



# “FOCUS 57”

District 7980 Newsletter  
Southern Connecticut, USA

Welcome to the extra  
**THANK YOU’s EDITION!**

ISSUE FEBRUARY 18, 2021



Welcome to the **FOCUS 57 Newsletter for D-7980, Southern Connecticut!**

This edition will share new updates and stories but also say **THANK YOU** for many things that we all do together or individually, but makes the World a better place.

**THANK YOU** for the flexibility to meet all your Rotary Friends online. This has  given us the opportunity to do what we do best. **We Help Humanity.**



**EACH ONE  
BRING ONE**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

**Rotary**

Thank you Haresh Ramchandani for this reminder to invite people to Rotary!

**TECH TIP! For ZOOM**

**REMEMBER to  
UPDATE YOUR ZOOM  
to VERSION 5.5.2 for  
optimal functionality!  
Thank you!**

## Governor Ron Webb's February message

February is Rotary Peace and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution Month. February is African-American History Month. February 23<sup>rd</sup> is the 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotary International!

The month of February, though the shortest month of the year, opens opportunities for our Rotary family!

Our District would like to **THANK** our Rotary Clubs, **Rotaract** Clubs, **Interact** Clubs and Rotary Community Corp for their hard work during the Pandemic by making \$1,000 grants available from our "Rainy Day" funds. These grants will require local community assessments as we work our way through the phase II of the Pandemic. The funds are being held available through March 31, 2021 to allow each organization to complete the community assessment and to fill out the simple application form.

We encourage the Rotary Clubs, **Rotaract** Clubs and Community Corp to work in partnership to expand the scope of the grants. Please include your Interact Clubs in the community engagement. Any new Rotary Clubs, **Rotaract** Clubs and Rotary Community Corp Clubs that are chartered before the March 31, 2021 deadline will be eligible to participate in the \$1,000 grants. We are excited to make these funds available during these most difficult times.

Those clubs that wish to utilize the funds in conjunction with District Managed Grants will be required to comply with District Managed Grants protocol. Please be aware that remaining DMG funds are limited and may be exhausted before the March 31, 2021 deadline.

*Stay Safe and Thank You for all YOU DO!*

**THANK YOU District and Global Grants Team as well as Paul Mangles and Christene Freedman on the \$1000 per Club SPECIAL Relief Grants for ALL the work you put in to make "it all happen" . THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU** Rotarians for  
baking cookies



“This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again.”

— Paul Harris, *This Rotarian Age*, circa 1935

Have YOU logged on to My Rotary lately and do YOU have a My Rotary Account? If not and unsure how to do it, please reach out to your Presidents, AG's or ANY of us at District—we can help immediately! <https://my.rotary.org/en/>

The easiest way to donate to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus, World Fund and Areas of Focus is to go to My Rotary, LOG IN and go to DONATE! This will credit YOUR giving, the Clubs and Districts all in one donation! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Help us reach goals to do the outstanding work through grants that we do, give scholarships and more.

## Rotary District 7980 Annual Conference

VIRTUAL

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

**8A-2P**

**Details will follow**

*Save the date!*

### Rotary Club of North Branford

The North Branford Rotary is very excited to announce a new effort to support the Food Pantry of North Branford, in partnership with our friends at Zion Church. On both Saturdays February 13th and February 27th, they will be co-hosting a Food



**Drive at Zion Church, 236 Notch Hill Road North Branford. The event is being held from 10AM-12PM.** Suggested donation times are as follows, but not limited to: peanut butter, pasta, juices, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese etc. As always, monetary donations to this wonderful group will also be accepted.

**THANK YOU FOR** the kids  
dinosaur design PPE





The Rotary District-7980  
Diversity Committee Team



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

As we dream of far off planets ...

Infinite diversity in infinite combinations...  
symbolizing the elements that create truth and beauty.

**Commander Spock—STAR TREK**

An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## Rotary Club of Trumbull

**Beth Stoller**—Vice President of the Rotary Club of Trumbull, leads the **Honeymoon Club**. What is that? **It is a gathering of newer members in the Club once a month.** This allows for quality time with people who may be less familiar with Rotary and also the opportunity to meet leaders and those with years of Rotary stories to share. It is a VERY well done meeting and definitely engages new members. WAY TO GO RC Trumbull!



**THANK YOU Rotarians FOR  
SMILES ON Zoom!**





## Rotary Club of "ANYWHERE"

Send in your stories about visiting other Clubs IN District or around the World other than your own! What did you learn? What surprised you?

Who did you meet? *Thank you!*

*Rotary on the Road or Virtual Visits!*

## Rotary Club of Greenwich — CONGRATULATIONS!



Wednesday, February 17th, was such a memorable and special day for the Greenwich Rotary Club. We celebrated its 100th Anniversary. True to its motto: "Service Above Self."

The Club for the past 100 years, provides support, financial aid and good will in the areas of health, education and peace to bring about lasting change in Greenwich and around the world. President Joe Benoit started the festivities by taking us down memory lane, telling us about George Carmichael, who started the Greenwich Rotary Club, and was also President of the New York Rotary Club. It was the sponsoring club for the Greenwich Rotary Club. And, many probably don't know that the Greenwich Rotary Club is the sponsoring club for Westport, Ridgefield and Byrem Rotary Clubs.



"It is well that there is nothing in Rotary so sacred that it cannot be set aside in favor of things better."

Paul Harris, 1936

## Rotary Club of Danbury reports in from their SPOKE newsletter

Also...

*Save the date!*

We will be **Shredding May 1st at Chuck's;**  
**9 am— Tell your doctor, personal attorney,**  
**and your CPA about our shred day at**  
**Chuck's Steak House. It's not only a great**  
**fellowship event, it is a good fund raiser...**  
**and besides all of that, you get free coffee**  
**and donuts.** [20 Segar St, Danbury, CT 06810](https://www.segar.com/)

### Terry Quinn Became our Newest Member, Today!

A proud graduate of Penn. State U., our newest member, Terry Quinn, first became his career as a petroleum engineer, working first in Wyoming, then in Southern California, and then in Texas.

Retiring from engineering, he joined his wife in her travel agency, they sent many customers around the globe, and they did quite a bit of traveling themselves. Their daughter, Attorney Susan Alker, is a Brewster Rotarian who recently came east from California apparently to be near Dad. Terry is now fully retired. Sadly, Terry lost his wife 2 years ago, as your Editor did. Fellow Board member, Mark Havira, also knows that pain.

Get to know Terry. He will be a valuable member of our club and drop in, through ZOOM, on the Brewster Club, Tues., March 2<sup>nd</sup>.



*Terrance Quinn*



*Daughter, Attorney Susan Alker*

## Rotary Club of East Hampton

Big E fans this one is for you! Do you love the Big E? Would you like to be able to go for free every year for the rest of your life?

East Hampton Rotary is raffling a Big E Golden Ticket, which provides lifetime entry and free parking for you and a guest for the rest of your life! Tickets are \$10



each and available online at <https://easthamptonct.rotary7980gives.org/goldenticket>, at Paul's and Sandy's, or through any Rotarian. The drawing will be May 8th at Sears Park. Proceeds benefit our continuing support of the East Hampton and Marlborough communities.

**THANK YOU Rotarians FOR HEARTFELT  
MESSAGES WHEN SOMEONE LEFT US**



## District Governor Elect Jeff Krause (DGE) checks in...



I recently had the privilege to attend the recently held International Assembly (virtually) whereby District Governor- Elects from around the world gather for a joint training and fellowship. President-Elect Shekar Mehta presented his theme for the upcoming Rotary year, " **Serve to Change Lives.**" This simple four word phrase clearly defines what Rotary is all about. Rotarians are called to serve and they fulfill that promise in many different ways, in their communities and throughout the world. Whether it is the dictionary given to a school-aged child or a meal served to the hungry Rotary responds. I am proud not only to be a member of a Rotary club but to be called a Rotarian.

### **"Service Above Self"**

In March our President-Elects in our District will attend the Northeast Training Seminar (NEPETS), through a virtual format. This training program will prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that will be present in the upcoming year. Most importantly they will engage with other Rotarians from many different clubs to share ideas and opportunities that will enable them to become better leaders. I feel privileged and honored to work with a great and talented group of President-Elects from the District.



## **NEPETS - March 11-13 + 18-20, 2021 Online**

**SAVE THE DATES for PRESIDENTS and Co-PRESIDENTS and save the link below for updates.**

[Home Page | Northeast PETS \(rotarynepets.org\)](http://rotarynepets.org)

**REMEMBER to UPDATE YOUR ZOOM to VERSION 5.5.2 for optimal functionality! Thank you!**

**THANK YOU Rotarians for answering the phone to those in need.**



Send your Club News for the Future Newsletters to Tari at [tealtravel@gmail.com](mailto:tealtravel@gmail.com) by the 12th of each month. Thank you!

Rotary Club of Wallingford

## CORRECT USE OF LOGO

SHOUT OUT!

Thank you!

[Home Page | Rotary Club of Wallingford \(clubrunner.ca\)](#)



### Website and Materials Challenge to all Club Teams!

Reminder to [update your logo's and branding to be in compliance with the Rotary International Brand Standards](#).  
Visit the Brand Center on My Rotary and download all options! There are many to suit your needs.

The Blue and Gold Wheel has been officially retired.

Thank you!

### Rotary Club of Newtown *PARTICIPATE!*

<b>Newtown Rotary Club Foundation</b>	<b>Newtown Rotary Club Foundation Winter 2021 RAFFLE</b>
First Name _____	<b>THREE (3) PRIZES TO BE AWARDED</b>
Last Name _____	<b>1st PRIZE:</b> \$1,500 Visa Gift Card
Address: _____	<b>2nd PRIZE:</b> \$1,000 Visa Gift Card
_____	<b>3rd PRIZE:</b> \$500 Visa Gift Card
Town: _____	<b>DRAWING</b>
State: _____ Zip: _____	Newtown Community Center
Phone: ( ) _____	April 18, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.
No 01001	8 Simpson Street • Newtown, CT 06470
	<b>RULES</b>
	Maximum of 1000 Tickets To Be Sold
	Ticket Holders Need Not Be Present To Win
	Prizes Not Redeemable For Cash and Exclude Alcoholic Beverages
	No 01001 <span style="float: right;">Price: \$20.00</span>

Winter Raffle Tickets available now! Please visit us at

<https://newtownctrotary.org/2021raffle/>

[#NewtownCT](#) [#Rotary](#)

**THANK YOU** Rotarians for letting us cry when it  
got really hard



# THANK YOU Rotarians for stepping up to Leadership positions!



Interested in finding out how to help one of our Rotaract Clubs with a Fundraiser to assist Syrian Refugees? Read about the fabulous things happening at Yale Rotaract sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Haven!

Link to our Yale Rotaract Club Website:

<http://www.yalerotaract.com/>



## REMINDER!

Everyone in District will have received the email about RELIEF 57! \$57,000 is being released to Clubs, Rotaractors and the Rotary Community Corps so EACH Club can do a \$1000 community project. If you have not seen the email please check your in-boxes or ask your team-mates! Opportunities to DOUBLE the funds as a small District Managed Grant are also available. See the terms for this in the guidelines in the email. District Is part of YOUR individual Teams.

“RELIEF 57”

\$1000 to  
EACH CLUB

## PDG's Sharing Their Stories and Wisdom

Thank you Abe Gordon, Bob Vossler, John Annick, Jim Lang for sharing! You guys ROCK!



# PROJECT FAIR

## ROTARY D-7980

### FINDING PARTNERS FOR ACTION!

This Section of the Newsletter is a place where you can post your ongoing projects that need Club partners. This could be for a grant, a hands on project or simply people-power for a one off event.

**This Month Featuring**

**The Rotary Club of the Stoningtons**

providing bright futures  
**SimplySmiles**  
children's villages

An incredibly exciting week at the



**Children's  
Village**

Cheyenne River Reservation



The Rotary Club of the Stoningtons is looking for District Club Partners (and individual donations) in order to have the full budget for a District Managed Grant to fully furnish one of these Children's Homes. **PLEASE CONTACT Marti Bradshaw for details and to become involved. Be part of something beyond your local area and learn the details of how grants work as well if you have not done so before!**

Marti Bradshaw is available to talk to any club in District 7980 about Simply Smiles! Text her at 8609089278 or email her at [mbradshaw46@comcast.net](mailto:mbradshaw46@comcast.net)

**LOOKING FOR District Managed Grant Partners!**  
**Help to remedy a crisis situation for children.**

## Rotary Club of Stratford



Shared .....

**Stratford Rotary served 60 meals with the help of Great Wall Chinese Restaurant on Broadbridge Ave.**

These dinners helped the Restaurant pay their electric bill stated the owner. Thanks for all the Rotarians that came out to help Jim Simon, Joe Dolan, Gary Jacopian, Gus Chagares, Sheri Szymanski, Pat Patusky, Stephanie Philips, Paul Tavaras and Stacie Tavaras.



## Rotary Club of Ansonia



Ansonia Rotarians Mayor David Cassetti and Rotary President Joe Pinto distributed masks to the residents of the Ansonia Housing Authority Monsignor Haynes Apartments this past Friday. Masks were provided to the AHA for distribution to their resident clients.



Themed Rotary is really taking off in Australia a great way to engage people with a focus on specific causes

IMPACT BEGINS WITH YOU

MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
**JOIN TODAY**  
BE THE DIFFERENCE

Rotary  
Club of Koala LOVERS

## Rotary Club of “the theme that inspires you!”

Do YOU know a group of people with a specific passion? Suggest a Rotary Club in the making! A GREAT example of creative thinking from Australia here! The Rotary Club of Koala LOVERS! Come up with an idea and District will help you make it happen!

Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION

**THANK YOU Rotarians for clearing the Veteran's yard when he needed the assistance**



### Honoring the Memory

◆ Rotary District 7980 Team sends out our deep condolences to the families and Rotary families of those lost during this time. Governor Ron has requested that those interested in assisting with the planning, for late Spring, of a Memorial Interfaith Remembrance and Celebration of Life of those lost please send him an email or contact him directly. Kevin Reich of the Rotary Club of East Hampton is leading this Memorial and Interfaith event. Details will follow.

This will be a unique event not part of the Virtual District Conference.

Thank you.

**THANK YOU** for collecting for the  
**homeless shelters**



**Rotary Club of Newtown** Thank you to all who came out on a very cold day on January 30th to help prepare meals for nearly 150 homeless. Thank you to our newest helpers from Newtown Savings Bank Vern Chong and Katherine Criollo!



## Rotary Club of East Hampton "ON LITERACY!"

The East Hampton Middle School is grateful to the East Hampton Rotary Club for a \$550 donation which purchased all of the **Nutmeg 2021 titles**. The Nutmeg collection has the highest circulation in the library and is enjoyed by students and teachers alike. This grant makes it possible to buy multiple copies of titles and offer high quality, contemporary literature.



# Rotary Citation

Below is the Link for the Rotary International Presidential Citation for your Clubs. Revisit to see where you are Year to Date!

[Rotary Citation | My Rotary](#)

# What is the value of Rotary to you?

Guest Message to D-7980 from **Drew Kessler**

**Thank you Drew!** Nominated as RI Director for 2022-24 for Our Zone

## Don't make me choose....

If I am made to choose between Rotary and my family, Rotary will lose every time. In the past 20 years within our great organization I have done everything I can to make sure I do not have to pick between the two. The way I have accomplished this is by bringing my family into the Rotary world.

From early on the kids and my wife Vicki have had Rotary part of their day to day lives, not just from hearing me talk about it or being forced to attend meetings but rather with them participating on many different levels. Starting with my youngest who is in Kindergarten, Brandon is always talking about Touch a Truck events or other Rotary events he has been to over the years, Jackson now in 3rd grade recently approached us to start an Earlyact club in his elementary school from hearing about it at a conference we attended as a family prior to the pandemic, Parker a sophomore in high school was getting ready for YEX before it was canceled for the coming school year and now looks forward to heading off the following year, Joe a past Interactor and now in his first year at University, credits RYLA as one of the greatest opportunities he has experienced in life, and Dilynn my oldest daughter also a past Interactor and YEX student (Rome, Italy) is now in her third year of university just became a charter member of District 7210's passport club.

Rotary has been there every step of the way from the example Vicki and I have set for them. Vicki a Rotarian since 2014 is a past club President and current Assistant Governor in District 7210. It is because of this engagement I did not have to choose between my family and Rotary rather I brought them together. It is my hope that our organization finds every way possible to make sure members do not have to choose.

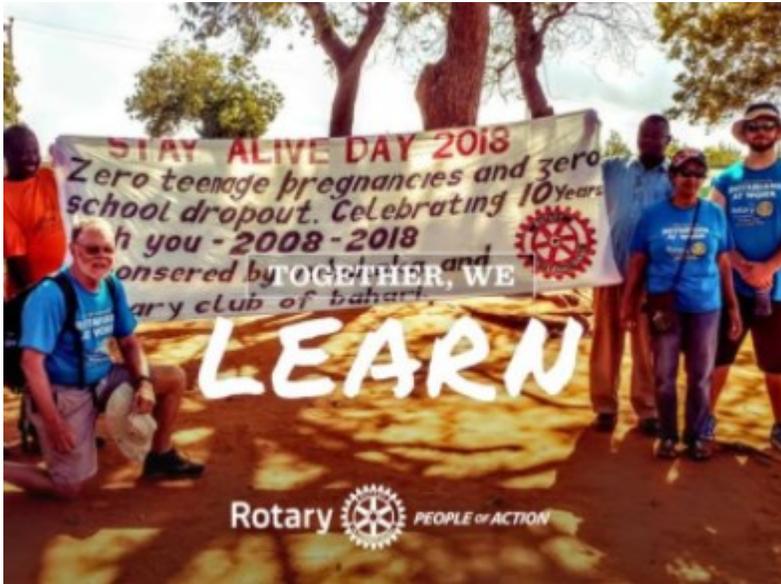
**Every meeting and event we hold should not only cater to the member but their family as well. We should have a mind towards including our partners and those closest to us. It is with this mindset that we will be more relevant and inclusive to all demographics.**



The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



**Watch for the 2021 BOOTS ON THE GROUND great presentations on the FOUNDATION at one of your upcoming meetings! Be there to hear heartfelt stories and why The Rotary Foundation, with its Annual Fund, offers so much BACK to our Clubs, Members and Communities.**



Make your OWN Brand Compliant media images using pictures from YOUR Club. Here our own Rick Benson in Kenya in 2018. Drop in graphics from the Brand Center in ONE MINUTE of work. We are happy to help you—just ask your AG's or District Leaders!

## Rotary Club of Woodbury, Southbury, Middlebury

### aka Tribury Rotary

The Tribury Rotary is having a toiletry and personal hygiene drive for Safe Haven in Waterbury for the month of February. Safe Haven is a domestic violence shelter providing healing environments for families and individuals leaving a dangerous situation. The Shelter gives survivors of abuse and their children the space to heal. We know that survivors of domestic violence often need much more than just a safe haven to work through the harmful effects of domestic violence. The purpose is to support families and individuals who have endured trauma, and to help them heal, love and thrive through and after trauma, while equipping, encouraging, and empowering them. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Forbotnick, member of the Tribury Rotary and Project Leader, at (203) 528-1887 or Melissa Malagutti at Safe Haven at (203) 575-0388.

**THANK YOU Rotarians FOR BOOKS FOR THE LITTLE Free LIBRARIES**

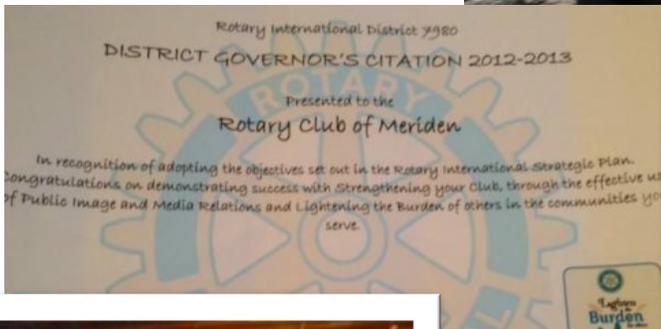


**THANK YOU Rotarians for knitting blankets for those in need**

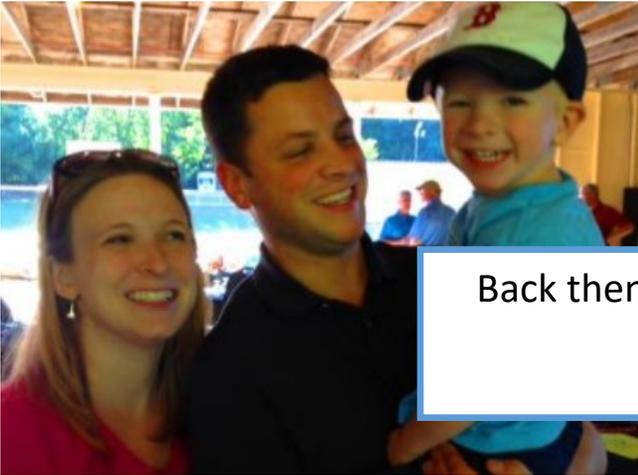


It is a landmark year for the **Rotary Club of Meriden! 100 YEARS OF SERVICE!**

Some "FLASHBACK" Moments from the past  
10 years!



**MORE! Flashback in Time**  
**Rotary Club of Meriden**



Back then possible **FUTURE PRESIDENTS** —  
**NOW PAST PRESIDENTS!**



## DGN Note from Tari's Desk

### Demystifying the DG TRACK, what we actually do to prepare to be DG.



**Greetings all.** This month sharing one thought, and that is **LET ROTARY be a FAMILY THING!** The pictures below are of my Dad's Rotary (he is in the back row—second from the left facing picture). Then there is my son and I doing things together or separately. Dad's Rotary was exactly as you see it—all men, in suits and ties and long meals with Marlborough cigarettes, after dinner drinks and hours of time on their hands because they were in charge of their own schedules. My Rotary is one where I am happy to wear jeans and a T-Shirt traveling from country to country visiting Clubs BUT doing hands on work as my preference much more so than sitting eating meals. And then my son. He joined the Rotary Surfers' Fellowship.

Wears the ballcap all the time (including at meals at times!) His generation will text multiple times during a meal and will even text me at the same table. And that is OK. If asked he will put in 12 hours of work for a cause—but don't waste his time in board meetings that go on for hours without decisions being made. EACH of these versions is Rotary. Nothing wrong with any on them—just different times. Listen to stories of the more traditional Rotary and celebrate the history. Know Rotary will be a mix of check writers and do-ers or both—but it is OK to have a mix of one or the other as well. And finally—future Rotary is now. It is changing somewhat—embrace the change but let us know as well when you feel you are missing out because sometimes we get on the fast train and forget to see the scenery along the way. **There is room in Rotary for all of it.** And the World is a better place **with Rotary IN IT!**



**Be Safe, Be Well, Kia Ora (that is Kiwi for "until the next one") —**



"The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds...we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity."

— Arch C. Klumph, December 1928

**THANK YOU Rotarians for making us laugh when we most needed it**



**Rotary Club of Cheshire** Durham members raising funds for local needs in sister service Clubs! Thank you Paula of the Lions Club of Durham for meeting me! Happy to partner with another service Club. Handed over \$575 fundraised for local food insecurity needs and also children's masks. (The masks courtesy of Rotary East Hampton). If a town near you does not have a Rotary Club, consider partnering with their other Service Clubs and those who have performed community needs assessments already ... Every town has needs right now.

## Q: Does Rotary Have Virtual Zoom Backgrounds?

**A: WE SURE DO!**

There are 8 branded Rotary Zoom Backgrounds in Brand Center.

Go to Materials → Club Resources



Rotary  
Zone 33  
Public Image  
Coordinator  
Team

**THANK YOU**  
**Rotarians for contributing to our Clubs' fundraisers when our in person events were cancelled**



**TRIVIA**

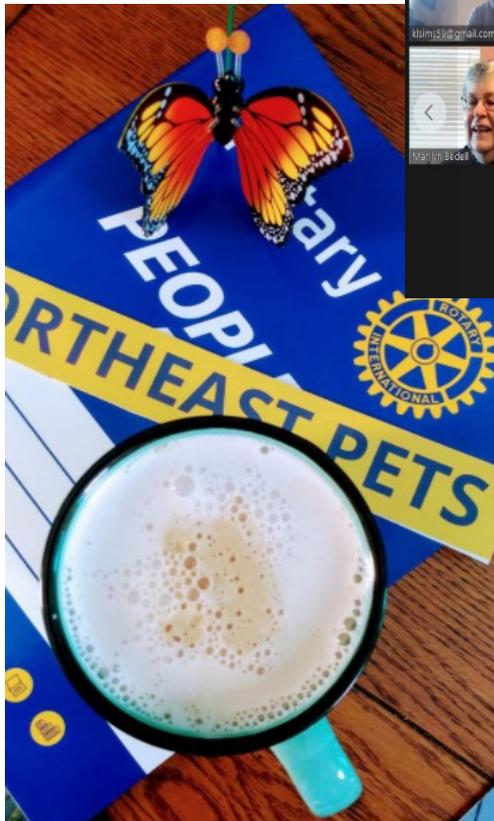
**DO YOU Know what the Rotary 711 Club is?**

Click on this link to learn more!

[Paul Harris 711 Club \(rghfhome.org\)](http://rghfhome.org)

PS, they have a really “cool” pin when you join :)

**Shout Out to all the NEPETS (Northeast President Elect Training) CREW for all your work for months and months to put on a great March Program!**



Some of the over 40 people who are planning PETS! **THANK YOU EVERYONE!** Specially the DGE's and the amazing TECH TEAM getting this set for 8 Districts!

**Thank you!**