

The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

November 10, 2021

Vol 2021

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If you plan to attend our weekly meetings in person, please RSVP to Program Chair Allison Keenan so we can help the Sheraton prepare for the right-sized crowd.

Our in-person meetings require masking when not eating lunch and are also streamed live via Zoom using this [link](#).

Meeting ID: 865 2253 0793 Passcode: 1424

Guest Speaker

District Governor Rick Tote



DG Rick is kind enough to make the trip to visit our club for a second time this Rotary year. His first visit to our SeaWolves baseball game was rained out and he wanted to make sure he provided a full account of the supporting resources the District can offer us to enhance our Membership, PR & Outreach, and RI Foundation programs and to have a chance to meet as many Erie Rotarians as possible.

DG Rick grew up surrounded by a large extended family and graduated from high school in his hometown of Punxsutawney in 1974. He attended Penn State University and graduated with a degree in Engineering Technology with a Major in Land Surveying.

After college, Rick began working at General Engineering Associates in Clarion, PA, which was acquired by The EADS Group (a multi-disciplined engineering firm) in 1980. With EADS he became a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in Pennsylvania and in Ohio, as well as a major shareholder and an Associate of the Company. The CEO of EADS first introduced Rick to Rotary, and he joined the Clarion Rotary Club in 2001.

Rick has served the Clarion Rotary Club as President, RI Foundation Chair, Auction Fund Raiser Chair, and continues to serve on various committees and the Board of Directors. Rick has also represented our District in the Jackson Christie Golf Exchange (see more on this below) both in Scotland, and as a host here in District 7280.

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

Rick has been active in other organizations over the years including Little League baseball, Knights of Columbus, Clarion Limestone Booster Club, and Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors. He is immediate past president of the Pinecrest Country Club, a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, Serves on the WRC Board. He was also recognized as the ♦Citizen of the Year♦ by the Clarion County Chamber of Commerce in 2010 for his volunteer work including the construction coordination of a Multi Sports Complex at Clarion Limestone High School.

District Governor Rick will be introduced to our membership by **Club President Diane Chido**.



Please Send Your Electronic Proxy Votes on Bylaws

To update our eligibility for Emeritus Membership and to streamline our processes for accepting new members and making amendments, the Board has approved changes to the Club Bylaws.

We have tried to complete the membership vote for three weeks but last week missed a quorum of 40 attendees by one. In order to get these passed, please email your proxy ♦Yea♦ or "Nay♦ vote on the slate of proposed changes to Club Secretary

Blane Dessy (bdessy@gmail.com) with a cc to President Diane Chido (dchido@dcanalytics.net) **no later than Tuesday, November 16**.



People of Action: Urgent Aid for Afghan Refugees Coming to Erie

We all saw the heartrending scenes of desperate people trying to fly out of the Kabul airport after the Taliban takeover. The US expects to resettle 50,000 Afghans and their families who gave direct support to our troops over the pasts 20 years of war.



Dylanna Grasinger, Executive Director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Field Office Erie, locally known as the International Institute of Erie, says they are expecting up to 125 Afghan refugees, likely by the end of this year. Rotarian Joe Haas just recently left Catholic Charities Counseling & Adoption Services (CCCAS), the only other resettlement agency in Erie, and he reports that they were likewise expecting to resettle about 125 Afghan refugees this year.

This is a LOT of people to settle with new homes, jobs, furnishings, clothing and all the necessities of life we take for granted. If you were forced to leave

Years of Service

David J. Murphy
11-01-1979
42 Years

Jacob Andrew Rouch
11-01-1994
27 Years

Robert H. H. Allhouse
11-01-1995
26 Years

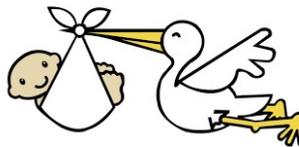
Mark B. Louis
11-03-1999
22 Years

Phyllis McCracken
11-21-2001
20 Years

John P. Stockard
11-12-2003
18 Years

your home, perhaps forever, with only a few hours ⚡ notice, what would you pack in a single bag?

One of our refugees is expecting a baby this month, so there are specific needs as you might imagine! If you have or know anyone with extra baby supplies, please let your President know.



- Urgent needs include:
 - Winter clothes (hats, gloves, coats ⚡ all sizes)
 - Winter gear (shovels, umbrellas, car scrapers)
- Ongoing Needs include:
 - Rugs, curtains
 - Hygiene products (full-sized shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste, etc.)

If you have or can obtain any of these, please bring them to our Rotary meetings on November 10 and 17 or contact President Diane for delivery assistance of any larger items at dchido@dcanalytics.net.

USCRI-Erie also has an **Amazon Wishlist** that makes donating specific items quick and easy:

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GYML3IG1DHD6/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

If you ever have questions or concerns about how the refugee resettlement process works here in Erie, and you'd like to learn more about it, please feel free to ask Joe at a meeting or email him at jhaas@mpslakers.com.

Meeting Recap: November 3rd

Yuriy Ostapyak, COO and Director of Global Operations, Logistics Plus



We welcomed Yuriy Ostapyak, COO and Director of Global Operations, Logistics Plus, as our speaker for the November 3rd Rotary weekly meeting.

Yuriy ⚡s visit to our club was a bit of a homecoming, as he ⚡d been an Erie Rotary Exchange Student from Ukraine twenty years ago in high school and went on to earn his

B.A. in International Business and Marketing from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2004.

One of Yuriy's professors referred him to **Rotarian Jim Berlin**, owner of Logistics Plus, upon graduation. Yuriy recounted his interview experience ⚡dressing his best to impress ⚡ only to be greeted by the CEO himself in a T shirt and construction boots. This inauspicious start led to a long and wonderful career with Logistics Plus and Yuriy has enjoyed being part of the growth and culture there.

Birthdays

Rebecca E Walker
November 1st

Bernadette Hattjar
November 5th

Thomas A. Tupitza
November 7th

Joseph P. Herbert
November 7th

Lori Barber
November 8th

Susan E. Kaliszewski
November 19th

Melvin Witherspoon
November 24th

Yuriy fielded many questions from our membership on topics ranging from the interesting history, renovations, and development of LP's home base at Union Station and the surrounding neighborhood, to the challenges they've faced with Covid related supply chain and global shipping impacts, to the unique niche they've developed in tailoring their services to the specific needs of their wide-ranging customer base types.

Additional information regarding Logistics Plus may be found at <https://www.logisticsplus.com/>

Rotarian and Club Director Jim Hynes re-introduced Yuriy to the club.



Yuriy provided a written affirmation for the McKinley Elementary School library in the book, *Twenty-two Cents: Muhammad Yunis and the Village Bank* by Paula Yoo.

This book describes how of one small investment in a person's dream can make a whole village stronger. How enriched our community has been with the Rotary Exchange Program's investment in Yuriy!



Lucky Basket Winner!



Congratulations to **Past District Governor, Past President and current Club Director Norm Stark**, who won this week's special drawing! **President-Elect Maureen Rizzo** provided a lovely basket to raffle for our Pints for Polio event. Tickets were sold for \$5 each and the lucky basket winner was Norm!

As Norm fondly remembered Yuriy Ostapyak's

time with our club as a Rotary exchange student, he gave him one of the bottles of local wine in celebration of his return to us.

Remember to buy your 50-50 tickets each week from Bob Cronmiller for \$1 each. Proceeds go toward our club's RI Foundation Annual Share goal.



Rotary Foundation Giving Season is Here!!!

Our October fundraiser supported one of the best known achievements of the Rotary Foundation, eradicating polio from 99.9% of the globe. **Our effort with the 2-1 match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation contributed \$1,965 to this effort!**

Now it is time for us to focus on our required giving to the Foundation. **Our club's 2021-22 goal for the Annual Share Fund is \$9,000.** Many of our members already have gone into [MyRotary](#) and signed up for monthly or quarterly automatic payments, which is a simple way to ensure we support our Foundation. When you do this, be sure to select **Annual Fund**, in order for your gift to be included in our club's goal. Our weekly drawings typically also help us to meet this goal. *Our contribution to Polio Plus is not part of this total.*

While we all applaud RI's global work, many of us would like to see our contributions also support local needs. Through the Annual Fund, 50% of our donations go to the global effort and 50% come back to our District. This District fund is then distributed annually to our own clubs for specific projects. **Historically, we have used this District grant to support our signature Ethics Symposium.**

Because we have not met our giving goal for the past three years, we will not be eligible for a [District Grant](#) this year, so we will have to find ways to support the Ethics Symposium ourselves. Giving toward our goal today helps us obtain District Grants in the future, so please make your [Every Rotarian Every Year](#) pledge of at least \$75 to ensure our Ethics Symposium can contribute long into the future.



A Moment in Rotary History

The Jackson-Christy Porridge Bowl and Scottish Golf Exchange

In the beginning, as the story goes, Ken Christy, a Rotarian from Butler, Pennsylvania was attending the 1960 Rotary International convention in New York City. While sightseeing, he stopped at an automat (an old vending machine emporium and another story in itself) where he chanced to meet Rotarian Peter Jackson, a kilt-wearing Scotsman from Dundee, who was also in town for the convention. The story goes that they hit it off so well that they became inseparable for the rest of the trip.



They remained in touch and began visiting each other on yearly **rotations** of their own. In addition to their mutual devotion to Rotary, they were both

avid golfers, although neither was famed for their skill. One Christmas, Ken sent Peter a gold golf ball as a gift, along with three gold tees as part of a shared joke about the excesses of 1960s American affluence. The items were made into a gift from the Dundee Rotary Club to the Butler Club in honor of the friendship between the two men.

As pictured, the gift was a hand-carved pecan wood bowl in the style normally used by a Scottish family to serve porridge. Hand-carved around the rim was ♦ Jackson - Christy Porridge Bowl. ♦ The bowl was supported by a separate base topped by a Rotary wheel with the gold golf ball in the center. The three gold tees were set in the base in such a way that the bowl rested upon them. The terms of the gift were that the Porridge Bowl was to be used as the trophy in an annual international golf competition.



As the Butler Club was to set the rules for the competition, they decided to involve the whole of District 7280, as well as the whole of Scottish District 101. It was also decided that the competition should include an exchange of visits in the interests of bringing people from the two countries together under the aegis of the fourth object of Rotary: to promote international goodwill and understanding. The Scots wholeheartedly agreed, and the first competition was held in 1962.

Each Club in the 7280 District was invited to send two golfers to play at a course in Butler. The winner was awarded a trip to Scotland to meet the Scottish champion of 1962. Upon meeting with Ken Christy, who became District 7280 Governor in 1963, Rotary International President Carl Miller encouraged those involved to develop the competition into the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotary (IGFR). Eventually a matching spoon was added to the set to be awarded to each year's runner up.

While many Erie Rotarians have participated in the competition on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, **Erie Club Past President (1991-92) and District Governor (1994-95) Cal Neithamer** is thus far the only one to come close to getting the porridge by winning the spoon in 1990-91. In 1978, the story shifts to the inception of the Couples Golf Exchange, which furthers friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the members of these two Rotary Districts and continues to this day.