

Rotary

District 7305

The Connector - February 2020



Holger Knaack, Rotary International President Elect, revealed his 2020-2021 theme in front of 548 District Governors Elect and their partners at this year's International Assembly held January 19 - 25 in San Diego, California. Picture courtesy of Rotary International. Text excerpt below from article by Ryan Hyland, RI

Rotary Opens Opportunities

The 2020-2021 Rotary Theme **Rotary Opens Opportunities** was revealed during the first plenary session on Monday, January 20 at the International Assembly in San Diego.

Rotary isn't just a club for people to join, but rather "an invitation to endless opportunities," said Knaack, who becomes president on 1 July. He emphasized that Rotary creates pathways for members to improve their lives and the lives of those they help through service projects.

"We believe that our acts of service, big and small, create opportunities for people who need our help," Knaack said. He added that Rotary creates leadership opportunities and gives members the chance to

travel the world to put their service ideas into action and make lifelong connections. "Everything we do opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere," said Knaack. Read more at rotary.org

Another Convention Moment

In June, 2014, on the flight from Los Angeles to the Sydney, Australia, RI Convention, we were on a huge plane with about three quarters of the passengers all going to the same event.

Being a 15 hour flight, folks were walking around the plane as much as possible. In the small galley of sorts in the back of the plane, about 8 of us were gathered getting a drink or snack and discussing the upcoming week. Also, of course, we all asked each other where was home.

A lovely young lady and her five-year-old son joined us. The young man was beaming as his shirt displayed his favorite super hero,

Superman.

When the young lady was asked where she was from, she replied "Taiwan but now living in California."

Knowing that the incoming RI President, Gary Huang, was also from Taiwan, she was asked if she happened to know Gary. "Oh, I sure do," she replied. "He's my Dad."

Sure enough, the next day at the convention opening ceremony, when Gary and his family were introduced on stage to the thousands of people in the audience, she her husband and son as well as the rest of Gary's family appeared and waved to everybody. The young man was still beaming as he quickly unbuttoned and opened his stylish dress shirt only to reveal his "Superman" shirt underneath.

ABSOLUTELY PRICELESS!

Be sure to attend this year's Honolulu Convention, June 6-10, so that you can experience your own RI Convention moment. You'll be glad you did and you will remember it for the rest of your life! *Walt Sickles*



Quote of the Month:

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"

Albert Einstein

International Assembly 2020

What an exciting week in sunny Southern California! Before I went out for the International Assembly I heard from many Past District Governors that this would be one of the most exciting and interesting weeks I would ever have in Rotary. That certainly was the case.

There were over 500 District Governor Elects (DGE) from around the world along with their partners. The chance to sit down and have lunch or dinner with someone that was from India, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, Finland, South Africa or any number of other countries was fascinating.

During the week there was a Cultural Exchange that has to be seen to be believed. People from around the world dressed in their native attire and handing out items that express their home cultural was eye-opening.

There was also a Festival Night that allowed DGEs from different zones to perform some type of song or dance routine. Our combined zones 33 & 34 did an End Polio Now routine. The costumes from Korea, Malaysia, and Brazil, among others, were incredible.

The General sessions were inspirational and the breakout sessions were very enlightening. It was so interesting to talk to people in your session room from around the world and from other parts of the USA. I found out how similar Rotary is around the world and yet how different it is from club to club in the same district.

Along with the chance to meet so many people from so many different parts of the world and begin to form lasting friendship the other highlight of the week was the announcement of the new Rotary Theme for 2020-2021. "Rotary Opens Opportunities". This is RIPE Holger Knaack's theme for our new year together.

The open doors signify the opportunities for service, personal growth, leadership development, mentoring, fellowship and diversification that our clubs and Rotary can offer.

RIPE Holger also had 4 key messages that he wanted us to take away from our meetings.

1. Our district should actively encourage creating new, innovative club models. In addition, we can help expand our reach by creating satellite clubs and forming community-based Rotaract clubs.
2. Every club should host at least one strategic planning meeting each year at which they ask: What should our club look like in five years and what steps should we take to help achieve that vision? What value do we bring to our members?
3. Select new members carefully. Make sure they are a good fit with your club and that your club meets

their expectations. Engage them and take care of them. There is no wrong age to be a Rotarian.

4. Continue your club's effort to end polio by donating to End Polio Now and hosting a World Polio Day in October. We must fulfill the promise that we made to the children of the world – to eradicate polio.

There will be much more information as the 2020-2021 year approaches. I look forward to working with all of you and I look forward to having a great year together.

Yours in Rotary Service
Al DeLucia, DGE, District 7305



Above center: The DGEs from Zones 33-34 after their End Polio Now skit at Festival Night. **Above right:** Lisa and Al DeLucia with RI Director Stephanie Urchick. **Above:** Coronado Island, San Diego, CA.

Inaugural Fox Chapel Rotary Debate Tournament

The inaugural Fox Chapel Rotary Invitational Debate Tournament drew 195 students and 75 adult coaches and judges from 15 Western Pennsylvania public and private high schools for a day-long competition Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Fox Chapel Area High School.

"This was our inaugural event. Things went absolutely as well as they possibly could," said Rob Wilson, Fox Chapel Rotary Vice President. "Most importantly, the kids had a great time."

Mark Matusiak, head coach of the FCAHS Forensics team, said the school's administration, faculty, cafeteria staff, and custodians couldn't have been more accommodating.

"We used 56 classrooms for 11 different speech and debate events, plus the cafeteria for meals," Matusiak said. "It did take a lot of planning, but we had fantastic support from team members and a large number of parents. It was a strong group effort."

"The customized trophies were produced by Fox Chapel Area High School students in the Technology



Education Department, under the direction of teacher Joe Gass," Matusiak said. The school's Information Technology staff supplied laptop computers to the judges; the school's AV staff set up a projector and screen in the cafeteria to communicate results and pertinent information.

Remembering Paul Harris

As a Rotarian, I believe that Paul Harris Day is not just a day to have fun; as this is the day for reflection and introspection, to make determination to imagine, plan, and take action, to develop within us an

enduring renewed vigor, to do the work that endures and uplifts us individually and as a community, and to engage in activities that are Service Above Self.

Recently, my Rotary Club of Turtle Creek has been working with and participating with RC of Varanasi East, in Varanasi, India on a project to help students in DB School.

RC Varanasi East has helped provide ceiling fans, sewing machines, books etc. as a stop-gap, as needed. The most recent project was to provide sweaters, socks and shoes for the students and teachers, when temperature came to 35°F.

It is coincidence, but noteworthy that the final delivery of the items for students was completed on January 27, 2020, which was the 73rd anniversary of Paul Harris' death.

Text & Photos courtesy of S. Singh Ajmani



Above: Best in Oratory at the Fox Chapel Rotary Debate Tournament are, front, Vivek Babu, Upper St. Clair, 1st; back row, left to right, Shana Reddy, Upper St. Clair, 6th; Shanthi Krishnaswamy, Upper St. Clair, 2nd; Natasha Porwal, North Allegheny, 3rd; Jenny Zhu, North Allegheny, 4th; and Tejal Dahake, North Allegheny, 5th. **Right:** Shoes donated by the Rotary Club of Varanasi East, India and the Rotary Club of Turtle Creek, PA to a school in Varanasi, India.



Green Tree Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange

The annual White Elephant Gift Exchange took place on January 2, 2020 at Green Tree Rotary's first meeting of the new year.

Members each brought a wrapped "gift" to exchange. Often these "gifts" were things they just wanted to get rid of. Some members brought bottles of wine, and some members also brought several prank gifts, which were hilarious, but wound up on the Scrooge table. If it did, the member could choose another gift.

Delicious wine was served by President Rick Canello, who had made the wine himself. Good food, good company, a million laughs. It was a great time.



Rotary Leadership Institute

On January 11 the Main Line Division of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) held a Course Day at the Allegheny County Community College Boyce Campus. A total of 22 Rotarians and 1 former Interactor attended the Course Day. Both Districts 7305 and 7280 were represented. The next Course Day in District 7305 will be in Johnstown on March 28.

The picture below left is of Part II hard at work. The picture below right is of those who completed Part III and graduated from the Course. Left to right are: Joe Schmitt from the Rich-Mar Rotary Club in District 7280; Marilyn Raimondi from the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotary Club; Brendan Veney a Past President of the Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club, and Robyn Vittek, also from the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon-Castle Shannon Rotary Club.

Interested in doing this yourself? Don't miss the next training that will be held in Johnstown on March 28!



Deworming Venezuela

Long-term shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies, interruption of epidemiologic surveillance systems, weakening of immunization programs, and an unprecedented exodus of trained medical personnel have set the stage for the resurgence of vector borne and vaccine-preventable infections. Among these infections are the soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections. Ivermectin is a wonder drug that cures three of these lethal infections at once.

The Rotary Club of Somerset donated 500 doses to treat children in the community of La Pica, Estado Portuguesa, west central Venezuela. Photo: Dr. Isis Mejias, project leader, with a wonderful grateful smile.

The club also donated \$2,900 in cash to purchase a microscope, medical supplies, and to provide transportation for doctors and medical school student-volunteers to the communities! Miguel Savioff

Sharing & Showcasing Rotary

By Harry Funk, from *The Almanac, South Hills Community News*

As one of only 19 people serving on the RI Board of Directors, Stephanie Urchick has the opportunity to visit clubs in the 115-year-old service organization, well, internationally.

"One of the advantages of traveling for Rotary is you always see things that are happening that make you think, wow! That's such a great idea. I bet I could bring that back to my own area," the North Strabane Township resident said.

Shortly after the start of her two-year term on the board, Urchick traveled to the Land Down Under as a representative of RI President, Mark Daniel Maloney of Alabama.

"When I was in Australia, I had the privilege of visiting a project of a Rotary Club that was gift to their community, really," she said. "They were doing a singing project, and it was meant for people in their community who had a need for socialization around music, people who were ill, who maybe had Parkinson's or cancer, or who were widowed or widowers, or who were simply lonely."

Sufficiently inspired, she shared the concept with members of the McMurray Rotary Club, of which she is a member.

And starting Jan. 10, musically inclined club members including pianist and music teacher Pam Linnon-Flinn will lead a program called Afternoon Tunes With McMurray Rotary and Friends. Sing-alongs are scheduled from 2 to 3 p.m. the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Peters Township Public Library.

The program in Australia, led by Rotarian Leon Moore, started with five stroke victims and participation has grown considerably in the subsequent nine years.

"This group sings for that hour and just enjoys each other's company, and they come back week after week after week," Urchick reported. "Now, the Rotarians aren't exactly medical practitioners, but I can certainly say that's really a form of musical therapy."

A Rotarian since 1991, Urchick has devoted a substantial amount of



Rotary International Director Stephanie Urchick often brings back ideas from her world travels and encourages local Rotary Clubs to implement them in their communities.

time and energy to helping people in various parts of the world.

For example, when she served as governor of Rotary District 7330 in 1998-99, she spearheaded a project to purchase mammogram machines for a hospital in Poland.

At the time, the survival rate for cancer patients in the United States exceeded 75 percent, but in Poland, more than half were dying.

"It wasn't a matter of them having more cases of cancer. It was that they didn't have any early detection," Urchick explained. "And I was so pleased that every single club did something to help support that."

The regional district now is designated as No. 7305 and encompasses an area including Allegheny, Greene and Washington counties. One of Urchick's roles as a director is conducting trainings for governors-elect, and this year that includes fellow McMurray member Al DeLucia, a Bethel Park resident who will lead District 7305 for a year starting in July.

Urchick actually was the first woman to serve as governor of District 7330, just a decade or so after Rotary got with the times and started allowing female members.

The change in policy occurred when the late Chuck Keller of the California Rotary Club was RI president, the only Western Pennsylvania resident so far to earn the distinction. Keller, in fact, served as a mentor to Urchick when she joined his club.

"Women have always been a part of Rotary, even when they weren't officially known as members. They were supporting their spouses," she said, and in many cases took more active roles in their clubs' endeavors.

Today, nearly 30 percent of Rotarians in the United States are women.

"The gender equality is a good thing, because the world reacts to men and women differently, and I think the balance of having two different genders in an organization is superb," Urchick said. "That's why I also support Rotary's initiative now for diversity and inclusion. The more perspectives we get, the better we are."

Prior to her election to the board of directors representing Zones 33-34 – an area stretching from the western half of Pennsylvania south to Florida, into the Caribbean islands and to Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana in South America – Urchick chaired Rotary International's strategic planning committee, which developed a plan called "Transforming Rotary's Future Through Strategic Change."

"Our process now is about getting that information down to the clubs, so the clubs know how to do it and how to translate it so that it will make sense for what they're doing locally in their communities," she said.

For instance, Rotary clubs generally raise money to donate to various worthwhile organizations, but she would like to see the results of the philanthropy understood in greater detail.

"We need to take that a step further, and go back to those organizations and say, how do we measure what the donation did?" she explained. "We have to get better at showing what the impact is of what we do."

The strategic plan also addresses making membership more flexible to better accommodate people's schedule. Examples include online "e-clubs" and satellite clubs that operate on a basis that works best for members, rather than the traditional once-a-week Rotary meetings.

The goal, Urchick said, is to "try to make it easier for people to come and experience the magic of Rotary." 5

Rotary District 7305

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Visit us on Facebook

www.rotarydistrict7305.org

Meet Anis - The Tailor who Became a Polio Eradicator

By Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Amidst the extreme heat of Kandahar City in southern Afghanistan, Anis Faizy, a 24 year-old polio outreach worker, moves with confidence between houses. Her aim is to talk to families that refuse to vaccinate their children against polio. Her energy is endless and she tops that with a smile and a warm way of talking with women and men.

For someone her age, Anis has an impressive range of skills. Initially a tailor, now she works as a skilled midwife with passion for her community. She is also a District Communications Officer for the polio programme, leading a team of 56 community outreach workers in her neighbourhood.

"I want to help my people – polio is a danger to every child, and we should eradicate it", says Anis.

When Anis started her job her father told her "You do what is best for you", but neighbours in her socially conservative community were not impressed. She was told by others that she "could be killed while working in the community, it is unsafe for women, and women must stay at home."

But social barriers didn't deter Anis, who has now been working to eradicate polio in Kandahar for over three years.

Anis recalls, "I faced tough refusal families who denied their children the polio vaccine. A woman refused to vaccinate her younger sister. After one year, the sister died of measles as she hadn't been vaccinated against it. Now, the same woman has a baby girl and she frequently takes her baby to the health centre for vaccination. Sadly, she learnt her lesson the hard way".

Over the years, Anis progressed

END POLIO NOW

Rotary's Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?



24-year-old Anis manages a team of 56 community outreach workers in Kandahar.
©UNICEF/Afghanistan

from the lower ranks of social mobiliser to become a supervisor. In September 2019, she applied for the position of District Communication Officer within the Immunization Communication Network supported by UNICEF.

In Kandahar, a male dominant community, women friends wondered if she would be able to supervise male teams. Undeterred, Anis won the job competition. The interview panel commended her achievements, including reducing the number of vaccine-hesitant families in her area, and her ability to drive others to promote vaccines effectively. Reflecting on her work now, Anis emphasizes, "I don't have a problem working with men. We help each other."

Anis leaves her house at 6:30am during immunization campaigns, just as the sun breaks over Kandahar.

She checks the outreach plans with her teams before they disperse around the town. Through the day, she makes supervisory visits to her teams and obtains updates on vaccine uptake issues. When she receives reports on absent and missing children, she converses with families in order to encourage them to vaccinate their children.

To eradicate polio from Afghanistan, Anis thinks there is a lot more to do. She says, "we need better health and sanitation services, more women to access homes and better relationships with the local authorities to ensure families accept vaccine."

"I will continue to work hard, for every child to be able to walk, attend school and grow healthy. It is the whole community cause for generations to come."

From: polioeradication.org

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 9, 2020

**ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE INTERNATIONAL DINNER
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT, DELMONT**



SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

**1ST DISTRICT 7305 CIGAR SMOKER
BURN BY ROCKY PATEL, NORTH SHORE**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 6 ~ 8 2020

**PETS PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR
PENN STATE MAIN CAMPUS, STATE COLLEGE, PA**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 11, 2020

**ROTARY LEADERSHIP & ETHICS INSTITUTE
LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 23, 2020

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – EAST CLUBS
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT – DELMONT**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 29, 2020

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
DETAILS TBD**



SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 18, 2020

**DISTRICT ASSEMBLY – DGE AL DELUCIA
DENUZIO'S CHOP HOUSE RESTAURANT - LATROBE**



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 11, 2020

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – WEST CLUBS
MONROEVILLE – VENUE TBD**



SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 30, 2020

**ONE ROTARY SUMMIT
MONROEVILLE – VENUE TBD**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 6-10, 2020

**2020 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
HONOLULU, HAWAII**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 25-28, 2020

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 27, 2020

**THIRD GRADE SPELLING BEE
SEVEN SPRINGS**



SAVE THE DATE – JULY 24, 2020

**ROTARY NIGHT AT THE RACES
THE MEADOWS**



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 14, 2020

**DISTRICT 7305 GOLF OUTING
GREENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB**

