



The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

July 21, 2021

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Guest Speaker

July 21, 2021



Taking a WWII Submarine to Erie for Repairs -- What Could Go Wrong?

A humorous look at the first drydocking of USS COD SS-224 in nearly 60 years by a group of civilians who have never done such a thing. It's aimed at the casual non-ship expert and includes some behind the scenes information that may still be top secret. Or not.

Paul Farace is the president of the USS COD SS-224 Submarine Memorial, a role he has filled since 2012 and caps off a 45-year continuing involvement with what many consider the best historic submarine restoration in the world.

Paul is a former newspaper reporter and technology magazine editor with experience in daily newspapers, as a NASA public information officer, and trade magazines. He is a 1981 graduate of Cleveland State University with a BA in journalism. He holds the Henry Vadanais Award from the Historic Naval Ships Association in curatorship.

When not directly involved with the care, operation and promotion of this National Historic Landmark submarine he's usually asleep. But the 63-year-old will list travel, photography and Italian cooking as his other interests. He is married to Teresa Lazusky, a former resident of Cochran, PA.

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

Melanie R. Titzel
08-23-2000
21 Years

Thomas A. Tupitza
08-27-2003
18 Years

Robert V. Smith
08-18-2004
17 Years

Linda Breakiron
08-25-2010
11 Years



Expressions of Care and Concern for Rotarians



In early June, longtime Rotarian and Past President **Bill Bloomstine** suffered a stroke that has left him with paralysis on his left side. He is currently recuperating at St Mary's Ashbury but anticipates returning home with care as soon as possible. He was in good spirits on Thursday, when President Diane Chido visited and brought him a basket of perennials for his beloved garden on behalf of the club.

Bill appreciates Rotarians' messages of care and support and especially enjoys having visitors. Due to his excellent health otherwise and his deep faith, his prognosis is good, and his patience is growing daily. He has his tablet and plans to tune into our meeting on Wednesday. His email address is william.bloomstine@imcerie.com and he can be reached through St Mary's switchboard at 814-836-5300.

Please also hold Rotarian **Dr. Roy Strausbaugh** in your care as his wife of 60 years, **Rosanna**, is very ill. He too asks for your support. Roy can be reached on Facebook.



Congratulations to Area Governor and Past President Lisa Graff on Achieving PHF+2



Rotary established Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to the professional Ambassadorial Scholarships. Today, the Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

On July 7, our own Past President and current Area Governor, Lisa Graff, received her Paul Harris +2, meaning she has three times given \$1,000 to the Foundation.

Thank you for your generosity, Lisa and for your dedication to Rotary.



Board of Directors July Meeting Summary

On July 12, the Board of Directors met for a very full agenda for its first meeting of the 2021-22 Rotary year. The Board made the following decisions:

- **2021-22 Board Meeting Location**

Janel M. Bonsell
08-15-2012
9 Years

Michael J Malthaner
08-19-2015
6 Years

Robin Scheppner
08-10-2016
5 Years

David Bertges
08-10-2016
5 Years



Click logo for information on the Rotary Foundation

Birthdays

Gery T. Nietupski
August 11th

Robert E. Cronmiller
August 13th

Thomas J. Freeman
August 18th

The Board decided to continue meeting via Zoom only for the rest of the year as it is more convenient for the majority of members. Meeting location will be revisited in December for the following 6 months.

- **New Board Members Approved - Norm Stark & Colin DeVault**

The Board enthusiastically approved the nominations of two new members to replace Beth Zimmer and Tom Giblin, who recently stepped down. Norm Stark is a Past Board Member, Past President and Past Area Governor with a long Rotary historical memory and Colin DeVault is our current Invocation Coordinator. Both new members will provide sound, ethical advice to the Board.

- **New Member Approved - Cassandra Witmer**

The Board approved proposed new member Cassandra Witmer and intends to introduce her to the club at its July 21 meeting

- **Youth & Education Club Focus**

The Board affirmed the Club's new emphasis on Youth & Education as its service mission and Club President Diane Chido expressed her and Maureen Rizzo and Allison Keenan, her next two successors', commitment to institutionalizing this mission and integrating it into the Club's public identity.

- **PeaceJam Ghana**

The Board approved Wisdom Addo's request for continuing funding for his [PeaceJam](#) program as a memorial to our friend Dr. Joyce Miller, a Rotary Peace Fellow. PeaceJam is an annual Youth Leadership Conference built around Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who work with young people to impart their skills, knowledge, and wisdom for community and sustainable development. Wisdom will visit our club in September to give us an update on this program. During its August meeting, the Board will determine whether this will become an recurrent budget item.

- **Gannon Business Student Scholarship**

Gannon Business Student, Janyssa Berrios, approached the club for support for her planned study abroad program. Due to hardships imposed by COVID-19, Janyssa was unable to maintain her 4.0 last year as required for an Honors Scholarship she had been counting upon.

The Board approved \$500 for Janyssa's trip and Director Dr. Joe Kuvshnikov will take the lead in discussion with the Gannon Business School, Honors College, and our club's Scholarship Foundation to make this an annual scholarship for a worthy local student. Janyssa will attend an upcoming club meeting to tell us about her plans and will check in with our meetings periodically via Zoom to apprise us of her progress.

- **Merida, Mexico Nueva Vida School International Project**

The Board approved a request of \$1,000 from native Erieite, David Keelan, a graduate of St Mark's Seminary and Gannon University, who is now a member of the [Merida Mexico Rotary Club](#). David approached us to support installation of solar panels on the roof the Nueva Vida pre-school and daycare center in that city. The project will enhance electricity availability and enable the school to sell back excess power generation to the Mexican grid, providing sustained income for school programming.

Upcoming Speakers:

July 28th

Laura Domencic,
Executive Director
[Erie Art Museum](#)

August 11th

Richard G. Tote, District
Governor [Rotary District
7280](#)

August 18th Brenda
Sandberg, Executive
Director
[Erie-Western PA Port
Authority](#)

Sept 1st

Sean Fedorko, Co-
Founder
[Radius CoWork](#)

This school is a member of the [Erie Diocese Mission of Friendship](#), so through this strong local connection we hope to begin a new long-term international program like the one we had in Les Cayes, Haiti that lasted over 10 years until it became self-sustaining.

Indira Suarez, Director of Diocesan and International Missions, will join us at an upcoming meeting to tell us about the Mission's mission and how our contribution will further its efforts to provide education. David will also be able to provide us live video updates on project progress and show us clearly the value of our investment. David contributed this article to the [Yucatan Magazine](#) describing his journey to Mexico and his commitment to the school.

• Laptop Purchase

President Diane Chido reported that she had purchased a Club laptop to be used for weekly presentations. A/V Guru Clarke Kuebler had been bringing his personal laptop each week, but this has proven cumbersome. The Board had allocated \$1000 for the purchase, but the laptop only cost \$219 plus tax and MS Office subscription.



Opportunities for Rotarians to Serve on Committees

We are still looking for Rotarians to serve on our club committees. Details on committee responsibilities were provided in the [July 14 newsletter](#). Contact information for each committee:

- **People of Action:** Maureen Rizzo mrizzo@brevillier.org
- **PR & Outreach:** Lisa Graff lisamgraff@gmail.com
- **Membership Development:** Diane Chido dchido@dcanalytics.net
- **Ethics Symposium:** Chair Karen Staub staabpsychserv@gmail.com
- **Rotary International Foundation:** Jim Hynes JamesHHynes@gmail.com



Introducing the 2021-22 RI President



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



Meet the new Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehti and his wife, Rashi.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based nonprofit focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50,000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and some African countries and that is now an India-wide program.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based nonprofit focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50,000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and some African countries and that is now an India-wide program.

Read all about them here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/meet-rotarys-new-president-shekhar-mehta>