



The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

July 28, 2021

Vol 2021

No. 39



Guest Speaker



We look forward this week to hearing from Laura Domencic, the Erie Art Museum's new Executive Director and learning about her future plans for this venerable cultural asset in our community.

Before this recent appointment, she has worked as an independent arts consultant leading successful fundraising efforts for a variety of institutional and individual clients. For the past three years, she has also directed an artist residency program in Ambialet, France.

She has curated and organized exhibitions, many of which garnered significant critical attention, including Emigration - Immigration - Migration (Westmoreland Museum of American Art, 2018-19), In the Air: Visualizing what we breathe (Pittsburgh Filmmakers Galleries, 2015), and Marcellus Shale Documentary Project (ten-venue traveling exhibition, 2012-16). Previously, Domencic served for 11 years as director of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PCA), part of the Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. At PCA, she managed operations for the arts center campus in Mellon Park, developing, curating and shepherding a full calendar of exhibitions, and building community arts programming.

In addition to her administrative roles, Domencic is a visual artist. She received her MFA from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Please RSVP here for this meeting: [July 28th Rotary Meeting](#)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 865 2253 0793

Passcode: 1424

Club Leaders

Diane E. Chido
President

Maureen Rizzo
President-Elect

Allison Faye Keenan
Vice President
Club Programs Chair

Blane K. Dessy
Secretary

David Mahoney
Treasurer

Tom Pysz
Past President

Years of Service

Melanie R. Titzel
08-23-2000
21 Years

Thomas A. Tupitza
08-27-2003
18 Years

Robert V. Smith
08-18-2004
17 Years

Linda Breakiron
08-25-2010
11 Years



July 21 Meeting Recap



Rotary Club of Erie President and Past District 7280 Governor Norm Stark gave an extensive overview of Erie's maritime history in his fascinating introduction to our first regular meeting program of the 2021-22 year.

Paul Farace, President of the *USS COD SS-224* Submarine Memorial spoke entertainingly and knowledgeably about the World War II era submarine and its somewhat harrowing trip to Erie for refurbishment at DonJon Shipbuilding and Repair.

Today, the *USS Cod* is one of the finest restored submarines on display. Cleveland can claim partial credit as *USS Cod*'s birthplace, since the submarine's five massive diesel engines were built by General Motor's Cleveland Diesel plant on Cleveland's west side. For additional information about the history to this visitor to Erie, please visit usscod.org

Paul also showed a great slide show with photos of the sub over the years.



Welcome to Cassandra Whitmer



The Rotary Club of Erie was pleased to welcome Cassandra Whitmer as a new member on July 21, 2021.

Cassandra is a native of Clarion who moved to Erie to attend Gannon University and decided to make Erie her home. She is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones and is a certified John Maxwell trainer and coach.

She has attended a few meetings and enjoys the speakers and looks forward to meeting new people and becoming more involved in the community she loves through Rotary.

Cassantra is married to David Fetzner and has three children.

Janel M. Bonsell
08-15-2012
9 Years

Michael J Malthaner
08-19-2015
6 Years

Robin Schepner
08-10-2016
5 Years

David Bertges
08-10-2016
5 Years

Birthdays

Gery T. Nietupski
August 11th

Robert E. Cronmiller
August 13th

Thomas J. Freeman
August 18th



Rotary Club of Erie Scholarship Foundation



The Scholarship Foundation of the Rotary Club of Erie is the principal and longest-running service project in the Club's history. On September 28, 1956 six incorporators, Ken Root, Howard Kelly, Bart Birmingham, Tom Yates, J.C. Spencer, and Eric Schabacker filed an application for a not-for-profit corporation charter.

The Foundation Charter was granted on October 22, 1956 and the Foundation was in business. The trustees contacted every member of the Club for a contribution to the Foundation. In 1957, nine applications were received from local high school students and three of these received scholarship grants. Three years later, in July 1960, the Endowment Fund of the Scholarship Foundation was established "to receive gifts, legacies, and bequests."

Over the years this endowment has grown and the earned income helps support the program. Eligible students must reside within the City of Erie. Erie High School submits approximately four to six applications and three are chosen. NWPA Collegiate Academy submits approximately three to five applications and two are chosen.

The Chair of the Scholarship Trustees, currently **Linda Breakiron**, contacts the school guidance counselors and asks them to identify students who exemplify Rotary's motto "Service Above Self", demonstrate financial need, and who have been accepted to a 4-year higher education program.

The applications contain information on the students' GPA, activities, basic family and personal information along with a two-page essay by the applicants describing how they exemplify the motto. The Trustees then go to each school, interview the students, and select the recipients.

In June, the checks are presented at a Rotary luncheon to which the students, their counselor, and their parents are also invited.

The scholarship can be used as needed by the students. Often they are used to pay for books, other needed equipment or sometimes even a car to help them get to class. This year, each student will receive \$3,000 for a total outlay of \$15,000.

As a 501(c)3 separate from the Club itself, the Erie Rotary Scholarship Foundation is eligible to receive matching funds on **Erie Gives Day**. This year it is on **August 10**. Please consider our Scholarship Foundation as you make your contributions: <https://www.eriegives.org/>

Upcoming Speakers:

August 11th

Richard G. Tote, District Governor
[Rotary District 7280](#)

August 18th Brenda Sandberg,
Executive Director
[Erie-Western PA Port Authority](#)

Sept 1st

Sean Fedorko, Co-Founder
[Radius CoWork](#)



People of Action: Rotarians Helping Rotarians



The Presque Isle Rotary Club held its annual Pancake Breakfast this past weekend in conjunction with Discover Presque Isle.

Erie Rotarians **Lisa Graff, Diane Chido, Heather Yahn, and David Mahoney** were on hand to help serve the food and have a great time with PI Rotarians and their guests.

Our club's People of Action Committee will plan a monthly service project for all interested Rotarians to take part in. Join the planning committee or share an idea for a future project with President Diane Chido

dchido@dcanalytics.net.



District Governor Rick Tote lends a hand, along with his friends, Egg and Pancakes!



Expressions of Care and Concern for Rotarians



In early June, longtime Rotarian and Past President **Bill Bloomstine** suffered a stroke that has left him with paralysis on his left side. He is currently recuperating at St Mary's Asbury but anticipates returning home with care as soon as possible.

Bill appreciates Rotarians' messages of care and support and especially enjoys having visitors. Due to his excellent health otherwise and his deep faith, his prognosis is good, and his patience and strength are growing daily. He has his tablet and plans to tune into our meeting on Wednesday. His email address is william.bloomstine@imcerie.com and he can be reached through St Mary's switchboard at [814-836-5300](tel:814-836-5300).

Please also hold Rotarian **Dr. Roy Strausbaugh** in your care as his wife of 60 years, **Rosanna**, is very ill. He too asks for your support. Roy can be reached on Facebook.

