

## The Connector - September 2021



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

*Winston Churchill*

draw on all our knowledge and understanding (from a variety of subjects) to purchase the items we need. When we read a story, we have the same experience as the supermarket visit. The story draws on all of our knowledge and experiences to understand the story.

My son once read a story book for a class assignment. It was about a young boy whose plane crashed in the middle of a forest in western Canada and how he survived there for a whole year. Following the young boy's adventure, you learned about the hardships he experienced and the decisions he had to make to survive. You learned about the type of animals, the vegetation, what happens to trees in extreme cold weather conditions, how to prepare a shelter to protect against the environment and wild animals, and how to gather food and water. One experiences the story holistically.

Another interesting benefit from reading story books is the ability to teach social values. A story book



typically involves a moral dilemma or a character's bad behavior. Children can learn about social values as the characters (children or animals) in the story share their feelings about one of the characters or a difficult situation.

A Rotarian working on a literacy project in Latin America shared a story about one of the students in the program. He came up to her and thanked her. Surprised, the

project director asked why he was thanking her. He explained that he was reading one of the books whose story concerned a bully. When he read about how the other children felt about the bully it really bothered him. He said "I was that bully. I realized that the other kids did not like the way I was behaving." So, he was able to understand the consequences of his behavior and subsequently change.

As we promote education and literacy in our communities and around the world, children benefit from a better education that not only provides the knowledge and understanding they need, but also the life skills they need to be successful in life. Critical thinking skills will aid in the analysis of a situation and problem-solving skills will provide a strategy to address the situation. Children will develop positive social values which will lead to greater community harmony. Through education and literacy, we can change lives. *By DG Vince Costa*



**Rotary**  
WORKS

Rotary Works presents an enhanced benefit for Rotarians or Rotaractors who seek to change careers or find their next career opportunity.

**Learn more at [Rotary.Works](https://www.rotary.org/works)**

Whether you're retired, happily employed, thinking about a career change, or looking for work, there's something in this message for you.

As we help others, we need to look toward our fellow Rotarians and identify those who might also need help. It's an unusual concept for those who live by the motto "Service Above Self" but there comes a time when even a Rotarian might need a helping hand to right their ship.

Please help us get the word out! We know there are fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors who can benefit from one or several components of Rotary Works. Please share this message with others. Want to

learn more? Invite us to your next club or district meeting to speak. Prerecorded club programs are available at: [Rotary.Works](https://www.rotary.org/works)

Rotary Works is a program offering assistance to Rotarians and Rotaractors who are focused on landing that great job, building a career, balancing career transition, or climbing the ladder. We have professional resources available and are ready to help during a critical time or as you grow in your profession.

The Rotary Works August Newsletter explains how Rotary Works can be helpful to you or someone you know who is looking to

advance his or her career.

Rotary Works consists of these distinct programs:

- Education
- Networking
- Coaching/Mentoring
- Professional Development
- Financial Resources

Register NOW for Rotary Works: *Career Search in Our Gig Economy* - Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 1:00pm EDT. Non-DACdb users; choose the Guest or Public Registration buttons. Register at:

[shorturl.at/gmnJO](https://shorturl.at/gmnJO)

Yours in Rotary Service,  
*Stephanie Urchick*  
RI Director 2019-21



## Grow Your Club - Grow Rotary

When it comes to finding new members for our Rotary clubs, and to keep clubs strong, every Rotarian must share the responsibility of bringing new people into Rotary. Even new members can bring guests to club meetings or invite them to participate in a service project. Recruiting new Rotary members is about matching up potential members with what they want in a club. When we all do our part, we are seeking new and diverse friends and acquaintances who can keep our clubs new and exciting. When you're looking to add members to your club, consider taking on a few of these suggestions:

Create a list of all the great things about your club. The point is not just growing your club, but boosting Rotary's capacity to make a difference around the world. List your star members, the advantages of your meeting location, how many members you have, the kinds of projects and events you host, and so on. The list can serve as a template when sending an email or letter to any potential member.

Keep a list of potential members. It doesn't matter if it's a paper list or if it's kept on your computer. Either way it makes you think about people who may be a fit for your club. Discuss the list at board meetings – not just the concept of bringing in new members, but specific names. Who will contact them – and when? Never overlook obvious choices, like spouses, YE host parents, and even former members. These folks already have an idea of what Rotary is about and may become key players.

Make membership growth your club's top priority, making sure every member understands this goal! New members bring new energy to a club and more people to serve on committees, work on projects and events, and raise money for the Foundation.

Look to young Rotarians for fresh perspectives. We want the game changers and move makers; people who are busy and thriving in their everyday lives. We want to attract young people who want to get involved, but crave flexibility. Recruit



members through word of mouth and social media! Many people see what we're doing and want to be a part of it. It's what "People of Action" is about. Plan events and service projects three months in advance so members can plan too.

Talk about Rotary wherever you go; at work, family gatherings, neighborhood get-togethers, parties, etc. You will be amazed how easy it is after you practice. Most people are happy to learn or be invited, but you also need to keep your chin up if you get a no. You never know where you will meet your next member. And if you want younger members, hang out where you might find them! It will take more than one or two requests to get someone to attend a meeting and join, so persistence is key!

Emphasize service! We have so much we are proud to represent in Rotary, but creating lasting change in the world, our communities, and in ourselves may be the biggest. Encourage members to attend at least one meeting a month, but let the mood be informal and fun! If they can't attend meetings, make Zoom an option, or have real events where service is a focus. Other folks are drawn to the "do something" of our clubs. Be aware that some of the best members may not be able to make a lunch or dinner meeting. These folks can be the difference in our service! From the fight to eradicate polio to efforts to provide clean drinking water, the stories we share capture how we are taking action to do good in the world, one service project at a time.

Celebrate your new members and celebrate your current members! Let's make potential members

feel wanted, sharing a positive environment for involvement and growth. Find fun ways to celebrate new members! But don't forget that clubs also stay strong by retaining current members. If you ensure that folks have a good experience and realize the full value of their membership, the club's current members will be proud to invite more guests to meetings, stay involved, and create an attractive and welcoming club.

Be vibrant. What fun ideas, like trivia, games, or home baked cookies might be the welcome that shines a light on the club? What will make you want to come back?

Get them in the door. Your guest may be the future president your club needs. Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.

Remember, when you joined Rotary, someone asked, showed how to get involved, and even shared what we can do to make our community and world a better place. As a member of your awesome club, it's up to you to do the same! Invite a member to come along on your journey today! Rotary needs YOU to promote our story!

Please let me know if you have good stuff happening in your club. Especially in membership and growth. The committee wants to continue highlighting successes and hear new ideas for membership growth! Contact Michelle Petrell, [mpetr57574@aol.com](mailto:mpetr57574@aol.com) or by cell: 814-244-5569. We look forward to sharing your news!

By Membership Co-Chair Michelle Petrell 3

## Earthquake in Haiti

Haiti, located in Rotary District 7020, and part of our paired Rotary Zones 33 & 34, was hit by yet another massive earthquake on Saturday, August 14.

District 7020, in cooperation with the Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA-RAG), is coordinating disaster relief and collection of donations.

Please see below for a message from PDG Haresh Ramchandari who is the District 7020 Haiti Earthquake Response Chair:

My friends, the death toll continues to rise from the aftermath of the 7.2 Magnitude Haiti Earthquake on August 14, 2021. Now, with at least 2,200 dead and over 300 missing, the Rotary District 7020 Earthquake response committee has done an initial assessment of the damage and secured logistics to provide aid.

Now we need your help. Cash is always the easiest way to get aid to those who need it now. We also have a list of needs, of which many can be sourced locally. This will not only help with relief, but will also support the local economy.

If, however, you'd like to provide help in kind with the immediate needs, here is a list of what is most needed right now:

- Drinking water
- Tents and tarps
- Food
- Hygiene kits
- Medical Materials
- Doctors
- Wool blankets
- Large, portable water containers
- Food kits
- Volunteers, first responders
- First aid kits
- Medical Materials
- Covid-19 kit
- Kitchen kits
- Buckets

Please email [rotary7020relief@gmail.com](mailto:rotary7020relief@gmail.com) if you can help, or for more information.

[#Rotary](#) [#ServeToChangeLives](#)  
[#RotaryResponds](#)

### Donation Links

District 7020 / DNA-RAG:

[shorturl.at/dpOZ1](https://shorturl.at/dpOZ1)

ShelterBox:

[shorturl.at/boB58](https://shorturl.at/boB58)



### ShelterBox Deploying

ShelterBox is deploying a response team to the Dominican Republic in response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on Saturday, August 14.

Buildings have been flattened and hospitals already under strain from COVID-19 are overwhelmed.

Tropical Storm Grace also rolled across Haiti on Tuesday, pounding the region with drenching rains just days after a powerful earthquake devastated a swath of the island nation's so-called southwestern "claw." The storm hit as thousands of Haitians dug through rubble looking for loved ones or hunted for shelter after the earthquake crumbled entire towns and left hospitals overwhelmed with the injured.

The ShelterBox team will work with fellow humanitarians to assess damage reports, understand from communities what they need, and work on the challenging logistics of delivering aid to areas where buildings have been reduced to rubble.

This will be the first time a ShelterBox team has deployed since the coronavirus crisis severely restricted international travel in 2020.

Communities who have lost their

homes to disasters like these urgently need your support. Please donate and bring hope to a family today.

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the west of Haiti on the morning of August 14. The epicenter was 90 miles from the densely populated capital of Port-au-Prince and was felt across the Caribbean.

As of August 22, the death toll has grown to 2,207, with 344 people still missing. Some 12,268 people are injured and nearly 53,000 houses are destroyed.

Haiti is still recovering from the devastating earthquake in 2010 which caused extensive damage to infrastructure and the economy.

ShelterBox has significant experience working in Haiti. They have worked there five times, including in 2010 after the magnitude 7 earthquake where 200,000 people lost their lives and 5 million people lost their homes.

With over 20 years of experience, ShelterBox is an expert in emergency shelter after disaster. They often work in places that others don't, making sure that they reach families who need support to take the next step in resuming their livelihoods.

*Text courtesy of ShelterBox*

Rotary



DISASTER  
NETWORK OF  
ASSISTANCE

ROTARY  
ACTION  
GROUP

Disaster Response: We Connect the Dots





PDGs Rick Martin and Ada flanking Edwin and his wife, two Rotarians from The Philippines that they met by chance during the RI Convention in Bangkok. They have since met up at every RI Convention and are looking forward to seeing each other again in Houston next year.

## The RI Convention in Houston

The past Two Rotary International Conventions have been virtual due to COVID concerns and restrictions on international traveling. However, we are all looking forward to meeting old and new friends again in June 2022 at the Rotary International Convention in Houston.

The Convention is an event that offers something for everyone. If you attend, you will learn about international and local projects, enjoy live entertainment, hear from world leaders and celebrities, and sample the local cuisine.

It is also a place where you will meet and make new friends. At the Bangkok Convention, Ada and I were looking for the location of a tour boat that we had booked for an excursion. On our way, we met Edwin and his wife from The Philippines. They were looking for the same tour boat location. By the time we had managed to figure out the location and make it there, the tour that Ada and I had reservations on had left.

Edwin and his wife were booked on a later tour. Fortunately, there were a few seats left on that boat, so we joined them. As a result, we enjoyed some real quality time with our new friends from The Philippines.

The following year, at the Lisbon convention, we ran in to them in the House of Friendship. The following year, at the convention in Sydney, we met them again at a breakout session.

The 2022 Rotary International Convention will be held June 4-8 in Houston and we are eager to meet our friends again after a two-year hiatus. Be sure to register by December 15 to get the early bird registration savings. For those who 30 and younger the registration fee is \$125. Go to [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) and register and also register for a hotel room.

If you are interested in finding out more about the RI Convention, I would be happy to attend a meeting and speak to your membership. You can reach me via email at:

[rick.rotary@yahoo.com](mailto:rick.rotary@yahoo.com)

By PDG Rick Martin

## Supporting Our Foundation

The Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation is the lifeblood of our great organization. Without support to the Annual Fund, the many local district grants and global grants would not be possible. This past year was a challenging year for our Rotary clubs. However, I am happy to report that the Annual Fund still saw an increase in giving. Rotarians recognized the need to support Our Foundation as increased demand for money to fund grants to support the many food banks and assist in COVID projects.

A portion of the money donated to The Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation comes back to our district after three years. This money is used to support many local projects funded through district grants. It is also used to help fund global grants with a budget of \$30,000 or more.

PolioPlus is a restricted fund and is used only for PolioPlus related projects. This is why, when you make your first contribution, we would like it to go to the Annual Fund.

Our Rotary district is also giving matching points to anyone donating a minimum of \$100 to The Rotary Foundation. Matching points will allow you to reach the next level of Paul Harris Fellow recognition quicker.

If you are interested in receiving matching points for your contribution of \$100 or more, please mail it to:

PDG Richard Martin

1456 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

New Brighton, PA 15066-2226.

### Future RI Conventions

**2023: Melbourne, Australia**

**2024: Singapore**

**2025: Calgary, Canada**

**2026: Malta & San Marino, Italy (??)**

**2027: Honolulu, USA**



**HOUSTON**  
**2022**





POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## National Night Out

Rotary Clubs from all over the country participate in the annual National Day Out celebration held on the third Tuesday in August.

The Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant was represented at their local event held at Frick Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA. The club helped celebrate by running a cornhole game toss where everyone was a winner! Children and residents were also able to meet our First Responders and local government officials. The evening was capped off with several drawings to win new bicycles.



Pictured above at the Mt Pleasant National Night Out are PDG Colleen Wood (seated in the background), PDG George Wood, Mt Pleasant Mayor Gerry Lucia, and Committee Chair Dale Flaherty. On top is Rotary Vice President John Campbell showing off the bike that his daughter won. Pictures & text courtesy of Donna J. Daugherty

## Dedication of Peace Pole

On a beautiful sunny last day of July, the Rotary Club of Monroeville held a Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony in Monroeville Community Park. The program was well attended with well over 150 guests comprised of Rotarians, community families of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and several distinguished guests.

Remarks were given by State Representative Brandon Markosek, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, and Monroeville City Manager, Tim Little.

Club President Gerry Maynard and past President Som Sharma gave welcome and closing remarks and explained the origin/vision of the Peace Pole. Susan Frazier DeLaney (pictured above right) served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The memorable tribute ended with the dramatic release of seven doves representing our seven continents!

*Text & picture courtesy of Susan Frazier DeLaney*



Susan Frazier DeLaney was the Master of Ceremonies when the Rotary Club of Monroeville, on the last day of July, held a Peace Pole dedication ceremony in the Monroeville Community Park.

To learn more about the Peace Pole Project, visit [worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject](http://worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject)

## Young Rotarians Happy Hour

The Young Rotarians of District 7305 hosted their first event, a happy hour at Couch Brewing, on August 5. The focus of this auxiliary Rotary organization is to bring young Rotarians and potential Rotarians from around the district together for fellowship and service.

Interested in joining them for their next event? "Like" their Facebook page or send an email to: [youngrotarians7305@gmail.com](mailto:youngrotarians7305@gmail.com) for more information!





## Rotary Restoring Metal Art

As part of the club's support of the Inclined Plane Trails program, the RC of Johnstown secured a district grant to help restore one of the steel sculptures that were commissioned for the centennial anniversary of the 1889 flood. James Wolfe, known for creating abstract painted and powder coated steel sculptures, crafted each piece using remnants and by-products from the local Bethlehem Steel plant.

While seven of the sculptures have been moved off the hillside below the Inclined Plane, the largest - some 40 feet tall - remains. You can see it for yourself with a short, but muddy, hike down the hill. A guardrail with a yellow chain marks the start of the trail.

The Rotary Club of Johnstown, with the assistance from Elias Painting, CamTran, and Inclined Plane Trails guru Michael Cook, made the renovation possible.

## Back in the Kitchen

After a long in-person pause, The Rotary Club of Pittsburgh East (also known as "PERC"), was back in person cooking up chicken stir-fry for the residents of East End Cooperative Ministry's Shelter in East Liberty.

"PERC" has been serving up the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month dinner for well over 10 years. During Covid PERC'ers cooked these meals at home and delivered them to the shelter. It was "Dinner Impossible" Pittsburgh East Rotary Club style! However, it was great to be back in action; live and in-person.

The procedure is to take a \$150 shopping run, a recipe, prepping, chopping, boiling, cooking, and serving in under an hour. Meals always include salad or appetizer, main course (with a vegetarian option), dessert and a beverage. The efforts of the PERC crew provided 150 meals on July 26. Talk about People of Action!

The food prep serves as the club's weekly meeting. While cooking the meal, members discuss future fundraising, membership development (they often invite prospective members to help) and how to be a better club.



*The largest of ten sculptures commissioned for the 1889 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Johnstown Flood is being restored thanks, in part, to a District Grant secured by the Rotary Club of Johnstown.*

*Picture & text courtesy of The Tribune Democrat*



## Rotary Peace Garden

In early June, several members of the Burrell-New Kensington Rotary Club spent some time cleaning and mulching the club's Peace Garden at Memorial Park in New Kensington.

The garden features Rotary's Four-Way Test, which is meant to serve as a nonpartisan and ethical guide to use in personal and/or professional matters.

The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, is recited at club meetings as a reminder and foundation of the relationships and actions we make out in the world.



*Liz Kennon, Tom Fallon, and Lisa Whitney were part of the Pittsburgh East Rotary Club's kitchen staff as they whipped up a meal for the residents of East End Cooperative Ministry's Shelter in East Liberty.*



## Parklet Beautification Time

In 2005, the RC of Johnstown established a Rotary Centennial Parklet in downtown Johnstown. Last year, the parklet was completely dug up due to some much needed sewage work being done. As a result, all the flower beds were destroyed.

On a warm and (mostly) sunny Sunday in early August, club members and community volunteers got together to restore the flower beds and plant flowers.

Ethan Foster, of Foster's Landscaping, directed the crew to make sure that things were done right. Flowers, soil, and mulch were generously provided by Vince and Shelly Lovenduski through their SEADS Garden Center, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide Sustainable Employment for Adults with Disabilities.

Thanks to the combined effort of all that helped, the parklet was restored in about three hours.



## Concert in the Park

The Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export was one of the food vendors as Concert in the Park returned after having been cancelled last year.

On August 14, The Adorabulls, Hoffman Road Band, Sweaty Already String Band, and The Nied's Hotel Band performed for a delighted crowd at Murrysville Community Park.



The Rotary Club of Johnstown had a planting day at the downtown parklet that they established in 2005 as part of Rotary's centennial celebration. Pictured on top are Chris Foster, Wyatt McGraw, Ethan Foster, Amanda Perry, Amy Arcurio, Club President Michael Cashaw, and PDG Mary Berge. Playing in the dirt and planting flowers are Amanda Peerry, Amy Arcurio, Howard Bernstein, and Sara Fenimore.

Below: Jim Olszewski, Tony Pauly, and DGN John Hartman manned the Rotary Club of Murrysville sausage sandwich stand at Concert in the Park.





## Scholarship Time

On August 5, during an outdoor meeting at The Club at Nevillewood, the Rotary Club of Carnegie-Collier awarded four scholarships to students from Chartiers Valley and Carlynton High Schools.

Congratulations to Julia Sarnoski (St. Vincent College), Yulia Davydab (Pitt), Olivia Cindrich (Lebanon Valley College) & Haley Simcik (Westminster). The club started their foundation in 1994 and it currently has a balance of just under \$500,000. They issued their first scholarships in 1999 and, including this year, they have awarded \$149,167 to 34 different students.

Also pictured below are Alby Oxenreiter and Gordon D. Giffin.



Another fun community project! Delmont-Salem Rotarians gathered to decorate bags for food delivery to local seniors, hoping that they, somehow, can make them smile.

Pictured above are Arlene Domencic, Kelli McIntyre, Sally Salo, Grant Kern, Harold Hicks, Club President Sheila Crystaloski, and Honorary Member Patti Reed.



On July 31, Indiana Rotarians Ashlee Kennedy, Bill Geiger, and Jeff Smith organized a very successful AMBA Blood Screening Program at the Indiana Mall. 152 community members participated to have their blood drawn, and an uncounted number of community members received a COVID-19 vaccination. Thanks go out to Indiana Regional Medical Center (IRMC). Pictured above the Rotary crew that manned the event. Missing from the picture are volunteers Dan Fleming and Ramesh Soni. Text & Picture courtesy of Dana P. Henry



## Medical Trauma Kits

On Thursday, August 12, the Quaker Valley Rotary Club presented emergency medical trauma kits to the Bell Acres, Edgeworth, Leet, Leetsdale, Ohio Township, Sewickley, and Sewickley Heights police departments.

Rotary President Scott Zahner stated that this was a project that the Rotary Club was happy to do as these officers put their lives on the line on a daily basis to ensure the safety of the communities within Quaker Valley. Each police department received two medical kits. *Text & picture courtesy of Sewickley Herald*

## 9/11 Victims Honored

Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Somerset joined dozens of community volunteers in placing 2,937 flags at the PA Turnpike entrance to Somerset County. These flags represent the 2,977 lives lost on 9/11 and are placed every year, prior to the anniversary of that fateful date. The flags offer a solemn, yet patriotic entrance into Somerset County during this yearly anniversary of 9/11. Many thousands of visitors will visit the memorial around the anniversary and are just a part of the 400,000+ annual visitors at the Flight 93 Memorial

This year, we only placed 2,937 flags, allowing Captain Kurtz and crew members of the USS Somerset to place the final 40 flags in memory of the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93. The crew of the USS Somerset will be visiting Somerset County in September to take part in the memorial program at the Flight



Above: The Rotary Club of Quaker Valley presenting emergency medical trauma kits to local police departments. Below: Members of the Rotary Club of Somerset participated in the placing of flags in honor of the victims of 9/11. *Text & pictures courtesy of PDG Ron Aldom*

93 Memorial. The USS Somerset was built and commissioned to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93 and is joined by its sister ships, the USS New York and the USS Arlington. Captain Kurtz will be the honored speaker at the Rotary Club of Somerset's meeting on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. It should be noted that while the USS Somerset has a defense mission, it can, and has been, utilized for humanitarian efforts. In fact, the USS Arlington is currently off the coast of Haiti supplying much needed medical

equipment and manpower to assist in the efforts in that impoverished nation.



On Saturday, August 14, the Portage Rotary Club sponsored their Annual Summerfest 5K Run/Fun Walk through the streets of Portage. This year the event attracted over 60 runners and walkers. The Portage Area Summerfest is an event held at Crichton McCormick Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August.



## Carnegie Elementary EarlyAct

Ken Cummings, past President of the Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club, presented the EarlyAct club at Carnegie Elementary a plaque with gavel for their meetings. With the pandemic over the past year it has been very hard to support these young friends. The hope is to make this year one they will remember!!

Those who wonder what EarlyAct is - here you go: An EarlyAct club works directly with the sponsoring Rotary club. EarlyAct's mission is to provide young students the opportunity to gain an increased awareness and knowledge of their community and the world. At a young age, all students can easily be encouraged to be caring and helpful. Their minds are open to recognize the dignity and worth of each individual which builds respect for others



Carnegie-Collier Past President Ken Cummings presented the EarlyAct advisor with a plaque and gavel for the Carnegie Elementary EarlyAct Club.



## Storage Space Needed

The Monroeville Rotary Club is looking for a storage space for their "Miss Independence" float. The float has been stored for some years at the Plum Borough facility, but the club now has to find another in-door location not too far from Monroeville.

Below is a photo of the float as set up for storage. The size is 8' high by 7' wide and 20' long. The picture on the right shows the float in use.

If you know of a suitable storage place for the float, please contact Gerry Maynard at 412-310-3277



## Mount Pleasant Scholarship

Over the last 35 years, the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant has awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors at the Mount Pleasant High School.

The scholarship applications are judged on a combination of academic excellence, financial need, and community involvement.

Cameron Baird was the recipient of the scholarship this year. Cameron is planning to attend Ohio State University (OSU) and major in engineering.

If...  
**LIFE IS A JOURNEY.**  
**ROTARY**  
**IS AN ADVENTURE.**  
Then, a Rotarian...  
**LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH**  
**ROTARY**  
**IS A LIFE FILLED WITH**  
**MEANINGFUL**  
**ADVENTURES.**





## Mammogram for Mon Valley

The Rotary Club of Pleasant Hills coordinated a \$10,000 district grant project for the 2020-2021 Rotary year. They partnered with nine other Rotary clubs in the Mon Valley area, along with the Washington

County Community Foundation, to purchase a Smart Curve Breast Imaging machine. The machine has been placed at the Mon Valley Hospital Healthplex Imaging Center in Rostraver Township.

The participating Rotary clubs contributed \$10,000 and the

Washington County Community Foundation contributed \$5,000.

The Rotary clubs that contributed to this project were: Belle Vernon, Brownsville, California, California Satellite, Charleroi, Donora, Monessen, Monongahela, Pleasant Hills, and West Newton.



Right: Healthplex Imaging Manager Maryann Konsugar inspecting the new mammogram machine. Above: Representing the participating Rotary clubs at the presentation were PDG Steve Arnowitz (Charleroi), Darlene Kruth (Pleasant Hills), Jamie Roberts (Monongahela), Colleen Arnowitz (Charleroi), Kristen Joseph and Jennifer Bomba (Monessen-Rostraver), Terri Allen (West Newton), Mike Thornton (Monongahela), and Tom Yoder (Belle Vernon). Text and pictures courtesy of Dalene Kruth



## Gatsby Night at the Races

The Rotary Club of Johnstown-Sunset hosted their Gatsby Night at the Races fundraiser event on Friday August 6<sup>th</sup>. Attendees were transformed back to the roaring twenties and were betting on horses that they themselves had named (unlike at some other events, the names were quite G-rated).

Blues and Ragtime music filled the old Bethlehem Steel Oil house at

Johnstown's PNG park. Art Deco decor adorned the exposed brick and surrounded the crowd dressed in their flappers and best gangster formal wear.

Two late 20s hot rods were parked just outside the venue, giving the attendees a chance to get their pictures taken.

Proceeds from the event will benefit local community projects and student scholarships in the Johnstown area.

Pictures and text courtesy of John Campos





## PA Senior Food Box Program

The Pennsylvania Senior Food Box Program (PSFB) is federally funded through the state Department of Agriculture and provides supplemental, monthly food boxes specially designed to meet the nutritional needs of seniors.

Each month, 1,400 income eligible seniors age 60 and over receive senior boxes. In 2020, 493,007 pounds of nutritious food were distributed through this program.

PSFB is a wonderful program that would not be successful without the help of volunteers who pack the boxes.

If your Rotary club would like to volunteer, please contact Gina at 724-468-8660 ext. 31.



The Rotary Club of Westmoreland recently volunteered and assembled 1,050 Pennsylvania Senior Food Boxes (PSFB) at the Westmoreland County Food Bank warehouse in Delmont. Participating in the packing were - back row: Rebecca Hagen, Loni Yanko, Linda LeBlanc, Ashley Lucas, Kim Tuscan, and Adam Shilobod. In front: Kevin Thomas and Maddie Jackson. Also packing were Nick Rosatti and Aaron Tuscan.

Below: Steve Simon on the RC of Mount Pleasant flag wagon; Dale Walker, Colleen Wood, and Richard Snyder inspecting the flags; Donna Daugherty and Adolph Dupre replacing a worn out flag.

## Flags on Main Street

The "Flags on Main Street" project is one of the favorite projects of the members of the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant. On August 25, several members got together to retire some existing flags and replace them with bright new ones. Thanks to the hard work of the Mt. Pleasant Rotarians (and friends), as well as the sponsors up and down Main Street, those flags will be flying proudly in the near future.

Each year the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant puts up American Flags along Main Street for holidays such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July plus a few others.

It takes dedication and time by the club to put up and take down the flags. However, when the Wounded Warriors come through town on their way to a rally in the mountains, the Mayor calls the club and asks the club to put the flags up for this and for other special occasions.

Just an aside, when the club puts the flags up, they use a flag wagon that boldly states Mt. Pleasant Rotary Flag Wagon. This is a tow-along wagon with a place for all of the flags to stand up until they are put into place on the street. As the Rotary crew works their way down Main Street with the flag wagon and the flags blowing in the breeze, people stop to salute, cars beep their horns and others just cheer.





## Rotary District 7305

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## Afghanistan - Polio Update

The situation in Afghanistan has escalated since a zoom meeting of Rotary's End Polio Now Coordinators in early August, but several messages with great impact were delivered by senior Rotary leaders during that meeting. Many Rotarians have expressed concern about the future of our Polio Eradication Initiative – when ultimate success is so close.

However, RI Past President and 2021/22 Chair of The Rotary Foundation, John Germ, told the meeting that Rotary's team has been working with the Taliban for some time, and we need to remember that "the Taliban have children too – and want them protected against Polio."

"We acknowledge the tragedy of the situation in Afghanistan, but there have always been obstacles in the way that have been overcome," he said.

RI Past Vice President and International PolioPlus Chair Mike McGovern stated that Rotary's team is working closely with Afghan PolioPlus chair, Ishak, and news is positive. "We have only one wild virus case in Afghanistan and Pakistan for the past eight months – and very little trace is being found in environmental samples. We need to work with all elements of leadership in that country and the anti government element has indicated a willingness to work with us," he said.

"Historically, the Taliban have never been against Polio vaccination. They are wary of people involved in delivering the vaccines, but they want to target the end of Polio and are very well organized."

Michel Zaffran, former Director of Polio Eradication at the World Health Organization (WHO), also noted that, historically, the Taliban have not been opposed to the polio eradication effort. In fact they have

been supportive of immunization programs including the polio immunization drives.

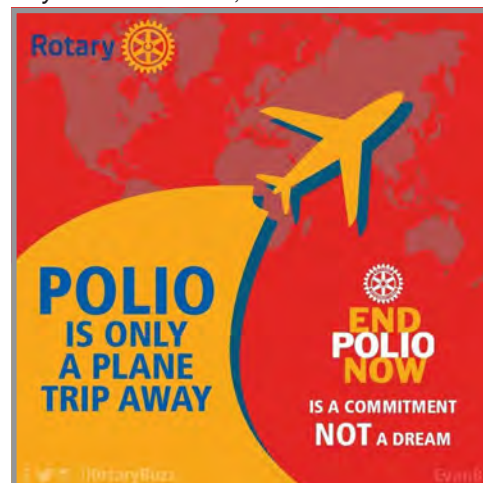
However, in the past two years, the intensification of the war and increased frequency of drone attacks led to a hype in the security concerns of the Taliban. Based on this, they imposed a ban polio vaccination campaigns in the areas under their control.

The reason for the ban was not an opposition to polio vaccination but a suspicion that allowing people from other communities to visit these areas for house to house campaigns would be used to collect sensitive information on the areas and/or the people living there, which could then be used to help target drone attacks.

Further, following the dramatic events in mid August, Mike McGovern added: "In 2021, despite internal conflicts and a global pandemic, Afghanistan is seeing unprecedented low transmission rates of wild polio, with just one case reported this year. Not only has the country seen a drastic reduction in cases of wild polio; polio surveillance data confirms this progress and significantly less virus is being detected in the environment. As conflict in Afghanistan quickly evolves, we must advocate for the children of Afghanistan. The Polio program must work and communicate with all stakeholders involved to ensure that polio immunisation remains a priority to ensure the gains we have made against polio do not diminish."

He concluded "We look forward to working with our polio eradication partners and the Afghani people to completely eradicate polio."

By PDG Bob Aitken, End Polio Now Coord.



## 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 virus confirmed cases in 2021*  
**Global Total: 2 (102)**

*Wild virus detected from other sources in 2021*

**Global Total: 62 (304)**

*As of 24 August 2021. Numbers in brackets represent data as of this time 2020.*

## Did You Know?

The very famous Mary Poppins song "A Spoonful of Sugar" was actually inspired by the polio vaccine.

Songwriter Robert Sherman was having a hard time coming up with a catchy song for Julie Andrews hit movie. Inspiration struck him one night when his children told him all about their polio vaccine they received at school. They said it didn't hurt because the polio vaccine was placed on a sugar cube.





# SAVE THE DATE

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR RESCHEDULE  
DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



**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**

**MID-YEAR REVIEW  
DENUNZIO'S RESTAURANT – ARNOLD PALMER AIRPORT**



**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 4-6, 2022**

**PETS PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR  
PENN STATER**



**SAVE THE DATE – TBD**

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON**



**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**

