



# The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

September 1, 2021

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***Our weekly in-person meetings require masking when not eating lunch and are also streamed live via Zoom. Join our meeting online with this [link](#). Meeting ID: 865 2253 0793 Passcode: 1424***



## Guest Speaker

### Welcome Dr. Christopher Gray, Founding President, EC3PA



Dr. Chris Gray, Founding President of Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania is an educator, artist, and community advocate.

He has taught speech and theatre in higher education for twenty years and is active in community and regional theatre. Chris holds a Master's degree in theatre and a PhD in Educational Administration and Foundations with a research area of Theatre Assessment. Chris is a graduate of, and a firm believer in the community college.

Dr. Gray's professional focus has been strengthening regional ecosystems by building workforces. Connecting local business and industry needs to students interested in high-paid, in-demand careers enhances the entire community. Chris believes in the power of collaboration between community colleges, business, and civic partners to shape local economic development. Dr. Gray is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and is certified in Baldrige systems.

Dr. Gray serves his community through service to local Chambers of Commerce, church involvement, and other civic organizations. Dr. Gray is an arts advocate who has served on numerous boards including Williams Street Repertory (equity theatre), ArtsPartners of Central Illinois, Live Theatre League of Greater Peoria, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, and Corn Stock Theatre.

Chris led an effort to develop an Arts and Culture Plan for the Peoria Region as part of a Housing and Urban Development grant. Chris also gives back to his community through involvement through numerous volunteer and service opportunities including volunteering at Hannah Beardsley Middle School,

## 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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Hooked on Fishing, Boy Scouts, WCHS Band Boosters, and serving as a judge for IHSA Speech and Drama competitions.

Dr. Gray will be introduced by Rotarian Blane Dessy, Rotary Club of Erie Secretary and Operations Director for the EC3PA.



## People of Action - Call to Action!

### Erie Rotary Challenge to Support Shelter Box's Emergency Efforts in Haiti

Every year, our club gives \$500 to support Shelter Box. This organization is heavily involved in providing emergency aid to people affected by the recent earthquake in Haiti. As a result, **Area Governor Lisa Graff** urged the Club's Board of Directors to consider a challenge to the club to donate \$1000, over and above the \$500 currently designated in our annual budget.

To raise the \$1000, Lisa proposed that the Board challenge the membership is challenged to donate \$500 collectively that would be matched with an additional \$500 from the club. The Board enthusiastically agreed to the proposal and showed its heartfelt concern for the people of Haiti. Lisa herself has pledged the first \$100 to this fund.



If our club and members commit to a collective \$1000, our club can be recognized as a Rotary Shelter Box HERO (and be a hero to the families you help as well)!

Please make your checks out to Rotary Club of Erie and indicate **Shelter Box-Haiti** on the memo line. Checks can be given to **Treasurer David Mahoney** at our meeting on September 1 or mail them to Rotary Club of Erie PO Box 1424 Erie, PA 16512-1424 by September 8.

Thank you in advance for your generous support, Rotarians!

## Years of Service

James P. McBrier  
09-01-1992  
29 Years

David M. Lastowski  
09-01-1995  
26 Years

Brenda Warner  
09-23-1998  
23 Years

Joseph P. Herbert  
09-27-2006  
15 Years

Joseph T. Kuvshnikov  
09-12-2012  
9 Years

Derek Sieber  
09-19-2012  
9 Years

Linda J Moore  
09-18-2013  
8 Years

Edward J. Curtin  
09-23-2015  
6 Years

Julie Cella  
09-30-2015  
6 Years

Michael Garrett Roth  
09-30-2015  
6 Years

Korin Giles  
09-18-2016  
5 Years

Nicholas Cianci  
09-11-2017



## Congratulations to Laurie Root



United Way of Erie County's Board of Directors announced on August 25 that **Rotary Club of Erie Past President Laurie B. Root** has been promoted to President and Chief Professional Officer.

Since 2014, Laurie served as Senior Vice President at United Way. From 2010 to 2014 she served as Vice President of Investor Relations. Prior to 2010, Laurie served in many high-profile positions in both the for-profit and non-profit areas in Washington, DC.

She is the recipient of the 2016 Women Making History award from the Mercy Center for Women, the 2015 Women's Roundtable Woman of the Year Award, as well as the 2013 ATHENA Leadership Award. Laurie also serves on several boards.

Be sure to congratulate Laurie!!!!



## Meeting Recap - August 25th

### John Demarco Executive Director of the Presque Isle Partnership



**Area Governor Lisa Graff** introduced Jon DeMarco at our August 25th meeting.

Jon DeMarco, Executive Director for the Presque Isle Partnership, joined the Rotary Club of Erie as the featured speaker. He was introduced by Lisa Graff, Area Governor.

Jon shared a bit of the Partnership's long and storied history and traced his own journey in joining and steering its path over his past seven years. In 2009, Jon joined the Partnership as an intern and worked organizing many of the Partnership's projects. It was in 2013 that he was hired by the Partnership as Events Coordinator. He worked with Steve McDermott and followed him as Executive Director in 2014.

Over the years, the Partnership's mission of helping improve the park has been accomplished by completing over 170 projects including Best Summer Night Concerts on the beach, constructing a natural playground, holding an annual bay swim, and many more.

4 Years

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Allison Faye Keenan  
09-15-2017  
4 Years

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Charlotte Rerko  
09-21-2017  
4 Years



Hearing Jon's presentation was a wonderful way to learn about the collaborative efforts of the PIP and its meaningful contributions to ensure the enjoyment of Presque Isle for our local residents and the many visitors to our region!

Jon gave us a tour of the Partnership's beautiful new website and outlined all of the things the group does to maintain and improve Presque Isle, our greatest asset, in partnership with the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Their current fundraiser is a new "Chip in for Presque Isle" program to help raise funds for improvement projects at the Park.



During the last full weekend of the month, May - September, thier donation outpost will be set up at Sturgeon Bay parking lot on Presque Isle. They'll be collecting donat ions and in return for your gift, you'll receive a special Wood Chip keepsake. Each wood chip is marked with a unique number. When you register this number using the registration link above, you'll be automatically entered to win monthly Presque Isle themed gift packages and a grand prize drawing of \$1000 cash now through September 2021.

And to make things even sweeter (pun intended), your Wood Chip comes complete with a coupon redeemable for a FREE ice cream or yogurt at Sara's Restaurant.



Our speakers are asked to sign and leave a note of affirmation in the front of a book to be donated to the **McKinley Elementary library**. The school gave us a list of requested books and we try to match one up to the topic of each program as much as possible. Not sure who will fit with *Captain Underpants*, however

This week's book was *Same Sun Here* by Silas House & Neela Vaswani, signed by Jon

## Birthdays

J. Clarke Kuebler  
September 4th

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Linda Breakiron  
September 8th

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Karen K. Tyler  
September 12th

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Chris N. Scott  
September 16th

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Gary Flick  
September 16th

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Michael J Malthaner  
September 17th

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Jacob Rouch  
September 18th

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Penny Mechley-Porter  
September 18th

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Carl Bruce Kern II  
September 20th

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Korin Giles  
September 24th

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Diane E. Chido  
September 25th

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Andrew P. Roth  
September 30th



DeMarco. Last week's book was Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, signed by Port Authority Executive Director Brenda Sandberg.

# Member Spotlight

## Club Director Colin DeVault



Colin has been a member of our Rotary Club since February 2019. He is a member of the Board of Directors and this year's Invocation Coordinator. He is also a big help to your President and always says "Absolutely!" when asked to lend a hand.

Colin has been a member of numerous Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, as the Salvation Army has moved him and his family as his talents are needed. He currently serves as this area's Corps Commanding Officer. Colin kindly noted that our club is the most vibrant and has the warmest fellowship of any of the clubs to which he has belonged in his travels.

Colin is also working on his Doctorate in Theology and studies biblical languages. Most importantly, Colin is a musician and has played brass in Salvation Army bands all over the United States and many places overseas.

This will be his last Salvation Army posting before retiring. Let's convince him that Erie needs him more than anywhere else and get him and his wife, Brenda, to settle here permanently.

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

# People of Action: EC3PA Thanks Erie Rotary

EC3PA Thanks Erie Rotary for Support in Contacting Prospective

## Students



**ERIE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PA

Last week Rotarians answered the call to serve when **Secretary Blane Dessy** asked for help making phone calls on behalf of the Community College to prospective students requesting they send various pieces of information in order to complete their applications.

Thank you to everyone who aided this effort to ensure that all these prospective new students will be able to contribute to our local community development through this innovative educational opportunity!



## Rotary Foundation 50/50 Drawing Winner



### August 25th Winner: Karen Staab

As 2021-22 Ethics Symposium Chair, Karen pledged to give her winnings to that fund