

Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - August 2021

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

August is Membership Month

The beginning of each year starts with making plans and setting goals for Clubs and the District. Membership is a critical aspect for planning and setting goals. During the virtual Membership Summit sessions, we learned that attrition alone requires that we need to recruit new members. If clubs want to expand their community and global outreach, they need to grow their membership. This past year was very challenging, yet we were able to increase our membership to over 150 for the District as a whole. With the impact of COVID-19 somewhat under control, Clubs will be able to engage in regular meetings, conduct fundraisers and support their communities. It is important that Presidents and Club Membership Chairs have their plans and goals for membership ready to implement as soon as possible. Last Spring club leaders were guided through the Membership Summit to prepare a strong program to recruit new members. The methods introduced in the Summit are effective and straight forward. If you missed the Summit the zoom recordings can be found by entering the Rotary District 7305 website. At the top right-hand corner and to the left of Member Login the middle icon is the YouTube link. In You Tube, click on Videos and locate the five recordings. An additional resource is the Membership Playbook. It

August is



Membership and New Club Development Month

can be found in the DACdb District Files under Membership. The title is X-Membership: Membership Playbook.

In last month's Connector, the article Thinking about District Leadership introduced areas of support for the District. The areas included: Leadership Development, Strengthening Membership, ICT, Youth Leadership, District Programming and District Finance.

Strengthening Membership encompasses all the District efforts to increase membership. This Area is coordinated by John Hartman, DGN (Murrysville-Export). The committees included in this area are: Membership, Innovative Club Advocate, Membership Leads, Small Club Initiatives, Rotaract and soon to be developed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. RI views Rotaract as an outreach to young professionals both in the university setting and

after graduation as a community or service-based club. RI considers Rotaractors as having the same status as Rotarians. It is for this reason that they are placed under the Strengthening Membership Area.

To assist Area Coordinator John Hartman, a number of Rotarians have stepped up and taken on a leadership role. Joining the Membership Committee, we have John Hartman as Chair and Ann Persun (Somerset). Harold Hicks (Delmont-Salem) will be Chairing the Membership Leads Committee. Small Club initiatives include Harold Hicks (Delmont-Salem) and Michelle Petrell (Johnston). Innovative Club Advocate is led by Joseph Piszczor (Washington). Rotaract will be Chaired by Carlos Romero (Belle Vernon) with support from Matthew Burnett (White Oak). The team members are available for club visits to explain the purpose and ways to

Word of the Month:

August - adjective, formal

Meaning: having great importance and especially of the highest social class:

"The society's august patron, the Duke of Norfolk."

Cambridge Dictionary

promote these different initiatives.
Contact info for each is:

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As DG I have given the team the following challenges to work towards:

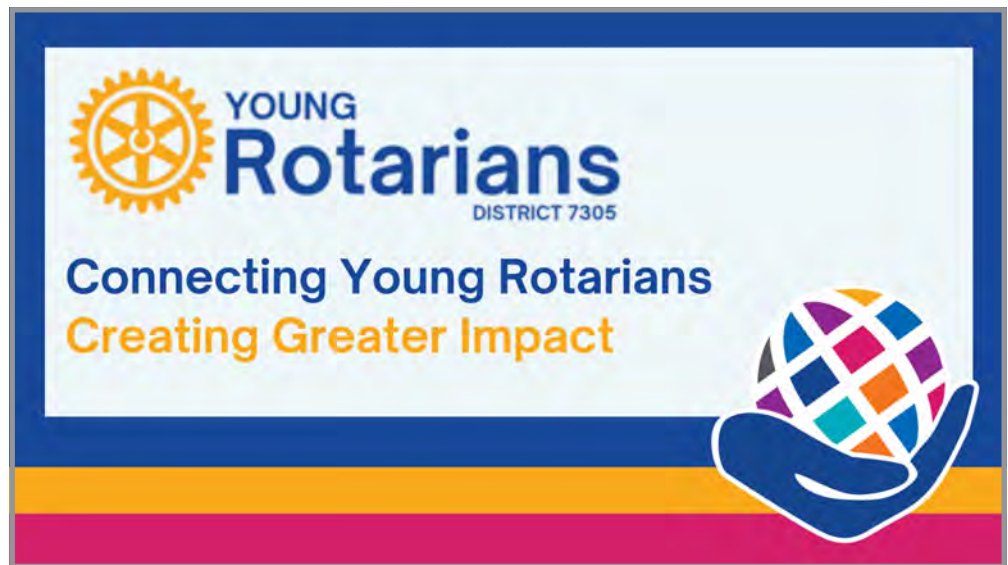
1. Assist all clubs to gain at least one new member.
2. Pursue a net increase of 200 new members.
3. Have 5 Rotaract Clubs up and running by year's end.

These are demanding tasks, but achievable. It's important to set goals for the District so that we have a target to aim towards. We can certainly make it happen with the team to help support club initiatives. Small clubs are a key factor in achieving these goals and the team is ready to provide guidance along with the support of the Assistant Governors.

The Strengthening Membership Team is ready to address these goals and will reach out to clubs and Assistant Governors to explore ways that these District goals and the Club goals can be achieved. The Rotary experience is an exciting one through networking, fellowship and community service. Let's share these opportunities with our friends, our neighbors, community leaders and business contacts.

RI President Shekhar Mehta has called on all Rotarians to increase Rotary membership from 1.2 million to 1.3 million this year. His motto is "Each One, Bring One". Let's all join in to make this a reality.

By DG Vince Costa



The Young Rotarians of District 7305

Are you a Rotarian under the age of 40, or do you know Rotarians (or non-Rotarians) under 40 who would like to get involved with a group of young motivated individuals in the District? Several members in our district are starting an auxiliary Rotary organization - *The Young Rotarians of District 7305* - that will offer young Rotarians additional opportunities for fellowship and service. This organization will have three primary objectives:

1. Provide young Rotarians the opportunity to connect with other young Rotarians in our District
2. Attract new members for clubs throughout the District
3. Give young Rotarians the opportunity to come together

for unique and impactful service events throughout the District

The group plans to meet at various locations throughout the District on a monthly basis. The first event will take place on August 5th at 6pm at Couch Brewing in Highland Park (near the Pittsburgh Zoo). This will be a casual event where Young Rotarians and non-Rotarians can network and discuss ideas for future events and community service projects. The second event will take place on August 25th at PNC Park when the Pirates take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. The group will meet at the Foundry at 5pm in the North Shore prior to the game.

If you're interested in learning more or attending an event please visit the groups Facebook Page: *The Young Rotarians of District 7305* or email YoungRotarians7305@gmail.com.

What does the logo used tell the world about your Rotary Club?



Your club is modern & progressive. It adapts to & adopts changes. It respects the worldwide organization it belongs to.



Yeah Nah !

The Rotary Club of Pittsburgh Added 21 New Members During the COVID-19 Pandemic



On July 14th, Rotary Club of Pittsburgh inducted 13 of the 21 new members who joined the club during the pandemic year. Despite challenging obstacles, their 2020-2021 President Kelli Robbins worked closely with the Board of Directors to lead, engage and commit efforts with the Membership Committee.

Once informed that the Omni William Penn Hotel was closing mid-March 2019, immediate efforts shifted towards conducting Zoom meetings.

During the most difficult part of Covid at-home sequestering, President Kelli, Jim Emmerling, Robin Zoufalik, and James Droney continued focus on membership recruitment. Focusing on retention was Duane Palmieri who chaired the "Captains Committee," a team of seasoned Rotarians who kept periodic contact with designated members updating on club activities and instructing how to connect through Zoom meeting software.

To keep the excitement going, Social Chair Alexis England along with the Board, created an event in which a customized 2020 New Year's celebration packet was sent to each member filled with a mask, horn, hat, and other goodies to wear at the eve before New Year's Eve via a Zoom meeting. It even included a kitchen scavenger hunt! It was a huge success with lots of laughter and Rotary camaraderie.

As the Covid presidency year progressed, President Kelli kept everyone focused on gaining new members with the "One Club" incentive program. Each member was challenged with finding their "one" new member in order to earn status in the "One Club." Everyone's competitive spirit took over... never underestimate a challenge!

The outcome was eight new members during 2020. And as of July 2021, an additional thirteen new members had been added. The club now has 85 members and continues to grow post Covid restrictions. The new members are a combination of business individuals, entrepreneurs, non-profit execs, and corporate members; many under the 40-year range.

Once the club was able to return to on-site meetings, club leadership decided to continue with hybrid meetings at Fogo de Chao restaurant until they were able to return to the Omni William Penn Hotel on July 7. At this first meeting back at their regular meeting place, the club's 2021-2022 President Jim Emmerling was inducted. Also at this meeting, President Jim, with Past Presidents Kelli and Robin, formally welcomed into the club 13 new members (see photo above).

Continuing to create camaraderie, the club engaged in a 2 to 3 minute networking event with each member attending sharing information about

themselves. This gave new and seasoned members a chance to start their Rotary bond.

So, what's the takeaway?

Chartered in 1911, the Pittsburgh club is the 20th oldest Rotary club in the world. Today's approach is the same as the traditional one; to simply ask seasoned colleagues to reconnect via Zoom or attend a lunch meeting, and by personally inviting new member prospects to share their middle of the week oasis to meet and network with new friends.

The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Omni William Penn Hotel, and on the last Wednesday of the month at Fogo de Chao where new member Gary White greets and oversees a great member outcome. Kudos to the club's leadership team and for the many creative ways in which the club keeps members engaged.

By PDG Linda Fischer Bruce



Rotary Binds Friendships
#MembershipMatters

What is RYLA?

Most Rotarians will tell you that it is a Leadership Program for High School Students offered by our District, Either in the form of RYLA LaRoche University or as RYLA Outdoor Odyssey. Well, they may be partially correct as RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

However, ask any RYLA participant or RYLA alumni and they will tell you that attending RYLA was one of the best decisions that they have ever made.

Even faced with a modified schedule and a limit to the number of attendees, the District 7305 RYLA Committee was able to pull off not just one, but both RYLA Camps this year.

RYLA Outdoor Odyssey took place June 27th thru July 2nd.

"This year's RYLA Outdoor Odyssey class of six students was an excellent litmus test of what we can look forward to in a post-COVID/Rotary District 7305 future. The students were highly engaged and had more opportunities and time than most classes to delve into the philosophies of leadership and teamwork." *Quote by D7305 RYLA Outdoor Odyssey Chairperson, Owen Standley*

RYLA LaRoche University took place July 11th thru July 15th.

"Our RYLA participants were engaged and active in all aspects of the camp from start to finish. I appreciated and treasured the way that each one of them shared their story and their heart for service and thinking of others." *Quote by D7305 RYLA LaRoche University Committee Member/Counselor, Jackie Jaros*

The D7305 Committee is already planning for next summer's RYLA. RYLA LaRoche University will take place June 26 to July 1, 2022. RYLA Outdoor Odyssey dates are still in the works.

For more information, please visit the newly designed RYLA website: www.ryla7305.org where you will find RYLA applications, information, testimonials and much more!

Bv DGE Marie Fallon



Highlights From RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) 2021



Funding School Lunches

On July 1, Quaker Valley Rotary Club President Scott Zanher received the following thank you letter from the Quaker Valley School District:

On behalf of the Quaker Valley School Board, I would like to express my gratitude for the Quaker Valley Rotary's generous contribution of \$3,500 to settle outstanding student lunch balances. The Rotary's contribution has helped offset breakfast and lunch fees for students during this very difficult time in history. In a district as economically diverse as Quaker Valley, there are always students in need, and the economic impact of the pandemic has added to the financial challenges of many families.

As you know, your contribution was leveraged by coming in the form of a Challenge Grant. As a result of the Rotary issuing this challenge to the district, Carla Escribano, the district's Director of Food and Nutrition Services coordinated with Superintendent Dr. Tammy Andreyko to seek out organizations to match the donation made by the Rotary. Other organizations that have a long-standing relationship with the



Quaker Valley School Board President Jonathan Kuzma, Superintendent Tammy Andreyko, Club President Scott Zanher, Foundation Chair Wayne Hyjek, Union Aid Society President Carla Nash, Rotarian Charles Ogle, and Director of Food and Nutrition Services Carla Escribano pose with a check from the Quaker Valley Rotary Club that helped pay off student balances.

Picture courtesy of Quaker Valley School District

District stepped up and I'm pleased to tell you and your fellow Rotarians that The FRIENDS of Quaker Valley Schools donated \$2,000, The Sewickley Presbyterian Church added \$1,000, and the Union Aid Society offered \$500. Added to the Rotary's donation, a total of \$7,000 was raised in this effort.

The District is thankful to receive this support from community groups like the Rotary, FRIENDS, the Presbyterian Church, and Union Aid. It underscores what a special place Quaker Valley is and how members of the community can work together to have a real impact to make life even better for our young people.

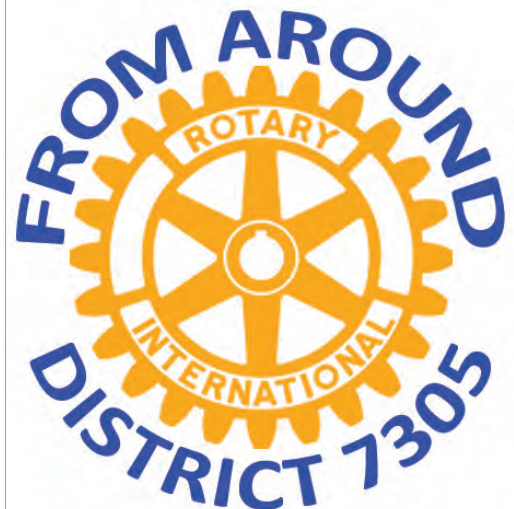
We look forward to continuing to partner with the Rotary to help the students and community we serve together.

Best Regards,
Jon Kuzma
President

Quaker Valley School Board



At their meeting on July 19, the Indiana Rotary Club had the pleasure of hearing a presentation by Senator Joe Pittman as well as by DGN John Hartman. Senator Pittman updated the membership on issues related to the new PA State Budget as well as other issues soon to be facing citizens of the Commonwealth. Hartman talked about issues affecting the Rotary District, including membership and fundraising. Pictured, from left: Pittman; Club President Ashlee Kennedy; Club Secretary Bill Geiger, and Hartman. Picture and text courtesy of Jennifer Woomer, The Indiana Gazette



HOUSTON
2022



The Blessing Box!

This Blessing Box, sponsored by the Brownsville Area Rotary Club, is located at Ft. Burd United Presbyterian Church at 200 Thornton Road in Brownsville. You will find it at the top of the driveway facing



Simpson Road. It will be stocked with canned goods, cereal, pantry items, crackers, toiletries, etc for those who are in need. If you want to give, the club would appreciate that too!

Take if you need. Give if you can.

Pictured at the July ribbon cutting are: Eadi Zetty, Nettie DellaPenna,

Club President Maria Fetock, Scott Campbell, and Dave Polvinale. A special "thank you" to Rich Lagorda for donating his time and talent to build the box and to Pick Zetty for helping to install it. This is a way for the club to help those in their community! *By RC of Brownsville*



Polio Network Fights COVID-19

In Nairobi, Kenya's capital, 40% of people make their home in one of the city's many slums. These informal settlements often lack crucial sanitation services: streams of raw sewage are sometimes found meandering down narrow lanes on which fast food is sold, and houses of corrugated sheets typically crowd the unplanned alleys, putting local residents at higher risk of infectious disease.

Immaculate Atieno, a community health volunteer in Nairobi, has a wealth of experience when it comes to reaching out to and mobilising the slum residents of Kamukunji, one of seventeen of Nairobi's constituencies, encouraging them to vaccinate their children, and undertaking acute flaccid paralysis surveillance in the process.

Together with the band of 50 community health volunteers that she leads, Atieno makes three visits a week to Nairobi's low-income slum settlements of Biafra, Airbase, Kwa Chief and Majengo. The work is not without hazard – these are embattled spaces. As rival gangs vie for territorial control in Kamukunji,

muggings and armed robberies are often reported.

Atieno and her colleagues start work early, mapping out routes and areas of the slums to visit, as earmarked by Kenya's Ministry of Health. *continued on next page...*



Romano Omondi, a community health volunteer performing house to house COVID-19 testing and education in Majengo slum in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo credit: Abjata Khalif

Does your club have a story that you would like to share with the rest of the district? If so, I'd like to include it in an upcoming issue of The Connector.

Do you have an upcoming event that you would like to market to the entire district? If so, I'd like to include it in an upcoming issue of The Bulletin Board!

Material for the September issue of The Connector and The Bulletin Board **MUST** be submitted no later than **Sunday, August 22**

Rotary District 7305

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Visit us on Facebook

www.rotarydistrict7305.org

It helps that the group's members hail from the different slums and, therefore, understand the landscape, including where and when to visit each area, and what to avoid. "It's a risky mission. My team reaches 50,000 people, who are mainly poor Kenyans and refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia. We go from house to house and collect data while offering them education and linking them with the health authority" says Atieno.

Kamukunji sub county has just seven health facilities offering services to an estimated 700,000 people. "The health facilities have no staffing or medical capacity to reach the large population in Kamukunji slums and most of them shun health facility visits. This is one of the reasons the Kenya health authority and partners trained and deployed the volunteers and monitors to all corners of the slums," says Asha Iddi, a community health monitor.

Atieno's group forms part of that army of 1,542 community health volunteers and monitors trained by the Kenyan Ministry of Health and partners to undertake polio surveillance and promote routine immunisation. Their role is key in supplementing the Kenyan government's efforts to eradicate polio by tracking suspected cases and infections from Somalia and the Kenya-Somalia border areas where the many refugees living in Kamukunji come from.

"Data collected by the community volunteers and monitors inform Kenya's health authority's ability to meet its acute flaccid paralysis surveillance targets, ensuring no fresh outbreaks are registered," says Rebecca Nguli, a member of the community monitoring group and Chairlady of Kamukunji health network.

Although Kenya has successfully eliminated the poliovirus, it remains at risk of re-emergences, recording

two cases in 2018. Recently, the same health volunteers and monitors whose routine job it is to help prevent the resurgence of polio, have found that their rich network of contacts and slum mapping experience equip them to facilitate the containment of COVID-19.

Rising COVID-19 case numbers in the slum dwellings of Kamukunji forced the Kenyan government, in late 2020, to impose a lockdown. "The government mobilised us to reach out to every household and educate them on containment measures and importance of taking vaccines when it's available," says Romano Omondi, a volunteer and member of Majengo slum social justice network.

The first step was to contact parents who had taken their children for polio and other vaccinations. Next came a wider programme of house-to-house visits, where volunteers shared containment protocols, and explained the importance of taking the COVID-19 vaccine made available through the COVAX Facility.

Kenya has so far received more than one million doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine out of its 3.56 million COVAX allocation, an additional 130,000 vaccines from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 72,000 more doses from South Sudan. Both countries donated their COVID-19 vaccine doses to

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?

POLIO IN NUMBERS

*Wild poliovirus in 2021 (2020)**

Global Total: 2 (87)

*Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus in 2021 (2020)**

Global Total: 160 (206)

**As of 21 July 2021. Numbers in brackets represent data as of this time 2020.*

Kenya due to logistical and storage challenges in their countries.

By the time the Kenyan government ended its lockdown, COVID-19 cases were in decline, and the community in the four Kamukunji slums registered for the COVID-19 vaccine in large numbers.

"Community health volunteers and monitors played a key role in bringing down the COVID-19 surge and preparing a pipeline of slum dwellers to take the COVID-19 jabs. Our efforts galvanised the health authority's mission of reaching more people with the vaccine," says Atieno. By Abjata Khalif, Gavi - The Vaccine Alliance



Rebecca Nguli, a community monitor and a member of Kamukunji Health Network engaging urban refugees and other slum dwellers in Kwa chief slum area in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo credit: Abjata Khalif

SAVE THE DATE

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELTION OR RESCHEDULE
DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 13, 2021

**DISTRICT GOLF OUTING
GREENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB**



SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 14, 2021

INTERACT CONFERENCE – GREENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB



SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 27, 2021

**WPXI HOLIDAY PARADE
DISTRICT 7305 FLOAT IN PARADE**



SAVE THE DATE – TBD

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON



SAVE THE DATE – TBD

MID-YEAR REVIEW



SAVE THE DATE – TBD

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 23-26

**2022 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 4-8, 2022

**2022 RI CONVENTION
HOUSTON**

