goal, with four boxes to be installed by the end of this week, according to Brendan Veney, president of the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club.

Those locations are Greater Johnstown Middle School, Beginnings Inc., The Learning Lamp and Roxbury Park Bandshell.

The boxes are currently undergoing winterization, Veney said, and local businesses have been reaching out to adopt boxes at their locations.

"We've been really happy with the feedback," he said.

"I love to see the community come together to make such a project a success. It is important to ensure that every member of the community has easy access to literature that engages and excites them."

The Read Return Repeat Community Library box initiative is interdisciplinary, Veney said, allowing the Interact Club to coordinate the project, engineering students to create and install the boxes and in the future, get art students involved with decorating each location with its own theme.

"There's room for anyone to help," Veney said.

In addition to the books, boxes will include school supplies donated by The Learning Lamp and hygiene items from Fresh Start Soap Pantry. Snacks and other nonperishable items can also be found in many of the boxes. Gloves, coats and hats as part of the club's You Are Not Alone Project will be added as the weather grows colder.

Grant funding is helping to cover the winterization of each box, Veney said, but donations, specifically of children's books, are needed. Book and monetary donations can be accepted at any Greater Johnstown School District building.



**Halloween Food Drive**—The totals are in from our annual Halloween Food Drive that benefited the Somerset Food Pantry and we broke our previous record! The total number of food items collected was 2,647 and the monetary donations were \$119.00. The Somerset Food Pantry was thrilled to get the extra food and donations before the holidays.



**Christmas Cards for Veterans**—Both the elementary and secondary schools participated in the Christmas Cards for Veterans project and close to 1,000 cards have been collected so far.



Articles and pictures for the January 2019 District 7330 Interact Newsletter are due before December 30, 2018. Items can be emailed to Mark Barnhart at [mbarnhar@verizon.net](mailto:mbarnhar@verizon.net).





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The Greensburg Salem Interact Club has had an extremely busy month.

On Tuesday, November 13 they hosted a



fund-raising event in the high school gym as the Harlem Wizards played the Greensburg Salem All Stars, a team made up of teachers and students within the District. Revenue from the event will be used to support Zachary's Mission, that supports families of medically fragile children and for Rotary causes.



Zachary's Mission founder, Patricia Vince, came to GSHS to talk to the Interactors about their "Baby's Firsts" program and taught them how to make Thanksgiving tutus for babies who will be in the hospital for the holidays. The club made 25 tutus to be distributed.



GS Interact was also proud to walk with the Rotary Club of Greensburg and 3rd Grade Rotary Spelling Bee winner, Braydon Legg, in Greensburg's Holiday Parade on November 17th. Almost 20 Interactors spread holiday cheer (with candy, of course!) along the parade route.



Finally, Greensburg Salem is proud to welcome Greensburg Salem Middle School students to the club! The middle school Interactors worked hard at the Wizards event, joined forces to collect cards for Veterans, and will be volunteering at Overly's Country Christmas in December.



Just a last minute reminder that your Cards for Veterans need to be turned in on or before Friday, December 7. Cards can be mailed or dropped off in person. To make arrangements, please contact Mark Barnhart at [mbarnhar@verizon.net](mailto:mbarnhar@verizon.net) or at 724-396-5078.



**From District Governor, Cherie Sears and all of the District Leadership in District 7330 along with all of the District Rotarians**



### Operation Christmas Child - The Brownsville Area Interact Club



packed 18 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Project that ships shoeboxes to children all over the world. The club also paid for the

shipping at \$9 a box.

On Nov. 23, 2018, the Brownsville Area Interact Club helped with the annual community's Light Up Night by assembling and lighting over 500 luminaries throughout Brownsville.



In December, members will be volunteering for the Salvation Army by ringing the bell for the Kettle Campaign on Dec. 1st and Dec. 8th in front of the West Brownsville Wal-Mart.

### DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECT

At the Interact Symposium we talked about a "District Project" for this year but really didn't come up with an idea. We seem to alternate between a project international in scope one year and a project which is local in scope the next year. With that being said, we are looking for a project that is local in scope this Rotary Year.

One suggestion would be to expand on a project that a lot of you are currently doing. In one way or another, a lot of Interact Clubs support their local county's Food Bank by stocking or helping to distribute to those less fortunate.

What about a food drive of non-perishable items for a local emergency food pantry? You would have to identify the emergency food pantries in your community, usually you find them operated by churches, the Salvation Army or other social service agencies. These pantries are for those who find themselves in a food emergency between food bank visits.

If each Interact Club in the District would consider adopting at least one emergency food pantry in their community and then have a non-perishable food drive for their benefit. Each Interact Club would need to keep track of how many items they collect and then we would total all of the items donated all over the District and make the announcement at the District Conference in May.

It would be advisable to make contact with your local emergency food pantry and find out what their particular needs are, sometimes it isn't only food but toilet paper, diapers, paper towels or personal hygiene products.

Do you want to try this as our 2018-2019 District-wide Service Project?

At the November 28 meeting of the Rotary Club of Johnstown the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club presented a check in the amount of \$3,000 to purchase a solar suitcase. This was a surprise to the Rotary Club but not to be outdone, they surprised their Interact President with a Paul Harris Fellow Award. Great job all of you.







The Ligonier Valley Interact Club is excited to celebrate this upcoming holiday season by preparing for several approaching events. In December, Interactors will be visiting our elementary schools to celebrate Polar Express Day, a fun-filled day complete with a Christmas movie, crafts, games, and even reindeer food! In addition, several students in our club will be volunteering to go holiday shopping with the Life Skills students from our middle and high school. Also, throughout the month of November, our club has been collecting money from Interactors to donate to needy families within our district, to guarantee that these students and their families have a great holiday as well!



We have a new Interact Club in District 7330, the Norwin School District Middle School has formed an Interact Club. As of right now they are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Westmoreland as that Rotary Club is sponsoring a new Rotary Club in Irwin. No doubt the sponsorship of the new Interact Club will be transferred to the Rotary Club of Irwin once they are chartered. WELCOME.

