

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Founded January 26, 1984

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"

Contact **Al Dorin** with suggestions/contacts for potential speakers.

For future meetings:
[westernhenricorotary.org/
calendar](http://westernhenricorotary.org/calendar)

Calendar

For updates go to
westernhenricorotary.org

- **Apr 9**, "Service Above Self " Awards Presentation
- **Apr 16**, Todd Parnell – Richmond Flying Squirrels
- **Apr 23**, Michael Mitchell – Business Research Group
- **Apr 30**, Stephen Long – Foreign Affairs
- **May 7**, Dominic Barrett – Shalom Farms

WHRC Welcomes Debbie Johnston, Healthcare Navigation Expert

Debbie Johnston is a highly esteemed entrepreneur, business owner, and company leader. She is recognized throughout the Richmond Area and the state of Virginia for her expert public speaking,



seminars, and workshops for home health, nursing, business startup, philanthropy, and prosperity mentoring. With over 25 years of experience as a business executive and company leader, Debbie has become an expert at overseeing and operating company affairs.

Debbie is a health care expert who founded Care Advantage Inc. in 1988. Care Advantage Inc. quickly became a leading company for personal and companion home health care, with 15 offices and affiliates throughout Virginia. Care Advantage, Inc., Nurse Advantage, and All About Care, together employ approximately 3,000 health care professionals in Central Virginia and surrounding areas. Debbie served as the company's CEO for over 25 years and currently serves on their board. Care Advantage was sold to Bell Health in 2017. Debbie's expertise in health care and her creation of one of Virginia's most successful home health companies, has led her to be an incredible resource for companies seeking prosperity mentoring.

Debbie is also an experienced nonprofit executive. In August of 2014 with the foundation of her non-profit organization, Connecting Hearts, Debbie was appointed Virginia's Adoption Champion by Governor Terry McAuliffe. Debbie has worked nonstop with local media and organizations to increase adoption awareness in Virginia, and has become an expert in nonprofit management.

In 2013 Debbie was featured on ABC's Secret Millionaire, where she went undercover for a week in one of the country's poorest cities, Richmond, California, to donate thousands of dollars to nonprofit organizations in the area. Debbie has received a variety of local, state and regional awards, including Entrepreneur of Richmond and Philanthropist of the Year, and has donated over a million dollars to local charities and nonprofits.

7 Questions about Why the last mile is so important



with Michael K. McGovern
International PolioPlus Committee

1. There were more cases of wild poliovirus in 2018 than in 2017. Should we be discouraged?

No, not at all. We've always expected the number of cases to fluctuate somewhat as we get closer to zero. We've gone four straight years with fewer than 100 cases per year. That's an indicator of great progress. With dedication from governments and Rotarians in areas still affected by polio, we'll get there.

2. Why is it so difficult to eradicate a disease like polio?

Remember that even in the United States, where the polio vaccine was readily available, it still took 20 years to become polio-free. And the areas we are working in now don't have health systems that are as well-developed as in the United States.

3. What challenges are you seeing now?

We have been working intensely in the endemic countries — Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan — for a number of years, and some of the citizens in those countries are getting concerned that we are spending money on polio eradication when they have so many other needs. There's some resistance to keep on receiving immunizations for polio, and polio alone. Our challenge is to find ways to provide other services to the citizens and children so we still have the parental support we need — to provide the "plus" in PolioPlus.

4. What role does armed conflict play in those areas?

It makes the logistics of immunization far more difficult. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative partnership is not only dealing with governments — we're dealing with anti-government elements as well. While we've worked to gain everyone's trust and support, we've had areas that were inaccessible to immunization teams for months and sometimes years at a time.

5. Do immunization teams know when they miss children? Or are there children they don't even know about?

I think we have a good handle now on knowing when and where we're missing children. The challenge is to keep reducing the number we miss. In Nigeria, we have done a lot of work since we were surprised by the discovery of several polio cases in Borno state in 2016, two years after the country had last seen a polio case. We now know through GPS mapping where the children are, and we are working with authorities there to make sure all children receive the polio vaccine.

6. Where are we seeing successes?

We haven't had any cases of wild poliovirus anywhere in the world in nearly five years except in the three endemic countries. And in Nigeria, it's been almost three years since we had any wild poliovirus cases, and those occurred in a small area of the country.

7. What's the most important thing Rotarians should know?

I've been extremely impressed with the dedication and persistence of Rotarians in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. They are working hard to make sure polio is eradicated. It's pretty amazing what they do in those countries.

Rotarians should continue to be optimistic and to support eradication. We also need Rotarians to bring the need for continued funding to the attention of their government leaders. We can't lose sight of the goal.



OUR CLUBS 'Small but feisty'

When Tony Merfeld became an American citizen in 2007, the judge congratulated him and said, "You're a citizen now, but you don't need to forget where you came from."

Those words stayed with him, and a few years later Merfeld found a way to expand his network in his adopted country while staying connected to his native Lithuania — by joining the Rotary Club of Chicagoland Lithuanians (Westmont). "This club is something I cherish," he says.

Chartered in 2008, the 26-member club is the only Lithuanian-speaking Rotary club outside that small country on the Baltic Sea. Saulius Janusonis Beckler founded the club after arriving in Chicago in 2004 from the town of Panevžys, where he had been a Rotarian. He missed the social and community service aspects of Rotary, so he started a club for Lithuanian-Americans. "I wanted to bring more Lithuanians into Rotary," he says.

"This club is a way for us to both preserve our identity and be valuable members of society."

Its Thursday night meetings usually happen at Parkers', an upscale American-fare restaurant in the western suburbs of Chicago. Parts of the meeting will feel familiar to any visiting Rotarian — members recite The Four-Way Test (in Lithuanian), and the club president calls on committee chairs to give updates. But the rest is more like a lively brainstorming session, with members preferring to work collectively to determine the club's direction. "Sometimes we have to stop and remind ourselves that we have committees for a reason," says club member Linas Klimavicius. Occasionally, the Rotarians switch to English for the benefit of an invited speaker or guest, but they conduct most of the meeting in Lithuanian. After the week's business is complete, the rest of the gathering is social.

"Our club is small but feisty," says Klimavicius, an international trade consultant who joined seven years ago. The members' can-do spirit helped them bring in more than \$100,000 in one day through their annual September golf outing and dinner, which raises money to help critically ill children in Lithuania.

It all started when Janusonis Beckler encouraged club members to take up golf, a game that was foreign to those who'd lived under Soviet rule. "When I came here, it was my dream to learn how to play," he says. "I'm an insurance broker, and other companies' reps would invite me to golf. Once we started the Rotary club, I said, 'Let's start golfing. We'll spread the game in the Lithuanian community. Then we can do a golf outing, which is a good way to raise money.' My club accepted that idea. We took several lessons, and now a lot of people play golf. Some are playing better than me!"

The club also raises money for a local shelter for victims of domestic violence, partnering with a club in a neighboring suburb. "Our goal is not just to do projects to support Lithuania; we want to support the communities where we live too," says club member Silvija Basijokaite.

Members range in age from their 30s to their 50s, and the club has almost the same number of men and women. All but three members were born in Lithuania — and those three are the children of immigrants who arrived in the United States as refugees after World War II.

Lithuanians immigrated to the United States in three waves, explains Janusonis Beckler. The first wave came in the early 1900s, when people arrived in search of work and a better life. The second consisted mostly of refugees who left when the Soviet Union annexed the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania after World War II. The Soviet regime targeted scholars, artists, engineers, and people connected with government in an effort to impose communist rule and culture; many were sent to their deaths in Siberia. The third wave came after Lithuania regained its independence in 1991.

Fear of losing their language and culture shaped a generation of Americans born to Lithuanian refugees. "I was raised to preserve the culture in case Lithuania never became free," says Rima Ziuraitis, a new club member. Ziuraitis, who is in her 30s and was born in the United States, carries on this tradition by serving as president of the U.S. Lithuanian Youth Association. In her spare time, she interviews World War II refugees for an educational film she's producing on Lithuania's history.

Though its members are proud of their heritage, Janusonis Beckler says he thinks of the club as an American Rotary club. "This club unites us in culture, in language, and in values," he says. It also has paralleled many members' lives: "We are and will stay Lithuanians, but the longer we live here, we become Americans and want to support our communities here too."

Western Henrico Rotary Club Sergeant-of-Arms Table

DATE	CAPTAIN	COUNTERGREETER / HAPPY DOLLARS		RAFFLE / EXIT GREETER
4/9/2019	Andrew Jeretina	Bob Cross	Bernie Curlee	Mark Deutsch
4/16/2019	Andrew Jeretina	Steve Coverstone	Andrew Elmore	Holly Eve
4/23/2019	Andrew Jeretina	Joe Fowkes	Bob Glasser	Alan Hess

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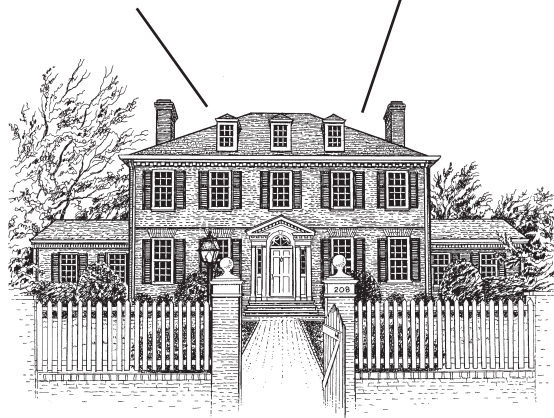


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