



The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

October 6, 2021

Vol 2021

No. 50

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

Dr. Tyler Titus, Democratic Candidate for Erie County Executive



Dr. Tyler Titus is a mental health professional, small business owner, and the President of the Erie School Board.

Over the past 15 years, through their work at the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and as a full-time therapist for youth in the foster system, Dr. Titus has developed a nuanced understanding of how intergenerational poverty, neglect, abuse, and violence impacts families and communities.

Dr. Titus has built their career on helping others, and now they're running for Erie County Executive to take that work to county government. You can read more about Tyler's campaign [here](#).

Rotarian and Past Club President, Dr. Melanie Titzel, will introduce Dr. Titus.



Meeting Recap: September 29th



Edinboro University was founded in 1857 as the Edinboro Academy, a private training school for Pennsylvania teachers. The school was funded and governed by the citizens of Edinboro, PA, who paid just \$200 for one acre and \$3,200 to construct its lone two-story, six-room building,

Club Leaders

Diane E. Chido
President

Maureen Rizzo
President-Elect

Allison Keenan
Vice President
Club Programs Chair

Blane K. Dessy
Secretary

David Mahoney
Treasurer

Tom Pysz
Past President

Lisa M. Graff
Area Governor

Stephanie Williams
Oct 6th - Greeter

Colin DeVault
Oct 6th - Invocation

which still stands on EU's campus as the remodeled Academy Hall.

Now, Edinboro University is one of Pennsylvania's most distinguished centers of learning and research. Acclaimed artists, medical professionals, Disney and Pixar animators and leaders in business, education, criminal justice, and many other fields have built the foundations of their success at EU.

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson serves as Interim President of Edinboro and California Universities and President of Clarion University. She also serves as lead for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Western Integration of California, Clarion and Edinboro into one university. Despite the challenges of maintaining a presence on all three campuses (which includes attending as many of the various campus' sporting events as her schedule permits!), she still finds the time and energy to pursue her love of bicycling and regularly logs at least 100 miles per week.

Dr. Dale brings a dynamic "get it done" attitude and a forward-thinking personality to her work and our region. She is a welcome recent addition to our community!

Rotarian Dr. Susanna Merwin provided a heartfelt introduction to Dr. Dale.

Member Spotlight

Member Spotlight: Club Secretary Blane Dessy



Blane moved to Erie after a long career in the Federal government, most recently with the Library of Congress, expecting to relax and sit on his porch. However, Erie had other plans for Blane. He soon was named Executive Director of the Erie County Library System until his retirement in May 2021.

Ready for the porch, it had to wait again, as he was quickly called back to service as the Operations Director for the Erie County

Community College (EC3PA). This was a frenetic opportunity to get all the personnel, policies, procedures, programs and any other Ps you can think of, up and running in only three short months by September 1. Blane and a small team got the job done and the College welcomed its first cohort of 200 new students on time.

Blane has been a member of our club for just under two years and has become indispensable in that time, taking on the role of Secretary under the tutelage of Past Secretary Clarke Kuebler. While this position is currently a lot

Years of Service

Melvin Witherspoon
10-01-1980
41 Years

Samuel P. Black III
10-09-1996
25 Years

Lisa A. Watkins
10-16-2002
19 Years

Jack Daneri
10-13-2010
11 Years

Lori Barber
10-13-2010
11 Years

Brian W. Gorman
10-20-2010
11 Years

Lisa M. Graff
10-10-2012
9 Years

James H. Hynes
10-15-2014
7 Years

Karen K. Tyler
10-28-2015
6 Years

Marc Turner
10-01-2017
4 Years

of work as we rebuild our systems post-COVID-19, Blane enjoys his service to our club, enjoys reading the Rotarian Magazine to mine for ideas we might put into practice, and looks forward to continuing to serve our community.



Register for District #7280 Fall Workshop

Register for District #7280 Fall Workshop
- Saturday, October 6, 9am-3pm in Clarion, PA

Fall workshops are a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians to learn from District leaders and other Rotarians in our District and exchange ideas on how we can share our Rotary experiences and become more connected to our clubs, communities, and the world.

I always enjoy the opportunity to get to know other Rotarians and find out what service projects they are doing to serve their communities, and how they find and keep new members. I always come back energized and even more excited about Rotary and its possibilities.

This year's topics of discussion include

- One Rotary Summit
- Youth Exchange
- Rotary Peace Builder
- DACdb
- Shelter Box
- Rotaract/Interact
- My Rotary
- RYLA/ROVA
- Anti-Bullying/Trauma Ed.
- Rotary Club Central

We'll also learn more about the 2022 District Conference and the 2022 RI Convention in Houston Texas. District Foundation Awards earned by individual clubs.

Registration closes on October 3, so please let me know if you are interested in joining me and Red Ribbon Coordinator Tania Bogatova at dchido@dcanalytics.net.

I will drive and we can carpool with up to two more Rotarians. The ride is half the fun, just ask Area Governor Lisa Graff, who has had the thrill of me behind the wheel more than once - now you know why her hair is so curly!!

Birthdays

Maureen Rizzo
October 2nd

Gregory A. Loop
October 3rd

Robin Scheppner
October 4th

Mark B. Louis
October 11th

Brenda Bennett
October 13th

Melanie R. Titzel
October 14th

Michael Garrett Roth
October 15th

Linda L. Stevenson
October 17th

Nathan Koble
October 17th



Rotary Promotes Community-Based Organization Events

ROTARIANS AT WORK *having fun*

Please send any information about events other organizations you serve with to be included in our weekly newsletter to dchido@dcanalytics.net.

These can include fundraisers we might like to support, service opportunities Rotarians can

participate in, and events that we would enjoy participating in.

We are happy to promote opportunities for service and fun!!



It's Fall Pledge Time at WQLN

LISTEN



LEARN

IT'S PLEDGE TIME - RIGHT NOW!
Help us raise \$75,000

See WQLN's [website](#) for details on how to [donate](#), [participant gifts](#) and special opportunities for matching funds and other important announcements. Our Club supports this important regional educational asset with a \$2,500 gift for its WQLN Families program. This allows us to support its programming and

includes public service announcements informing the community about our support for Youth & Education.



Update from Roy Strausbaugh



An update on Rosanna and Roy, and this part of our journey in life

Rosanna remains and will remain in Forestview Skilled Nursing Center, 2121 Edinboro Road, Erie PA, 16505, USA. She is stable, but cannot walk. It is a good place with some maddening elements. It has its elements

that remind one of college dorm

restrictions before 1968. She does complain about the food - in a sense that is good. Most of the aids are great. Intellectually she is doing fine, but of course can be down at times - as am I. She does enjoy the cards of encouragement, love, and thoughts that she receives.

As for us as a couple, we decided to leave our home known to our Brit friends as "Rose Cottage" on South Shore Drive here in Erie. As a result, a realtor was found, the house listed and while a week of madness with twenty-three showings in three days and then more, a proposal was made, accepted and we anticipate all will go well on the closing date - Oct 19th. Have not been through that process in thirty years - so much to it. The same day of closing, a diminished amount of our furniture, possessions and pictures and "stuff" with great memories will be moved into the apartment at Springhill that I will occupy.

If you are not familiar with Springhill, Springhill is a senior living community with "continuum of care". My apartment is independent living. I will have my car, can do essentially what I want - but with a support system of nursing assistance, food services, a pool, workout center, etc. and emergency response. Continuum of care provides me, if I were (more likely when) to need it, assisted living as well as skilled nursing care where Rosanna is, that will be available to me. With no family here in Erie, this makes sense to us.

My days have been very busy and am tired when I hit the bed - with not a little bit stress. Being alone in the house, without Rosanna, has been daunting, I am sure you can appreciate that. This gives you some sense of the pressure of the enterprise. Sale, pack, and now notifying utilities, etc. Prayerfully, I will have less stress, be close to Rosanna and have a safety net for me when I get to Springhill.

We will celebrate our sixtieth wedding anniversary on December 29th - so while this part of the journey is difficult, we are still together with great memories that have included you. That is the fifty-cent version of what is going on in our lives. We both enjoy getting communications from you - be it text, email, Facebook, Messenger, and snail mail. I will be living at: Apartment 380, Springhill, 2323 Edinboro Road, Erie, PA 16509, USA. Cell and land line phone numbers remain the same. Rosanna and I appreciate your care and thoughtful messages and all the memories we have made with you and many others.

Roy