

The See-Way

Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania



Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

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Changing of the Guard



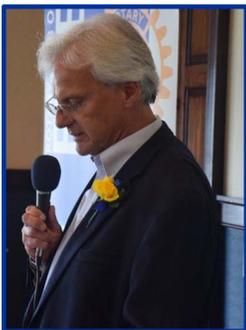
Nineteen Past Presidents attended this year's Changing of the Guard Ceremony:

(Front row): Kathleen Horan 1996-97, Laurie Root 2016-27, Stephanie Williams 2019-20, Norman Stark 1998-99, Lisa Watkins 2010-11, Mary Ellen Dahlkemper 2003-04, Lisa Graff 2018-19

(Second row): Jacob Rouch 2004-05, David Tofel II 2006-07, Brady Louis 1977-78, Ray Sammartino 2005-06, John Stockard 2014-15, Michael Fuhrman 2011-12

(Back row): Richard Brzuz 1994-95, Tom Pysz 2020-21, Mel Witherspoon 1995-96, Dr. John Lilley 1986-87, Dennis Lagan 2017-18, Mark Louis 2008-09

The Rotary Club of Erie held its Annual Changing of the Guard ceremony on July 7, 2021. Past President Tom Pysz gave his farewell address and the official gavel was turned over to new President Diane Chido. Diane presented her vision of where the Rotary Club will be heading during this exciting new year.



Thank you to **Past President Tom Pysz** for great leadership during a global pandemic that prohibited our lunch club from meeting in person for over a year! During his tenure, the Rotary Club of Erie began a long-term relationship with [WQLN Families](#) with a donation of \$2,500. We also purchased new audio-visual equipment to make our hybrid meetings more accessible and seamless.

Thanks also to outgoing **Vice President and Program Chair Maureen Rizzo** for continuing to provide us

Club Leaders

Diane E. Chido
President

Maureen Rizzo
President Elect

Allison Keenan
Vice President and Program Chair

Blane K. Dessy
Secretary

David Mahoney
Treasurer

Tom Pysz
Past President

Years of Service

Albert P. Messina
07-01-1991
30 Years

Karen Burton-Horstman
07-01-1996

25 Years

Michelle Robertson
07-08-1998
23 Years

Maureen Barber-Carey
07-07-2010
11 Years

Chris N. Scott
07-28-2010
11 Years

with interesting speakers in a new virtual environment!



We welcome our new **President Diane Chido** and our new Board of Directors and hope that this leadership team can emulate our club's greatest levels of community and global outreach. They will surely strive to live the Rotary motto of Service Above Self!



2021-22 Rotary Club of Erie Board of Directors

Dr. Garrett Roth (Director), Diane Chido (President), Blane Dessy (Secretary), Allison Keenan (Vice President & Program Chair), Tom Pyzs (Immediate Past President), Dr. Joe Kuvshnikov (Director), Maureen Rizzo (President-Elect), Zac Wild (Director), David Mahoney (Treasurer), *Tatiana Bogatova (Director) absent from photo*



Please plan to join us on Wednesday, July 14 as we gather for our first summer evening of the new Club year for Happy Hour and a beautiful cruise aboard the Victorian Princess as we explore our own Presque Isle Bay!

While Erie Rotarians' passage is covered by the Club, all guests and other members of the community interested in this exciting program are welcome to join us for \$30 per person.

Light snacks, water and soft drinks will be served, along with a cash bar.

- Andrew P. Roth
07-01-2017
4 Years

- Michael A. McCormick
07-29-2019
2 Years

- Bruce Kern Sr.
July 15th

- Robert L. Saunders
July 16th

- Bob Peters
July 16th

- Erinn Dyan Lake
July 17th

- James P. McBrier
July 19th

- David Tofel II
July 25th

Birthdays

To view past issues of *The See-Way* newsletter, please click [HERE](#)

Boarding begins at 5:30 pm and we set sail promptly at 6:00, returning at 7:30 pm.

Please register [HERE](#) by July 12th 2021.

Contact Program Chair Allison Keenan with any questions at afk@erieaudiology.com or 814.881.9714.



Erie Rotary Club Focus on Youth and Education

Rotary Club of Erie founding President William Pitt Gifford said at a September 1914 Board meeting, "The Club is now getting large enough for some activities of public good. Let's get behind several good things and do something for the benefit of the community, for example, the Boy Scouts, Good Roads, or the Grade Crossings. We ought to do something unique in Rotary - something worthwhile. I think the men [sic] of the Rotary Club of Erie can take a hold of anything and put it across." Indeed, our club is capable of great things and our leadership team has a lot of plans for the next three years.

Incoming President Diane Chido, President-Elect Maureen Rizzo and Program Chair & Vice President Allison Keenan have pledged a multi-year effort to maintain support for Youth & Education-based activities, so we do not fall prey to inconsistency that results when each new leadership team reinvents the wheel, Rotary pun intended. With that in mind, the membership will be kept apprised of our plans in detail once they have been fully considered by the Board at our July meeting. As Rotarians, all club members' input on plans and implementation of our continuing and new initiatives are always welcome.



Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Member Spotlights: We will get to know new members by inviting them to introduce themselves to the club when they are presented. We no longer have the standard classification talks, but Zac Wild has agreed to coordinate weekly member spotlights for those *rare occasions* when we are not greeting new members, so we can all get to know each other a little better. Please **contact Zac** zac.wild@edwardjones.com if you are willing to get the ball rolling and give us a 5-10 minute Member Spotlight talk at an upcoming meeting. Zac will provide more information in a future newsletter.

Adding "brags" to meetings: A great way to get to know each other and to raise funds for the Foundation is through weekly "Braggs" where someone goes around taking a dollar from each person who wants to say something. Members can thank the speaker, announce a life event like a graduation or new grandchild, ask the club to have a care for a sick loved one, even give thanks for a pro sports team win. "Braggs" are a staple in many clubs and can be a source of great fun and fellowship.

"People of Action:" Erie Rotary has instituted a new committee called the "People of Action". We will organize or join with other organizations once a month to roll up our sleeves and do something useful in the community. We'll announce these activities in the **See-Way** and at meetings so you can join in when the project interests you or the timing fits your schedule. We have Past President and Area Governor Lisa Graff to thank for this. She leads a new Rotary configuration called a "Satellite Club" out of the Presque Isle Club, which has a similar goal. Please contact **Maureen Rizzo** mrizzo@brevallier.org if you are interested in joining the People of Action Planning Committee.

Committee Participation Opportunities: Rotary provides excellent opportunities to build leadership skills and to serve the community. We have several committees that would benefit greatly from your skills including:

PR & Outreach: Rotary exists to do good in the world. It is important that we not simply do the work but serve as an example in our community. To help spread the messages of *Service Above Self* and the 4-Way Test, Rotarian Joe Haas has volunteered to coordinate our weekly newsletter and manage the content on our website. Vice President & Program Chair will be posting information about upcoming speakers and events to ensure members and the community know about our excellent lunch programs. These are very important forms of service but we also need a robust committee willing to post content on all types of media and proactively take our message to the community to build membership and ensure people can learn what Rotary is all about. To join this committee **contact Lisa Graff** lisamgraff@gmail.com

Membership Development: Our club and Rotary globally lost a number of members as people reconsidered and reconfigured their lives and their incomes through the pandemic. It is the responsibility of all of us to share the message of Rotary with others who may like to join us. As Past District Governor and Past President L.T Briggs and father and grandfather to two Erie Rotarians wrote in 1961, "I like to think of Erie Rotary as a procession of men [sic] starting back there in 1913 with our 28 charter members. As time marches on, older ones drop out of the ranks and younger step into line, infusing new life and vigor into the bloodstream of what would otherwise become a senile and moribund organization. It is my further observation that these younger members are facing greater problems and doing a much better job than we oldsters did in the days of yore."

Just as in 1961, we need more and younger members, so think about someone you might like to mentor, Rotary gives you a framework and an opportunity for doing so. To support Member Development, contact **Diane Chido** dchido@dcanalytics.net.

Ethics Symposium: Beginning in 2011, our signature event that takes place at Mercyhurst University in March. We invite 300 high school students from all the County schools to learn how to put Rotary's 4-Way Test into action whenever they face ethical dilemmas. To support Symposium planning, please contact **Chair Karen Staub** staabpsychserv@gmail.com

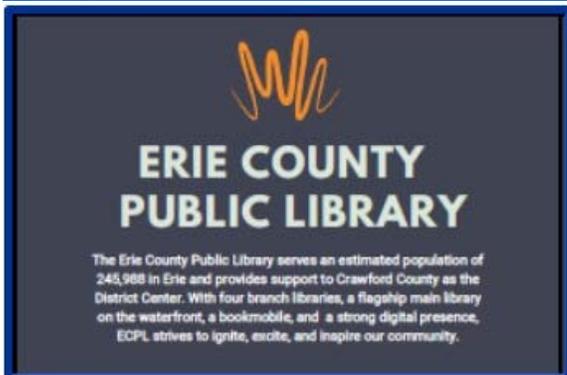
Rotary International Foundation: Rotary has been a force for good in the world since 1905. Its Foundation has been at the forefront of the fight against polio globally and has nearly achieved its goal. Rotary is now pivoting to building peace. The Rotary Club of Erie is a **Peacebuilder club**, pledged to support RI in its seven areas of focus:

- [Peace and conflict prevention / resolution](#)
- [Disease prevention and treatment](#)
- [Water and sanitation](#)
- [Maternal and child health](#)
- [Basic education and literacy](#)
- [Economic and community development](#)
- [Supporting the environment](#)

RI requests giving to support the Foundation by *Every Rotarian Every Year* Every dollar donated counts as one point toward the 1,000 needed to become a Paul Harris Fellow. Rotarians can easily give online and with autopay to make regular donations, rather than waiting for our annual campaign at <https://my.rotary.org/en/rotary-direct> To join our club's Foundation Committee contact **Jim Hynes** JamesHHynes@gmail.com



Erie County Public Library Millcreek Branch Survey



The ECPL is one of our community's greatest resources. Of all the branches in the system, Millcreek is the one most used by patrons.

Currently the location is in the Millcreek Mall complex in a leased space, the lease for which will expire in a couple of years. As the Library plans whether and where to move this branch to ensure continued convenient access but add space and services, it asks all of you to participate in a community survey to help with its decisionmaking process.

Please complete the survey no later than July 14 to have your voice heard on the future of this important resource: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCKBranchPlanning>.