

District Governor's Note

Zachary Covington, District Governor 2024-25

April 2025

Happy Spring, Rotary Family!

As spring awakens the world around us, I'm reminded of the energy and renewal that this season brings — and how it mirrors the spirit of Rotary. April is Rotary's Environment Month, a time to celebrate and amplify our efforts in creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.

Across our district, I've seen inspiring environmental projects — from community cleanups & gardens, to tree plantings, educational programs and outdoor festivals & projects. These acts, big and small, are powerful reminders that Rotary's impact reaches far beyond meeting rooms & weekly restaurant visits. When we work together, we truly "Unite for Good."

This month is also a time of planning and preparation. As we look ahead to the final quarter of the Rotary year, let's finish strong! Let's show up! Keep inviting new members, keep telling your Rotary stories, and keep lifting up the good work being done in your clubs and communities. Dust off those DG Awards & RI Awards documents and get them completed and submitted. (Don't forget: DG Awards are due to your AG on 9 May.)

Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming District events. 12 April is our Spring Innovate & Inspire Rotary session. District Conference registration is open... you don't want to miss this celebration of the MAGIC OF ROTARY! 6-8 June in Franklin & Oil City — a time for fellowship, celebration, and inspiration. I can't wait to see many of you there and share in all the joy that comes from being part of this incredible Rotary family.

Let's keep growing, serving, and leading with heart.

In Rotary Spirit,

Zachary Covington District Governor



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Dates to Remember - April & May 2025

April - Environmental Month

12 - Passover Begins

12 - Innovate & Inspire Rotary Spring District Learning Session

18 - RYLA STUDENT REGISTRATION (Form 2) for each student selected and sent to RYLA Treasurer/Secretary.

20 - HAPPY EASTER

May - Youth Service Month

4-5 - ROVA retreat at Camp Nazareth Retreat Center, Mercer

9 - District Governor Awards Submission Deadline

15 - District Conference Golf Tournament & Pickleball Tournament Registration Deadline

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June 6-8th District Conference - Register NOW!

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2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District Governor Zachary and the Franklin Rotary Club invite you to join us in the beautiful Oil Region of Venango County to CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF ROTARY!

June 6-8, 2025

6 JUNE - RENO & FRANKLIN

- **GOLF, PICKLEBALL, SOCIALS, WINE TASTING**
- PAUL HARRIS FELLOW & PDG RECEPTION,
 'ROTARY'S GOT TALENT'

7 JUNE - VENANGO CAMPUS - OIL CITY

- BUSINESS MEETING, YOUTH EXCHANGE, CLARION COMMUNITY CHOIR
- SERVICE PROJECTS, DG AWARDS, KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
- CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE, INSPIRING KEYNOTE ADDRESS, DG AARON INSTALLATION

8 JUNE - FRANKLIN

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS BREAKFAST

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



Mackenzie Bart, Conference Host
Miss Ohio 2014 & Award Winning
Meteorologist & Ventriloquist

D7280districtconference@gmail.com

Website

www.rotarydistrict7280.org

CLICK HERE to register for the **District Conference**.

CLICK HERE to register for Friday's **Golf Outing** or **Pickleball Tournament**.

CLICK HERE to view **housing & hotel options**.

RYLA 2025

We are only 2 months away from our RYLA week at Westminster, June 15th to the 20th. Ideally, at this point, every club would have decided how many kids they would send and have sent in the form along with the money. Also, ideally, at this point, clubs would be working on the student selection process (due April 18th). BUT, we know things don't always run "ideally", so if you have any problems or issues please contact me – phone, text or email. I will also be at the Grants meeting (Spring Innovate & Inspire Rotary session) in Franklin on April 12th.

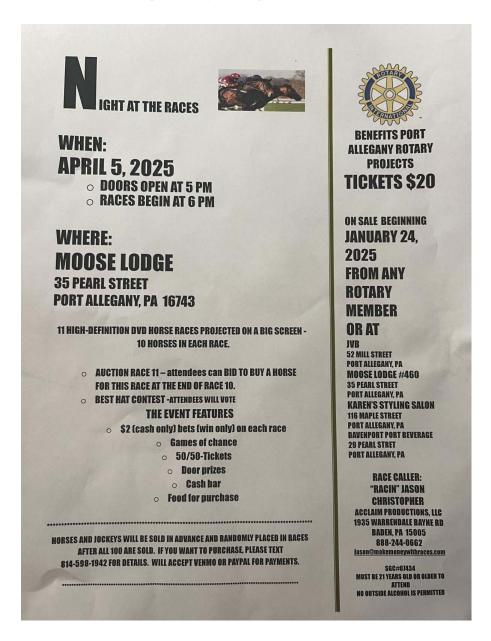
District Leaders

Zachary S. Covington District Governor **Aaron Matthew** Sines **District** Governor-Elect Eva Palmer **District** Secretary Patricia J. Meehan **District** Treasurer Ken R Fleeson District

RYLA is one of the best programs that our District sponsors, and it gives us a chance to talk with the type of kids that we want to consider Rotary. We used to consistently get around 115 kids each year, but Covid knocked us back to 100. Get out there and round up those extra kids so we maximize this great opportunity – and contact me if you have any questions, issues or concerns! (Chuck Berry, RYLA cochair, 724-272-4020, cdberry13@gmail.com)

Membership Chair John Marshall District Rotary Foundation Chair Rebekah E. Deal District Public Image/PR Chair

Port Allegheny Night at the Races



Hermitage Participates in Backpack Program

On March 18th Hermitage Rotarians helped pack food for local school students that participate in the "Backpack Program" at the Mercer County Food Bank. The Backpack Program provides bags of child-friendly, nutritious food for children to take home for the weekends. The program serves nearly 1,000 elementary and middle school children in 10 school districts throughout Mercer County. Rotarians were able to pack for two schools and 140 students!



Upcoming Fundraiser: Tune in to Sports Radio 96.7 FM on **April 26th 9-Noon** for our annual radio auction.

Claire Hartner Named District 7280 Servant Leader Scholar



The Rotary District 7280 Servant Leader Scholarship is awarded annually to a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student who demonstrates exceptional leadership, and service experience and aptitude. The scholarship award of \$5,000 recognizes a student's leadership experience, community service, academic achievement, and financial need.

Winners of the award invariably help to define the Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self" for a new generation. This year's outstanding competition featured six impressive scholarship finalists. The elite group of servant-leader scholars demonstrate public service, leadership achievements and academic scholarship that resonate in the District, on college campuses and in the world beyond. The impressive records of leadership and inspiring narratives of service provided a daunting challenge for the scholarship committee's selection process.

Special recognition and congratulations to our Rotary 7280 Servant Leader Scholar for 2025, Claire Hartner. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Wilmington, Claire received a scholarship of \$5,000 in support of her studies at Bucknell University. Claire is majoring in Linguistics with a minor in Computer Science. Upon receiving the award, Hartner remarked, "I am beyond grateful to accept this award. Because of my cystic fibrosis, I have been involved in community work and volunteering for most of my life. To me, this award represents an extension of my service to others. It will allow me to continue my education and find a career focused on helping those in need."

Scholarship eligibility requires a student to be:

- permanent resident of District 7280.
- completing or having already completed the first semester of their sophomore year.
- in good academic standing.
- able to show evidence of being involved in at least three (3) community service activities.
- endorsed by their local Rotary club.
- able to submit a resume that lists involvement and leadership in school and community activities.
- a cover letter explaining how these activities relate to the Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self."
- capable of providing their most recent academic transcript.

Thank you to all the students and clubs who made this competition so close. As Rotarians, we can all hope that the future will bring these exceptional citizens into our clubs to continue their legacy of "service over self." Our communities, our country, and our world will be better for it.

Erie Held the Fourteenth Annual Ethics Symposium

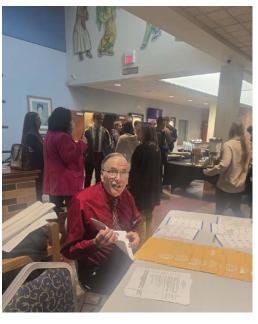






The Rotary Club of Erie held the Fourteenth Annual Ethics Symposium on March 4, 2025. This is the Erie Club's signature event in collaboration with Mercyhurst University to provide an entire day of thoughtful dialogue regarding ethical decision-making using the 4-Way Test. This year saw a record 210 students in attendance with an additional 38 adults. Faculty and staff attending with the students heard from our Rotary member and Erie District Attorney, Elizabeth Hirz, and one of her detectives, Anne Styn, on social media and the misuse of artificial intelligence in the classroom, earning continuing (Act 48) credits. Student and faculty surveys were very positive, and we are grateful to the school districts who joined us for this day!





Mt. Jewett Rotary – Mt. Jewett Library Endowment Matching Challenge



The Mt. Jewett Memorial Library Endowment Fund is held in trust by Hamlin Bank and Trust Company under an endowment agreement that protects the principal of the fund in perpetuity and pays out the income to support the operations of the library.

The Mt. Jewett Rotary Club is once again challenging the community to raise a total of \$4,000 to support the Mt. Jewett Memorial Library's Endowment Fund. The Rotary Club will match on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$2,000 in contributions from the community to the Library's Endowment Fund. This is your opportunity to double the impact of your donation. Just make your check payable to "Mt. Jewett Memorial Library" and drop it off at the Library or mail it to "MJML P.O. Box Y, Mt. Jewett, PA 16740." Please write "matching challenge" in the memo line or attach a note.

Portersville-Prospect Gun Raffle

March has been a different part of our winter. It seems Nature is having a hard time figuring out what she wants to do. We have had it all in one day at a time or two; snow, sun, rain, wind and low temperatures. But we know it will be gone soon, and the trees will bud, and the flowers will start to sprout, and we can get back to our outdoor activities, highway clean up, spruce up the Park and the EMS, Prospect Library among other things we do throughout the year and don't forget our Veterans Diner or Farmers night and our Fundraisers where the local people support us so we can do what we do each year to give back to organizations in the community!!!!!!

This year we are starting out with a 5-gun raffle. So Happy Spring to all!!!



5 Guns over 5 Nights!

6/2/25 • Henry Golden Boy 22LR Lever Action Rifle
6/3/25 • Ruger American Gen 2 .223 Rem Rifle
6/4/25 • Benelli Nova 3 Mossy Oak Bottomland Camo 12 Ga Shotgun
6/5/25 • Springfield Armory Hellcat Pro 9mm Pistol

6/6/25 • Smith & Wesson 642 .38 Special Revolver
Winners chosen the by the Pick 3 Evening PA Lottery

Proceeds Benefit Portersville/Prospect Area Community Charity Fund
Guns provided by Duke's Sport Shop of New Castle, PA
Tickets sponsored by Raisley Funeral Home, Prospect, PA
All nizes subject to all Local State and Enderal laws

All prizes subject to all Local, State and Federal laws. Federal/State income taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Unsold tickets become property of the Rotary Club of Portersville-Prospect

Purchase tickets by calling: Frank McCowin 724-679-8086 or Jim Butler 724-865-2593



Zelienople's 16th Annual Shamrock Shuffle

Zelienople Rotary Club hosted its 16th Annual Shamrock Shuffle on March 15, 2025, with over 300 runners hitting the streets on a beautiful Saturday morning, decked out in their best St. Patrick's Day attire. The event raised funds to support local community service projects.







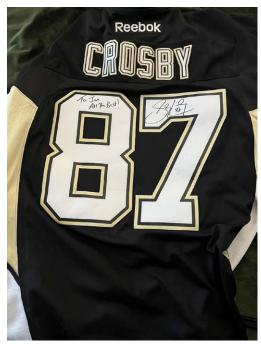
Submitted by Crystal Horan

Zelienople Fundraiser Inspires Surprise Outcome!

Last month, Missy Ramirez, Zelienople Rotary member, had the opportunity to meet a former Pittsburgh Penguin (Mark Recchi) at the Shubrew event raising funds for her son, Jax Ramirez. Jax is battling a rare autoimmune disease affecting 1 in every 1.6 million people. Inspired by the event, the former player shared Jax's story with Sidney Crosby, who then sent Jax a signed Penguins jersey. If you would like to donate or follow Jax's incredible journey, follow @bethematchforjax

Submitted by Crystal Horan





Slippery Rock and Harrisville Satellite Outcome from a District Grant

Slippery Rock Rotary Club and their Harrisville Satellite Club visited Transitions Healthcare Autumn Grove in Harrisville on Wednesday to visit with residents and to learn how the entertainment items purchased by a Rotary grant were received. The gifts of two large-screen TVs, sound bars, a karaoke machine, an overhead projector, a popcorn machine with popcorn and bags and two large patio umbrellas were the result of a District 7280 matching grant, written by the Slippery Rock Rotary and matched by both clubs. Jennifer Frizzel, Autumn Grove Director, stated, "I can't tell you the difference this has made in our residents. Quality of life changes with the degree of involvement. They love the Karaoke machine because it helps them remember the words to their old favorites. They are pleased with the popcorn machine because their old one broke".

This project was initiated by and dedicated to former Harrisville Mayor Gary Hughes, who passed away in July. Signs to recognize the donation were made by Jason Hughes, instructor in metals at Butler County Area Vocational Technical School and son of Gary.



Presenting the signs were Abby Smith, Slippery Rock Rotary President and Don Fink to residents Carri Yackuboskey and MaryJane Anderson, along with Harrisville Mayor, David Anschutz, and Borough Council President Kathy Bray. Residents Carri Yackuboskey and MaryJane Anderson along with directors, Pam Walters and Jennifer Frizzel were happy to represent the Autumn Grove residents. Also in attendance were Rotarians Judy and Jim Hughes, and Ben Robertson and Regina Greenwald.

Honoring Ed Vogel Sr. With Honorary Status



Celebrating 41 Years of Service

Adams Township celebrated Mr. Edward Vogel Sr.'s 41 years of service on the Adams Township Board of Supervisors. Mr. Vogel received honors from both Representative Stephenie Scialabba's office and Senator Elder Vogel's Office. As a sign of appreciation for Edward's many years of service, the Board of Supervisors has decided to rename the schoolhouse at Adams Township Community Park the Edward L Vogel Sr. School house. The township is grateful for Ed's many years on the board and looks forward to building on all of that hard work for years to come.

In addition to the honor given by Adams Township, the Rich-Mar Board of Directors voted to recognize Ed's 50-plus years of dedicated service to our community as a Rich-Mar Rotarian by bestowing on him the status of "Honorary Rich-Mar Rotarian." (This means that Ed will continue to enjoy all the benefits of being a Rotarian, but is free from the obligation to pay any dues to Rotary International, Rotary District 7280 or the Rich-Mar Rotary Club.)

Beginning with his induction into Rich-Mar on May 1, 1974, and continuing to the present, Ed has faithfully supported Rich-Mar's efforts to raise funds and then use

those funds to benefit organizations and individuals. Thank you, Ed! You have been instrumental in making our club and our community a better place in which to live and work.

Rich-Mar & The Future of Connectivity

Thank you to Troy Jeuther and Seth Prentice, from Armstrong Solutions for updating us on the future of fiber optic connectivity, and how it is changing the speed and quality of our access to the internet at the Rich-Mar luncheon meeting this past Wednesday.



Above: Troy Jeuther and President-Elect Seth Prentice

Rich-Mar April 8: Discover Rotary



BE A COMMUNITY DIFFERENCE MAKER ATTEND OUR DISCOVER ROTARY EVENT



Learn about Rich-Mar Rotary and see if it is right for you to join us as we help many non-profits, schools, municipalities, fire/EMS/police and international causes. Participate in a service project packing lunches for Light of Life Rescue Mission to see how our Club enriches the community. Bring your ideas on how Rotary can help something you are passionate about.

LOCATION:

Pine Community Center 100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford PA

DATE: 8 April 2025

TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Additional details:

Contact Dave Hein at dihein94@gmail or 412-807-1340 to RSVP or ask questions. Visit our club website www.rich-mar.org and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Kosova/Albania Friendship Exchange



FROM PITTSBURGH TO WARREN

WE NEED HELP - HOST FAMILIES, ACTIVITIES, MEALS, DRIVERS, SPONSORS & MORE!

HAVE A SPARE BEDROOM OR TWO?

WOULD YOUR CLUB BE WILLING TO HOST A MEAL OR LOCAL EVENT?

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LOCAL EVENTS AND HELP TRANSPORT OUR GUESTS!

OCT. 18 - 21ST

Carl Heinlein 412-818-1161 Dan Fazio 724-766-1316

SOUTHERN CLUB CLUSTER

& SIGHTSEEING FROM PGH TO ZELIE!

O SPORTING EVENTS, HISTORY/MUSEUMS, O GATEWAY CLIPPER, MT. WASHINGTON, VISITS FROM CRANBERRY TO SAXONBURG!

OCT. 21 - 24TH

Zach Covington 814-319-6039 Jim Thompson 724-355-0084

CENTRAL CLUB CLUSTER

DAYS FOR GIRLS SERICE PROJECT, SAFARI PARK, SPORTS & PICNIC!

SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, SHOPPING COFFEE, HISTORY, AND AMISH DINNER.

OCT. 24 - 26TH

Ben Kirsch 814-366-0577 Ruby Wiles 814-779-2625

NORTHERN CLUB CLUSTER

OF COMMUNITY VISITS.

O FRIENDS, FAMILIES, FOODS AND LOTS ULETS SHARE THE BEAUTY OF THE FALL LEAVES FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER OF OUR DISTRICT!

CONTACT ANY OF OUR TEAM TO SHARE IDEAS, BECOME A HOST, ATTEND AN **EVENT, DONATE & GET INVOLVED!**

Big Mike McElhaney 724-549-4958

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION OF ANY AMOUNT TO HELP HOST OUR VISITING FELLOW ROTARIANS KeystoneRotaryClub.org



Kittaning Night at the Races



Night At The Races

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Friday, May 30th 6:00pm at The 10th Street Station 301 10th St, Ford City, PA 16226

Contact Name			_	
Business Name (if spor	nsoring):		_	
Phone Number:	Phone Number:Email:			
		ne recognition throughout the e eserved table with 8 tickets to a		
☐ SILVER SPONSOR \$750 Same as GOLD but with 4 tickets to attend the event.				
□ BRONZE SPONSO	DR \$600 Same as	GOLD and SILVER but with 2 tic	kets.	
☐ BAR SPONSOR	\$500 Name or logo	o on signage at the bar & guest	tables.	
☐ DINNER SPONSO)R \$500 Name or	logo on signage at the buffet ar	nd guest tables.	
☐ DESSERT SPONS	DR \$300 Name o	r logo on signage at the dessert	station.	
☐ SNACK SPONSOI	R \$300 Name or lo	ogo on signage at the snack stat	ion.	
		recognition prior to final race a he final race winner.	and the	
☐ BIDDING WINDO	W SPONSOR \$15	60 Name or logo at one of 6 bid	lding windows.	
☐ RACE SPONSOR	\$100 Name recog	nition prior to corresponding ra	ace.	
	GENERAL AD	MISSION		
\$40 per person includes	beer and wine bar, sna	acks, and buffet dinner - Add a race	horse for \$20	
Attendee Name	e (s)	Add Horse Name (s)		
	\$40 🗆	\$20		
\$40 □		\$20		
	\$40	\$20		
	\$40 🗖	\$20		
		various initiatives including awarding schola ementary education and literacy, as well as l		
Checks payable to: Kittanning Rot	ary Club, Mail to: PO Box 56	69, Kittanning, PA 16201. Note: Night at the	Races	
Total An	nount Enclosed:	Check ☐ Cash ☐		

Cranberry Township Sunrise 17th Annual Golf Outing.

Click here to register!



Ellwood City Hosts "The Tamburitzans"

"The Tamburitzans" (formerly the Duquesne University Tamburitzans) will perform their new production, LEGACY, on Sunday, April 6 at the Lincoln Jr / Sr High School, 501 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, PA at 3PM. The concert is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellwood City Scholarship Fund and tickets may be purchased online at ellwoodtams.eventbrite.com for \$30 Adult Advanced Reserved while tickets at the door on the day of the performance will be \$35.



In their 88th season, the Tamburitzans will weave a tapestry of music, songs and dances of Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Mexico, Serbia, Slovakia and Poland along with a suite of selections from the Romani (gypsy) culture. Audiences will be transported to folk celebrations in a two-hour production through intricate choreography, mesmerizing music, and unique voices. Each year, this group of college students create a unique and memorable concert experience.

Lots Going on in Saxonburg!

We had our Soaring 20's Casino Night on March 8th which was a great success; we raised over 11k.

We are doing Bar Bingo at Bastin Distillery every month.

We will be serving our famous sausage at each Saxonburg Mingle throughout the spring, summer and fall; and this summer we will have the Saxonburg Artisan Market.

We are raising funds for our "Bringing Smiles to Saxonburg" project of a small playground in town.

We made a commitment to donate yearly to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Just to name a few of our events and accomplishments!

Cranberry Township Has Been Busy Doing Great Things

Cranberry Township EMS's annual Save a Life Saturday event honored the first responders who helped prolong the lives of several residents. One survivor was reunited with those who saved his life during the emotional afternoon. The event also highlighted the Rotary Club of Cranberry Township - Sunrise donation to EMS for the purchase of infant and child CPR manikins, which will aid in training and response efforts.





Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Club held a Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday March 21^{st.} Everyone enjoyed a fun and competitive evening filled with great guestions, great company, and great prizes!



Student of the Month

Congratulations to the Rotary Student of the Month for January (Elliana Sande) and February (Grant Bertsch).



Scholarship Program

The Club is offering scholarships in honor of lifelong Rotarians Jerry Andree, Frank Petrone, and Jerry Schreibeis. For the 2025-2026 academic year, three scholarships totaling \$7,000 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors.



YASU Household Items and Toiletries Collection

The Club collected over 350 items for YASU – Young Adult Survivors United care package program. YASU helps young adult cancer survivors and caregivers/cosurvivors cope and thrive by providing emotional, social, and financial support to enhance their quality of life.



Dictionary Distribution

The last stop on the 2025 Rotary Dictionary distribution tour was Erhman Crest Elementary School. This year's presentation brings the total dictionaries distributed to nearly 10,000!





ShelterBox - 25 Years in Disaster Relief





25 Years in Disaster Relief



In 2000, the idea for ShelterBox was created by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, when Rotary encouraged members to come up with projects to mark the Millennium. In the first year, this group of passionate volunteers took the idea and launched it as a project. The initial hope was to support 8 to 10 families a year, with what they would need to survive after disaster. ShelterBox

became a registered independent charity in 2003, with the trustees and board members all belonging to our founding club. In 2012, with Rotary members around the world rallying behind a shared vision, the partnership between ShelterBox and Rotary was formally recognized when ShelterBox became Rotary's official project partner in disaster relief.

As project partners in disaster relief, we work with Rotary in many different ways, from raising funds and awareness to providing support on the ground during our response to a disaster. Their collaboration enables us to work more effectively and reach more communities around the world.

This partnership has helped us to become who we are today, including our global network of ShelterBox Affiliates, which evolved from Rotary relationships. Each year, Rotary helps us to go further, support more people and access areas that would otherwise be impossible to reach.

Help us be ready. It's support from Rotarians like you that means we can be there for people after a disaster. Become a ShelterBox Hero now.

ShelterBox District 7305 and 7280 Ambassadors Dave & Melanie Sturrock, 7954 Franklin Rd, Evans City, PA 724-991-4750, dtsturrock@gmail.com https://www.shelterboxusa.org/