

# ROTARY DISTRICT 7280 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

## MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR BETH MARSHALL

### Hello District 7280!

September is Basic education and literacy month and is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. We know that basic education and literacy are essential for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development, and promoting peace. These statistics below are from UNESCO reports from 2011-14.

### Consider these facts:

- If all women completed primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five.
- If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.
- The world is making good progress in this area. According to a 2014 United Nations Millennium Development Goals progress report, literacy rates among adults and youths are on the rise and the gender gap in literacy is narrowing. But pressing global needs remain: 58 million children worldwide are out of school.

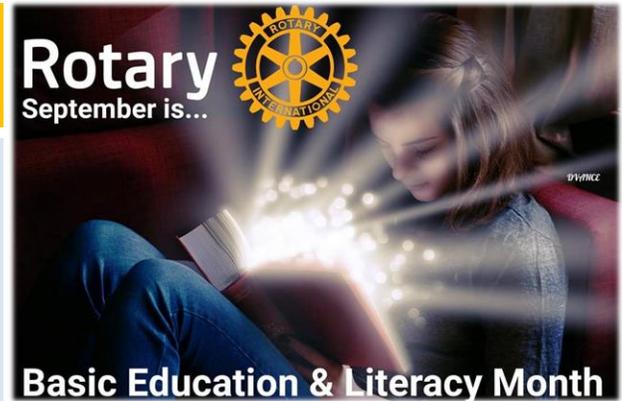
- Even after four years of primary schooling, as many as 250 million children cannot read and write.
- More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17% of the world's population.

### There are also statistics that link illiteracy to poverty and crime from Write Express Corporation.

- 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. Over 70% of America's inmates cannot read above a 4th grade level.
- 1 in 4 children in America grow up without learning how to read.
- 75% of Americans who receive food stamps perform at the lowest 2 levels of literacy, and 90% of high school dropouts are on welfare.
- Teenage girls between the ages of 16 to 19 who live at or below the poverty line and have below average literacy skills are 6 times more likely to have children out of wedlock than girls their age who can read proficiently.
- Reports show that the rate of low literacy in the United States directly costs the healthcare industry over \$70 million every year.

I believe it is our call as Rotarians to work diligently with educators to improve literacy worldwide. The benefit it a healthier, productive, more peaceful world! Please consider reaching out to you school district to see what their needs are!

Best regards,  
DG Beth



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TAKE ACTION: [www.rotarydistrict7280.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7280.org)

# Rotary District 7280 Academic Scholarships

Rotary District 7280 will be awarding Academic Scholarships to college students for the 2020 – 2021 school year that can be applied to tuition for either their sophomore, junior or senior year, as well as study abroad or for post-graduate studies. The scholarship, which can be up to \$5,000, is based upon financial need, academic achievement and community service activities of the applicant. Students are only eligible for one Scholarship award.



## “SERVANT LEADER SCHOLAR” APPLICATION

Rotary District 7280 will be awarding Academic Scholarships to College Students which can be applied to tuition for either their sophomore, junior or senior year as well as study abroad or post graduate studies. The scholarship, which can be up to \$5,000, is based upon financial need, academic achievement and community service activities of the applicant. Students are only eligible for one Scholarship award.

### To be eligible for the Scholarship

- Students must be permanent residents of District 7280
- Must be completing or have completed the first semester of their sophomore year.
- Be in good academic standing
- Show evidence of being involved in at least three (3) community service activities
- Receive the endorsement of their local Rotary club
- Submit a resume which lists involvement and leadership in school and community activities
- Include a cover letter explaining how these activities relate to the Rotary Motto of “Service Above Self”.
- Provide most recent academic transcript
- Submit application by October 31, 2020
- If the scholarship is being used for either post graduate study or a study abroad program, explain how it relates to your long term career goals.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
College: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please check Status for study in 2020 – 21: Sophomore \_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_ Post Graduate \_\_\_  
Grade Point (GPA): \_\_\_\_\_

### Club Endorsement

The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_  
Endorses \_\_\_\_\_ for the Rotary District 7280 Scholarship.  
Club President: \_\_\_\_\_

Return the Completed application to: Randy Richardson  
521 S. New Castle Str.  
New Wilmington, PA 16142  
richarr@westminster.edu

## **To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be:**

- permanent residents 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 which lists involvement and leadership in school and community activities
- able to include a cover letter explaining how these activities relate to the Rotary Motto of “Service Above Self.”
- capable of providing their most recent academic transcript.
- (If the scholarship is being used for either post-graduate study or a study abroad program), capable of explaining how it relates to long term career goals.

**Application deadline: October 31, 2020 by midnight**

**Application: <https://rotarydistrict7280.org/?s=documents>**



## **Rotary Supports Education**

**Read and watch the video to learn how Rotary makes help happen:**

**<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/supporting-education>**

## Ruby Wiles (Warren Club) and her "Books for Kids" program

You can make a difference in a child's life. You can open a door for them to a brighter future. How? One book at a time! Here's the key to reaching children with a free book. Give them a book that matches their interests. We, adults read what interests us, but children are too often forced to read what does not interest them in school. If you want to reach them, give them a book that brings them delight. Their first question will be, "Do you mean I get to keep it?" Their second question will be, "Can I have another book?" How do I know? For the last nine years, since I started Free Books for Kids Town in Warren, I have been asking children about their interests and providing them with a perfectly matched book. You will make a friend for life. They stop me in the streets. We talk about what they are reading. We started our work based on research that showed the importance of matching books with students' interests. Since our launch, we have been developing new programs to reach kids. We know these programs work. They can easily come to your community:

- **Books for Babies+** provides a book for every newborn and their siblings at our local hospital.
- **Introducing Children to the World of Books, Book Match, Classroom Read and Keep, Book Clubs** and more are applicable to many settings.



- Through **Kids Town Books**, our children's bookstore, we can provide books for literacy programs at 25% or more off the retail price. All the proceeds from the store go right into our literacy efforts.

Even if you have no funding for books, we can show you how to reach kids with the power of books.

All the best in your endeavors to give all our kids a chance for a brighter future. Remember, no child selects their parents. For those of us with open eyes, we know some kids have not been given the best start but as **Adults**, we can make a difference.

Reach out to us by email:  
[kidsbooks4free@gmail.com](mailto:kidsbooks4free@gmail.com)  
or call [814 779-2625](tel:8147792625).



# Kittanning Club Reading Program



*Above: Club Member Andy Bradigan reading to 2nd graders at West Hills*



On Tuesday, March 3, Club Members and Community Volunteers went into all 2nd Grade Classrooms in the Armstrong School District and read the book, "Rosie Revere, Engineer." The books were then donated to each school's library for the students to check out as they wish. **Thank you to the Club Members and Volunteers and to the Armstrong School District for assisting in this annual Literacy project.**

*To the left: Club Member Mike McElhaney reading to 2nd graders at Shannock Valley Elementary.*

# African Region Certified Wild Polio Free



On August 25, 2020 the official announcement was made that the African Region has been certified as wild-poliovirus-free. This is a result of decades-long efforts across the 47 countries of the African region, which involved millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus, innovative strategies to vaccinate children amid conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network to test cases of paralysis to check sewage for the virus.

This is a huge milestone, but we still have important work to do in order to eradicate wild polio in the last two endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the inability to continue vaccinations hampered the efforts, but Pakistan will conduct a vaccination campaign in the coming weeks, their second since July. From January 1, 2020 to date, 63 new cases of wild polio virus have been identified in Pakistan and 34 new cases in Afghanistan. For the same period in 2019, 53 new cases were identified in Pakistan and 12 in Afghanistan.

October 24, 2020 will be World Polio Day. The theme for this year is Stories of Progress: Past and Present. It was chosen to acknowledge the progress made so far in the struggle to eradicate polio as well as to recognize the efforts of everyone involved in the process. We encourage each club in District 7280 to conduct a fundraiser or event to promote the End Polio Now Campaign in October, preferably on October 24th. We need each and every one to help finish this fight by meeting the goal of raising \$50 million each year for PolioPlus. The eradication of wild polio in the African region shows that polio eradication is achievable, and shows how hard work, partnerships and financial commitment help us to achieve the goal. **Thank you for your continued support to fulfilling our promise of a polio-free world.**



Today I want to share a membership plan from the Zelianople Rotary club. Marie Grant has shared this with her club and is now implementing the plan and measuring where she is each week to make sure she stays on track to accomplish her goals. I want to thank her for sharing it in our September newsletter.

*"My membership plan is to update the classification study, have a membership committee meeting this month where we will focus on how to retain members, how to reach out to prospective members and explore alternate types of membership, especially with the hope of forming a satellite club. In addition, I have asked the club president to have the opportunity for me to do a "membership Minute" at each club assembly. I also have suggested to our club president that we have a "bring a friend" meeting where our guests will be introduced to what our club and RI has to offer. (Stole that idea from your club!). This "Membership Month", I am also planning to have an orientation for new and prospective members. The orientation includes the new and prospective members, their sponsors, and the membership committee. That orientation is very similar to the leadership training part one that Tom and I completed but also focuses on our club's service activities. At this point, both of our meetings will be virtual, and I will be certain to let you know when they are." – Marie Grant.*

Sincerely,

**Jack M. Cohen**

**District 7280 Membership Chair**

[JCohen@zoominternet.net](mailto:JCohen@zoominternet.net) / 724-272-1248

## ROTARIANS IN ACTION

Over the month of August, Rotarians were in action in support of Crutches for Africa. Phil Smith, Keystone E-Club Rotarian & District Chair for Crutches for Africa, and Richard Comins, C4A Ambassador for District 7120, loaded a truck and trailer with mobility devices bound for Africa. The small team, including Dee Martonik from the Mercer Club and Rotary friend Clark Taylor, sorted, packed and loaded over 228 pairs of crutches and 350 walkers. More devices are on the way from Erie and our District Governor Beth Marshall will be dropping off devices collected by the Zelianople Rotary Club. A total of 800 devices have been collected so far. It takes 3,200 devices to fill a container and ship these supplies to



Stay tuned as we are looking to ramp up the district wide collection and make an even greater impact!

**For more information, contact Phil Smith: [pskts@comcast.net](mailto:pskts@comcast.net), or Richard Comins: [richecomins@gmail.com](mailto:richecomins@gmail.com).**

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](http://www.rotarydistrict7280.org)  
Email article suggestions to Ermira Kusari, Newsletter Editor, **by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month** at [ermirakusari@gmail.com](mailto:ermirakusari@gmail.com)