



WORLD  
**Polio Day**

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Tuesday, October 24, 2023

PRESENTED BY

**Rotary**  
Club of Scranton





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**Rotary**  
Club of Scranton



**PEOPLE OF  
ACTION**

# **WORLD POLIO DAY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 AGENDA**

**9:30–9:40 AM**

Welcoming Remarks & Housekeeping Items  
*(Main Auditorium)*

**9:40–10:10 AM**

Initiating Activity:  
Multiplicative Effect of Disease Spread  
*(Inside Lobby & Main Auditorium)*

**10–10:25 AM**

Polio: Past, Present & Future  
*Presentation by Michael K. McGovern*

**10:35–11:10 AM**

Breakout Sessions:  
Pandemic Preparedness & Readiness

**11:20 AM–12:10 PM**

Student Presentations  
*(Main Auditorium)*

**12:10–12:20 PM**

Concluding Activity & Closing Remarks  
*Remarks by Samantha Maruzelli, District 7410 Governor  
Mary Ellen Bentler, Foundation Chair, District 7410*

**12:30–1:00 PM**

Lunch

**2:00–4:00 PM**

Rotary Polio Eradication Strategy Summit  
*Main Auditorium*

**6:00–7:30 PM**

Evening Panel Discussion



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# **Supporting Rotary's efforts to End Polio**

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ROTARY CLUB and  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S  
EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POLIO**

*Donna M. De Vita, Esq.  
1209 Marion Street  
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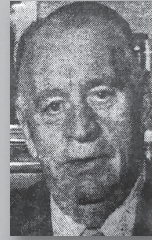
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*In loving memory of my Grandfather  
James F. "Hoppy" Scanlon*

*Teacher • Principal at Scranton Tech  
and a sports buff who was called  
"The Voice of Scranton"*



*\*He was called "Hoppy" because  
he was stricken with polio as a child.*

*— John A. Mackarey —*



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# **BREAKOUT SESSIONS: PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS & READINESS**

**The topics of the Breakout Sessions include:**

1. *Policy & Regulations:* Decision of when to close & open. When to impose lockdowns and curfews? When to require masking? Who is involved in the policy landscape?

*Presenters: The Honorable Carmen D. Minora, Senior Judge, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas & Emma Graham, MPH, Health Policy & Promotion Manager, Lackawanna County Department of Health*

2. *Global Perspective/Infrastructure:* How eradication campaign for Polio created a foundation and blueprint for addressing COVID. Is the infrastructure ready for another Pandemic?

*Presenters: Karen DeMatteo, Past District 7410 Governor & Dave Palmer, International Service Chair, District 7410.*

3. *Basic Needs:* How were basic needs met for low income families and those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic? Identify resources in the community that solved the problem.

*Presenters: Ty Holmes, CHOP, Scranton School District & Daysi Carreto, United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA*

4. *Vaccine Accessibility & Eligibility:* How to improve the production and delivery of vaccines for low income communities? How the COVID 19 Pandemic reflected and exacerbated the divisions of class and race in the U.S. and throughout the world? And how to bridge these divides for future public health crises?

*Presenters: Shannon Greisser, MPH, Immunization Coalition Coordinator, Northeast & Central Counties, PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics*

5. *Communication & Messaging*: Why the messaging and information kept changing? How do we address and improve on the challenges of the reliability & validity of the information provided to the public?

*Presenters: Molly Gatto, MHA, Senior Immunization Program Manager, PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics & Ryan Buchanan, Director of Marketing & Communications, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce*

6. *Mechanics of Preventing the next Epidemic/Pandemic*: Improving contact tracing, neighborhood mapping and wastewater surveillance. Applying new technologies to meet these challenges.

*Presenter: Dr. Ronald Rubin, MD, Temple University & Lara Alexiou, Rotary Club of Scranton*

7. *Educator Perspective*: How teachers adapted to the Pandemic when classrooms went virtual? What must School Districts do to be prepared for future health crises? How to ensure greater Internet Access for students of all socio-economic backgrounds.

*Presenters: Lisa Temples, M.A. Ed., Art Teacher, Riverside Jr.–Sr. High School & Michael Montoro, Vice Principal, Scranton High School*

8. *Special Needs & Mental Health*: Dealing with people with special needs. How we can ensure better accommodations for special needs populations during future public health crises, including public school students. Battling the sense of isolation; mitigating the stigma of COVID and other diseases.

*Presenters: Roseann Polishan, ARC of NEPA & Carlene Spitzer, Physician Assistant, Friendship House*

9. *Post Polio Syndrome/Long Haul COVID*: How some diseases never truly go away. The lingering effects of Polio and COVID (as it appears now).

*Presenter: Carol Ferguson, Founder, PA Polio Survivors Network*

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# PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATOR AND SPEAKER'S



***Tonyehn Verkitus, panel moderator***

Verkitus is a well-known host on Keystone Edition on WVIA TV, addressing the issues that are important to the people in our community, including the ongoing pandemic, concerns about vaccines, food deserts, childhood trauma and child abuse, mental health, environmental issues, and the rising cost of staying healthy. She also is the executive director of the Lackawanna and Luzerne County Medical Societies. Her work in the nonprofit world has mostly centered on health and food though she also spent many years training organizations and communities on fundraising and telling their mission-based stories.

In 2007, Verkitus along with other family members and friends started Africa Community Exchange, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support an effective model of education for youth and educators. She also sits on the boards of the Lackawanna County Arts, Culture and Education Department; WVIA Community Advisory Board; and leads professional education programs for the Luzerne County Opioid Task Force through the District Attorney's Office.

As a wholistic life coach and writer, Verkitus is interested in the intersection between personal stories and community activism. As a person with many personal stories that shatter and empower she has developed and facilitated workshops on healing and reducing personal trauma through self-care and shared stories.



***Michael McGovern, MA***

McGovern is the Chairperson of Rotary International's PolioPlus Committee for the past nine years, and one of the world's leading experts on the global effort to eradicate the wild polio virus in countries where it persists, such as Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

He joined Rotary in 1986 as a member of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA. He has served in numerous roles in Rotary at the Club, District, and International level.

McGovern's professional career began as an intern in 1977 with the Town of Cape Elizabeth, Maine USA and ended as the chief appointed city manager for 31 years until his retirement in 2016. Mike led Maine's cities and towns as president of the Maine Municipal Association, and he also served as the president of the Maine Town and City Management Association.



***Sabine Charles, MD, MPH, DrPH, CHES***

Dr. Charles is a physician from Haiti, with specialization in pulmonology (infectious and lung disease). She earned her Doctorate and master's in public health in the USA and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. With a background in healthcare and public health she has worked for more than 20 years with organizations such as CDC, UNICEF, and the Florida Health Department. In March 2022, she joined Lackawanna County as the Health Director for its newly established Department of Health.

In her present role, Dr. Charles is building the department from the grounds-up. Her vision and goal are to use research and data to support policy changes, and program development to protect the county from threats, while collaborating with local entities to react rapidly to any outbreak to limit the spread, have the capability to diagnose and detect any threat, and prioritize vulnerable communities. Dr. Charles wants to make Lackawanna County a safe, and healthy place where the community can live, work, and play, and each person has an equal opportunity for a healthy and productive life.



***Molly Gatto, MHA***

Gatto is a graduatee from Loyola University, New Orleans with a bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education. After receiving a master's in health administration from St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, she then sought a career as the Program Manager for the Medical Home Program at the PA Chapter

of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Vice President of Mission Delivery at Make-A-Wish Philadelphia, Delaware and Susquehanna Valley. In the fall of 2022, Gatto returned to the PA Chapter of the AAP as the Senior Immunization Program Manager.



***Clares Shayra Perez, MD, MS.c Epidemiology,  
TDR-OMS***

Dr. Shayra Pérez, doctor from the Dominican Republic, graduated from the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo with Cum-Laude academic honors. She has a postgraduate degree in Epidemiology with a focus on infectious and neglected diseases from the National Faculty of Public Health of the University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia, through the TDR program of the World Health Organization (WHO). She has been involved in scientific research related to the implementation and development of projects linked to areas related to the epidemiological surveillance of diseases and infectious diseases. She is an affiliated researcher of the Ministry of Higher Education, Sciences and Technologies (MESCYT) (DO) as a scientific researcher. She recently began working as an epidemiology case investigator at the newly created Lackawanna County Health Department.



***Dr. Rachna Saxena, MD, MPH, ECFMG***

Dr. Saxena had worked for over 18 years as a pediatrician in India before moving to the US with her family. In India, she supervised Pulse Polio campaigns in the army and rural areas. In the US, after graduating with the degree in Master's in Public Health from East Stroudsburg University, PA she transitioned to public health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked as an Epidemiologist in the Emergency Operations Center for Wake County in Raleigh, NC.

Thereafter she volunteered and was on the Mayor's COVID-19 Recovery Task Force in Scranton. In June 2021, she joined the City of Scranton as the first Public Health Coordinator and has since worked to establish a public health department in the city; raised public health awareness in the community, brought vaccine clinics, and other health and wellness

resources to the doorstep of the low-income developments and senior high rises. Dr. Saxena and the city team created a Covid-19 dashboard to keep everyone updated on case numbers, vaccinations, and guidance. After serving the city for over 3 years, she recently started working as the Deputy, Director, Public Health Policy and Strategy with the newly formed Lackawanna County Department of Health.



### ***Shubhra M. Shetty, MD, FACP***

Dr. Shetty was born and raised in India in a military family. She trained at the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College in India, following which she served in the Indian Armed Forces for three years. In 1991, she moved to the U.S., training in SUNY Brooklyn, N.Y. in the early 90s, when the HIV/AIDS epidemic was peaking. This experience led Dr. Shetty to pursuing further training in Infectious Disease at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

As a Board-certified Infectious Disease specialist, Dr Shetty moved to Northeast PA and pursued a clinician -educator tract, seeing patients in both in-patient and out-patient settings. In addition to her clinical role, and teaching medical students and residents, she established a Department of Health supported STD clinic, and also served as the TB control officer locally. In 2003, she established the first HRSA funded Ryan White Infectious Disease Clinic in the region, serving a seven-county area. Since 2020, she provides clinical services at the Infectious Disease clinic based in Scranton Primary Health care center.

Dr. Shetty became Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine's regional associate dean for the North Campus in 2014 and has been appointed as an Associate Dean for Community and Faculty Engagement at the medical school.

She was awarded Governor's award of Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania in 2019 by Governor Wolf. She is the faculty advisor to the Gold Humanism chapter at the medical school. She continues to be a clinician educator, and a mentor to students, residents and colleagues.



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**PEOPLE OF ACTION**

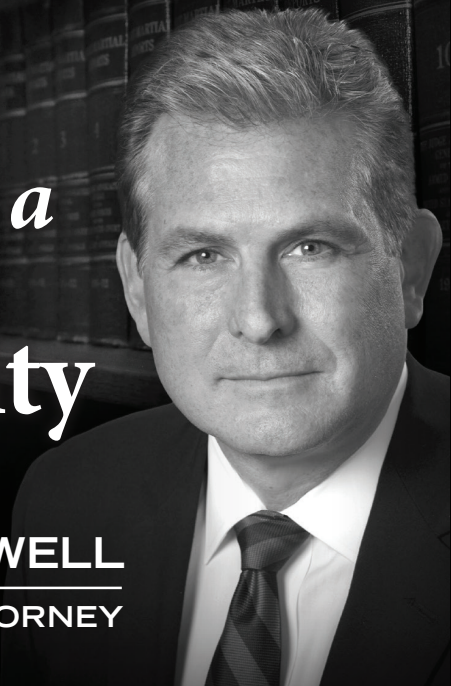
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Together for a  
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**MARK POWELL**  

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The CDC recommends an updated\* COVID-19 vaccine for 2023-2024 for everyone aged 6 months and older to protect against serious illness.

\* If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 2 months, get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Scan here to  
learn more:




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The **Lackawanna County Department of Health** is in the process of meeting all the requirements for certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

**Our Vision:** Develop a model, healthy community through data-informed decisions and the engagement of the community, family, and individual that will build health equity for the entire population while respecting their dignity and diversity.

**Our Mission:** Prevent illness, protect and preserve health and well-being, and promote healthy lifestyle choices.

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# **POLIO HISTORY & ROTARY—MAJOR MILESTONES**

**1979** - Rotary International begins its fight against polio with a multi-year project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines.

**1985** - Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative, with an initial fundraising target of US\$120 million.

**1988** - Rotary International and the World Health Organization launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. There are an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries.

**1994** - The International Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication announces that polio has been eliminated from the Americas.

**1995** - Rotary launches the PolioPlus Partners program, enabling Rotary members in polio-free countries to provide support to fellow members in polio-affected countries for polio eradication activities.

**2000** - A record 550 million children – almost 10% of the world's population – receive the oral polio vaccine. The Western Pacific region, spanning from Australia to China, is declared polio-free.

**2003** - The Rotary Foundation raises \$119 million in a 12-month campaign. Rotary's total contribution to polio eradication exceeds \$500 million. Six countries remain polio-endemic – Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan.

**2006** - The number of polio-endemic countries drops to 4 - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan.

**2009** - Rotary's overall contribution to the eradication effort nears \$800 million. In January, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledges \$355 million and issues Rotary a challenge grant of \$200 million. This announcement will result in a combined \$555 million in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

**2011** - Rotary welcomes celebrities and other major public figures into a new public awareness campaign and ambassador program called "This Close" to ending polio. Program ambassadors include

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, violinist Itzhak Perlman, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates, Grammy Award-winning singers Angelique Kidjo and Ziggy Marley, and environmentalist Dr. Jane Goodall. Rotary's funding for polio eradication exceeds \$1 billion.

**2012** - India surpasses 1 year without a recorded case of polio and is removed from the list of countries where polio is endemic. Polio remains endemic in just 3 countries. Rotary surpasses its \$200 Million Challenge fundraising goal more than 5 months earlier than expected.

**2014** - India goes 3 full years without a new case caused by the wild poliovirus, and the World Health Organization certifies the South-East Asia region polio-free. Polio cases are down over 99% since 1988.

**2019** - Nigeria goes 3 full years without a new case caused by the wild poliovirus.

**2020** - The World Health Organization certifies the African region wild polio-free.

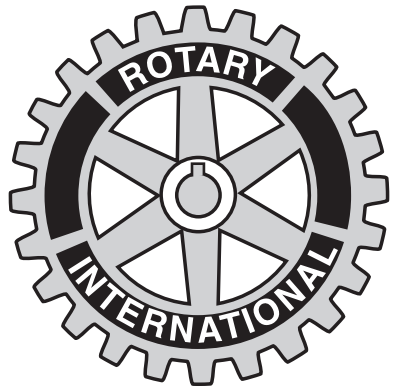


*Northeastern Pennsylvania*

**World Polio Day  
October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Helping to Educate the  
Community on the History  
of Polio. Infectious Disease,  
Pandemic, and Pandemic  
Preparedness.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania serves children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities and their families in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties.



**Rotary**  
Club of Mountain Top

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# Rotary

## Club of Scranton



### **ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS**

There are more than 1.2 million Rotary club members, or Rotarians, around the world. Your potential to do good in your community as a Rotarian is far greater than it was before you joined. You'll have the privilege of working with other professionals and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others by bringing together your expertise, skills, and resources.

### **ROTARY CLUBS**

The club is the most important component of Rotary's organizational structure. There are over 35,000 Rotary clubs in more than 220 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs are autonomous, so the member experience varies from club to club. However, they all operate somewhat similarly. For example, all clubs have presidents, secretaries, and treasurers and committees that help them run smoothly. Each Rotary club is considered a member of Rotary International. Strong, well-run clubs enhance our members' experiences and deliver valuable service to our communities.

### **SCRANTON ROTARY**

Is the oldest Rotary club in NEPA, chartered in 1914, with a rich history of community service. We meet for lunch on Monday at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Scranton—meetings typically include a speaker or presentation on a variety of topics, both business and service oriented. Scranton Rotary Club members come from all parts of the local community, including business, non-profits, and government organizations. All members share the goal to be an open, inclusive club, welcoming all persons that have community service as a personal mission.

## 35,000+ Rotary clubs across the globe work to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies
- Protecting the environment

## Rotarian's live by the 4 Way Test

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## Rotarians are expected to use the 4-Way Test of all the things we think, say, or do.



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# Rotary

District 7410



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In addition to traditional Chamber services, such as networking, referrals, and cost-saving programs, The Chamber is also the parent organization to eight affiliate organizations: the Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company (SLIBCO), The Scranton Plan, the Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprise (LIFE), SLIBCO Utilities, MetroAction, the IGNITE Program, Skills in Scranton, and Leadership Lackawanna. These affiliates support economic development, provide small business lending services, facilitate leadership development programs, and guide workforce development initiatives in the greater Scranton region.



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