

# The See-Way



Journal of the Rotary Club of Erie, Pennsylvania

Club 5136, Organized in 1913

District 7280

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## Guest Speaker



Michael "Mike" Bloeser (pronounced BLAZER), is a member of the Bayview Toastmasters Club and earned the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster in 2006.

Mike is a Child, Marital and Family Therapist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Mike works full time as an outpatient therapist for the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center. He also owns a solo private practice which was started in 2004.

A lifelong resident of Erie County, Mike graduated from Cathedral Prep in 1969, the University of Notre Dame in 1973, earned his Master of Science in Counseling degree from Gannon University in 1980, and a Master of Social Services Administration from Case Western Reserve's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences in 1990.

Mike was licensed as a Pennsylvania Clinical Social Worker in 1990 and has been a Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists since 1980.

As a professional practicing in the Erie area for the past 47 years, Mike has been called upon to conduct various training programs and live presentations throughout the tri-state area. He helped form the Bayview Toastmasters Club over 30 years ago. Mike served as an Area Governor, Division Governor, Lt. Governor of Marketing, Lt. Governor of Education and Training and District Governor in Toastmasters. He has also served in all Club Officer roles, including Club President this past year.

Mike is passionate about helping others assess their needs and achieve their goals in life. He recently celebrated his 47th wedding anniversary with his wife, Judy. He and Judy raised four wonderful children and enjoy their seven grandchildren. Among Mike's interests are mental and physical fitness, music, and gardening.

RSVP for this week's meeting [HERE](#)

## Club Leaders

**Diane E. Chido**  
President

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**Maureen Rizzo**  
President-Elect

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**Allison Faye Keenan**  
Vice President  
Club Programs Chair

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**Blane K. Dessy**  
Secretary

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**David Mahoney**  
Treasurer

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**Tom Pysz**  
Past President

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**Lisa M. Graff**  
Assistant Governor

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## Rotary at the SeaWolves Joined by DG Rick Tote



We have combined two great Rotary annual traditions for double the fun this summer! Our District Governor, Rick Tote, will join us at the UPMC SeaWolves ballpark for an evening picnic and baseball game night! Rick's bio can be found on our [Rotary Club of Erie website](#)



Erie Rotary members attendance fee is covered and tickets for guests are \$30 each and include a 90 minute buffet (from 6:30 to 8pm). The picnic includes Smith's hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ pulled pork, potato salad, mac & cheese, garden salad, Lay's potato chips, cookies, and Pepsi fountain drinks. Gates open at 6pm and the picnic begins at 6:30pm.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



## July 28 Meeting Recap



We were treated to a thoughtful presentation on "Museums as Convenors" by Laura Domencic, recently appointed Executive Director of the Erie Art Museum and featured program for our Erie Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday, July 28th.

Laura provided us with updates regarding the EAM's strategy to continue reopening plans, which include expanded hours and staff, programs, workshops and classes. Current museum operating hours can be found [here](#).

Members asked a number of questions about when their favorite classes and events would return post-pandemic and learned that classes are resuming, and information can be found on EAM's [website](#), social media pages, through emails and newsletters if they subscribe to receive them. To audience applause, Laura informed us that [Gallery Nights](#) will resume on October 15!

We welcome Laura and her family to Erie and we are fortunate to have her guiding the Erie Art Museum into many future years of development and involvement with our community.

## Years of Service

Melanie R. Titzel  
08-23-2000  
21 Years

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Thomas A. Tupitza  
08-27-2003  
18 Years

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Robert V. Smith  
08-18-2004  
17 Years

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Linda Breakiron  
08-25-2010  
11 Years

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Janel M. Bonsell  
08-15-2012  
9 Years

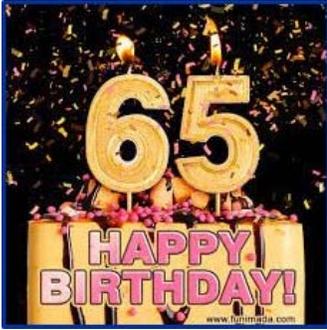
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Michael J Malthaner  
08-19-2015  
6 Years

-----  
Robin Scheppner  
08-10-2016  
5 Years

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David Bertges  
08-10-2016  
5 Years



## Support the Rotary Club of Erie Scholarship Foundation



Started in 1956, the Scholarship Foundation of the Rotary Club of Erie is the principal and longest-running service project in the Club's history. 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, attend either Erie High School or NWPA Collegiate Academy, be accepted to a four-year institution, and exemplify Rotary's motto *Service Above Self*. The Foundation normally gives 3 scholarships to Erie High students and 2 to Collegiate students of \$3,000 each for an annual outlay of \$15,000.

Each 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.

Over the past decade, the Foundation has also been the vehicle by which we have gathered and distributed funds for the Haiti School Campaign, the Rotakid program, 10 Ethics Symposiums, a LEAP campaign for South Africa, and Wisdom Addo's Annual PeaceJam conferences in Ghana.

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**. In 2019, we had 8 donors and the total after the match was \$968. In 2020, we had 7 donors and the total after the match was \$1,238. This year it is on **August 10**. We are grateful for these funds, but as Rotarians, we can do more to support our own program. Please consider our Scholarship Foundation as you make your contributions: <https://www.eriegives.org/>.

The Chair of the Scholarship Foundation Trustees, **Linda Breakiron**, will speak to the club on August 4 about the Foundation and give Rotarians an opportunity to ask any questions.



## Rotary Bids Janyssa Berrios, Ciao!!

On July 28, the Rotary Club of Erie said *Buon Viaggio!* to Janyssa Berrios, a Junior with the Gannon University Business Administration Program, who is off to study for a year in Italy!

## Birthdays

Gery T. Nietupski  
August 11th

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Robert E. Cronmiller  
August 13th

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Thomas J. Freeman  
August 18th

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Janyssa approached the Rotary Club when her planned funding source was interrupted by the pandemic. Rotarian and Gannon University Business School Professor Dr. Joe Kuvshnikov spoke with the Gannon Honors Program and learned that Janyssa was a great student who would get a lot out of this study abroad opportunity if she could just find all the funding she needed.

The Rotary Club Board of Directors were so impressed with Janyssa's approach to them, they were happy to help. Joe will continue to discuss this with Gannon's Business School in the hopes that we can work with our own Scholarship Foundation to sponsor a student annually for such an opportunity.

Janyssa had the choice to live in a dorm either with American or with Italian students and she picked the latter, immersive choice. She says, "I'm Puerto Rican and I speak Spanish, so I'm sure I will pick up Italian much easier by living with Italian students."

She has pledged to keep in touch and will check into our Club meetings periodically via Zoom to update us on her progress. *Arrivederci!*



## Erie Rotary Builds Peace in Africa



Rotarian Dr. Joyce

The Rotary Club of Erie has supported the PeaceJam Leadership Conference held in Accra, Ghana for the past decade, thanks to late Rotarian Dr. Joyce Miller's experience in Thailand as a certificate Rotary Peace Fellow. There, Joyce not only learned about building peace, she found herself a lifelong friend. Wisdom Addo leads the [West Africa Centre for Peace](#), which is the Ghana Chapter of

the [PeaceJam Foundation](#), a non-profit organization hosting an international education program connecting African youth with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates with the goal of creating a generation of young people committed to positive change in themselves, their communities, and the world.

Wisdom is an exceptional young man from Accra, who has just completed his MA in Peace Studies as a [Rotary Peace Fellow](#), one of only 50 people to be selected for this

program from across the globe.

Congratulations, Wisdom! Wisdom reported to us that "Last year, the funding we received from Rotary clubs of



RI Peace Fellow Wisdom Addo's Graduation

Erie, Cleveland, and Golden was channeled to purchasing PPEs and distributed to 20 schools, market women, and community members to curb the spread of COVID-19." He invites you to watch this video of the PPE distribution: <https://youtu.be/Pz-QQfqqIGQ>

Although PeaceJAM predates Joyce and Wisdom's friendship, her initials were J.A.M. and soon after her initial diagnosis of brain cancer, Joyce dedicated her life to supporting women with children to lift themselves from poverty, calling her foundation the "[JAM team.](#)"

This year, the Rotary Club of Erie's Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of sending a \$1,000 donation to PeaceJam as a memorial to Dr. Joyce Miller.

Wisdom plans to visit the US in the fall and we look forward to welcoming him back to Erie!



## Expressions of Care and Concern for Rotarians

With great sadness we report the passing of former Rotarian **Jim McEldowney's** 17-year-old daughter, Elise, on July 27 due to complications of surgery for an aneurysm. Jim served as Chair of the Scholarship Foundation Trustees for many years. He said at the viewing that he is looking forward to rejoining in the fall and misses his Rotary Family. We all look forward to seeing him and supporting him in this difficult time. In the meantime, drop him a note or visit the [fundraising page](#) set up for their family by good friends.



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. St. Mary's is no longer permitting visitors, but Bill appreciates phone calls. His email address is [william.bloomstine@imcerie.com](mailto:william.bloomstine@imcerie.com) and he can be reached through St. Mary's switchboard at 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 via Facebook.