



Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America Newsletter



Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Message from Chair Gerald Gortner



What a beautiful time of year in Upstate New York and New England! Having moved to New England from Ohio 58 years ago, it is my favorite season. Rotary Leadership Institute is planning a busy autumn with sites already being posted for registration, beginning with our first RLI of the year in Verona on September 24.

We are glad to welcome our four new Regional Vice Chairs: Janet Tenreiro, Dick Hall, Joan Arsenault, and Jim Miller to serve RLI Northeast America. At our annual meeting last month, we decided to continue the policy of allowing districts to decide whether to hold in person or virtual sessions. We also decided to allow districts to hold two three-hour Zoom sessions on weekday nights as long as the sessions are held within eight days of each other. We will continue to allow Interact members to participate as long as they are at least 18.

I have a **Great Big Thank You** for our Executive Director Deb Glisson for organizing the nine-breakout sessions at our annual meeting. The compliments from attendees were wonderful, saying, "Glad we came, this was very beneficial, best breakout sessions ever! Thank you to our leaders Liz Cullen, Deb Glisson, Lin Kelly, Bernadelle Kucharczuk, Barry Kroll, Bonnie Sirower, Mike McCarthy, Norma Madayag-Reilly, Bill Gormont, Paulette Boudrot, and Sue Reisman.

Thank you, Bonnie Sirower, for the hand-made Afghan and auctioneer Joe Dino, which sold for \$3,000 with an additional \$3,000 match. With the Bill and Melinda Gates matching at 2x and the gift we presented on behalf of Past RLI NEA Chair DG Paul Myskiewiez, we raised \$19,500 for Polio Plus at our Friday night banquet.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our sessions in the year ahead. **Stay safe!**

Jerry

Jerry

Message from our Executive Director Deb Glisson



RLI-NEA Turns the Corner

As we prepare to begin the 2022-2023 RLI-NEA year, I am taking a bit of space here to recap a few of the significant happenings of the 2021-2022 RLI-NEA year and to forecast a few of the upcoming happenings!

First, RLI-NEA held 5 in-person Institutes and 8 virtual institutes. There were participants in Part 1, Part 2, part 3, and the "7 Areas of Focus" Graduate session. All total, there were 529 Participants in our 2021-2022 RLI-NEA Institutes!

Second, we inducted 16 new RLI-NEA facilitators:

- Joan Arsenault, District 7930
- April Beston, District 7890
- Alexander Falk, District 7930
- Dick Hall, District 7780
- Philomena Hare, District 7950
- Charlene Jarest, District 7950
- Bill Kerfoot, District 7950
- Doug Luke, District 7950
- Dawn Moore, District 7505
- Steve Neuner, District 7505
- Dave Reynolds (Refresher), District 7170
- Stacy Rodriguez, District 7410
- Brian Snell, District 7930
- Bill Skinner, District 7410
- Bill Sullivan, District 7930
- Daniel Walsh, District 7950

Each of these newly trained facilitators will be offered opportunities to observe some of our experienced facilitators. Next, they will be assigned to jump in and facilitate a session during which they will be observed by some very experienced facilitators. Ultimately, they will be recommended for future facilitation experiences.

Third, we inducted 3 facilitator trainers.

Liz Cullen, District 7780

Phyllis Danks, District 7150

Deb Glisson, District 7150

Each of these trainers has extensive experience with facilitating RLI-NEA Institute sessions. They are all prepared to train new facilitators. Phyllis Danks conducted the most recent Faculty Training session at the Annual meeting in Park Ridge New Jersey. Both Liz and Deb look forward to serving soon in that capacity.

Currently, there are 4 RLI-NEA in-person sessions open for registration at RLINEA.org. They include:

- Verona, NY, District 7150 on September 24, 2022
- Rochester, NY, District 7120 on October 1, 2022
- Melville, NY, District 7255 on October 8, 2022
- Harrisburg, PA, District 7390 on October 22, 2022

In the very near future, there will be opportunities for Rotarians to participate in additional in-person Institutes, Virtual Institutes, and Virtual Institutes that take place via two evening sessions within an 8-day window.

Please keep up to date on the happenings of RLI-NEA via our frequent newsletters, emails, DACDb website, and Facebook postings!

We look forward to your participation in the focused networking opportunities that RLI-NEA offers!

Deb

Our first RLI NEA Annual Meeting since 2019 draws more than 60 RLI Faculty, Site Chairs and Officers



On August 19th and 20th, more than 60 Faculty, Site Chairs and Officers of Rotary Leadership Institute Northeast America joined together in-person for our first Annual Meeting since 2019 at the beautiful Park Ridge Marriott Hotel in Montvale, NJ. The event drew representatives from all parts of our area including Delaware, all of New England, New York City, Upstate New York, Long Island and Pennsylvania. After the RLI Executive Committee met on Friday morning, the event began for everyone with break-out sessions for RLI Faculty members, Site Chairs and Regional Vice-Chairs on Friday afternoon, led by experienced RLI members. Additional break-out sessions were held on Saturday morning before the formal

Annual Meeting of the Board.



Faculty members attended sessions on presenting their sessions in-person from Bernadette Kuzharzuk



Liz Cullen taught a session to Faculty Members on presenting a RLI session using Zoom



Site Chairs learned how to administer their sites from PDG Mike McCarthy and from Lin Kelly from DACdb

RVC's learned how to administer their sites from Paulette Boudrot, Sue Reisman and Lin Kelly



Mike McCarthy and Lin Kelly presented a break-out sessions on Administration of your RLI Sites to Site Chairs and using DACdb



Norma Madayag-Reilly gave an overview of course changes to Faculty and PDG Bill Gormont explained the new Graduate Course on Strategic Planning



Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the cocktail hour and the delicious banquet before the formal presentations started...





RLI Honors Its Best for 2021-22

After dinner at the Annual Meeting on Friday night, August 19th, members of the Executive Board of RLI NEA honored three special Rotarians for their outstanding work on behalf of our organization.



Current RLI NEA Chair PDG Gerald Gortner, along with Past RLI NEA Chairs PDG Frank Wargo and PDG Knut Johnsen presented the first award - the RLI NEA Appreciation Award -- to Immediate Past Chair Paul Muczynski. Paul Muczynski's Rotary Service began in 1976 when he first joined the Rotary Club of Plains, PA. He served as Club Secretary from 1976-1982, when he accepted a position in Saudi Arabia for the next 22 years. Returning back home, Paul rejoined the Plains Club and served as its President from 2005-2007. He was both an Assistant Governor and Foundation chair in his District, as well as the District Conference chair. Paul is a Benefactor, Major Donor, Level 5 Bequest Society, and a Paul Harris Society Member of the Rotary Foundation. In addition to leading Mid Northeast Multi-District PETS in 2012 as the General Chair, Paul has also served RI as a member of 2 Zone 32 Director Nominating Committees, 4 Zone 24 & 32 Planning Committees and the 2013 Council on Legislation. Paul served for many years as a facilitator, then became a Regional Vice Chair for RLI-NEA's Southern Region. He served as Chair from 2018-2020.

Norma Madayag-Reilly, who recently retired as a RLI Regional Vice-Chair, then presented the RLI NEA Award for Outstanding Facilitator to PDG Bill Gormont. Bill will be facilitating this year's Graduate Course on Strategic Planning and presented a preview of this to our Facilitators on Saturday morning. Bill served as District 7120 Governor in 2015-2016. He has been a Rotary Leadership Institute North East America Faculty Member since 2011. Bill also serves as the Zone 32 District International Service Chair (DISC) Facilitator as well as his district's International Service Director and Strategic Planning Committee Chair. He is a representative on Rotary's Council on Legislation and is a recurring keynote speaker and breakout session leader for Rotary International on Strategic Planning, Leadership Vision and International Service at PETS Trainings, District Conferences, Zone Institutes and Rotary International Conventions.



PDG's Frank Wargo and Knut Johnsen also presented our final award of the evening -- the Yvette Palmer Award for Outstanding Service to RLI NEA -- to PDG Mike McCarthy. Since joining the Pottstown, PA, Club in 1997, Mike has served his Club and Rotary in a wide number of capacities ranging from the Club to District to Zone and RI levels. He took RLI Level 1 as a District Governor Nominee in 2007 and has remained involved since as a facilitator, faculty recruiter and promoter. He currently supports the Regional Vice-chairs working with the Districts in the NYC metro area, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. Both PDG Frank and PDG Knut praised Mike's humility and steadfast diligence in working to make RLI sessions happen throughout the years he has served.

But the party wasn't over...

Warm Welcomes before, a great speech from RIPD Mike McGovern, a Special Auction to benefit Polio Plus, and finally, Two RLI Officers Get Hypnotized



The banquet on Friday night got off to a great start when DGE John Cosgrove, who will lead District 7490 (where the Annual Meeting was held) in 2023-24, welcomed everyone to Montvale. This was followed by a welcome from our Chair PDG Gerald Gortner.

After the awards ceremony (see article below), our keynote speaker PRID Michael K. McGovern, told us about the progress and growth around the world of Rotary Leadership Institute since its first inception 29 years ago and the changes that

we have made through the years. He also gave us some of the latest updates on RI's efforts to eradicate polio. On the good news side, even though Afghanistan is now run by the Taliban, that group

is still assisting RI in making sure that every child is vaccinated. On the alarming side, however, Mike cautioned us that a polio case had been found only about twenty miles away from where this conference was being held, in nearby Rockland County. Michael K. McGovern is now the global chair of the Rotary Leadership Institute and formerly chaired the Rotary Leadership Institute of Northeast America. He has served as the chair of the Rotary International PolioPlus Committee since October 2014. He also represents Rotary on the Polio Oversight Board which governs the global polio eradication initiative partnership and chairs its Finance and Accountability Committee. Mike joined Rotary in 1986 as a member of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA. After serving as a district governor in 1999-2000, he has served in many Rotary positions including as a director and vice president of Rotary International and as a trustee and vice chair of the Rotary Foundation. He also led Rotary's rezoning efforts in 2006-2007 and in 2017-2018, was chair of the RI Membership Committee, and has chaired the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention.



Following Mike's address, PDG Joe Dino (District 7490) auctioned off an Afghan created and crocheted by (your editor) PDG Bonnie Sirower that was modeled after the poster used at the Houston RI International Conference to advertise the upcoming RI Convention in Melbourne, Australia next year. As a result of Joe Dino's efforts, PDG John Krambs bid \$3,000 for the Afghan, which was matched by DGN Mark Hammond (D 7475). Since the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match whatever is raised for PolioPlus; this resulted in an overall donation from RLI NEA of \$19,500 to PolioPlus.

Finally, PDG Deb Glisson, RLI NEA's Executive Director and PDG Bonnie Sirower, our Marketing Coordinator, succumbed to the powerful suggestions of hypnotist Bob Mesmer. Bob had the whole crowd laughing as Deb and Bonnie boogied their way through a dance by clicking their fingers, turned over keys just using their minds, and had difficulty making out words everyone else could read -- words/phrases such as Rotary, Giving, Four Way Test, etc.



All in all, this was an Annual Meeting to remember for a long time!

You can now start to register for Fall RLI NEA Sessions

Our first session this Rotary year will be held in-person at Verona High School in Sherill, NY on Saturday, September 24th from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Parts I, II, III, and this year's graduate course on Advanced Strategic Planning will all be offered. Cost is \$75 for Rotarians, \$50 for Rotaract members. For information please contact Event Chair Jenny Doane at jennyames47@gmail.com.

Our second session will take place on Saturday, October 1st from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at Avon High School, 245 Clinton Street, Avon, NY 14414 near Rochester, NY. Parts I, II, III, & this year's graduate course on Advanced Strategic Planning will all be offered. Costs are the same as above. For information please contact Event Chair Norma Madayag-Reilly at madayag.reillyn@frontier.com.

Our third session will be held in-person on Long Island on Saturday, October 8th at the Marriott Melville Hotel, 1350 Walt Whitman Road, Melville, NY 11747 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. All parts will be offered. Cost for this session is \$140, but only \$50 for Rotaract members. For more information, contact Shawn Weis at sweis349@gmail.com

Our fourth session will be held on Saturday, October 22 in-person at the Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA 17093 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. All parts will be offered. Cost is \$110; only \$50 for Rotaract members. For information please contact Event Chair Greg Staub at greg.staub.pcm@comcast.net.

To register for any of these courses, go to www.rlinea.org and click on the session for which you want to register!

Bulletin Editor Information

This newsletter is published quarterly by Marketing Coordinator PDG Bonnie Sirower (D 7490). Please send stories to her at

Botzie@aol.com. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, just click ***unsubscribe*** at the bottom of this e-mail.

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