

# Rotary

## District 7305

The Connector - March 2020



One of many popular activities and tours in Hawaii is to visit a pineapple farm. The Maui Pineapple Tour includes a pineapple of your own to take with you. Picture courtesy Maui Pineapple Tour/Facebook.

### An RI Convention Moment

In 2007 my wife, Harriet, and I attended our first RI Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Being our first such convention we were somewhat in awe with the huge number of people in attendance, more than 15,000 from more than 100 different countries.

At a luncheon that we attended there were about 20 tables of ten and it was open seating. We sat down next to a couple who we soon learned were originally from India. They were both in the medical field and more recently had moved to Canada and then Brownsville, Texas, where they were currently living and practicing.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time together and after lunch went our separate ways to other convention events, not seeing each other again throughout the week.

The following year, having enjoyed the Salt Lake City Convention so much, Harriet and I attended the Los Angeles Convention which attracted almost 19,000 people.

One of the convention events that really is a lot of fun is what is called the "Host Hospitality Night". For this event you must sign up months in advance because it fills up with hundreds of people very quickly. Upon arrival at the convention you are given your randomly "Assigned" location and your host's name for that special evening. Everybody then meets in a big hall where each host, who have travel arrangements for everybody that is going to their home or other venue, is carrying a large sign showing their name. You then find your assigned host's name and join them, as do all of the other folks who have also been assigned, again at random, to visit with them.

We located our host rather quickly and there were already about 10 of us there. He told us that more would be coming as there would be a couple dozen of us in our party.

Shortly, several more folks arrived including, (you guessed it) the couple from Brownsville, Texas, that we had met a year earlier in Salt Lake City.

Needless to say, we had a wonderful reunion and thoroughly enjoyed the evening along with our friends from a year earlier and the other new friends that were part of our group.

Be sure to attend this year's Honolulu convention, June 6-10, so that you can experience your own special RI Convention moment!

*By Walter Sickles*

### Corona Virus Travel Update

Rotary is closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus.

The Rotary International Convention is still scheduled for 6-10 June in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Rotary is following the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), which "did not recommend any travel or trade restrictions, based on the current information available," in its latest statement on the topic.

Rotary will continue to watch for developments and follow the recommendations of WHO, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rotary will prepare to make any necessary adjustments to the plans for the Rotary International Convention should that become necessary. They will take all precautions that are needed to protect convention attendees. Your health and safety are Rotary's top priorities.

Rotary will keep you informed through [riconvention.org](https://www.rotaryconvention.org), through the *Convention News* newsletter, and by email.

#### Quote of the Month:

*"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"*

*Robin Williams*

## District 7305 Mid-Year Review

On Saturday, February 1, 2020 at CCAC Boyce Campus, 75 Rotarians of our District gathered for District Governor Jim Hahn's Mid-Year Review of outcomes for the first seven months of our 2019-2020 Rotary year.

The meeting was meant to inform, inspire, and involve Rotarians in what has been successfully occurring over the past seven months. DG Jim started the meeting by introducing our incoming stream of governors for the next three years: DGE Al DeLucia (RC of McMurray), DGN Vince Costa (RC of Oakland), and DGND Marie Fallon (RC of East Pittsburgh).

Foundation Chair Jeff Klink (RC of Crafton-Ingram) provided overview updates on our Foundation and more specifics on Global grants while PDG Sue Kelly (RC of Carnegie-Collier), former Foundation Chair, elaborated on District grants.

On March 29, the Foundation Brunch will be held starting at Noon at the River's Casino. All were invited to participate. Details will be following.

Next, PDGs Pam Moore (RC of Uniontown) and Sue Kelly detailed the events planned for June 26-28 District Conference at Seven Springs.



Membership Co-Chair Linda Fischer Bruce (RC of Pittsburgh) and Dennis Piper (RC of Crafton-Ingram) provided stats and specifics on our Membership, as follows:

D7305 presently has 83 Clubs within nine Counties with 2,079 members. Our collective goal is to reach 2,168 members ... we're shy 84 to reach our goal. IF every club retained and added ONE new member, we will make our targeted goal. We're holding membership retention at 93% of this amount; 33% are female. Our under-40 members fall in the 4.33% range.

Members join for community engagement and friendship and leave predominately due to cost and club constraints (40%); only 16%

due to unmet expectations. Overall, our vibrant new District 7305 is doing well and is poised for growth.

DGND Marie Fallon was asked to share info on PR and Communications; she rocked the auditorium for fifteen minutes having us all shouting back that we were "People of Action!"

DGE Al DeLucia elaborated on the theme for 2020-2021, Rotary Opens Opportunities, and provided outcomes from the recent International Assembly in San Diego. One highlight was his connecting with DGE Annemarie Mostert from South Africa, Johannesburg. On April 21, 2021, the RC of Johannesburg will celebrate its 100th Anniversary as the first club in Africa, which was sponsored in 1921 by a member in Pittsburgh. Open invitations to participate.

AG Dennis Piper then shared many ways of communicating with our new and seasoned members for engagement and retention. During the interactive session, many attendees were elaborating on successes of their projects in the various communities they serve, as well as several discussing international projects that would be made better if other clubs would enjoy co-sponsoring.

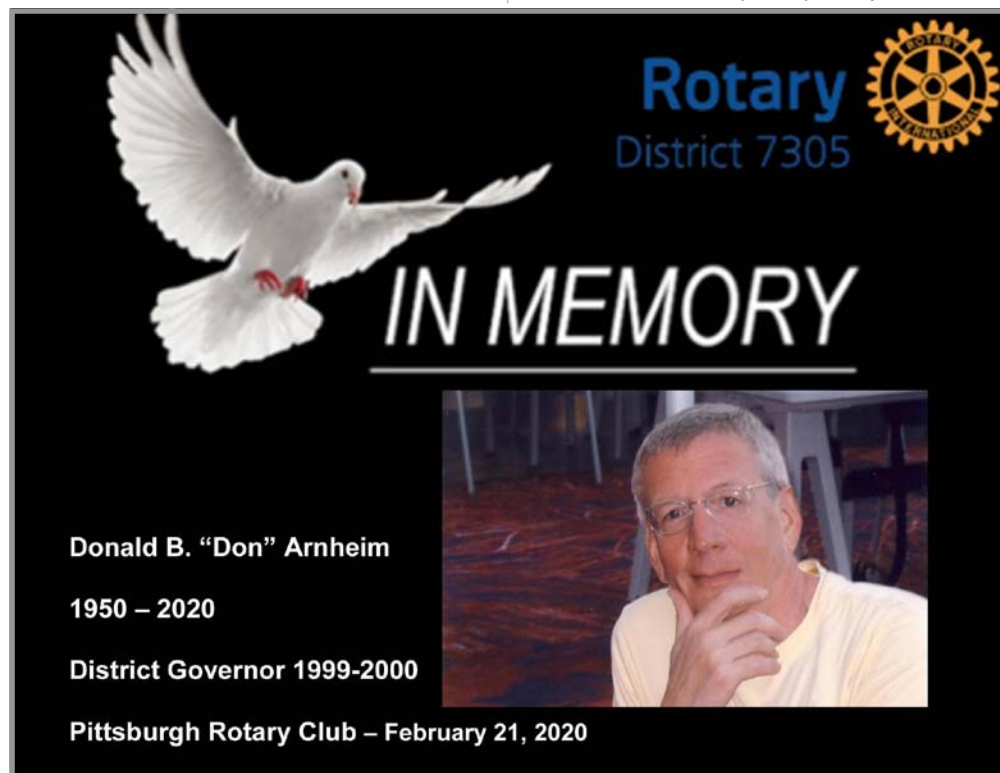
The meeting wrapped up with DG Jim giving closing remarks, as well as DGN Vince Costa providing a few supporting comments for future District involvement.

SO... what brought out 75 intrigued Rotarians? Their passion and commitment to supporting our newly-merged District 7305... who left informed, inspired and involved!!

### Rotary Africa - The Beginning

Which was the first Rotary club in Africa? How did Rotary in Africa start? Most people don't realize that the roots of Rotary in Africa started right here in Pittsburgh.

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg, South Africa was the first Rotary club in Africa. It was formed 100 years ago in 1920 and chartered in April 2021. A Pittsburgh Rotarian, Ed Fisher, was working on an extended project in Johannesburg. He was full of enthusiasm for this new service organization. He gathered a





number of civic and business leaders together and told them about the benefits of Rotary International. As a result the decision was made to form a club and appeal to Rotary International for a charter. As a side note Cairo, Egypt was the second Rotary club in Africa.

Huge events are being planned to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of African Rotary. Many dignitaries from all over the Rotary world will attend. At least one Pittsburgh Rotarian is planning to attend the celebration in April 2021. Perhaps there will be others from Pittsburgh Rotary or District 7305.

Twenty five years ago in 1996 when Johannesburg Rotary was celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary, Jim Simmermon, past district governor and past Pittsburgh Rotarian (now a member of Oakmont Rotary), my wife, Ruth, and I attended the ceremonies in Johannesburg to represent Pittsburgh Rotary, the founding club.

The seventy-fifth anniversary agenda was filled with week-long events but the highlight was the Saturday night banquet. The keynote speaker was scheduled to be Nelson Mandela. Unfortunately he was called to the United Nations on an emergency matter and could not be at the banquet. He was replaced by one of his associates who had spent twenty-seven years in prison alongside Mandela. He gave a spectacular talk about the meaning of freedom and human dignity.

Jim Simmermon, Ruth and I met a good number of dedicated Rotarians including the Rotary International president, Herbert Brown and his wife, Diana. The Johannesburg Rotarians were most generous in their hospitality. They supplied housing, transportation and lots of Rotary fellowship. We have wonderful memories of this exciting excursion including a side



*In 1996, Ruth and Karl Ohrman, together with PDG Jim Simmermon, represented Pittsburgh at the RC of Johannesburg 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Text and pictures courtesy Karl Ohrman*

trip to Cape Town. Jim stayed on and visited many sights available including one of the nature preserves with all of the Big Five animals in their natural habitat. Jim also visited Victoria Falls.

Rotary Districts throughout Africa and beyond are gearing up for this historic one hundred anniversary in April 2021. I can assure everyone if you've ever wanted to visit South Africa, this is your golden opportunity.

## Is Your Rotary Event Safe?

Over the past five years, one third (33%) of all claims reported under the Rotary Liability Insurance were related to injuries resulting from a slip, trip or fall.

As clubs and districts begin planning outdoor fundraising events, it is important to ensure safety is part of the planning. A banana peel is on the ground, many people will walk around it; a few might toss it aside and even fewer will pick it up and place it in the waste container. Be the person who picks up the banana peel.

Below are some of the pre-event steps clubs and districts could take to ensure the outdoor events are slip or trip hazard free and ready for excited attendees.

Assign person(s) to inspect (before, during and after) the venue area, which could include parks, streets, parking lots or neighborhoods, where your event is being held for any potential risks for slip, trip or fall injuries:

- Clear the area of possible hazards, such as broken glass, rocks or other objects.
  - Look for areas that could pose a slipping or tripping hazard such as unsecured or loose electrical cords lying on the ground.
  - Direct your vendors to check their areas and ensure that they secure all loose cables/wires in and around their booths or tents.
  - Require responsible parties to properly raise and anchor their tents, canopies and other temporary structures.
  - Ensure walkways are sufficiently lit, wide enough and clutter free for people to walk around safely.
  - Mark divots, trenches, uneven surfaces or inclines on the grounds or in walkways with the use of cones, flags, yellow caution tape, etc.
  - Document the hazard(s) found and the follow up action(s) to resolve it.
- It is important to make safety a priority when conducting all activities and events to prevent or minimize injuries.

For more information, visit the insurance website at: [insight.ajg.com](http://insight.ajg.com)  
**Username:** rotary@ajg.com  
**Password:** rotarian1



Did you know that The U.S. Rotary Clubs and Districts Liability Insurance Program provides all U.S. Rotary clubs and districts with general liability insurance? Learn how your club can take advantage of this.



## Lemonade for Breast Cancer

The Turtle Creek Satellite Club recently set up a Pink Lemonade stand to raise money for breast cancer research.

With the help of club members, family, and friends, they raised \$5,000 for this great cause.



## Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Pancake Festival

Members of Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair say the pancakes they serve each year at Westminster Presbyterian Church are some of the best ever made.

After all, they've been working on perfecting the recipe since 1959, the year of their first Pancake Festival. And to show just how delicious the main menu item can be, a onetime senior lineman for the Upper St. Clair High School football team set the all-time all-you-can-eat record with 54 pancakes consumed.

During the past six decades, club members and helpers have served more than 800,000 pancakes to more than 140,000 South Hills residents.

The event over the years has raised more than \$1.8 million, which the club has distributed to charitable organizations in the South Hills and toward community projects.

Text and photos courtesy The Almanac



## Rotary District 7305

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Visit us on Facebook

[www.rotarydistrict7305.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7305.org)

## What are Vaccine-Derived Polioviruses?

Vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPVs) are rare strains of poliovirus that have genetically mutated from the strain contained in the oral polio vaccine. The oral polio vaccine contains a live, attenuated (weakened) vaccine-virus. When a child is vaccinated, the weakened vaccine-virus replicates in the intestine and enters into the bloodstream, triggering a protective immune response in the child. Like wild poliovirus, the child excretes the vaccine-virus for a period of six to eight weeks. Importantly, as it is excreted, some of the vaccine-virus may no longer be the same as the original vaccine-virus as it has genetically altered during replication. This is called a VDPV.

There are three types of VDPVs  
1 - Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV)

On very rare occasions, if a population is seriously under-immunized, there are enough susceptible children for the excreted vaccine-derived polioviruses to begin circulating in the community. If the vaccine-virus is able to circulate for a prolonged period of time uninterrupted, it can mutate and, over the course of 12-18 months, reacquire neurovirulence. These viruses are called circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (cVDPV).

The lower the population immunity, the longer these viruses survive. The longer they survive, the more they replicate, change, and exchange genetic material with other enteroviruses as they spread through a community.

If a population is fully immunized against polio, it will be protected against the spread of both wild and vaccine strains of poliovirus.

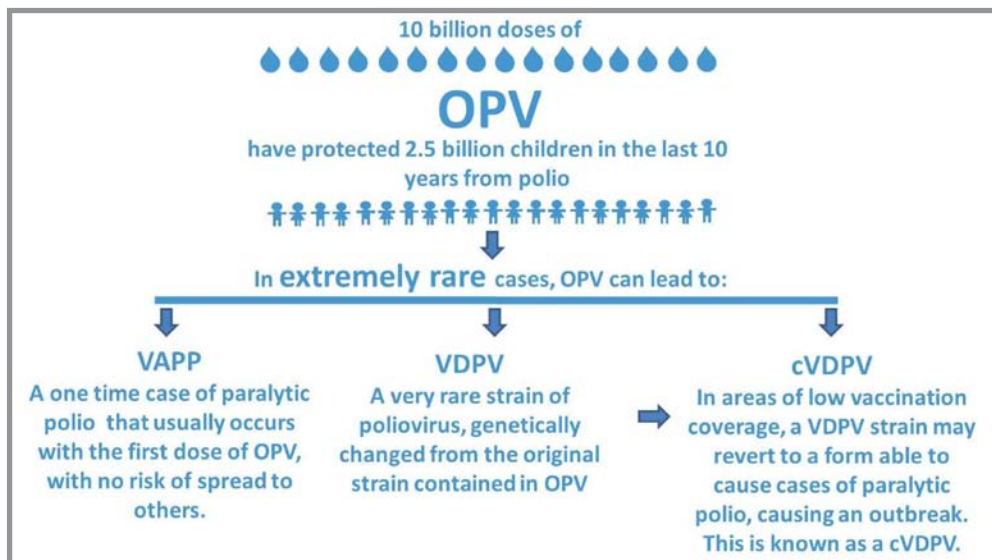
Episodes of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus are rare. Over



## 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?



On very rare occasions, the oral polio vaccine (OPV) can generate a strain of poliovirus known as vaccine-derived poliovirus. To better understand how this happens, watch this short informative video: [https://youtu.be/mg\\_XFQ2zib4](https://youtu.be/mg_XFQ2zib4)

the past ten years – a period during which more than 10 billion doses of oral polio vaccine were given worldwide – cVDPV outbreaks resulted in fewer than 800 cases (data updated weekly). In the same period, in the absence of vaccination with OPV, more than 6.5 million children would have been paralysed by wild poliovirus.

2 - Immunodeficiency-related vaccine-derived poliovirus (iVDPV)

Prolonged replication of VDPVs has been observed in a small number of people with rare immune deficiency disorders. Because they are not able to mount an immune response, these people are not able to clear the intestinal vaccine virus infection, which is usually cleared within six to eight weeks. They therefore excrete iVDPVs for prolonged periods.

The occurrence of iVDPVs is very rare. Only 111 cases have been documented worldwide since 1962. Of these, most stopped excretion within six months or died.

3 - Ambiguous vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV)

aVDPVs are VDPVs that are either isolated from people with no known

immunodeficiency, or isolated from sewage whose ultimate source is unknown. Very little is known about them.

Implications and management of vaccine-derived polioviruses

Circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses must be managed in the same way as wild poliovirus outbreaks. The solution is the same for all polio outbreaks: vaccinate every child several times with oral polio vaccine to stop polio transmission, regardless of whether the virus is wild or vaccine-derived.

Outbreaks are usually rapidly stopped with 2–3 rounds of high-quality supplementary immunization activities.

Once wild poliovirus transmission has been stopped globally, the vaccine-viruses will be the only source of live polioviruses in the community and could potentially lead to the re-emergence of polio. Use of the oral polio vaccine in routine immunization programmes will therefore be phased out to eliminate the rare risks posed by vaccine-derived polioviruses.

By Global Polio Eradication Initiative

# SAVE THE DATE



**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 28, 2020**

**ROTARY LEADERSHIP RLI COURSE DAY**  
SALVATION ARMY BUILDING, JOHNSTOWN



**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 29, 2020**

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON**  
RIVERS CASINO



**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 – 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**

