

Rotary District 7450

NEWSLETTER

APRIL
2019



They're Golden! SASY Award Winners



Most Progressive Club President: **Leslie Stack** - Broomall
Most Productive First Year Member: **Eric Dean** -
Conshohocken Plymouth Whitemarsh
Lifetime Achievement Award: **Bonnie Korengel** - Longwood
Best Member Recruiter: **Karen Mazzarella-Russo** - Glen Mills-Thornbury
Most Active Rotarian for Fewer Than 11 Years: **Julianna Blazey** - Wayne
Most Active Rotarian for More than 10 Years: **Francy Cross** - Chester
Outstanding Assistant Governor: **Renee DeCoskey** -
Conshohocken-Plymouth-Whitemarsh
Best Club Service Program: **Rotary Club of Chester &
Rotary Club of Coatesville**
Best Fundraiser: **Rotary Club of King of Prussia**
Best Publicity Program: **Christian Hoyt** - Rotary Club of Ardmore
Best Newsletter: **Rotary Club of Swarthmore**
Best Rotary Foundation Global Grant Project: **Rotary Club of Philadelphia**

Editor:

Dave Ellis

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District Calendar of Events:

<https://goo.gl/YPv5Yy>



The collage consists of 20 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The photos capture various moments from the Rotary District 7450 Conference, including speakers at podiums, award presentations, group photos, and attendees. Key text visible in the photos includes 'Rotary District 7450 Conference', 'BE THE INSPIRATION', 'March 15-16, 2019', and 'Upper Mersey - Lancashire'. The photos are set against a blue background with a white border.

Dakota Meyer: An Inspiration!

Our keynote speaker was Dakota Meyer, recipient of the Medal of Honor. He talked about his life growing up in rural Kentucky, being recruited in high school by a Marine sergeant who said he wouldn't make it, and his tour of duty as a sniper in team of five military specialists training and fighting alongside Afghan soldiers.

Sergeant Meyer told about the battle of Ganjgal in 2009 when he disobeyed orders and drove into the killing field four times to rescue ambushed comrades under fire. He described the battle and his own hand to hand combat with a Taliban fighter. Sergeant Meyer also related finding the bodies of his four fellow marines and the guilt of not being with them in battle; it was the worst day of his life. He later suffered from PTSD and traveled the long road to recovery.

Sergeant Meyer concluded his address by telling the audience how he received a call from the White House staff saying he would receive a call from President Obama who would invite him to a medal ceremony. It went something like this:

Dakota: When will he call?

White House: At such and such time tomorrow.

Dakota: Well, that won't work. I've got a big job and can't walk away. Can he call me later when I'm off?

White House: No. He will be traveling at that time.

Dakota: Doesn't he have a cell phone or something?

They did settle on a time when the President would call, and he did. President Obama asked if there was anything he could do for him. "Well. I'd like to have a beer with you.", he said. So, they did. In the White House Rose Garden.

Afterwards, Sergeant Meyer took questions from the audience on a range of subjects. He talked at length about his life and philosophy. "You cannot let one day define you." He said. "Just as that day in Afghanistan does not define me." A life that has meaning begins with why you have firm beliefs. Then, that reason determines what you do in a life that matters. "You must have something that means more to you than all else, and you center all things around it." To Sergeant Meyer, it is his two young daughters. They are the center of his life.

Editor's note: We met with Dakota before the meeting and found a modest young man with a quick sense of humor. We asked if he knew anything about Rotary. "Sure." He said. "It's America's best kept secret."



New Members

Michael Conallen

Rotary Club of Bensalem

Debbie Ferry

Rotary Club of West Chester
Sponsored by
Patricia Jefferis

Angela Geiger

Rotary Club of Philadelphia
Sponsored by
Peter Abrales

Meghan Miller

Rotary Club of Philadelphia
Sponsored by Joan Batory

Susan Duvall Moore

Rotary Club of Upper Main
Line (Berwyn-Paoli)
Sponsored by Michael Bove

Nicole Rosella

Rotary Club of Coatesville
Sponsored by
Martha Skiadas &
Donald Hatt

Jan Sandler

Rotary Club of Abington

Krystine Sipple

Rotary Club of Oxford

We will list new Rotarians taking information from DAC/db. Should anyone be overlooked, please write to us at:

Rotary7450News@gmail.com

Be sure to provide: New Member Name, Designation, and Club Sponsor.



NEW! Service Committee Information Pages

At the District Conference we introduced a new source of information for members. We now have descriptive Information Pages for each of our District Service Committees. They are located on the District Website and may be read or downloaded.

Created by AG Renee DeCoskey, the pages contain important information of what each committee's program does for a club. It describes how a committee goes about its work and how a club can benefit. Each Information Page has an e-mail link to the committee chair so Rotarians can communicate directly with him/her.



ROTARY DISTRICT 7450



Literacy Committee

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are below literate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population.

Promoting literacy and education is one of Rotary International's six areas of focus. The Rotary Foundation supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. Rotarians support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

To implement the literacy goals of Rotary International locally, District 7450 supports a Literacy Committee which encourages clubs to implement literacy projects. The Committee provides ideas, advice and recognition of District Clubs to meet the literacy needs of their communities.

Each year, District 7450 presents awards to clubs that have held at least five literacy activities in the Rotary year. The activities can range from inviting a local librarian to speak at a club meeting to supplying a local school with quality reading material. Each club president is given a literacy brochure which includes the Literacy Award application form and dozens of ideas to enhance your club's literacy program. The form is also available on the District website.

Each club is encouraged to assign a member to be the literacy contact person for their club. The contact person will receive information about other literacy projects in the District and assistant to reach their literacy goals.

Send questions, comments and contact the Literacy Committee through the district website:
www.RotaryDistrict7450.org

Contact District Chair:

[Click Here](#)



Conshohocken-Plymouth-Whitemarsh's Casino Night Wins Big!



On March 2nd, The Rotary Club of Conshohocken-Plymouth-Whitemarsh hosted their 6th Annual Casino Night with about 150 people in attendance. Players won chips in games that included poker, blackjack, craps, and roulette. Professional dealers oversaw the tables and at the end of the night winners cashed out their chips for tickets to enter raffles that included prizes of gift baskets, gift cards, Flyers tickets, and more. The two grand prizes were a \$500 Ticketmaster Gift Card and an

Apple Watch. A fun night of dining and gaming was had by all for the benefit of "Smiles For Guatemala".



Phoenixville Spells It Out!



On February 9th, The Rotary Club of Phoenixville hosted its 7th Annual Spelling Bee. A record of 306 students, in grades 1st-5th, participated. The top 3 finishers in each division received trophies and each participant took home a certificate.

National Honor Society Members from Phoenixville High school moderated and

judged the event. Participants entered the Spelling Bee for free while adults paid \$5. Friends and family bought Candy-Grams and wrote words of encouragement for their spellers. Over 80 businesses, organizations, and individuals donated and sponsored.



The Rotary Club of Phoenixville is happy to promote an educational activity among the youth of the greater Phoenixville area that, in turn, raises money to give back to the community. This year the club raised \$14,400!!



Four-Way Speech Contest Recipient

Kenneth Ching, a current senior at Marple Newtown High School, winner of the District 7450 Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest was sponsored by the Newtown Square Rotary Club. Kenneth recited his speech at the District Conference where he received a check for \$1,000.

He discussed the hotly debated issue of injection sites hosted by organizations such as Safe House. In the end, Kenneth presented both sides of the argument, allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions.

Members of the contest committee include Chris Potter, Kathe Sobczak, Sue Mardinly, Dawn deFuria, and Roger Taylor who work with clubs that recruit speakers from high schools across the district.



Sgt. Meyer Greets Rotarians

Tom Aichele of the Upper Main Line Rotary Club brought his two sons to meet Sgt. Meyer. The boys thanked him for his service and said they will be fourth generation Navy. "Well, maybe I will be thanking you for your service one day.", said Sgt. Meyer. He then gave each boy a Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin. Certainly a day to remember.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! Due Date for District Grant Applications

It's time to submit your application to receive a District Grant in 2019-2020. Your grant will help your Club change and change people's lives locally or internationally.

The deadline is May 15, so get your ideas together and fill out an application. Be sure to ask your Assistant Governor for help. We have the money to help your club achieve its service goals (tho not as much as usual) and we want to make it available. But you have to file an application by May 15th.

All the forms you need are on the District website. For a District Grant Application, please go to:
<https://rotarydistrict7450.org/trf/>





District Leadership Creates a Strategic Plan for 2019-2020

Rotary District 7450 strives to make a difference in people's lives in our Clubs, in our Communities, in our Country and around the World. Because our impact is vast, our District Leadership Team believes it important to design, refine and implement plans and actions to support our core "Service Above Self" vision, mission and beliefs.

During the latter half of 2018, our District's Board of Directors, and other senior leadership members, began the journey of creating and implementing a new Strategic Plan. This Plan consists of our Vision, Mission and five key strategies accompanied by specific action plans with fellow Rotarians accountable/responsible for their successful completion (see attached Strategic Plan for details).

If you desire to personally help with any of the Plan's actions, please DO contact the person responsible for the action's success as listed. We welcome and encourage your questions, thoughts and/or feedback about any of the Plan's initiatives that will help us better fulfill our "Service Above Self" vision/mission.

Vision

1. Within three years, District 7450 will build the infrastructure of programs, services, education and capabilities to support a sustainable community of local Rotary Clubs making a meaningful difference in addressing local and global needs as identified by Rotary International's six areas of focus.
2. We will be known for encouraging inclusive, diverse, and multi-generational Rotarians to make a difference in people's lives through "Service Above Self" in our District's communities.
3. Develop a culture whereby our Clubs and Members truly believe they are our District's "customers".

Mission

Assure our Rotary members work TOGETHER to make the world a better place by taking "Service Above Self" ACTIONS in their communities.

Key Strategies

- **SHARED VISION:** Assure Club & District leaders support our shared visions for our Clubs and District
- **ORGANIZATION:** Create an organizational structure to achieve our Vision.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Provide World Class training and education to our Rotary members and leadership.
- **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:** Attract & retain Rotary service minded members of all ages who are passionate about our Mission.
- **YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Grow and strengthen Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange programs.



“Membership Matters” Seminars RETURNING in May!



Based upon the excellent feedback and requests from attendees at our District’s “Membership Matters” Seminars last fall, we are bringing them back for a repeat performance in May, 2019.

All Rotarians, especially existing Club Presidents, incoming Club President-Elects, Membership Chairs and Club Board Members are invited to attend.

As before, we are scheduling three seminars to be near everyone. Put one of these dates on your calendar NOW: **May 7 (West Chester University), May 9 (Arcadia University), May 13 (Hampton Inn, Media).** Dinner 5:30 pm, Seminar 6:00-8:30pm. Only \$20.

If you missed the previous session, definitely plan to attend one of these programs to see how YOU can strengthen your Club and Make a Difference in someone’s life by getting them to JOIN ROTARY !

Summary of Proposed Amendments

To Rotary International District 7450, Inc. (D7450) Bylaws

The clubs in District 7450 approved the incorporation of the district by email ballot in 2010. Incorporation means that we have a board of directors comprised of 4 members of the Governor line and 3 members representing our clubs. The corporation is governed by bylaws describing the responsibilities and the board and the corporate Members. Each club is called a “Member” of the corporation. Members must approve changes to the bylaws by approving amendments proposed by the District Bylaws and Legislation Committee (Committee).

The Committee has been meeting to review the existing bylaws with a goal of updating and simplifying them. The committee has prepared a draft of 3 amendments for each Member to approve by email ballot.

The **first amendment** is to change the method to elect At-large Directors of the Board from a direct election by the clubs to the same method used to select the governor. That method is to authorize the District Nominating Committee to ask clubs to nominate candidates for the position, to interview the nominees, to select the best qualified nominee, to announce the selection of the nominee to the clubs and to allow the clubs 14 days to challenge that selection. If there is a no challenge, the nominee assumes the position of At-large Director on July 1 of the next Rotary year.

The **second amendment** is to separate the current bylaws into two sections. **Section 1** would be called the Bylaws of Rotary International District 7450, Inc. That section would describe only the corporate functions of the board of directors.

Section 2 would be called Rotary District 7450 Guidelines. That section would describe only district related functions as prescribed by Rotary International. Those functions include a description of the organizational structure of the district itself and a description of district responsibilities of the district officers and district committees.

Any district Rotarian can propose an amendment to the Guidelines to the Committee. The Committee review proposed amendments. Then the Committee would recommend amendments to the Board for their approval. This expedited approval would enable the district to incorporate continuing changes enacted by the Council of Legislation to the Rotary International Bylaws and Constitution and other changes that should not rise to the level of a vote of the clubs.

The **third amendment** is to add policies to a new appendix section setting standards for: youth protection, harassment, district funds remuneration for committees and district and Rotary International events and a social media protocol.

The current bylaws are posted on the district website and the final draft amended version and a description of the proposed amendments will be posted shortly. Each Member (club) will receive a ballot to vote on each amendment and return that ballot via email to the Committee to finalize the amendment process.

PDG Joan Batory
Bylaws Committee Chair