



# Interact

Rotary Sponsored Clubs  
Rotary District 7305  
FEBRUARY—2021



Your District Interact Board of Directors has been brain-storming on what to do as a District to support Owen's Odyssey when Owen Standley hikes 2,200 miles of the Appalachian Trail to raise money for End Polio Now.

Owen's Odyssey will begin in Georgia in April and end in early July in Maine. The Appalachian Trail does not come through Western Pennsylvania and it would be next to impossible to know when Owen will be at a certain spot to meet and accompany him on his walk.

Another option is for our District Interact Clubs to do a "walk" on their own locally and hopefully with other Interact Clubs. For example: Greensburg Salem and Jeannette Interact may chose to walk at Twin Lakes Park or on the Five Star Trail. Johnstown Interact could host a walk on the Ghost Trail or perhaps at the incline. I am not familiar with the Greater Pittsburgh Area but am certain that they also have parks and trails that could be utilized. These "walks" could be done in April or May after the weather breaks and each Interactor could simply donate \$1 or you could get some sponsorships for your "walk".

Interact District Governor, Lena Voss has volunteered to coordinate this event and she can be reached at [lavoss26@gmail.com](mailto:lavoss26@gmail.com). Owen has always been a big supporter of Interact and RYLA, now we have an opportunity to show our appreciation.

The Interact Board of Directors is thinking about doing another virtual game. This time they are thinking about Family Feud. Basically each Interact Club could field a four person team. As with the Trivia Challenge there would be no entry fee.

There will be a lot of work to get enough surveys distributed, returned and tabulated so that we would have the top answers for each question. So we need to start planning now for a late May event.



We are still in the early planning stages but this would also probably be a single-elimination Tournament, just like the Trivia Challenge.

Please check with your Interactors or Interactors please check with your Advisor to see if there is enough interest to put this all together. Of course don't forget to let us know if you are interested in this event. If there is enough interest we will continue with the planning, if there isn't we won't. Please let Mark Barnhart know at: [mbarnhar@verizon.net](mailto:mbarnhar@verizon.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sunday, February 28** is the deadline to submit applications for the Bob Williams Memorial Rotary Scholarship. Pay particular attention to the eligible school districts.



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## PUTTING THE “INTER” IN INTERACT

*(Editor’s note: As you may or may not be aware, the word Interact was formed by combing the words international and action. Your District Governor-Elect recently had the opportunity to take part in a Model United Nations—Concurrence 2020-21, which was organized by Rotary International District 3250, (Zone 6 of RI, India). While there were some challenges, here is his report.)*

On Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, I had the great pleasure to attend the Model United Nations Concurrence Assembly hosted by the Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City. I was in the virtual presence of some very distinguished individuals who spoke to the delegates about very pressing topics. The first keynote speaker was the Rotary District 3250 Governor Rajan Gandotra, who delivered opening remarks and welcomed the delegates to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The second speaker was one of the Directors of Rotary International, Kamal Sanghvi, whose actions speak for him, and whose speech spoke mountains. He has played an integral role in the fight against polio in India and its neighboring countries. The third speaker was Advocate General Manoj Gorkela, who spoke in front of the real United Nations at a young age. He advised the delegates to learn the constitution of their respective countries, as that is the only way to learn the political mechanisms of a nation. Finally, Dr. Ajoy Kumar spoke to the delegates about the importance of failure in public speaking. He stated that failure, in essence, is the only way we can improve our communication skills. After the keynote

*(article continues in right hand column)*

speakers finished, the delegates (who were all high school or college students) were sent to different rooms based on the portfolios they requested. The four topics to choose from were: United Nations Security Council (which discussed a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia), United Nations Economy and Finance Committee (which worked to develop an investment mechanism to halt debt traps), United Nations Women (which sought to combat the surge in domestic violence amidst the pandemic), and All India Political Parties Meet (which debated Uniform Civil Code). The delegates never ceased to impress me. They were all around my age, yet they were bilingual (speaking both English and Hindi) and spoke both languages with such eloquence. They were also quite knowledgeable on the countries which they represented. Truly, I was elated to represent the International that comprises half of the word Interact!



The California High School Interact Club also took part in the Cards for Heroes. They sent over 200 cards to the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh. That brings the District’s total to 2,377 cards being sent.



A  
SALUTE  
TO OUR  
HEROES



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In January, North Allegheny Interact Club began our blanket collection for Project Linus—the Greater Pittsburgh

Area Chapter. The organization collects blankets to donate to children in need. Some of their recipients include Children’s Hospital, The Caring Place, Ronald McDonald House, and the Children’s Institute. Project Linus, as a whole, has donated over 8,500,000 blankets since its start in 1995. The blankets we make will be homemade single-layer fleece tie blankets and will be donated, according to their size, to a range of children from newborns to older kids. We are excited to continue our collection through the coming months and contribute to the Pittsburgh community and the positive efforts of Project Linus.



The Greater Johnstown Interact have managed to keep busy in spite of the Pandemic. They have partnered with a local church for a coat drive, sponsored a Christmas Village House in Johnstown’s central park.

Upcoming events include their Annual Color Run and a new fund-raising activity to replace the Candle Sale that had to be cancelled last Fall.



The date has been set! On Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. the winners of the Trivia Challenge Tournament (North Allegheny Interact Club) will face-off against the leader-

ship of Rotary District 7305 for the bragging rights in the District. The competition will be held via Zoom and all are invited to join us and see if youth and exuberance can defeat experience and years of knowledge.

Here is the Zoom Meeting ID: 884 9630 9547

Here is the Zoom Passcode: 059122



## DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON?

Is you Interact Club meeting virtually? Your Interact District Governor, Lena, would be more than happy to attend one of your virtual meetings and talk to your Club. There are a lot of plans in the works that Lena and the Interact Board of Directors want to accomplish and next year’s incoming District Governor wants to continue to accomplish these tasks. You can contact Lena directly at: lavoss26@gmail.com.



Articles and pictures for the March 2021 District 7305 Interact Newsletter are due no later than Thursday, February 25. They can be sent to Mark Barnhart at mbarnhar@verizon.net.