



# The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

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## COVID-19 Update: Masks Required for Indoor Mtgs

*Our weekly in-person meetings require masking when not eating lunch or speaking at the podium and are also streamed live via Zoom.*

*Join our meeting online with this [link](#).*

*Meeting ID: [865 2253 0793](#) Passcode: 1424*



## Guest Speaker

**This week - Presque Isle Celebrates 100 years: John Demarco Executive Director of the Presque Isle Partnership**



Jon DeMarco is the executive director of an organization of great importance to most residents of Erie, the tri-state area and beyond.

Jon had always had a love of Presque Isle, with the outdoors in his blood along with his hunting and fishing. He began his affiliation with the park by volunteering to sell buttons for the mid-summer festival known as Discover Presque Isle for two years.

Jon has always been active and in love with the outdoors. At OLC Elementary (now St Jude's), Jon was active in tennis and ski club, activities he took with him to

Cathedral Prep. A member of the National Honor Society, he graduated in 2007 and majored in accounting at Penn State.

While working on his MBA in Business at Gannon, he started interning for the Presque Isle Partnership (PIP), becoming instrumental in the Frostbite Open winter golf tournament and further expansion of Discover Presque Isle.

Working with PIP executive director Steve McDermott, he helped in planning and expansion of other events and office administration. Upon McDermott's sudden and untimely passing in 2014, the search for a new director didn't go far, as it was quickly evident that Jon was the perfect candidate. In May 2014, just before the start of the Summer Concert Series, Jon was offered the position, which he accepted.

## Club Leaders

**Diane E. Chido**  
President

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**Maureen Rizzo**  
President-Elect

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**Allison Faye Keenan**  
Vice President  
Club Programs Chair

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**Blane K. Dessy**  
Secretary

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**David Mahoney**  
Treasurer

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**Tom Pysz**  
Past President

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**Lisa M. Graff**  
Assistant Governor

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**Joe Haas**  
Greeter - August 25th

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**Mark Louis**  
Invocation - August 25th

Jon is now in his seventh year leading the partnership through a busy yearly calendar that includes Discover Presque Isle (now in its 30th year), and the Summer Concert Series (this is year 14), plus numerous other events that include (but are not limited to) the Lake Erie Luau, the Presque Isle Triathlon, the Frostbite Open and the Presque Isle Poker Paddle.

**Area Governor Lisa Graff** will introduce Jon at our August 25th meeting.



## Welcome New Member - Tom New



Tom is the Executive Director of WQLN, our local public broadcasting station. Our club recently gave \$2,500 to the station's WQLN Families program under the leadership of longtime WQLN program anchor and Immediate Past Club President Tom Pysz.

We are so pleased to have Tom as our newest Rotary Club of Erie member. I know we will all make him feel welcome.



## Welcome Returning Member - Jim McEldowney



Jim is the Chief Operating Officer & Executive Director of the YMCA of Greater Erie, where he has worked for most of his career. Before the pandemic, Jim had been an active member of our club for just shy of 10 years. He also served for three years on the Scholarship Board of Trustees and for another three as Board President.

Please welcome Jim and express your condolences when he joins us on September 15 for the recent devastating loss of his 17-year-old daughter, Elise. Jim says "Coming home to my Rotary family will be a big help in getting through this difficult time. I really look forward to seeing everyone."

Welcome home, Jim!!



## Meeting Recap - August 18th

### Meeting Recap: Brenda Sandberg, Executive Director of the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority

Brenda Sandberg, Executive Director of the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port

## 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

Janel M. Bonsell  
08-15-2012  
9 Years

Michael J Malthaner  
08-19-2015  
6 Years

Robin Schepchner  
08-10-2016  
5 Years

David Bertges  
08-10-2016  
5 Years

Authority, joined us at our August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the industrial, community, and commercial assets held by the Port Authority.

As the first woman to hold the directorship in Erie, Brenda has a unique skill set which has been advantageous to the continued development of these

assets and is responsible for the leasing and/or operation of roughly 475 acres of property being utilized in a variety of industrial, recreational, and commercial uses along Erie's Bayfront.

The Port Authority owns, manages, and operates numerous facilities along Erie's Bayfront District such as Perry's Landing Marina, Liberty Park, Bicentennial Tower, Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair, Lampe Marina and Lampe Campground.

Port Authority holdings and projects have a significant economic impact on our region, providing over 750 jobs and over \$63 million in business revenue. As important is the recreational impact it facilitates, with over 1,000 boating slips located on Authority properties and numerous community assets, including campgrounds, bike trails and public concert events.

Brenda's work is a wonderful contribution to the great quality of life that we are able to enjoy in Erie!



*Sergeant-At-Arms Penny Mechley Porter, Port Authority Executive Director Brenda Sandberg, President-Elect Maureen Rizzo, and Vice President & Program Chair Allison Keenan*

## Birthdays

Thomas J. Freeman  
August 18th

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## Member Spotlight

### Club Director Jim Hynes



Jim gave a humorous introduction of his background as a CPA with various Erie firms that mysteriously seemed to decide to relocate as soon as he joined their staff. Jim has spent about 6 years in total working and living apart from his family over the years, but we are pleased to note that his current employer, Swanson Erie, thus far has no intentions of transplanting him anytime soon.

Jim is a Rotary Club of Erie Board of Directors member and is currently leading our Foundation Committee. Get in touch with Jim if you want to learn more and help out this committee at [JamesHHynes@gmail.com](mailto:JamesHHynes@gmail.com).

As an aside, Jim's wife, Jane, a longtime Erie teacher, was your President's 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Sadly for me, however, she had my older brother, Tom, ten years earlier in her first student teaching class and he remains one of her all-time favorite pupils to this day!



Thank you, Jim, for a great addition to our weekly meeting program!



## People of Action: Volunteer with EC3PA



Our club Secretary, Blane Dessy, now Operations Director with the new community college, has requested our help as their admissions staff works feverishly to open the school for classes by September 1. Blane asks that Rotarians volunteer to call some of the 400 applicants to remind them to send in additional materials.

Each Rotarian would make brief telephone calls to remind prospective students to send items to an EC3PA email address. College staff will develop a script to be used and will provide the names and numbers to be called. If you are interested, please email Blane at [bdessy@ec3pa.org](mailto:bdessy@ec3pa.org).



## People of Action: McKinley Red Carpet Welcome August 30th - 7:30am - 8:30am

McKinley Elementary School is known for kicking off the new school year with their Red Carpet Event. That morning students are met with a red carpet, and cheered on by their families, teachers and staff, and other partners and friends (from Edinboro University, Erie Rotary Club, and others). The Red Carpet welcomes students back for the new year and shows community support for the school.

The event takes place on **August 30, at McKinley Elementary School-933 East 22nd Street, Erie, PA from 7:30-8:30 am**. Contact Past President Dr. Stephanie Williams with questions: [swilliams@edinboro.edu](mailto:swilliams@edinboro.edu)



Rotarians welcome McKinley students in 2019



## Kittanning Rotary Celebrates 100 Years!

Mike McElhaney, aka **Big Mike**, of the Kittanning Rotary Club informs us that his club is celebrating 100 years of service this year. You will remember Mike's talk last year about the clean water projects he does in Guatemala.

As part of this celebration, the Kittanning club is hosting an



Anniversary Steak Fry, September 10, 2021, 6:00pm at Rood's Riviera on the Allegheny River. If you will be in their neck of the woods, please consider attending.

As part of the 100th Anniversary, the Kittanning Rotary Club is:

- Providing 100 Thanksgiving meals to families in need in cooperating with the Salvation Army and Sprankles Neighborhood Market.
- Donating and planting 100 trees as part of the Inclusive Adventure playground in Kittanning in cooperation with the RGS YMCA and Armstrong Habitat for Humanity.

Please consider having your Rotary Club or your business sponsor this event. Each sponsor level also includes event tickets so that your Rotary leaders and families can join us that evening. Contact your President for the sponsorship form: [dchido@dcanalytics.net](mailto:dchido@dcanalytics.net). Contact Big Mike with any questions: [armstronghabitat@gmail.com](mailto:armstronghabitat@gmail.com)

Welcome to the 100-Year-Old Club club, Kittanning!!!



## Haiti Update - Earthquake Disaster Recovery Fund



Survivors of the earthquake that killed nearly 2,000 people in Haiti need food, shelter and medical care as search and rescue efforts resumed after a tropical storm lashed the Caribbean nation with rain, causing dangerous flooding.

The worst affected part of the country includes Les Cayes, a city where Erie Rotarians led a decade-long literacy program and many visited the Les Cayes Rotary Club.

Quake damage to several major hospitals has hampered humanitarian efforts, and doctors in makeshift tents outside are battling to save the lives of the many injured, including young children and the elderly. But they can not help them all.

In response, District 7020 has set up a Disaster Recovery Fund. The fund is managed by Rotary's DNA-RAG Rotarian Action Group, a 501(c)3, #[47-3860087](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=ESJ9N2CASADV2).

### Ways to Donate

By Credit Card or PayPal: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=ESJ9N2CASADV2](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=ESJ9N2CASADV2)

By Check:

Payable to: DNA-RAG Send to: PDG Phil Lustig, 11015 Via Lucca, Boynton

Beach, FL 33437

Ensure payee instructions entered for: ◆District 7020 Haiti Earthquake Fund◆  
and include Donor's Name

For further information on District 7020 contact: District 7020 Disaster Chair:  
Haresh Ramchandani Email: [7020relief@gmail.com](mailto:7020relief@gmail.com)

