

JANUARY 2021

Rotary District 7280 Newsletter

Message from DG Beth Marshall

Hello fellow Rotarians! I hope you had a healthy and happy holiday season! I also hope you are pledging a New Year resolution to take good care of yourselves, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We cannot fill others when our cup is empty. As we begin a new calendar year, Rotary has assigned January as **Vocational Service month**.

~We use our talents and skills to serve our community, and we also

~Equip others with training and skill development.

~Finally, we encourage members to act with integrity and to follow Rotary's guiding principles.

A new initiative in Zone 33/34 is **Rotary Works**. Rotary Works is a program offered to Rotarians and Rotoractors who are experiencing career transitions. First, go to the Rotary Works website at www.rizones33-34.org/RotaryWorks. Then, Please click below to Director Stephanie's message in the following [Link to Rotary Works Newsletter](#). There are monthly webinars the second Wednesday of the month you can register for. You can also provide your own Vocational Service to this program by contacting Director Stephanie at saurchick@gmail.com. Please share this information with Rotarians/Rotoractors who can benefit!

In the following pages, we highlight another Vocational Program.. **ROVA!** I am glad that our District serves the Regional Trade Centers with a leadership program! As there are fewer students going into trade courses, there is a great shortage in filling those positions in the workforce. As a hairdresser, I know that it is difficult to fill a stylist position, since less students are attending cosmetology programs. I have been told some Technology schools no longer offer the program, due to the lack of enrollment. I hope to be a part of the ROVA weekend this year, whether we are able to provide an in-person meeting or alternative.

Best regards,
DG Beth

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ROVA

by Tracy Becker



Some of you may ask what is ROVA? **ROVA** is an intensive educational program for career & technical education youth leaders that are in their junior year of high school Rotary District 7280. Young people chosen for their potential attend this leadership camp to learn and enhance skills in team work, leadership, and communications through effective practice. ROVA was created and lead by PDG May “Skip” Sample and Rachel Martin with the Mercer County Career Center in 2007. A very talented leadership leader by the name of Fred Kiser was brought in to help put together a 2 day program for the students. Since 2007, we have had over 1200 students participate and over 150 teachers/volunteers be a part of ROVA.

Some of those programs are:

Welcome/Ice Breakers

- Goals of the 2 days Great
- Expectations from Rotary
- “That’s Me”
- Who Am I

Teambuilding Rotations

- RR Bridge
- Human Knot
- Leader/Follower
- Cube Building
- Lion/Person/Net
- Centipede Ski Racine
- River of Life
- Blind Amoeba

Leadership Communication Rotations

- Electric Spider Web
- “What do you want”
- Goal Setting at “The River”
- Riot Bats
- Trust Walk
- Noodle Knights



ROVA

The Core Curriculum of these rotations are to discover and discuss the following:

- * Fundamentals of leadership Ethics of positive leadership
- * Importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- * Problem-solving and conflict management
- * Time management and decision making
- * Rotary's purpose and service to the community
- * Building self-confidence and self-esteem in young people from a vocational setting
- * Elements of community and global citizenship
- * Essentials of volunteer leadership



Our goals are:

Demonstrate the respect Rotary District 7280 has for youth who are potential leaders attending a Vocational Education Program.

Provide a positive training experience for selected youth and potential leaders.

Encourage leadership of youth by youth.

Recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities, their peers, and their school.



In May of 2020, we would have been the 17th Rotary Outstanding Vocation Award (ROVA) retreat at Camp Nazareth Retreat & Conference Center in Mercer. Unfortunately, it was delayed until 2021. As a fellow Rotarian, I am blessed to keep this program going for many years to come. I encourage fellow Rotarians to join us in May of 2021 and see for yourself how ROVA impacts our future leaders.



BUILD-A-CHAIR PROJECT



Looking for a club speaker in the New Year? Let us share how our **Build-A-Chair** project is changing the lives of children and adults with disabilities in Tanzania, forever!

Lucy is a 21-year-old woman living with a rare condition that leads to the splitting of her spinal cord. She is unable to walk which makes attending the local university quite a challenge. Others care for her needs and physically lift her from the car to a classroom and from class to class. In August, Lucy received a locally made wheelchair through the Build-A-Chair project, supported by a partnership between a clinic in Tanzania founded by a Rotarian and the Keystone Rotary International E-Club. Using her wheelchair, Lucy is now able to move freely from class to class and become an active part of her community. The project has provided her with mobility and the ability to earn her education independently.

We have learned throughout this project that the need is great so we are launching the second phase of **Build-A-Chair**. We would love to present this next phase of our program and let you hear from the Rotarian on the ground spearheading the project, **Shedrck Domingo**, about the impact we are making! Please email **Michelle Bailey**, Club Service Chair at Keystone if you would like us to present to your club at michellebailey110@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

by Jack Cohen

While we all hope that things were different, quit waiting. It's time to get off your seat stand up shake off 2020 and get busy. Is your Rotary club moving forward or is it stagnant? Do you want to lead your club in 2021? Start by getting your members excited about the opportunity to grow your club. Have fun at your meetings, and begin the new year by setting your own goals and start a new year with a new member. Challenge your members to help bring in new members and keep the ones you have.

Let's all forget what is behind us and think what is in front of us. 2021 will be the best year as our lives will begin to get back to normal. We all need to look at this opportunity and make a difference. It's up to you!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Lisa Graff

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) is a hot topic in today's public space. As clubs, we may not have D&I on our radar because of where we live. Believe me, I get it. Having grown up in a town with one traffic light, I can tell you exactly how many people I graduated with from high school who didn't look like me. Rotary International (RI) adopted this diversity, equity and inclusion statement. "As a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Rotary will cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture in which people from underrepresented groups have greater opportunities to participate as members and leaders." To me, achieving diversity, equity and inclusion means that our clubs' membership should reflect our communities and the people whom we serve. Even in my one traffic light hometown, obviously no two people were exactly alike.

A few questions to consider:

- How accessible is our club? Are the meetings held at a convenient time and location for everyone? If not, then consider a satellite club to capture those who "would love to join but can't make the meetings."
- Does everyone truly feel welcome? This can be a sensitive question. Can the banker, the plumber, the retired teacher and the retail store worker all feel that they can join? Does your club have an official or unofficial dress code which could create an unintentional barrier?
- Are there financial hindrances to membership? The costs of meals can be daunting and meals can create unintentional obstacles for those with dietary restrictions. Have you considered the choice of not eating at all?
- Can you bill for fees/dues on a monthly or quarterly basis instead of annually? Do you offer payment options besides cash and checks? More and more people pay their bills only electronically today.

Each of us has been raised in an environment that has shaped our thoughts and values. Globally, Rotary recognizes that being different is a strength when people from all backgrounds can come together and achieve for the common good. Expecting people to bring different ideas, experiences and talents to the table is a benefit to problem solving and creativity.



Unfortunately, including others does not always come naturally to us. Think of how you would feel if you were a new employee starting a new position and no one talked to you, no one helped you, no one said good morning, no one made you feel welcome. Would you want to come to work? Would being there make you feel good? Do you feel like you could do a good job without interaction from your co-workers? Why would you stay if no one made you feel valued?

While that is an extreme example, the concept broadly applies to keeping our members engaged and active. Everyone has a voice and it's our responsibility to use it to communicate. It's also our responsibility to make sure that everyone gets to use their voice to share their ideas and suggestions. It's okay if we disagree as long as we are respectful and can talk through our differences. Honest conversations help us grow, learn and strengthen our clubs. Simply stated, we are more successful when we work together. This sense of belonging is a bond that we share as Rotarians.

This article is intended to be a catalyst for meaningful conversation. For resources on what to do, including creating a member diversity and inclusion action plan, visit the RI website:

<https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>.



Rotary



Keystone E-Club
District #7280



International Bites Cookbook Fundraiser

A Food Trip Around The World

**JOIN US BY SUBMITTING UP TO 4 RECIPES
FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN JAN. 15, 2021**

All proceeds from this online or printed cookbook
will benefit humanitarian work around the world in
memory of our dear Friends and Fellow Rotarians

Tom & Marie Grant

**To submit a recipe or ad, sponsor a page
or a personalized memorial/photo,
visit our website before Jan. 15th**

www.KeystoneRotaryClub.org





DISTRICT FOUNDATION

UPDATE

The Rotary Foundation Statements of Activities

For the fiscal years ended 30 June 2019 and 2020 (in thousands of U.S. dollars)

Year to Date	Jun-19	Jun-20
Revenues		
Contributions*	\$321,901	\$338,751
Net investment return	37,975	4,458
Grants and other activities	640	(343)
Total revenues	\$360,516	\$342,866
Expenses		
Program awards	\$281,091	\$307,090
Program operations	20,275	20,581
Fund development	19,049	19,265
General administration	14,790	14,597
Total expenses	\$335,205	\$361,533
Currency exchange losses	\$(661)	\$(2,651)
Reserve against pledges receivable	\$(1,673)	\$(2,375)
Change in net assets	\$22,977	\$(23,693)
Net assets - beg. of year	\$1,127,298	\$1,150,275
Net assets - end of year	\$1,150,275	\$1,126,582

District 7280 giving as of December 2020 YTD compared to December 2019 YTD

	2020	2019
Clubs with Foundation Goals:	43 of 43 (100%)	27 of 43 (62.8%)
Number of Members: <i>July 1 values</i>	1309	1301
Annual Program Fund Giving Year to Date:	\$64,501.60	\$83,480.30
Annual Fund per Capita Giving Year to Date:	\$49.28	\$64.17
Top 3 Clubs YTD Per Capita Giving		
Sharon		\$234.74
Cranberry Township		\$183.36
Zelienople		\$160.80



CLUB PRESIDENT SELECTION

*Club
President
Selection*



Select your Club President for 2021 - 2022
& enter the information on DACdb



DISTRICT YOUTH EXCHANGE

District Youth Exchange looking for 2021-22 Candidates.

Now is the time to announce that we are looking for both Outbound Students and Host Families/Clubs.

In the recent past we've had support from Greenville, Sharon, Erie, Port Allegany, Rich-Mar, Clarion, Zelienople, East Brady-Chicora, Oil City, and others that I may have missed (apologies!). Next year we have Slippery Rock and Mercer who already have families lined up. We'd like to see at least 3 other clubs to host. Host clubs should have a Counselor, Youth Exchange Officer, and 2 Host Families. Jeff is also looking for Outbound Students. Students should be between 15 ½ and 18 ½ when they leave the US and should be in good academic standing.

Susan Pokorney can be reached about the Summer Exchange Program. For those unfamiliar, it is a true Exchange for Students being matched with Students of the same gender and age in the other country. Students spend 3-6 weeks outbound and then host the same amount of time.

Applications for both Outbound Students and Host Families can be found at Home - Eastern States Student Exchange (exchangestudent.org). Please consider supporting this awesome program! Nancy and I have both been Exchange Students. Beth, Jeff, Susan, and I have all hosted. So if you have any questions, reach out to any of us!

Yours in Rotary,

Mary Lord

724-290-1173

The Rotary District 7280 Newsletter is published monthly for District Clubs. District News is also available on Facebook – Rotary District 7280, and at www.rotarydistrict7280.org. Email article suggestions to Ermira Kusari, Newsletter Editor, by the 25th of the month at ermirakusari@gmail.com