

Rotary

District 7305

The Connector - June 2020



District Conference Postponed

Fellow Rotarians of District 7305, After discussions with Seven Springs Mountain Resort, we have agreed on a new date for our Annual 2020 District Conference. The Conference, originally scheduled to be held June 25-28, has been rescheduled to begin at noon on Friday, October 2nd and run through Sunday morning, October 4th.

All current Seven Springs reservations will automatically be moved to the new dates. However, if you wish to cancel or change your hotel reservation, you are free to do so.

The registration for the Conference is to be completed on the brochure originally sent to you. Although the dates shown on the form are incorrect, we are planning to have the same format and activities, weather permitting. The menu will remain the same and we are working to reschedule the original events and entertainment. The exception will be the annual Spelling Bee. Due to all children being out of school, the Spelling Bee will be suspended until DGE AI's District Conference that will take place on May 13-16, 2021.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us as we are all hopeful to once again meet with our fellow District Rotarians to celebrate this very special, and somewhat different, Rotary year.

Yours in Rotary Service,
DG Jim Hahn
Sue Kelly and Pam Moore
Conference Co-Chairs

Quote of the Month:

"As a matter of fact, there is still a lot of light at the end of the tunnel. We just have to find a way to get to it."

Tyrone Willingham



Rotary Going Virtual

While our regular Rotary meetings may not be available to us right now, there certainly is no shortage of ways to meet with our local Rotary clubs, and beyond.

These times of social distancing and sheltering in place have opened other, almost endless, opportunities to meet and socialize with Rotarians from all over the world.

These last couple of months have not only given our District membership unprecedented access to the leadership of our newly-paired Rotary Zones 33 & 34, it has also allowed us to meet with Rotarians from the 20+ countries that our Zones consist of.

Every Friday morning at 7:30 AM, a special Zone meeting is held with speakers coming from all over the world. And, for those who cannot attend a Friday morning meeting, the speaker is repeated at another live meeting on the following Monday at 12:00 Noon.

Every Rotarian in our District receives an e-mail invitation to this

Zoom meeting held twice per week.

Our own Rotary District is also hosting a weekly meeting. Every Monday at 6:00 PM you have a chance to meet with Rotarians from all over Rotary District 7305. You should be getting an e-mail invitation to this meeting every week as well.

Before our current lock-down, when was the last time you actually visited another Rotary club in our District? Well, right now you can do so from your own couch, office, or dining room table. Just log on to Facebook and look for other Rotary clubs. Some are also posting their meetings on our District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict7305>

So, there really is no excuse to not be meeting with your fellow Rotarians just because your regular meeting location is closed at this time. In fact, you may find that club members you haven't seen for quite some time, now are able to attend your virtual club meeting.

So, see this as an opportunity, not as a hindrance. We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

50 Years in Rotary?

In honor of Charles "Chuck" Keller, Rotary International President 1987-1988, DG Jim Hahn would like to recognize any Rotarian in District 7305 who has been a member of Rotary for 50 years or more.

If you, or someone in your club, has been a member for 50 years or more, please complete the form on the district website located at: rotarydistrict7305.org.

The form will also be available in the June edition of The Bulletin Board, which is emailed to every Rotarian in our District.

Who is Chuck Keller?

If you didn't know Chuck, perhaps this piece from 2018, written by then RI Director Elect Stephanie Urchick for The Rotarian, will give you some insight into the person that he was:

I don't remember exactly when I met Chuck. He has just been a part of my life since I joined Rotary in 1991. He was my GPS, my guide. If I had a problem or a question about something in Rotary, I always knew he was there as a sounding board. That was what we did for each other. I describe him as my "godfather" in Rotary.

I joined the Rotary Club of California, Pennsylvania, the same club Chuck had joined in 1950, because I was looking for fellowship. I had gone through a divorce and wanted to use my time to give back. I knew that Chuck was a past Rotary International president, so I would chat with him about the Rotary topics I was interested in knowing more about. He became my mentor and encouraged me to take on a leadership role. He found the good in anybody and would nurture whatever skill or talent you had.

When I eventually became a district governor, Chuck attended my first Rotary institute. It was in Battle Creek, Michigan, and there was an event one evening at which they introduced all the incoming governors. I watched as the district governors and their spouses walked down the aisle together to be introduced. That's when Chuck jumped up and said, "I'm walking you down. I'm escorting you." I have a photo of the two of us somewhere.



Chuck Keller, DG for District 733 in 1963-1964 and RI President in 1987-1988, was a Rotarian for over 50 years. At his International Convention in Philadelphia 1989, fundraising for Polio Plus was the main focus.

He's beaming, and I have a big smile on my face too.

Several years ago, Chuck started to write his memoirs. He wrote four of them, actually. He wrote one about his Rotary life; another about his service as a bomber pilot in World War II; a third about his law career; and a fourth about his family. Chuck and his wife, Carol, were an adorable couple. When they married, she had the words "you lucky guy" engraved on the inside of his wedding band.

Chuck was also very committed to the Rotary Peace Centers. I think his service in World War II may have had something to do with his interest in peace. One of the last conversations I had with him was about the peace center program. He was so proud of all 1,150 of our graduates. When he and Carol downsized their home, they auctioned off many of the items he had collected while circling the globe as RI President and donated the money to benefit the peace centers.

At that time, he also passed on a little model ship he had that was originally owned by Paul Harris. When Chuck was RI president, Will White, who was then the editor of The Rotarian magazine, had given it to him. Chuck passed it on to Ron Burton and asked him

to carry on the tradition. He called it "the good ship Rotary."

Chuck continued to practice law at his firm, Peacock Keller, until about a year ago. It had become tough for him and Carol to get out except to go to the doctor or to church. That's when I started going to their house to visit. We would talk all things Rotary. I would bring crackers and make the dip he liked. Carol would put the coffee pot on. It was an informal but special time. He loved it; they both did. Carol is a nurse, so she was taking care of him, and I know that was hard on her.

One Sunday I came home from a district conference and received a text message that said Chuck was in the hospital. I went to see him, and I'm glad I did. His breathing was labored, but he was still quick-witted and kind. In fact, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. He died four days after that visit.

I'll miss him. I know we feel this loss so deeply because of the kind of guy he was. When you look back on his year as RI president, so many amazing things happened. He saw the organization through a time of transition as women were first admitted. At the convention in Philadelphia, we learned that we had far surpassed our fundraising goal of \$120 million for polio vaccination, which led to our commitment to eradicate the disease. He held the first Rotary Peace Forum.

Chuck had an amazing and profound impact on Rotary. But the thing I'll miss most is talking to him. I always knew that if there was something I couldn't figure out, I could bounce it off Chuck. It was nice to know he was there. He provided the signal for my personal GPS. Although I've lost that, I find comfort in knowing that Chuck left us a detailed road map drawn from his lessons, his wisdom, and his kindness.



The official theme of Chuck Keller's year as RI President.

Rotary Club Providing Masks

The Rotary Club of Upper St Clair-Bethel Park purchased 300 masks from a local mask maker, Lachina Drapery & Blind Factory, to donate to neighbors in need. The club would like to extend a special thanks to Rotarian Pamela Tiano for coordinating the project, as well as to Rotarian, and Pennsylvania State Representative, Natalie Mihalek for distributing the masks!

Food Bank Volunteers

The Rotary Club of Murrysylvle-Export members worked in the Westmoreland County Food Bank, building boxes of food for weekend distribution. In a two-hour shift, the

crew of approximately 13, managed to build 658 boxes, or 18 pallets. Masks and gloves were mandatory and the two hours flew by. The boxes are distributed to 44 different

distribution locations, avoiding the long lines seen in other counties. Shifts are always available on the WCFB website and the club has signed up to do this again.



Above: The Rotary Club of Bridgeville-South Fayette recently made a trip to Aldi. They purchased and donated selected items needed at the Bridgeville Food Bank. Pictured are Club President Bert Cherry, Eric Gregory, and Bill Paviol. Center & right: Murrysylvle-Export Rotarians volunteering at the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Top: One of 300 facemasks donated by the Rotary Club of Upper St Clair-Bethel Park.

Highland Rotary Donating Cash and Pizza

From the Tribune-Review / Valley News Dispatch, by Brian C. Rittmeyer.

The diminutive Highlands Area Rotary Club, with just 13 members, showed their hearts are bigger than their numbers by donating the individual-sized pizzas, along with a \$500 check to help outfit the hospital's "serenity room," where staff can get a respite from the covid-19 pandemic.

"We thought about what we wanted to do in the community," said John Peters, a past-president and board member of the club and a funeral home owner. "We gave to the food banks and to the hospital and to the first responders. We've given \$3,400 away to all those organizations.

"We want to do something for our community," he said. "That's why we raise the money that we do to donate to the organizations that need it."

The 150 four-cut pizzas, from Fox's Pizza Den in Tarentum, arrived around 11:30 a.m. Peters said they gave the individual pizzas instead of larger ones so that each could be given to and handled by one person.

The pizzas cost about \$600, Peters said.

Dr. Vicenta Gaspar-Yoo, the hospital's president, was among those who came out to thank the Rotary club members and help get them into the hospital and distributed.

"I wanted to thank them for uplifting the staff for lunch today," Gaspar-Yoo said.



Past Club President John Peters presents a \$500 check to Dr. Vicenta Gaspar-Yoo, President of Allegheny Valley Hospital. The donation was intended to help outfit the hospital's "Serenity Room" where staff can relax. The club also donated 150 individual-sized pizzas to the hospital staff.



The serenity room, called "Tranquility Bay" at the hospital, is a place where nurses and other staff can de-stress and relax, Gaspar-Yoo said. The club's donation will help, she said.

"Our nurses and our staff have been working full-time, long hours together with the fear and anxiety of being exposed to the covid-19 patients," she said.

"They've been holding up pretty well," she said of her staff. "Some of them have been working from home. We have been trying really hard to make sure that the staff morale is up."

The serenity room started as a project of the nurses in the nurse residency program, said Stephanie Waite, a spokeswoman for Allegheny Health Network. It was accelerated because of the need posed by the

covid-19 response.

The room includes comfortable seating, relaxation video with music, a Himalayan salt lamp, affirmations and stress release activities such as coloring pages and kinetic sand.

Amenities include aromatherapy face masks, individual hand lotion packs, stress balls and hot/cold packs. A variety of snacks, water, coffee and tea are available.

A total of eight donors consisting of churches, businesses and individuals have contributed to the room, Waite said.

"AVH benefited from a generous community and received as gifts for this room the salt lamp, a microwave and a Keurig for coffee, a Keurig for tea and two sets of flameless candles," Waite said. "Donors... provided a myriad of snacks, everything from granola bars to chips."



Johnstown Inclined Plane International Flag Plaza

The Johnstown Rotary Club has been providing the flags for Johnstown's Flag Plaza at the base of the Incline Plane for many years. There are 5 larger flags: USA, Pennsylvania, Johnstown (provided by the city), United Nations and Rotary. There are also 32 international flags.

The international flags represent countries from which local families emigrated. They also represent nations with which the Johnstown Rotary Club has an affiliation through hosting youth exchange students and Group Study Exchange teams. In addition, some represent countries that members of the Rotary Club of Johnstown have visited to participate in humanitarian projects, or the club has paired with for global grants.

In coordination with Rotary District 7305, the Rotary Club of Johnstown secured a Rotary Community Matching Grant to refurbish the flagpoles. After years of service, the poles needed to have corrosion removed, and have a fresh layer of paint added. They also needed new halyards. Elias Painting of Johnstown are doing the sanding and painting of the flag poles, and Johnstown Public Works Department will install the new halyards provided by Bantly Hardware.

Murrysville-Export Supporting Brookdale Memory Care

On May 1, the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export, in continuing to attempt to make a difference during these trouble times, conducted an event for Brookdale Memory Care in Murrysville.

Following up on their efforts at Redstone Presbyterian Senior Care, the club decided to continue to show their appreciation to frontline staff working at the facility providing services to residents there.

While limited in what they could actually do because of existing restrictions, the club decided they would again order, purchase, pick up and deliver lunches for the entire staff at Brookdale Memory Care.

The meals were prepared by the Lamplighter Restaurant and members of the club turned out



Above: A crew from Elias Painting is working to restore the flag poles at the Johnstown Inclined Plane. Right: Flags flying at the Inclined Plane.
Picture by Todd Berkey at tribdem.com



to make the actual delivery to the center. The effort was greatly appreciated by the Brookdale staff.

Yet another example of #Rotary #PeopleofAction #ServiceAboveSelf.



Above and below: Members of the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export delivering meals to the staff at Brookdale Memory Care in Murrysville.



Delmont-Salem Food Drive

On May 8, between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon, the Rotary Club of Delmont-Salem sponsored a local food collection for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. In addition to club members, some 20 members of the community showed up to assist. In all, the club collected over six vans loaded with food weighing 7,327 lbs. They also had a tip jar for cash contributions that yielded an impressive \$3,536.

The club would like to send a special thanks to the Borough of Delmont and Salem Township for cones used for traffic flow and to Scott Electric, County Public Safety Director for masks and gloves. A great time was had by all, and the Food Bank was very appreciative.



Top left: Delmont-Salem Rotarian, and State Representative, Bob Brooks at the entrance to the food collection in Delmont on Friday May 8th; Above left: Bruno Morelli packing donated food; Above right and right: Members of the Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club collected close to 3,000 lbs. of food and goods at their May 8th food drive for the Salvation Army.



Rotary Man, aka PDG Mark Brilmyer, was at the Carnegie-Collier food drive to protect all Rotarians that showed up to volunteer. He was helping out by washing the volunteers' hands and making sure they adhered to social distancing rules.



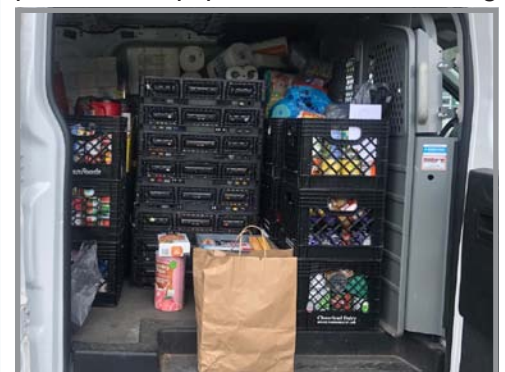
Carnegie-Collier Food Drive

On Saturday, May 8, twelve members from the Rotary Club of Carnegie-Collier volunteered at their food drive benefiting their local Salvation Army food pantry.

During the four-hour event, they accepted touchless deliveries and transferred the donations from the donors' cars to the Salvation Army van. The donations kept coming, and the club managed to fill up the van three times during the event.

In all, they raised about \$670 and received 2,740 lbs. of food and goods. There were 120 rolls of paper towels, 500 rolls of toilet paper, 200 boxes of Mac n' Cheese, 250 packets of Ramen noodles, 60 cereal boxes and 1,000 cans, just to name a few of the items collected!

They also received help from Northeast Paving, a local construction company, that provided them with appropriate personal protective equipment and a sanitizing



LUNCH

Let's Unite Now for Community Hunger

Carnegie-Collier
Rotary
Club



Fighting Community Hunger

During this time of quarantine, we all need a little support; but none more than those in our communities who are already shut in, lonely and of very low income. Additionally, privately owned restaurants are struggling with the decline in their businesses. Even those that are still open for takeout are, on average, running at less than 30% of their capacity.

To address both of these issues, the Rotary Club of Carnegie-Collier invites you to contribute to the LUNCH fund: Let's Unite Now for Community Hunger.

Funds raised will be used to purchase meals from a local restaurant. The meals will be delivered and donated to those in need, thereby addressing both sides of this community crisis.

Tickets are available at the event page on the club's Facebook page. A \$20 ticket will buy two meals. All individuals and businesses donating \$250 or more will receive a letter from the District for tax purposes. In addition, any individual or company contributing \$500 or more will be highlighted on the meal labels.

[Click here](#) for more information and to buy tickets.



Rotarians Sew for Your Safety

The Rotary Club of Zelienople, Pennsylvania, like so many other Rotary Clubs during this health crisis, had to cancel its major fundraiser in March: The Shamrock Shuffle Half Marathon/5K Race. The race normally accounts for more than 50% of its annual income.

About the same time as the race was cancelled, Club President-Elect Kathy Corcoran, started sewing face masks for family and friends. "I enjoy sewing and over the years, had amassed quite a fabric collection," Kathy said. "It was time to start using up all that fabric for good. Plus, it's an excuse to be able to shop for more fabric!"

After Kathy had sewn more than 50 masks for family and friends, she realized three things: 1) that the need for masks was great; 2) it was not going to go away anytime soon; and, 3) that this was a service their Rotary Club could provide.

Since launching the project on April 20, the Club has received orders for more than 500 face masks. Kathy has a team of five sewers – Rotarians and friends of Rotary – and additional volunteers, to cut patterns. Kathy's husband, Patrick, helps with deliveries and shipping.

The club is suggesting a donation of \$5 per mask, but will also provide a mask to anyone who can't afford to make a donation at this time. "I have been overwhelmed with the generosity of those ordering masks. Many donate \$10 per mask, and some have written checks separate from mask orders to help our cause. It's been so uplifting," Kathy said.

The masks are customized. Customers can choose colors and patterns to make their own fashion statement while they help protect their fellow humans. Rumor has it there are Rotary logo masks available. Just ask Mary Berge!

If you want to get some of these face masks, you can reach Kathy at zelienople Rotary@gmail.com. Be sure to put the phrase "Face Masks" in the subject line.



Indiana Rotary Supporting the IUP Emergency Fund

Indiana Evening Rotary has donated \$5,000 to Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Emergency Response Fund, established to help current IUP students who have experienced financial hardships due to the corona virus pandemic.

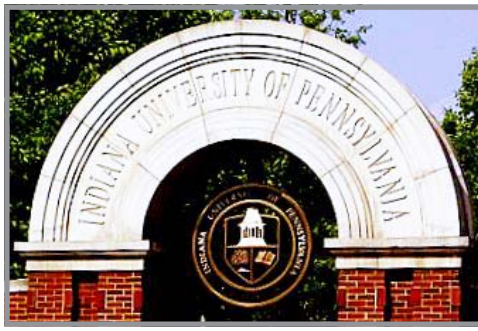
"Service above Self" is our motto, and club members work hard to contribute to projects that make an impact on our community," Tae Ayers, president of the club, said. "Every member of our board of directors agreed that this was an excellent opportunity to help students during this time. IUP is a very important part of this community and has been a long-time supporter of Rotary. We are very pleased to give back with a donation to this important initiative."

IUP's Emergency Response Fund was established in March. It is funded by private donations from IUP family and friends.

Almost \$200,000 has been donated to the fund by more than 400 donors. Financial assistance has been given to more than 250 students to help with needs including housing, technology support, books and academic supplies. The goal is to help students to continue in their studies.

Alumni Terry Serafini (a 1961 graduate) and Deb and Tim Cejka (1973 graduates) have made donations of \$50,000 each with the IUP Alumni Association Board of Directors stepping up with a \$15,000 gift to the fund.

"I am truly proud to be a member of the Indiana Evening Rotary, and very thankful for the club's generous gift," Vice President for University Advancement, Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna said. "IUP family and friends, including our local community, have been incredibly responsive in their support, and our students are so grateful. Gifts to the Emergency Response Fund are making a true difference in the lives of our students during a very challenging time. While we are thankful to have been able to help many students, the need continues to grow, so additional gifts are still needed and very much appreciated."



Gifts to the IUP Emergency Response Fund will become part of IUP's \$75 million Imagine Unlimited Campaign, which will enable IUP to step forward as a national leader by transforming the student experience through scholarships, program enhancements, and new and modernized facilities.



Give a Man a Fish...

On the first day of trout season, the Murrys-Export Rotary Club and the local BSA troop usually sponsors a fishing derby for the youth of their community. It is held in memory of a former club member's son who loved to fish and died at age 16 from a heart condition. Bob Gombosh, the former club member, now lives in

Florida, but continues to do much of the fund raising and flies back to do most of the work. The fishing derby is held at Townsend Pond. Some years ago, the club dredged a small puddle to make the pond, added an aerator and also built a pavilion in memory of another longtime member.

This year, Bob had raised about half the money for the Joey Gombosh Fishing Derby when it was canceled due to the COVID-19 situation.

Two weeks after the club's event, SLAM (Sportsmen and Landowners Alliance of Murrys-Export) usually held a fishing derby along Sloan creek for special youth with disabilities. Due to a large building at that location and COVID-19 they too had to cancel.

Members of the community reached out to the club to inquire if there would be any stocking of the fish this year. After much discussion, it was decided that the club would go ahead and stock the pond.

With all local day camp programs cancelled, the possibility for the youth to fish will be a welcome opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy a day of fun.



Peter Salk receives a polio vaccine from his father in the spring of 1953 while his mother watches. Picture courtesy of the University of Pittsburgh

Rotary District 7305

P.O. Box 44305, Pittsburgh PA 15205

District Secretary: Sandra Rebholz

District Office: 412-429-7305

district.secretary@rotarydistrict7305.org

Visit us on Facebook

www.rotarydistrict7305.org

COVID-19 and its Impact on Polio Eradication Efforts

In every corner of the world, it seems that not a single person or community is unaffected by COVID-19. You may be wondering how to stay focused on our work eradicating polio when we are dealing with a pandemic caused by a virus for which there is not yet a vaccine - a situation similar to what the world faced with the poliovirus not so long ago.

The COVID-19 pandemic response requires worldwide solidarity and an urgent global effort. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), with thousands of polio workers and an extensive laboratory and surveillance network, has a moral imperative to ensure that these resources are used to support countries in their preparedness and response.

We can be proud that in the ever-connected world of global health, the polio infrastructure that Rotarians have helped build is already being used to address - and stop the spread of - the new coronavirus, in addition to serving countless other health needs. In Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, where polio personnel and assets have a significant presence, workers from all GPEI partners are engaged in surveillance, health worker training, contact tracing, and more. In 13 countries, polio volunteers have been deployed to address COVID-19 preparations and response.

We recognize that the COVID-19 emergency means that some aspects of the polio eradication program will be affected. While addressing the new challenges of today, the most important thing that Rotary members can do to continue the fight to end polio is to sustain our commitment. We are aiming to reach our fundraising goal of \$50 million this year so we can work

END POLIO NOW

to safely reach all children with the polio vaccine. In the midst of a global pandemic, we understand that attention to polio eradication will be temporarily diverted, and this makes it all the more vital for Rotarians to remain strongly committed to fighting polio and not let our progress be eroded.

It is imperative that we remain committed to our work eradicating polio. Learn more about how our work fighting polio is supporting the COVID-19 response and consider making a contribution to PolioPlus.


By Rotary International

POLIO GLOBAL
ERADICATION
INITIATIVE every fast child

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?


ZONES 33 & 34
ROTARY VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE!
VIRTUAL
SUMMIT OF CHAMPIONS!
NOVEMBER 2020*

Rotary 
www.summitofchampions.org

Thank you!



The #RotaryResponds Telethon
raised \$529,376 USD



Enough to **fund 21 grants** toward
COVID-19 related efforts

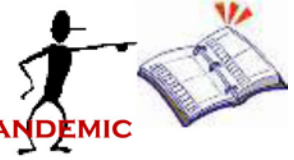


The telethon reached
over 65,000 viewers worldwide

Rotary 

SAVE THE DATE

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELATION DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



CANCELED – JUNE 6-10, 2020

**2020 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
HONOLULU, HAWAII**



CANCELED – JUNE 17-22, 2020

**2020 RYLA SUMMER CAMP
LAROCHÉ COLLEGE**



CANCELED – JUNE 25-28, 2020

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



CANCELED – 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**



SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

**2020 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 8, 2020

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
RIVERS CASINO**



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 13-16, 2021

**2021 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**

